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Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 10 Jan —The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand:

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, the Thai people join me in extending our cordial congratulations and best wishes for your personal happiness and well-being as well as for the increasing welfare and prosperity of your country and its people.

From King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan:

On behalf of the people of Bhutan and on my own behalf, it gives me great pleasure to send our warm felicitations

and Tashi Delek to Your Excellency and the Government and people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar. I would like to take this opportunity to send our best wishes for Your Excellency's personal well-being and happiness as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Maj-Gen Michael Jeffery, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia:

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Union of Myanmar's Independence Day, I am pleased to convey to the people of Myanmar my congratulations and those of the Government and the people of Australia. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(See page 2)

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

Prime Minister attends opening of Ziwapala primary health care centre, Dhammapala library in Kwanmoe Dain model village, Kayan Township, Yangon Division

YANGON, 10 Jan—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers, the deputy com-

mander, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, left here by car this morning and arrived at Kwanmoe Dain model village in Kayan Township, Yangon Division at 8.30 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by the Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council and members of Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan and Thongwa Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, social organizations and local people.

A ceremony to open

Ziwapala primary health care centre and Dhammapala library in the model village was held at the respective venues, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were the ministers, the deputy ministers, the deputy commander, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of district, township and ward/village Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, social organizations, wellwishers and local people.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt holds a meeting with local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations at Byamaso Hall in Kayan Township. — MNA

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23,372



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 January, 2004

Strive for constantly producing new generation writers

Literature has been able to inculcate readers with intellects and knowledge. It has also been able to safeguard the national culture and influence the way of thinking and behaviour of readers. Therefore, efforts are to be made to constantly produce new generation writers.

To be able to keep pace with changes and developments, special attention is to be paid to recognizing and respecting intellectual property rights being practised in the world.

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, Yangon on 9 January with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said as Myanmar literature is of high standard with substance and good style of writing, those in the literary field are to strive for penetrating the world with Myanmar literature and steps are to be taken to translate Myanmar literature of high standard into the international languages.

The Ministry of Information has been holding paper reading sessions and literary seminars since 1965 for literary development and the present seminar was the 25th of its kind. The seminar was held to exchange views among compilers, graphic designers and publishers.

In the course of Myanmar literary history, 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 to be applied for continued development of Myanmar literature.

Literature of high standard will emerge if publishers, illustrators and graphic designers strive together, applying advanced techniques. For systematic development of Myanmar publishing industry, 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.

Furthermore, writers, editors, illustrators, printers, publishers and librarians are to make collective and concerted efforts out of goodwill for development of Myanmar publishing industry.

Those in the literary field are urged to strive for constantly producing new generation writers while making efforts for penetrating the world with Myanmar literary works.

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

Foreign Heads of State...

(from page 1)
From Mr Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa:

On the occasion of the celebration of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar on 4 January 2004, the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa join me in conveying to the Government and people of the Union of Myanmar warm greetings and congratulations. Allow me to take this opportunity to convey my sincere wishes for the prosperity of the people of Myanmar. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Dr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of the Republic of Italy:

On the occasion of the Independence Day, I wish to express, in the name of the Italian people and on my own, sincere wishes for the future of the people of Myanmar.

From Mr Svetozar Marovic, President of Serbia & Montenegro:

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you, on behalf of the people of Serbia and Montenegro and in my own behalf, cordial felicitations and best wishes for further prosperity of your country. I take this opportunity to express my conviction that the friendly relations and

cooperation between our two countries will continue to develop in the interest of our peoples as well as of strengthening peace and stability in the world. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, President Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I hereby convey on behalf of the people and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and on my own behalf our cordial felicitations and best wishes for continuous progress, peace and prosperity to the people and Government of the Union of Myanmar. Please permit me, Excellency, to also express my sincere best wishes for your good health and the strength to consolidate unity of your beloved country. — MNA

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 10 Jan — Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet while playing together with Director U Zaw Gun and deputy Directors U Maung Maung and U Tun Thein get hole-in-one at Okkala Golf Course today. He stroke the Top Point No 3 ball with Dunlop Good-7 golfclub from 126 yards away. MNA

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 everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Foreign Head of Govt sends felicitations to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 10 Jan —The following is the message of felicitations from foreign Head of Government sent to General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Svetozar Marovic, President of Serbia & Montenegro:

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you my sincere felicitations and best wishes for further prosperity of your country. I am convinced that the relations and cooperation between our countries will continue to develop and be promoted in the interest of our friendly peoples. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. — MNA

Counter Strike Championships Network Game to be held

YANGON, 9 Jan — In celebrating the anniversary of the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park and the ICT Week from 22 to 26 January 2004, the Myanmar National Counter Strike Championships Network Game will be held in junior and senior divisions. Those teams wishing to participate can get themselves registered not later than 20 January 2004 at net-zone, red apple, inet, cyber city net bar, the goons and XgamerZ, Lan Wizards and MSM internet cafe. —MNA



Andaman Club Resort Hotel Family led by Mr Vikrom Aisiri and Mrs Angkana Aisiri contributed 1,049,360 Kyats towards the fund of Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. — (H)

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရနှင့်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်

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

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US casualty in retrospect

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — Iraq casualty figures are small compared with the horrific bloodletting of some of America's past conflicts. About 19,000 American soldiers died in one month alone in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, a conflict in which more than 290,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines were killed in action.

An estimated 620,000 Americans — both northerners and southerners — died in the Civil War, America's bloodiest conflict. More than 58,000 US troops lost their lives in Vietnam, both in combat and from non-battle causes.

Nevertheless, the rising death toll after 10 months of military operations in Iraq is significant, especially in a country whose public traditionally has little appetite for their sons and daughters dying in battle in distant, unfamiliar lands.

The United States aborted its participation in an international peacekeeping operation in Somalia after 18 US troops were killed in a battle in the capital, Mogadishu, with forces loyal to warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid.

Former President Ronald Reagan pulled US peacekeepers out of Lebanon after a suicide truck bomber killed 241 Marines and other service members at

Beirut's airport in 1983.

After US involvement in the Vietnam War ended in 1973, US presidents were loathe to commit American forces to protracted struggles in foreign lands without clear objectives and overwhelming chances for success.

However, US antipathy to foreign military operations receded after a series of quick and relatively painless operations in places like Grenada in 1983 — with only 16 battle and non-combat deaths — and Panama in 1989, when 21 troops were killed.

The Gulf War introduced the public to precision, high-tech weaponry that could strike distant targets seemingly without significant risks to the pilots who fired them from thousands of yards away.

To a generation reared without memories of the close-quarter savagery of Vietnam, Korea and other distant

battlefields of half-forgotten conflicts, war appeared to have been sanitized to a life-and-death computer game where the winner had the best gadgets.

In the Kosovo campaign of 1999, the United States and its NATO allies pounded Yugoslavia into submission with an aerial bombardment in which America lost not a single service member.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers and their al-Qaida allies collapsed after about a month of fighting, with the Americans delivering precision bombs from the sky while their northern alliance Afghan allies did most of the ground fighting.

But the Iraq conflict has proven to be a different kind of war. Since the end of major combat, most American casualties have come from low-tech weaponry — roadside bombs, mortars and small arms fire.

Internet

စုတ်ကုန်နစ်ဆဲ ခိုးမြင့်ခြင်း

Iraq says guerillas launch rocket attack, US military raids Tikrit

BAGHDAD, 10 Jan — Guerillas in Iraq today fired rockets at a hotel in central Baghdad used by foreigners, causing minor damage but no injuries, as US troops carried out a raid in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit overnight.

The US military says more than 300 soldiers searched 20 homes and three shops before dawn today as armored vehicles sealed off roads to Tikrit. Thirteen Iraqis were detained on suspicions of involvement in attacks on US-led coalition forces.

The raid comes after two apparent attacks on US aircraft yesterday.

Nine soldiers died after their Black Hawk helicopter crash-landed near Al-Fallujah.

Later, a US military cargo plane was forced to return to Baghdad shortly after takeoff after one of its engines was hit by fire. None of the 63 passengers aboard the C-5 aircraft was hurt. — Internet



US troops carry out a weapons search. A 400-strong US military team that has been searching for illicit weapons in Iraq has been withdrawn after finding nothing of substance, although a separate group looking for weapons of mass destruction still remains in the country. — INTERNET

Malaysia's international reserves up at 2003-end

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Jan — The international reserves of Malaysia Central Bank stood at 44.9 billion US dollars on December 31, 2003, an increase of 900 million US dollars over the previous month.

The increase was mainly attributed to sustained repatriation of export earnings and foreign direct investment, the central bank said in a statement released on Thursday.

The reserves level had taken into account the quarterly adjustment of foreign exchange revaluation gain amounting to 1.8 billion US dollars, mainly as a result of the appreciation of the major currencies

against the US dollar during the quarter, it said.

The reserves position was adequate to finance 7.1 months of retained imports and was 4.8 times of the country's short-term external debt.

At the end of 2002, the bank's international reserves were pegged at 34.6 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Shandong Province sees rapid development in foreign trade

JINAN, 10 Jan — Foreign trade in east China's Shandong Province saw rapid development last year, said Han Yuqun, Governor of Shandong.

The gross foreign trade turnover of the province amounted to 44.6 billion US dollars last year, a year-on-year increase of 31.6 per cent, Han said.

Shandong's export turnover was 26.6 billion US dollars, 25.9 per cent up from 2002.

Foreign trade contributed 30.4 per cent to the provincial economy, the governor

said.

The export of machinery, electronic and high-tech products increased in 2003, bringing 29 per cent to the growth of Shandong's foreign trade.

The gross export turnover of provincial private enterprises amounted to 4.4 billion US dollars, increasing by 52 per cent, said Han. — MNA/Xinhua

US military deaths in Iraq approach 500

BAGHDAD, 10 Jan — The number of American troops who have died in Iraq since the war began last March is nearing 500, more than US losses in many regional conflicts of the past several decades: the Gulf War, Lebanon, Somalia, Panama, Grenada, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

So far the Iraq conflict has cost the lives of 494 American service members, including nine who were killed Thursday in the crash of a Black Hawk medevac helicopter believed shot down near Fallujah. Most of the deaths — both combat and non-combat — have occurred since President Bush declared an end to major fighting on 1 May.

Already, the loss of American life in Iraq has surpassed the US death toll of the first Gulf War of 1991, when about 315 Americans died in the operation to drive Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait. That figure includes combat and non-combat deaths suffered during the military buildup and the war itself.

Ninety-nine American forces have been killed in the ongoing operation in Afghanistan, less than a third of them by hostile fire.

The number of American battle deaths since the Iraq

war began on March 20 — at least 333 — is approaching the figure of 385 Americans killed in action during the Spanish-American War of 1898-1899.

Internet

US soldiers killed in action since WWII

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — The number of American troops killed in Iraq and in other conflicts since World War II:

- Iraq: 494.
- Afghanistan: 99.
- Kosovo: 0.
- Somalia: At least 25.
- Gulf War: 315.
- Panama: 21.
- Grenada: 16.
- Lebanon: At least 241.
- Vietnam: At least 58,000.
- Korean War: At least 33,600.
- World War II: At least 290,000. — Internet



Two US Army Black Hawk helicopters are pictured near the crash site on 9 January, 2004 of the Black Hawk which crashed on 8 January. The helicopter came down during a routine mission near Fallujah, killing nine US soldiers. — INTERNET

Recent major bomb attacks in Iraq

LONDON, 10 Jan — Following is a chronology of some of the recent major bomb attacks in Iraq:

Jan 9, 2004 - At least four killed and dozens wounded in a bomb blast during Friday prayers at a Shi'ite mosque in Baquba.

Dec 15, 2003 - Suicide car bombs at two Baghdad area police stations kill nine including the two bombers and wound 30.

Dec 14 - A car bomb rips through a police station in Khalidiyah in west Iraq, killing at least 17 and wounding 33.

Dec 9 - Forty-one US soldiers are wounded when a car driven by a suicide bomber explodes near their

base in Mosul. A car bomb at a Sunni mosque in Baghdad kills three people.

Nov 22 - Suicide bombers detonate explosives in cars outside Baquba's police headquarters and a police station in the nearby town of Khan Bani Saad killing at least 18.

Nov 12 - A car bomb kills at least 28 people including 19 Italians and nine Iraqis in Nassiriya.

Oct 27 - Bombers strike four times in Baghdad killing at least 35 people near a Red Cross building and three police stations. Some 230

people are wounded.

Oct 12 - Six Iraqis are killed and dozens wounded in a blast outside the Baghdad hotel on the capital's main street.

Oct 9 - Two suicide bombers kill eight Iraqis at a police station in Sadr City, northeast Baghdad.

Aug 29 - A car bomb kills at least 83 people, including top Shi'ite Muslim leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, and wounds some 175 at the Imam Ali mosque in Najaf.

Aug 19 - A truck bomb devastates the UN

headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22, including top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello, in the worst-ever attack on a UN civilian complex.

Aug 16 - Six Iraqis are killed and 59 wounded in a mortar bomb attack on Abu Ghraib prison on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Aug 7 - A truck bomb explodes outside the Jordanian embassy compound in Baghdad, killing 17 people, wounding more than 60.

July 5 - A blast kills seven Iraqi police recruits at their graduation ceremony in Ramadi.

June 30 - An explosion beside a mosque in Falluja kills nine Iraqis, including an imam. — *Internet*



The mother of an Iraqi prisoner waits for news of him outside the US run penitentiary at the Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib on 9 Jan, 2004. — *INTERNET*

Iraq war a big mistake, says report

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — US Secretary of State Colin Powell said yesterday there was never any concrete evidence Saddam Hussein had ties to al-Qaida.

The admission followed a damning new report that found Iraq had ended its weapons of mass destruction program years ago and posed no imminent threat. The report, by the Washington-based think-tank Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, says the US intelligence community was "unduly influenced" by the Bush Administration to make findings consistent with the Administration's wish to wage war.

Its release coincided with growing speculation that David Kay, the CIA man who has led the 1400-strong Iraqi

Survey Group in its search for WMDs in Iraq, is on the verge of quitting. Washington is also withdrawing 400 members of the team. The Carnegie think-tank compiled its report after poring over a pile of declassified US intelligence documents, UN weapons inspections reports and Bush Administration statements.

Its findings included: No solid evidence of a co-operative relationship between Saddam Hussein's government and al-Qaida, and no evidence Iraq would have transferred WMDs to terrorists. The US intelli-

gence community overestimated the chemical and biological weapons in Iraq and was "unduly influenced by policymakers' views".

Iraq's chemical weapons production capabilities were effectively destroyed by the 1991 Gulf War, the 1998 Operation Desert Fox and UN inspections and sanctions.

The Bush Administration misrepresented the threat from Iraq's supposed weapons and ballistic missile findings. Report co-author Joseph Cirincione said a worst-case scenario had been represented as the most likely case. — *Internet*

Four Britons, one German held in Ghana drugs raid

LONDON, 10 Jan — Ghanaian drug enforcement officers seized a ton of cocaine and arrested seven men, including five foreigners, in a raid on a house in the capital Accra, British Customs said on Thursday.

Four Britons, a German and two Ghanaians were arrested in the raid, which net-

ted drugs worth 80 million pounds (145 million US dollars), they said. The raid came after intelligence from British Customs and cooperation from the Spanish police. "A sophisticated international gang has been dismantled and a large shipment of cocaine has been prevented from causing

crime on our streets," Customs Minister John Healey said in a statement. The drugs would have been shipped to Europe and then on to Britain, British Customs said. The cocaine was found in a "specially constructed concealment" within the villa in the suburbs of the city.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

UN seeks security assurances from US in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Jan — In an effort to get UN staff back into Iraq sites, the United States on Friday reviewed security for the world body, still reluctant to send officials into the field after last summer's disastrous bombing of its Baghdad offices.

US and British ambassadors sounded out UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan before a crucial 19 Jan meeting on the future role of the United Nations in Iraq. But many UN officials are wary of seeing the United Nations back in Baghdad while the US occupation is in force.

"Security is of course one the principle concerns of the United Nations," said US Ambassador John

Negroponce after talks with Annan and British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry.

One proposal, participants said, was to have the multinational force in Iraq break off a contingent to protect UN staff. But no decisions were made at the session that included senior UN security officials. "The situation on the ground remains insecure, so the scope for a UN role is very much limited by the security factor. That's a fact of life," UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said. Annan withdrew international staff in October after two bombing attacks on its Iraq headquarters, the one on Aug. 19 costing the lives of 22 staff and visitors.

Since then Annan has emphasized he would not send them back unless security improved — and unless the UN's political role was well-defined in contributing to the country's future. — *Internet*

Foreign Affairs says Canadian civilian living in Kuwait, killed in Iraq

OTTAWA, 10 Jan — Richard Flynn, a Canadian resident of Kuwait, was killed while travelling in Iraq this week, Foreign Affairs said Friday.

Reynald Doiron, a department spokesman, said only the barest information could be released, because of privacy considerations. It was not known why Flynn was in Iraq. Flynn is reported to have been teaching at a Kuwait school for expatriates, along with his wife Nancy.

His body was being flown back to Canada. His wife is also expected to return.

Flynn's home town was not available. — *Internet*

Over 90 US children die of flu

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — More than 90 US children have died from influenza, but this season's epidemic is showing signs of peaking, CDC Director Dr Julie Gerberding said on Thursday.

She said her agency was still trying to find out if this year's epidemic was affecting children more than in past years but that there was not yet enough information to say.

"We are cautiously optimistic that, at least in some parts of the country, influenza may have peaked," Gerberding told a news conference.

She said there was wide-

spread flu activity in 38 states, down from 42 states last week. "But there is still plenty of flu out there," Gerberding added.

In its official weekly report on death and illness, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said 93 US children under the age of 18 had died of confirmed influenza. Doctors are not required to report deaths from influenza, so it was hard to say how serious that was compared with past years, Gerberding said.

About 92 children under the age of five die from flu-related illnesses in an average year, according to the CDC. But the figures are not comparable because of the hit-and-miss way in which flu statistics are collected in the United States, the CDC said.

Gerberding said the CDC was considering making influenza deaths among children a reportable disease — meaning state health officials would collect data on them. In the meantime, it has asked states to report all deaths among children from flu.

MNA/Reuters



US Army troops secure the area outside a building near a blood stain in Baquba after a blast on 9 Jan, 2004.

INTERNET

CONTINUING ANTI-US RESISTANCE



A US Army tank secures a street during a series of night raids, in Tikrit, Iraq on early Friday, 9 Jan, 2004. US forces in Tikrit detained 30 Iraqis, including a dozen suspected insurgents, in one of the biggest raids since the end of the American-led war to oust Saddam Hussein. — INTERNET



Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division arrive home at Ft Campbell, Kentucky Ft Campbell has suffered more casualties than any other Army post to date, having lost 59 soldiers in Iraq. — INTERNET



People stand around a car destroyed in an explosion on a busy street on Friday 9 Jan, 2004, in Baqouba, Iraq. — INTERNET



Smoke rises from a burning car after an explosion in Baqouba, Iraq, on 9 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET



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



Iraqi police officers watch a US soldier inspect a spot where an explosive device went off in Baghdad on Friday 9 Jan 2004. Two Iraqi civilians were injured in the blast. — INTERNET

Rice says no evidence Iraq moved WMD to Syria

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — The United States has no credible evidence that Iraq moved weapons of mass destruction into Syria early last year before the US-led war that drove Saddam Hussein from power, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said Friday.

Rice said, "Any indication that something like that happened would be a very serious matter."

"But I want to be very clear: we don't, at this point, have any indications that I would consider credible and firm that that has taken place, but we will tie down every lead," she said at a White House briefing about Bush's trip Monday to a hemispheric summit in Mexico.

In nine months, arms control experts in Iraq have failed to find a single item from a long list of weapons of mass destruction.

The Bush administration cited an alleged weapons stockpile in Iraq as a primary reason for launching the war against Saddam's government.

"We're going to follow every lead on what may have happened here," Rice said.

"I don't think we are at the point that we can make a judgment on this issue. There hasn't been any hard

evidence that such a thing happened.

"But obviously we're going to follow up every lead," she said, "and it would be a serious problem if that, in fact, did happen."

Internet

Philippines says OPEC plan to maintain production hurting economy

MANILA, 10 Jan — The Philippine Government has declared the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC)'s plan to maintain oil production at current levels despite high prices was hurting the economies of countries importing oil.

"The excessively high oil prices being maintained by OPEC are hampering the sustainability of economic recovery of oil consuming countries such as the Philippines," the Philippine Star daily on-line news Friday quoted Energy Secretary Vince Perez as saying.

"While the world has tolerated a crude oil price range of 22 to 28 US dollars a

barrel, sustaining oil prices above this price will eventually work against OPEC," he said.

Earlier, there was reportedly no way OPEC would resort to an informal mechanism providing for production increases if oil prices exceed 28 US dollars a barrel for 20 consecutive days, which has already lapsed.

MNA/Xinhua

US plays down withdrawal of Iraq weapons team

KNOXVILLE (Tennessee), 10 Jan — The White House on Thursday played down the withdrawal from Iraq of a 400-member military team specializing in the disposal of weapons of mass destruction.

Scott McClellan, spokesman for US President George W. Bush, said that even though the disposal team was leaving, the group focused on hunting weapons was remaining in Iraq.

"The Iraq Survey Group continues to do its work," McClellan told reporters aboard Air Force One.

Bush was en route to Tennessee for an event on school reform and a fund-raiser.

The New York Times reported on Thursday that the departure of the team was "a sign that the Administration might have lowered its sights" and viewed it as less likely that

chemical and biological weapons would be discovered.

The Administration had cited the threat of illicit weapons as a principle reason for launching war on Iraq in March of last year.

In a potential setback to the so far fruitless hunt for banned weapons, the head of the Iraq Survey Group, David Kay, told Administration officials last month he was considering leaving his job.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to increase gold import in 2004

HANOI, 10 Jan — The State Bank of Vietnam has allowed businesses to import 15 tons of gold this year, including 10 tons for the first quarter to stabilize the domestic market, according to local newspaper Labour on Friday.

Gold prices recorded an

all-time high at 8-8.04 million Vietnamese dong (512.8-515.4 US dollars) per tael in the domestic market on Friday morning.

The price surge is attributed to the hike in the world market as 70 per cent of gold in the country is imported.— MNA/Xinhua

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Two Iowa soldiers still in hospital after Iraq attack

JOHNSTON, 10 Jan — The Defence Department said 10 of the 12 Iowa Army National Guard soldiers wounded in a mortar attack this week were treated and returned to duty.

The two soldiers who remain hospitalized are from the 1133rd Transportation Company, based in Mason City.

Spc Michael Doidge con-

tinues to receive treatment at a local military facility, and Spc Chad Hayes was transferred to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for additional

medical treatment.

A total of 35 soldiers were wounded in Wednesday's attack at Logistical Base Seitz, located west of Baghdad.—Internet



A protester wearing a US President George W. Bush vampire mask waves to traffic during a 2003 protest against the war in Iraq.

INTERNET

Beijing set to deal with noise pollution

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Beijing Municipality would take measures to control the noise pollution caused by road construction and vehicles, according to sources at the Beijing Communications Committee.

The large number of vehicles in Beijing, in addition to road construction projects, cause a major noise nuisance, said an official with the committee, adding that his committee will deal with the noise pollution problem in cooperation with the Municipal Construction Committee, Municipal Planning Committee and Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, the official said.

Beijing will take noise reduction into consideration when making road construction plans this year, setting up a special fund for environmental protection in each road building budget, he said.

The Municipal Communications Committee has suggested that the govern-

ment set up a special fund every year to deal with the noise pollution problems caused by road construction.

One measure which the committee will take will be to help install standardized soundproof windows in buildings which face onto roads, the official explained.

MNA/Xinhua

Hog cholera case confirmed in S Korea

SEOUL, 10 Jan — A suspected hog cholera case in central South Korea has tested positive, South Korean Yonhap news agency quoted the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service as saying on Thursday.

Scores of 40-day-old pigs in a farm in Yeongdong County, North Chungcheong Province, some 214 kilometres southeast to Seoul, are believed to have been infected with hog cholera. Three of them died after suffering diarrhoea.

Those baby pigs were confirmed to have been in-

fectured by the hog cholera on Thursday after their blood samples were tested.

In order to prevent possible spread of the disease, 65 piglets were killed on Tuesday, reported Yonhap.

The local government set up checkpoints around the farm to prevent the possible

spread of the virus.

The hog cholera came on the heels of a fatal bird flu which hit 15 poultry farms in South Korea. Around 2 million chicken and ducks have been slaughtered as an effort to prevent the spread of the bird flu.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Army soldier removes the hard disk of a computer inside an Iraqi house following a series of night raids, in Tikrit, Iraq, on early Friday, on 9 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Independence, the inborn heritage

Chin Gya (Maubin)

In his 54th Anniversary Armed Forces Day message to the nation, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, "The Union of Myanmar stood with her own civilization, as an independent and sovereign nation for years countable by the thousand." And at present, the finds of the fossilized remains of the anthropoid primates have proved that Myanmar is the place where human beings originated. Thus, independence is the inborn heritage of the Myanmar people.

In about AD 801-802, a Pyu King from Myanmar sent an envoy to China via Nanchao. During the reign of Sung Dynasty before the Mongol annexation of China, King Kyansitha of Bagan sent a diplomatic mission to China. The Chinese hosts welcomed and treated the Myanmar guests with respect and regards extended to the diplomats of a sovereign nation.

Starting from the Pyu era to the Bagan era or the First Myanmar Empire, Myanmar was an independent and sovereign nation, enjoying peace, prosperity and unity. In the 13th Century, the Mongols after seizing China, intruded into Myanmar territory at the surrounding areas of Bhamo in AD 1278. Ngazaungchan fell under Mongol occupation on 3 December 1283; Kaungsin, on 9 December; and Tagaung in January 1284.

Led by the three Shan brothers — Athin Khaya, Yaza Thingyan and Thihathu — the Myanmar races drove out the Mongols with national unity, and founded the Pinya dynasty and restored the independence and sovereignty. From Pinya dynasty to Toungoo period till founding of the Second Myanmar Empire, the nation stood firmly as an independent and sovereign nation, with her own traditions and culture as the base of civilization.

Taking advantage of the disunity between Hanthawady and Toungoo and Rakhine and Hanthawady Philip de Britto (a) Nga Zinga tried to colonize Myanmar. With Thanlyin town as his foothold, he destroyed pagodas in and around Dagon and Hanthawady and took away many valuables enshrined in the religious edifices. He took away the bronze bells, donated by the local people at the religious edifices, and cast them into cannons.

In 1503, Ludovico Di Varthema, a native of Bologna, arrived at Hanthawady and Bago. In his record, he praised the Kanbawzathadi Palace of Hanthawady for its splendor. Every part of it was gold painted, he wrote in the record. The splendid palace was destroyed by the Portuguese invaders.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw under the command of King Anaukphelon defeated the Portuguese intruders, after sacrificing many lives and much blood of his men, and restored the independence and sovereignty. The Myanmar Tatmadaw led by King Alungphaya founded the Third Myanmar Empire.

In 1627, the Dutch, the British and the French coveted the wealth of Myanmar. They were vying to win better opportunity to invest in Myanmar.

The British East India Company was desirous of annexing Myanmar before the French started their occupation scheme. The First Anglo-Myanmar War broke out after Lord Amherst declared war on Myanmar in 1824. The Myanmar races including Bamar, Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon were fighting against the colonialists at Assam, Manipur and Chittagong fronts. At the Taninthayi, Mottama, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Delta and Pyay re-

gions, Kayin and Mon races took part in the battles together with their Bamar brothers. A record of a British army major also stated the gallantry of the Shan people in the Wethteean Battle.

In February 1826, Assam, Manipur, Rakhine and Taninthayi regions were put under colonialist rule in accord with the Randaboo Treaty. The national races including Kayin, Bamar, Mon and Rakhine of those regions fought back the occupiers.

The Second Anglo-Myanmar War broke out in April 1852 resulting from the colonialists' attempts to further encroach upon the Myanmar territory. In October that year, Mottama, Bago, Yangon, Pyay and Ayeyawady Delta regions fell under colonialist annexation. The national races including Kayin, Bamar and Mon of the occupied regions launched battles against the colonialists.

The Third Anglo-Myanmar War broke out in November 1885. Mandalay, the royal capital fell in November. The country lost valuables of the nation and of the King and Queen including the famous Nga Mauk Ruby.

The records on traditions and culture of the Myanmar races that were kept at the Pitaka taiks and libraries were destroyed. Witnesses said that a large number of palm leaf treatises and records spread in disarray on the floor of the royal palace; and that some of them were burnt down. At last, Taung Kwin Mingyi sent a messenger to Col EB Sladen to protest against the destruction of the documents.

According to the record of Pitaka administrator U Than there were 2,047 books and palm leaf documents on 36 different fields in the royal library during the reign of King Thibaw.

It is learnt that the colonialists sent 1,150 palm-leaf manuscripts to the library of the Indian Secretariat. Professor Fausboll noted in his diary that out of the palm-leaf manuscripts taken from Myanmar, around 800 were lost on the way to India.

Indeed, it is natural that a nation has to encounter a lot of evil consequences when it loses its independence and sovereignty. After Myanmar had fallen under the colonialists, all the adults of national races with whatever arms they could get launched anti-colonialist struggles on a large scale in such regions of Upper Myanmar as Myede, Thayet, Nyaung-U, Myingyan, Meiktila, Thazi, Pyawbye, Yamethin and Kyaukse.

Myanmar nationals bravely fought against the colonialists wherever they met with them while Shan nationals launched anti-colonialist struggles in the plain regions. However, due to a great gap of weaponry between the two sides, later, Myanmar and Shan nationals had to retreat gradually up to hilly regions covered with dense forests. The local people joined the forces in fighting against the intruders, followed by fierce battles against the colonialists in Kayah, Kachin, Chin and Shan mountain ranges.

Kachin nationals led by Phonkan Duwa, Sama Duwa, Gara Duwa, Thaphar Duwa and Sadon Duwa and Shan, Bamar and Kachin nationals led by U Khan Hlaing, Saw Yan Paing and U Aung Myat with full sense of nationalistic spirit fought against the colonialists in Kachin mountain range. So did Bamar nationals led by Prince Shwe Gyo Phyu, Chin nationals led by Kyun Bi and Shan and Bamar nationals led by U Tet Pya in Chin mountain range, and Shan nationals led by Prince Myinsaing, Prince Linpin, Kengtung Sawbwa and Yakswak Sawbwa and Wa nationals led by Saw Maha and Naw Kham Oo sharing weal and woe and

keeping eggs and the nest intact in Shan mountain range.

The British made an offer that they would not occupy Chin mountain range if Chin nationals handed over Prince Shwe Gyo Phyu to them, but Chin nationals dismissed the proposal. After the Third Anglo-Myanmar War, Myanmar nationals were fully equipped with the spirit of national solidarity, unyielding spirit and revolutionary spirit.

Then, national people employed political means and ways to regain the independence by forming Buddhist associations in the cities of Myanmar starting from 1897, Young Men's Buddhist Association in 1906 and GCBA in 1920.

The peasants uprising which was led by Saya San and which occurred on 22 December 1930 reflected the unyielding spirit of Myanmar nationals' to the imperialists who excelled much in armed power.

Thanks to the collective endeavours of the entire national races in anti-colonialist and independence struggle, Myanmar regained her independence on 4 January 1948.

Previously, there was an argument whether primitive fossils found in Myanmar were real Anthropoid Primates or not. Thus, a survey team led by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Education made continuous endeavours in the study of fossils in Pondaung region. Myanmar experts in cooperation with the fossil experts from France made a survey tour. They found an ankle and a lateral malleolus of primates at Hsechauk Kyitchaung near Mogaund Village in November 2002.

The anthropological finding was stated on pages 1317 and 1318 of number 23, volume 100 of PNAS; Proceeding of National Academy of Science published in the United States. It assured that the fossils found in Myanmar were anthropoid primates.

So, the finding dimmed the deduction that the origin of man was from Africa, and the experts from international community confirmed that the origin of man was from Asia (Myanmar).

Over 2,700 years ago, Abhiraja cleared the trees, constructed roads and established a new town. He established Myanmar in the area between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China. After building 16 garrison towns along the areas in the east, he set up the palace in Dagaung also called Thindwe, which was ruled by 33 kings for some 300 years. According to the historical records, after King Bhinnakari, the last one, had passed away, and the Lord Buddha had attained Buddhahood, princes led by King Dhaja Raja entered Myanmar and lived together with local people.

So, it is crystal clear that Myanmar national races have been living in the same land partaking water from the same source since aeons ago. And Myanmar are not races who migrated from other countries.

Besides, studying the Myanmar's history, one will vividly understand that throughout the history, Myanmar national races with Union Spirit always unitedly drove out the intruders endangering the independence, the inborn heritage of Myanmar. Therefore, no matter how the colonialists change the practice of colonialism, it is incumbent upon the entire people of the Union to collectively defend and safeguard the independence, the inborn heritage, as a national duty.

(Translation: TMT + MS)
(Kyemon: 9-1-2004)



Kengtung Government Technological College Project being implemented in Shan State (East) (News on page 16). — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visits Dhammapala Library in Kwanmoe Dain Model Village, Kayan Township. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt donates cash to the fund of Sakkja Marazin Bronze Buddha Image through the pagoda board of trustees. — MNA

Prime Minister attends opening ...

(from page 1)

A ceremony to share merits gained for construction of Ziwapala primary health care centre and Dhammapala library was held at the Sasana Jotika Dhammayon in the village at 8.45 am. The ceremony was graced by the attendance of members of the Sangha led by Maha Nayaka Sayadaw of Mandalay Masoeysin Taikthit Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Rajadhammabhivamsa. The ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of Nyaungbingwin Kyaung in Kayan Township Bhaddanta Vijaya.

Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, the Prime Minister and party and wellwishers presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

After that, Maha Nayaka Sayadaw of Mandalay Masoeysin Taikthit Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Rajadhammabhivamsa delivered a sermon and the Prime Minister and party and wellwishers shared merits gained.

The merit-sharing ceremony ended with the three time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu.

Afterwards, the opening ceremony of Ziwapala primary health care centre was held in front of the centre.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin and Wellwisher U Ye Tun formally opened the centre.

Next, the Prime Minister unveiled the stone inscription of the centre and sprinkled it with scented water and the ceremony ended. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party inspected the health care centre.

Next, the opening ceremony of Dhammapala library in the village was held in front of the library.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Than Oo and wellwisher U Win Naing formally opened the library and the ceremony ended. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party viewed round the library.

Next, the ceremony to hand over the health care centre and library to the departments concerned was held at the hall of Basic Education Middle School (Branch) of the village.

Secretary of Kayan Township USDA U Myint Oo read a message on the health care centre and library of Nayaka Sayadaw of Mandalay Masoeysin Taikthit Bhaddanta Kesarabhivamsa.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV set, video cassette player and computers for No 1 BEHS of Kayan, a TV set, video cassette player and computers for No 2 BEHS of Kayan to the respective school heads.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented medi-

cal equipment and cash donations for Ziwapala health care centre in Kwanmoe Dain Model Village to the township PDC chairman. Next, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented books for Dhammapala Library to the chairman. Afterwards, wellwishers donated K 12,5407 million for Ziwapala health care centre and Dhammapala Library, which was accepted by Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Chairman U Aye of the committee for construction of the clinic and library and Head of the township Health Department Dr Tin Nwe Kyi presented documents related to the clinic and commemorative pennant to Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint. Secretary U Myint Swe presented documents related to the library to District IPRD Staff Officer U Tin Maung Aye, who then presented a commemorative pennant to Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Then, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said it is an auspicious day as a clinic and library could be constructed in Kwanmoe Dain Model Village, Kayan township. In present day, the Head of State has been making tours of rural and border regions and fulfilling the needs for the socio-economy of the rural people. He said that efforts are also being made for the development of human resources, which are vital for development of the State. We can see that some nations are standing tall among the world countries because of their advanced human resources although they have only few natural resources. Now it is the time when the Head of State himself is nurturing in all aspects for the development of human resources, he added. Therefore, townselders and student youths are urged to take such good opportunities and strive their utmost for their enhancement of socio-economic life, education and health.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Kayan. The Prime Minister met with members of district and township PDCs, departmental officials and social organizations at Byamaso Hall in Kayan Township.

Kayan Township Chairman U Than Oo reported on extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, pulses and beans and edible oil crops, raising of poultry, fish and prawn, education and health sectors, construction of roads and bridges, and regional development tasks in the township; Thongwa Township Chairman U Khin Maung Aye, on regional development tasks including extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, pulses and beans and edible oil crops, education, health and communication sectors, building of roads and bridges, and rural water supply in the region; Thanlyin Township Chairman U Tin Zaw Win, on township's agriculture, transport, education and health sectors; and Kyauktan Township Chairman U Khin Zaw, on agriculture, education, health and transport sectors of the region, and tasks being implemented for clean water supply.

The Prime Minister attended to the needs, saying that according to the reports, he learnt that the regions have

achieved success in the agricultural sector greater than it was last year.

He added that he has fulfilled the requirements for regional development. Only when townships are developed, so are the States and Divisions and the entire nation. Similarly the development of townships depends on that of rural regions. So, emphasis must be placed on progress of rural areas including border regions, he noted.

That is why the Government has been implementing the five rural development tasks for ensuring rural development and uplifting the living standard of the rural people, he remarked.

All should participate in the development projects with the sense that the tasks for development of a township is not concerned with the incharge of the township alone but with all the staff of the departments in the township, he pointed out.

Those in charge of the townships are to make field trips right down to the rural areas of townships concerned in fulfilling the requirements for accomplishment of the five rural development tasks and to carry out tasks in harmony after forming respective township development committees, he said.

The Government has been taking systematic measures for promotion of education and health sectors of rural people and at the same time it is implementing sector-wise projects including transportation and water supply, he disclosed.

Furthermore, various means and ways are being employed for supply of water for ever greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon City. So, respective officials in the townships in the 30-mile radius of Yangon City are to take preparatory measures for the project, he remarked.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said township level officials to make collective effort hand in hand with the local people for regional development and elevating of the living standard of local people.

After that, the Prime Minister and party inspected surgical ward (men), ward (children) and X-ray room of Kayan Township People's Hospital. Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Nwe and officials conducted them round the hospital.

Next, they visited Pali Tekkatho Kaingkon Monastery and presented rice, cash donations and offertories to Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Sobhita and members of the Sangha.

The Prime Minister and entourage also visited Sakkja Marazin Bronze Buddha Image in Kayan and made cash donations for all-round renovation of religious edifices in the compound. The Prime Minister and party viewed the thriving green gram plantations along Thanlyin-Kayan Road. The Prime Minister cordially met with local farmers of Thaitugan Model Village in Thongwa Township and fulfilled their requirements on education sector. The Prime Minister also viewed the green gram plantations near the village.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back in the evening.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wellwisher U Win Naing formally open Dhammapala Library in Kwanmoe Dain Model Village, Kayan Township. — MNA



**Prime
Minister
General
Khin Nyunt
tours
Kayan
Township**



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspect green gram plantations along Thanlyin-Kayan Road.(News on page 1) — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presses the button to unveil the stone inscription of Ziwapala Clinic in Kwanmoe Dain Model Village, Kayan Township. (News on page 1)— MNA

Secretary-2 tours...

(from page 16)

The Secretary-2 and party went to the site of No 2 highland farming reclamation project in Monglat Village tract.

Director of No 2 highland farming reclamation project U Nyo Win reported on implementation of the project with the aim of uplifting the social standard of the local people, settlement and conservation of environment and reclamation of highland farming. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave a supplementary report.

According to the 10-year highland farming

project, 25,000 acres of land will be reclaimed in eastern Shan State beginning 2003-2004. Out of 2,000 acres in the first year of the project, 706 acres have been reclaimed—390 acres in Kengtung district, 110 in Tachilek district, 67 in Mongphyat district and 139 acres in Monghsat district. In Monglat village tract, 50 acres out of 220.69 have been reclaimed. The Secretary-2 gave instructions and inspected the reclamation of farmlands.

The Secretary-2 and party proceeded to Kengtung Degree College where they were welcomed

by Principal U Aung Nyunt and faculty members.

The Secretary-2 and party inspected the e-Education Resource centre, e-Education learning centre, language lab and computer training centre and library and met faculty members.

The Secretary-2 and party visited Khema Ratha Pagoda in Kengtung. The Secretary-2 presented cash donations to pagoda board of trustees and signed in the visitors' book. They went to Maha Myatmuni Pagoda in Kengtung and offered lights. The Secretary-2 presented cash to chairman of the pagoda board of trustees and signed in the visitor's book.—MNA

Measures for smooth and secure transport coordinated

YANGON, 10 Jan — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held a coordination meeting at Yangon Command Headquarters at 5 pm yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, senior military officers, local authorities, officials, chairmen of private bus lines running in the division

and guests.

At the meeting, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe dealt with tasks to be carried out by the supervisory committee for convenience of the passengers.

Members of the supervisory committee reported on supervisory measures being taken for convenience of the passengers, and punctual departure and arrival of passenger buses, trains, ships and aero-

planes; rectors of the universities and colleges in Yangon, on assistance to be rendered for smooth transportation of teachers and students; chairmen of the private bus lines, on supervising bus drivers and conductors; and those present, on measures to be taken for minimizing traffic accidents.

The commander delivered concluding remarks.

MNA



Myanmar delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 10 Jan — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw left for Hyderabad in India by air this morning to attend Asia IT Ministers' Second Meeting to be held on 12 and 13 January.

The delegation was seen

off at the airport by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, officials of the Indian Embassy in Myanmar and departmental officials.

Member of the CSSTB U Aung Myint, Chief Engi-

neer U Zaw Tint of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, President U Thein Oo of Myanmar Computer Federation and executive U Thauang Tin of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry accompanied the minister as the members of the delegation. — MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hears a report presented by Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung on Kengtung Airfield Construction Project in Shan State (East). — MNA

Minister inspects wood-based industries

YANGON, 10 Jan — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, accompanied by departmental heads of the Ministry of Forestry, inspected the wood-based industry of Myitmakha Co in Hline Township this morning.

Officials of the industry reported to the minister on production process of the factory. Next, the minister proceeded to Hlinethaya Industrial Zone and inspected

the wood based industries of CD International Trade, Win Enterprise, Soe Than Brothers Co, Khine Insayi, Asia Wood Co and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Donate Blood

Kale Industrial Zone inspected

YANGON, 10 Jan—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe arrived at Kale Airport yesterday afternoon and heard reports on upgrading of the runway.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister gave necessary instructions.

Later, the commander and the minister proceeded to Kale Industrial Zone. Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kale Station, the chairman of the industrial zone and entrepreneurs reported to them on requirements. After fulfilling the requirements, the commander and the minister inspected the allotment of land and construction tasks in the zone.

The commander and the minister met with local farmers and industrialists at the hall of Kale Station and fulfilled the requirements. Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected the vehicles assembled in Kale Industrial Zone this morning.

Later, the minister arrived at Bagan-Nyaung U Airport and attended the ceremony to pave the 4-inch thick tarred runway. After the ceremony, the minister inspected the machinery to be used in upgrading the airport. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspects land allotment in Kale Industrial Zone. — TRANSPORT



Independence Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 10 Jan — The 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition continued for the eighth day at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road from 9 am to 5 pm today.

At the "Build the modern and developed nation through education" booth of the Ministry of Education, map showing the location of universities, colleges and institutes in 2003-2004, photographs depicting the activities of the higher education sector, human resources development centres, 30 years long term plan (Education Sector), the basic education sector, non-formal education and literacy campaign were on display.

At the booth of the Ministry of Science and Technology, objectives, organizational set-up and human resources development programmes were shown.

Students took part in computer quiz. News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information has opened NPE Book Shop along with the Sarpay Beikman Book Shop of Printing and Publishing Enterprise near the exhibition hall.

A total of 7,066 persons including students and teachers of basic education schools in Insein Township and Basic Education High School No 3, Bago, visited the exhibition today. It will be kept open from 9 am to 5 pm daily till 11 January. Admission is free. — MNA

Students visiting the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition. MNA



Students visiting the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition. MNA

MACAO airport saw 27% growth in cargo throughput in 2003

MACAO, 10 Jan—The Macao International Airport handled 141,223 tons of cargo in 2003, up 27 per cent over the previous year, while the volume of passenger transport decreased by 30 per cent, said an airport management official.

At a Press conference, Chan Wai Leong, executive director of the Macao International Airport Company (CAM), said that the CAM's cargo-handling department had an "excellent" performance in 2003, adding that its

throughput in November reached record 19,511 tons.

However, the passenger transport of the airport experienced a most difficult year since 1995 when the airport was put into use, with the volume of passengers at 2.9 million, a 30 per cent drop from 2002. According to Chan, the decrease is mainly due to the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in last Spring in Asia, as the SARS-ridden cities in China's Mainland, Taiwan and Singapore are

main sources of passengers of the Macao Airport.

As a result, the CAM saw a large margin of decline at 80 per cent to 90 per cent in its volume of passengers from April to June of 2003.

To overcome the difficulties, the CAM took various measures to lower cost and rebuild the residents' confidence in travel by airplane, which gradually helped the volume of passengers increase, especially in July and August, said Chan. — MNA/Xinhua

China's first human sperm bank opens for deposits

CHANGSHA, 10 Jan—China's first human sperm bank, in central China's Hunan Province, started a new service this week to help men aged 25-45 to deposit sperm for later use.

The sperm bank, in Xiangya Medical College of Zhongnan University, is among the first batch to open such a service to the public.

Lu Guangxiu, founder of the sperm bank, said the new service aims to ease reproductive concerns caused by worsening male reproductive

health, such as aspermia and deteriorating sperm quality, that have become a noticeable problem in China.

"Many people, in their peak reproductive period, have to delay the process for various reasons. But when they want to have a baby, they found they have lost the ability to do so."

Lu blamed environmental pollution, and factors such as illness, and accidental injuries.

As one of the most freeze-durable cells, sperm could

maintain its activity for 10 to 20 years of freezing.

Founded in 1981, Lu's sperm bank now has the capacity to freeze 50,000 tubes of sperm and has frozen more than 10,000 tubes. More than 6,600 tubes of sperm have been used in artificial fertilization.

Lu did not disclose the price for the service, but said a price had been set pending the approval of the local price administration department.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia to beef up security of Sydney Opera House

CANBERRA, 10 Jan—Security at Sydney Opera House will be beefed up with a multi-million-dollar upgrade against possible terrorist attack.

New South Wales Premier Bob Carr on Thursday announced nine million Australian dollars (6.8 million US dollars) will be used to introduce hi-tech surveillance and other measures to better protect the world famous building.

The Daily Telegraph reported Friday that the measures including hi-tech surveillance, locks on all 2,000 doors and jail sentences and hefty fines for vandals who limb or deface the building.

The measures are also aimed at stopping potential suicide car bombings, the report said. Carr said the changes are necessary because of the current world climate. "International terrorist attacks in the US, Bali and Indonesia and events in Iraq have resulted in massive security overhauls across the world," he said.

He said the measures are "a sensible precaution in protecting a building that by any test is a symbol of Australia." Opera House receives four million visitors a year. —MNA/Xinhua

China cooperates with int'l community to fight SARS

BEIJING, 10 Jan—China is making the utmost efforts with the international community to overcome severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), a challenge to the whole human kind, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said here Thursday.

Kong said cooperation between China and the international community, including international organizations and other countries and regions, have made gradual

progress.

China has built a comprehensive prevention and monitoring system to fight SARS since it broke out last year, Kong said, and China is confident of preventing another outbreak.

The World Health Organization has expressed the opinion that China has established an effective, reactive and transparent monitoring system to fight SARS, Kong said.

MNA/Xinhua

ဆောင်းရာသီတွင်ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သောကူးစက်ရောဂါများ

ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်ရေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ဆောင်းရာသီတွင် အအေးမိနွှေးခေး ချောင်းဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ဦးနှောက်အမြှေးရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ၊ ဆူဆီနာရောဂါ၊ ကြက်ညှာချောင်းဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ရေကျောက်ရောဂါ၊ နမ့်နီနီယား အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါနှင့်မျက်နှာရောင်စသည့်ကူးစက်ရောဂါများအဖြစ်များတတ်ပါသည်။
- ၂။ ၎င်းရောဂါများကိုကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက်
 - * ဖွဲ့လမ်းသဘင်လှူထပ်သောနေရာနှင့် ဖုလှထပ်သောနေရာများကို တာတိနီသမျှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - * နှာခေါင်းဆိုးလျှင် ရောဂါမပြန့်ပွားစေရန် လက်ကိုင်ပုဝါကို အသုံးပြုပါ။
 - * တစ်ဦးအသုံးပြုထားသော အသုံးအဆောင်နှင့်အဝတ်အထည်များကို အခြားတစ်ဦးမှအသုံးပြုခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - * ၅-နှစ်အောက် ကလေးများအား ပုံမှန်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး၍ ကာကွယ်၍ရသောရောဂါများဖြစ်သည့် ဆူဆီနာ ကြက်ညှာချောင်းဆိုး ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ဆေးများထိုးနှံပါ။
 - * တစ်ကိုယ်ရေ သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို အလေးထားဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
 - * အဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကိုစားသုံးပါ။
 - * လုံလောက်စွာအနားယူပါ။
- ၃။ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများရှိလျှင် အသတ်ဆုံးရှုံးမှုနှင့် ရောဂါပြန့်ပွားမှုများမှကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန် နီးရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် ဆေးလျှင်စွာဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

China's tourism to strive for overall recovery

ZHENGZHOU, 10 Jan — China's tourism industry will work hard for an overall recovery this year, with the target of total income set at 560 billion yuan (68 billion US dollars) and that of overseas arrivals at 97.9 million, a senior official said here Thursday.

The major objectives include 20.5 billion US dollars of income from the international tourism sector and 390 billion yuan (47 billion dollars) from the domestic tourism sector, which is expected to receive 880 million visitors, said He Guangwei, director of China National Tourism Administration.

The targets are set on the basis of the country's sustained rapid and healthy economic growth, the accelerated recovery of the world economy, and the accumulated

strength of the tourism industry itself, the official said at a national work conference of the industry.

It is learned a lot of promotion programmes will be launched this year to attract domestic and overseas tourists. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor holds talks with French guest

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Chinese State Councillor Zhou Yongkang said here Thursday terrorism was threatening world peace and security and it was particularly important for Chinese and French police departments to enhance cooperation in fighting terrorism and transnational crime.

Zhou, who is also Public Security Minister made the remarks in talks with visiting French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy. Zhou said Sarkozy's visit would promote cooperation on security, and push forward the comprehensive partnership between China and France.

Sarkozy said he attached importance to the visit hoping to further cooperation with China.

MNA/Xinhua

28 killed as Pakistani bus falls in canal

ISLAMABAD, 10 Jan — A bus fell in an irrigation canal in central Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least 28 people, police said. They said the death toll could rise as the bus, which plunged in the canal near the remote Bhakkar Town in Pakistan's Punjab Province, was believed to be carrying more than 40 people.

Divers were trying to find more bodies in the canal, they said. Three people with minor injuries were treated at a local hospital, said Mukhtar Hassan, medical superintendent of the hospital in Bhakkar that lies 200 miles southwest of the capital Islamabad. — MNA/Reuters



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin hears a report presented by officials on the Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project in Hlegu Township. — YCDC

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ - ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းရုံ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ပြည့်ဝခြင်း ကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များ ကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ဖိုမားကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့် လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင်တန်းမှတစ်ဆင့် သင်ယူလေ့လာမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်း နှမ်းနပ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရယ်မှတစ်ဆင့် ခြင်္သေ့ထောင်မြင်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်လုံအိမ်သာကိုသုံးစွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Ngamoeyeik water supply project inspected

YANGON, 10 Jan — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin arrived at the Ngamoeyeik Dam in Hlegu Township yesterday.

At the dam, officials reported on progress of work and future plans. YCDC member Col Tin Soe gave an account on supply of additional 90 million gallons of water to Yangon City and its outskirts and new towns on completion of the project. The mayor dealt with earlier completion of the project and inspected the project site. — MNA



MWJA Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) makes a speech at the second day session of Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar. — MNA

Seminar on Publishing continues

YANGON, 10 Jan — The Seminar on Publishing of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association continued for the second day today at the hall of MWJA in Sarpay Beikman building this afternoon.

It was attended by MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and CEC members, Chairman of the work committee for holding the seminar U Myo Thant (Maung Su Shin) and members, the patron and chairman of

Myanmar Artists and Artisans Asiayon, officials of Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association, resource persons and guests.

News and Periodicals Enterprise Managing Director MWJA Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha (Takkatho Tin Kha) presided over the first session of the seminar together with U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai) and Dr Myo Thant Tin (Dr Myo Thant Tin). Resource person U Htay Maung

(Htay Maung) presented paper on editing sector and answered the queries put by those present. Patron of MAAA U Min Naing (Min Naing) presided over the second session together with U Thauang Han (Bagyi Thauang Han) and U Thant Zin (Bagyi Hla Tin Tun). Resource person U Kyaw Thauang (Bagyi Kyaw Thauang) submitted paper on illustration sector and replied to the queries raised by those present at the seminar. — MNA

Narcotic drugs seized

YANGON, 10 Jan — Acting on a tip-off, the team made up of members of local intelligence unit and Tachilek Anti-Drugs Squad searched the house of U Ya Pa Lon of No 4/62 in Ward Hsanhsei (Ka) Ward, Tachilek, on 8 November 2003, and seized 41 grams of heroin.

A similar team, acting on information, searched Hsan Lwin in the house of Khin Maung Htay in Myoma (A) Ground, Tamu, on 24 December 2003, and seized 124.572 grams of raw opium hidden in his jacket.

Action is taken against the two under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned.

MNA



Ya Pa Lon with seized narcotic drugs. — MNA



Hsan Lwin with seized narcotic drugs. — MNA

ဟော့ရှားဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Celebrities, computer maker unite to fight piracy

LAS VEGAS, 10 Jan — Rock stars, soul singers and famous faces from the movies came to Las Vegas on Thursday to help one of the world's largest computer companies make a pitch against digital piracy.

Rocker Sheryl Crow, U2 guitarist The Edge and actor Ben Affleck spoke out against piracy after a keynote address at the Consumer Electronics Show by Hewlett-Packard Co. Chairman and Chief Executive Carly Fiorina, who pledged her company would protect artists' rights in all its devices.

Singer Alicia Keys, who performed two songs on stage, told the audience she regularly spoke with children about music piracy.

"I always tell them, 'You can download, but if you like what you hear, go out and buy it,'" she said.

Fiorina said the company would commit to either buying or developing the best software possible for content security, in a fervent speech in which she dedicated the company to battling piracy.

HP announced plans on Thursday for a digital music player based on Apple Computer Inc.'s wildly popular iPod player and said it would install Apple's iTunes music software on its computers.

Longstanding music industry executive Jimmy Iovine, the chairman of Universal's Interscope music label, gave a lengthy speech condemning piracy and called for changes.

"For the last few years, parents and children have been given a pass to do something they knew in their heart was wrong," he said. "We're going to support HP to the point where they're going to ask us to stop."

Iovine and Fiorina were joined on stage by the music industry figures, who also included country artist Toby Keith and producer Dr Dre, to raucous cheers from a full theatre audience. — MNA/Reuters



A virtual keyboard, designed by VKB Inc, is illuminated by a laser in front of a pocket PC, during the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 9 Jan, 2004. Sensors in the unit detect precise finger position. The unit is available as a stand-alone product or can be embedded into product lines. Panasonic will test market the technology in Japan this April said Mario Neves, VKB senior vice president of marketing and sales. — INTERNET

Cyprus, Estonia to enhance trade links

NICOSIA, 10 Jan — Cyprus and Estonia agreed on Thursday that more effort should be made to enhance commercial and trade links and assist each other as European partners.

Addressing a seminar held here at the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, visiting Estonian President Arnold Ruutel and Chairman of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vasilis Rologis said the two countries' accession to the European Union (EU) in May will provide more opportunities for enhanced cooperation.

Ruutel, who arrived here Wednesday for a four-day official visit, said that Cyprus ranks in third place as far as Estonian direct investment is concerned and "EU membership will create even more favourable conditions for continuation of economic cooperation".

able conditions for continuation of economic cooperation".

Estonia's economy amounted to over 6.6 billion euros (over eight billion US dollars) last year and Estonia has made a remarkable progress since independence, Ruutel said, adding that more than 80 per cent of exports of his country, including wood, textile, foodstuff and electronics, go to EU markets.

For his part, Rologis said "both countries share excellent prospects for a better future" since they will be acceding the European Union together on 1 May. — MNA/Xinhua

German jobless rate climbs to six-year high in December

BERLIN, 10 Jan — German unemployment climbed to 10.4 per cent in December, the highest rate for the month since 1997, the Federal Labour Bureau reported on Thursday.

The number of jobless people rose to 4.376 million, or 8 per cent higher than in December 2002, the bureau said.

In western Germany, the unemployment rate was at 8.4 per cent, while in the east it was 17.9 per cent. Nonetheless, for the first time in three years the number of officially unemployed people in the east declined. In December, 1.564 million were jobless in the east, 13,000 fewer than 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

Yellow River loses 200 million tons of sand in past two years

ZHENGZHOU, 10 Jan — The Yellow River, China's second largest, has shed nearly 200 million tons of sand in the past two years, said Li Guoying, deputy director of the Yellow River Water Resources Committee, here Thursday.

The loss had increased the river's flow by 100 to 400 cubic metres per second, Li said at the Annual Conference of Water Resources Directors.

The committee organized sand washing operations in July of 2002 and September of 2003 by discharging speeding currents from the massive Xiaolangdi Reservoir on the lower reaches of the river, successfully carrying 187.1 million tons into the sea.

The reservoir had prevented some 900 million tons of silt from flowing to the lower reaches since it started storing water in October, 1999.

MNA/Xinhua



Red Panda 'Xia-Tschung-Mao' feeds on bamboo in its new enclosure in the zoo in Duisburg, western Germany, on 9 Jan, 2004. The red panda is a smaller relative of the Giant Panda. Xia Tschung Mao was born in Rotterdam. The extremely endangered species is a smaller relative of the Giant Panda. — INTERNET

Portland airport shut down by storm for 3rd day

SEATTLE, 10 Jan — Portland, Oregon's airport was closed for the third day on Thursday after a winter storm swept through the northwest region this week, dropping snow and ice over runways, railways and roads.

Flights in and out of Portland were suspended until 5 am PST (1300 GMT) and Portland Internal Airport spokeswoman Elisa Dozono said that some airlines had cancelled flights on Friday, as well.

"So far, no one seems to be able to predict the storm well," Dozono said. "We're depending a lot on Mother Nature at this point." Government offices and many businesses shuttered their doors earlier this week after the region, known for its mild but wet weather, was hit by its biggest winter storm in seven years. — MNA/Reuters

Uzbek FM pledges closer ties with China

ALMA-ATA, 10 Jan — Uzbek Foreign Minister Sodik Safaev has said his country will promote its relations with China in economic cooperation.

In a recent written interview with Xinhua, Safaev, who will visit China on 13-16 January, said the Uzbekistan-China ties were established on the basis of mutual respect, equality, friendliness and a win-win situation for each other.

He said he was satisfied with the close and stable ties between Uzbekistan and China.

China, a country with huge political and economic potentials, is one of Uzbekistan's reliable partners in relation to Central Asia's economic development and regional security, said Safaev. The high-level political dialogue between Uzbekistan and China is of great significance for the development of bilateral relations, he said.

Hu Jintao visited Uzbekistan in 1995 and held his first talks with Uzbek President Islam Karimov. Hu also had talks with Karimov on the sidelines of the 2003 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Moscow.

During the talks in Moscow, the two

leaders hammered out a blueprint for a political dialogue and for mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing visited the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, and took part in a SCO foreign ministers' meeting there in September, 2003.

The SCO established its two standing organs, the secretariat and the regional anti-terrorism centre, in the Chinese and Uzbek capitals, Safaev said, adding that the two standing organs had a symbolic significance.

He said the mutual cooperation and coordination within the SCO framework will give fresh impetus to efforts by the two countries to develop ties.

Safaev praised China's economy and said he was surprised at the speed of its growth in the last 10 years.

Uzbekistan is implementing structural and market economy reforms, which are aimed at realizing economic modernization and integrating the country into the world economy, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Liverpool may sign goalkeeper after Dudek injury

LONDON, 10 Jan— Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier says he could sign a goalkeeper on a short-term deal with Chris Kirkland and Jerzy Dudek both sidelined through injury.

Kirkland has been ruled out of action for a month with a broken finger while his Polish replacement Dudek sustained a groin injury during Liverpool's 1-0 victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

Dudek limped off late in the game with the club's website reporting he could be out for two to three weeks. The Polish international was replaced by Frenchman Patrice Luzi.

"I may need a new goalkeeper as Jerzy has a groin problem. We still have Patrice and, if he has to, he will fill the position well," Houllier said on Thursday.

"He came on for his debut last night and did very well, making two great saves. But we only have him available now so we might have to look at someone for the short-term." — MNA/Reuters



Sporting's Joao Pinto is embraced by Brazilian teammate Anderson Polga, right, after scoring against Guimaraes during their Portuguese soccer league match on 9 Jan, 2004, in Lisbon, Portugal. At left celebrating are Sa Pinto and Elpidio Silva, background. — INTERNET

British tennis star Rusedski fails drug test

LONDON, 10 Jan— British tennis number two Greg Rusedski has confirmed his test failure but stressed that he is totally innocent.

"In response to media inquiries, I can confirm that

I have been advised by the ATP anti-doping administrator that a sample I provided tested positive for a low concentration of nandrolone metabolites," the player said in a statement.

The 30-year-old took a doping test at the ATP tournament in Indianapolis on July 23 last year when he was plagued by a string of injuries and competed in only six tournaments.

The Canadian-born Briton faces a hearing in Montreal on February 9 and, if found guilty, will be banned for two years.

"I wish to make it clear that I do not and never have taken performance enhancing drugs," he said.

"This is a very complex situation which once understood will clearly demonstrate my total innocence," he added. Rusedski's career highlight was a run to the US Open final in 1997 where he finished runner-up to Australian Pat Rafter. But the big-server had suffered a succession of knee, foot and back injuries with his world rankings slipping to a new low of 119. One day before Rusedski's test failure, the men's tennis organizers ATP announced that Argentina's Mariano Puerta was banned for nine months after testing positive for steroids during a tournament last year.

He is the third Argentine player to fail a drug test after Juan Ignacio Chela during the Cincinnati tournament in 2000 and Guillermo Coria two years ago. — MNA/Xinhua

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Gypsum
- 5 Landscape
- 8 Poplar
- 9 Ogling
- 10 Extendable rubber
- 11 Vulgar speech
- 12 Deliver sermon
- 14 Mission
- 17 Eat away
- 19 Write music
- 22 Moslem
- 23 Muscular spasm
- 24 Finished
- 25 Study of body

DOWN

- 1 Position
- 2 Mediocre
- 3 English river
- 4 Widow
- 5 Elizabethan poet
- 6 Heather
- 7 Betrothed
- 12 Accurate
- 13 Finely mashed
- 15 Tropical pear
- 16 Wattle
- 18 Lubricated
- 20 Coffee
- 21 Unoccupied

Beckham out of Sociedad match with ankle injury

MADRID, 10 Jan— Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham has ruled himself out of Saturday's Primera Liga match at Real Sociedad because of an ankle injury.

"I'm definitely out of the game," the England captain told reporters after training on Thursday. "I was running yesterday and it was fine, but today it was very painful."

Beckham received four stitches in his right ankle after clashing with Argentine defender Jose Luis Acciari during the Span-

ish league leaders' 1-0 win over Murcia at the Bernabeu on Saturday.

The wound then became infected, forcing him to miss Real's King's Cup third round, first leg match away to second division Eibar on Wednesday, which they drew 1-1.

"I didn't think I'd miss the game on Wednesday," he said. "Now I won't be able to play on Saturday either which is annoying."

MNA/Reuters

Sevilla claim emphatic 3-1 Cup win at Villarreal

MADRID, 10 Jan— Sevilla took a major stride towards the booking their place in the quarterfinals of the King's Cup when they came from a goal down to claim a 3-1 win at Villarreal in a third round, first leg match on Thursday.

Sevilla fell behind early on in the game when Villarreal's Brazilian midfielder Juliano Belletti scored a brilliant solo goal, weaving his way in from the right wing before cutting in towards the area and firing off an unstoppable left-foot shot.

The visitors hit back at the start of the second half, though, Brazilian striker Julio Baptista beating keeper Javier Lopez Vallejo with a deft chip after controlling a cross from compatriot Daniel Alves.

Six minutes later Alves grabbed one for himself to put Sevilla into the lead when he drilled in with a low angled shot after a fine pass from Jose Antonio Reyes.

Baptista then capped a brilliant indi-

vidual performance to claim his second with another classy finish that put Sevilla 3-1 up 13 minutes from time.

The Brazilian cracked home with a stylish scissors-kick after fellow striker Dario Silva had headed him the ball when he picked up the rebound from his own shot.

The only negative note for Sevilla came when midfielder Francisco Casquero was sent off after picking up a second booking just seven minutes after coming on as a late substitute.

But Villarreal were also reduced to 10 men a few minutes later when defender Fabrizio Coloccini was given a straight red card when he was adjudged to have fouled Sevilla forward German Hornos.

Troubled Barcelona face a tricky match away to Second Division leaders Levante later on Thursday.

The second leg matches will be played next week. — MNA/Reuters

Rivaldo mobbed by jubilant fans

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 Jan— Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo was mobbed by jubilant Cruzeiro fans when he arrived on Thursday to be officially presented by the Brazilian champions.

Television pictures showed security men and police attempting to open a path to allow Rivaldo through the supporters to a waiting bus after he arrived at Belo Horizonte's Pampulha Airport.

The former World Player of the Year joined Cruzeiro on Monday little over a month after being released by AC Milan where he had been relegated to the reserve team. The 31-year-old is returning to play in his homeland for the first time in seven years, during which he also played for Spanish clubs Deportivo Coruna and Barcelona.

At Cruzeiro's training ground, Rivaldo praised the club's infrastructure, saying he was confident he could put his career back on track after an unhappy 18 months in Italy.

"Cruzeiro's installations are certainly not behind Barcelona or Milan," he told reporters. "I think they're slightly better than Milan's, I'm greatly impressed."

"I'd never visited Cruzeiro before and I'm surprised to discover that we have this sort of thing in Brazil, not just abroad." Rivaldo will lead Cruzeiro's challenge this year as they defend the Brazilian title and attempt to win the Libertadores Cup, the South American equivalent of the Champions League, for the third time. — MNA/Reuters



Monaco's Fernando Morientes of Spain (L) fights for the control of the ball with Lyon's Edmilson of Brazil during their French first division soccer match in Monte Carlo on 9 Jan, 2004. Monaco is the current leader of the French championship. — INTERNET

Tottenham's Kanoute can play for Mali, says FIFA

LONDON, 10 Jan — Tottenham Hotspur striker Frederic Kanoute can play for Mali at this month's African Nations Cup after world soccer's governing body FIFA announced on Thursday that he is eligible to represent his parents' country.

FIFA's status committee, which rules on the eligibility of players, also decided Leeds United's Lamine Sakho and Mohamed Sissoko of Valencia can play for Mali and Senegal respectively at the tournament starting in Tunisia on January 24.

MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3



11-1-2004 (Sunday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 Marine Undertakings of Myeik Archipelago
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Prawn and White Catus)
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Myanmar Rattan Furniture for the connoisseurs
- 9:25 Ah-Hla Thun-Lok-Ah-Ka-Soon Aok
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Travelogue (Inlay)
- 9:40 Song "Wonderful Country"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Myanmar Movie Impact "Dream Angel"
- 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 "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Marine Undertakings of Myeik Archipelago
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Prawn and White Catus)
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Myanmar Rattan Furniture for the connoisseurs
- 15:55 Ah-Hla Thun-Lok-Ah-Ka-Soon Aok
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Travelogue (Inlay)
- 16:10 Song "Wonderful Country"

- Country"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Myanmar Movie Impact "Dream Angel"
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Myanmar Traditional Folks Songs
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Prawn Curry"
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Yangon's Bustling Bogyoke Market
- 16:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 16:58 Palm Leaf Inscription
- 17:00** **Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:05 Myanmar Traditional Snack "Dawei Ngamoun" (Fish Crispies)
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Marquetry
- 17:28 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 "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 19:36 Kachin Dance
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Catfish Curry)
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 The Interesting Places of Kachin State
- 19:55 Kachin Dance
- 19:58 Paper Toys
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 A gift to mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)
- 20:10 Song "Sumprabum"
- 20:12 Art of carving on fruits
- 20:15** **National News**

- 20:20 Panwa with its Tourist Attractions
- 20:25 Song "Dakukuku"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Three Dimensional Gems Studded Painting
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Pineapple Salad"
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 View Point Amusement Park
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Marine undertakings of Myeik Archipelago
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Prawn and White Catus)
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Myanmar Rattan Furniture for the connoisseurs
- 21:55 Ah-Hla Thun-Lok-Ah-Ka-Soon Aok
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Travelogue (Inlay)
- 22:10 Song "Wonderful Country"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Myanmar Movie Impact "Dream Angel"
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Speaking through our eyes"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Myanmar Traditional Folk Songs
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Prawn Curry"
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Yangon's Bustling Bogyoke Market
- 22:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 22:58 Palm Leaf Inscription
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Myanmar Traditional Snack "Dawei Ngamoun" (Fish Crispies)
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern

- Song "Flower Alike"
- 23:35** **National News**
- 23:20 Marquetry
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See"

Evening Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)

- 23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Marine Undertakings of Myeik Archipelago
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Prawn and White Catus)
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Myanmar Rattan Furniture for the connoisseurs
- 23:55 Ah-Hla Thun-Lok-Ah-Ka-Soon Aok
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Travelogue (Inlay)
- 00:10 Song "Wonderful Country"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Myanmar Movie Impact "Dream Angel"
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Myanmar Traditional Folk Songs
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Prawn Curry"
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Yangon's Bustling Bogyoke Market
- 00:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 00:58 Palm Leaf Inscription
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Myanmar Traditional Snack "Dawei Ngamoun" (Fish Crispies)
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Marquetry
- 01:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

အသံတန်းသတင်းထောက်များ အလိုရှိသည်

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

၁။ တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုမှ ဘွဲ့တစ်ခုရရှိရမည်။

၂။ အသက်(၃၅)နှစ်အောက် ဖြစ်ရမည်။

(သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းမှ ဝန်ထမ်းများအတွက် အသက် တန်သက်ချက်ကို လျော့ပေါ့စဉ်းစားမည်။)

၃။ နေ့ညမရွေး တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်နိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။

(အမျိုးသားများသာ လျှောက်ထားသင့်ပါသည်။)

၄။ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ အခြေခံရှိပြီး အင်္ဂလိပ်စာကို အထူးဝါသနာပါသူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။

၅။ ပညာအရည်အချင်းအတွက် ဘွဲ့လက်မှတ်မိတ္တူ တင်ပြရမည်။

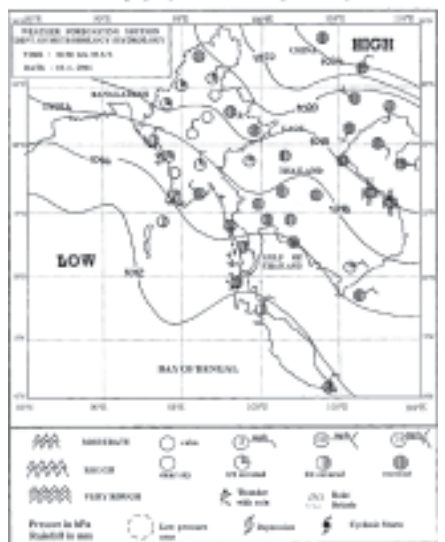
၆။ အသက်အထောက်အထားအတွက် အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်း အောင်လက်မှတ် မိတ္တူတင်ပြရမည်။

၇။ သက်ဆိုင်ရာမြို့နယ် အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေး ဦးစီးဌာနတွင် အလုပ်သမား မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။

၈။ လျှောက်လွှာများကို ၃၀-၁-၂၀၀၄ (သောကြာနေ့) ညနေ ၄ နာရီနေ့တစ်ဆုံးထား၍ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း ရုံးချုပ်၊ အမှတ် (၂၁၂)၊ သိမ်မြူလမ်း၊ သတင်းဌာန မနံနေရာတွင် ပေးပို့ကြရမည်။

အရည်အချင်းစစ်ဆေးရေးအဖွဲ့
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း။

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 10 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, isolated light rain Northern Shan and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 9-1-2004 was 34.0°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 10-1-2004 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-1-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 9-1-2004 was (7.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 10-1-2004 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 (16:40) hours MST on 9-1-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11-1-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kayin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-1-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-1-2004:** Fair weather.



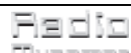
Sunday, January 11

View today:

- 7:00 am**
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am**
- 2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မသက္ကရာဇ်နိကာယအဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတဘုရားရှင်နိကာယဘိဝံသ (ယောသရတေး)ဟောကြားတော်မူ အပ်သောဥပသေ့ဒါနိဇီတော်
- 7:25 am**
- 3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
- 4. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
- 6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (ခုစု)ပြာ မင်္ဂလာ
- 8:10 am**
- 7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am**
- 8. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am**
- 9. International news

- 8:45 am**
- 10. Say it in English
- 11:00 am**
- 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am**
- 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am**
- 3. တံငါတံတား
- 11:40 am**
- 4. Round-up of the week's international news
- 11:55 am**
- 5. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတဲ့ "နက်ရှိုင်းသော" (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 12:25 pm**
- 6. Milo Success in Soccer
- 1:40 pm**
- 7. ဖြန့်ဖြူးသောလမ်းတဲ့ "ရန်ကုန်မှာသောလမ်းတဲ့" ဝေဠာကုန်း၊ ညွှန်ဝင်း၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ မျိုးစုံကော်၊ ဒါနိကော-ဟိန်-ထက်နိုင်
- 2:30 pm**
- 8. ဆရာတော်ဘုရားဟောစဉ်မြင်ဆင်ကြား (တပ်မတော်နေ့)
- 2:45 pm**
- 9. International news
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit

- 4:30 pm**
- 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
- 4. မြန်မာ့ပြည်သူ့ကျေးဇူးတော်
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. အဝေးသင်ကြားသည့်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ဓမ္မစော၊ သတ္တမအထူးပြုများ) (ဓမ္မစော)
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm**
- 7. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm**
- 8. Sing and enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
- 9. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
- 10. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
- 11. Agricultural source country's development
- 7:20 pm**
- 12. Musical programme
- 7:35 pm**
- 13. တော်စီ (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm**
- 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. Calcio Serie A ဘောလုံးပွဲ ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်
- 18. The next day's programme



Sunday, January 11

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music
- 8:55 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Story for children "The Three Friends"
- 1:50 pm** Songs for children
- 9:00 pm** Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm** Music
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9:25 pm** Latest Hits/Adapted originals
- Saturday Night (Undergo Project)
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Secretary-2 tours Kengtung District, Shan State (East)

YANGON, 10 Jan—Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Science and Technology U Thuang, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, left here in the morning on 8 January and arrived at Kengtung Airport at 11.30 am.

The Secretary-2 and party were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, senior military officers and departmental officials.

The Secretary-2 and the commander went to the construction site of Kengtung Airport. Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung reported on data of construction of Kengtung Airport. Deputy Superintending Engineer U Aung Kyaw Myint of Kengtung Airport construction project special group-3 and officials reported on stockpiling of gravel, fuel, machines, progress of work, tasks being implemented in the present financial year and requirements.

The Secretary-2 fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions on completion of the project in accord with the standard set under the guidance of the Head of State. He also inspected the extension of the runway and progress of work. The asphalted old runway is 4,700 feet long, 70 feet wide and 12 inches thick.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, beginning 1995-96 fiscal year the old runway was extended to 8,000 feet long, 75 feet wide and 22 inches thick one on which Fokker F-28, can land. Now, 7,800 feet of the runway has been asphalted. As the second phase, it will be upgraded to 8,000 feet long, 150 feet wide one which Y-8, cargo planes can take off and land.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party went to the site of Kengtung government computer college near Yanghla Village on Kengtung-Mongla Road, four miles of Kengtung. They were welcomed by Principal Daw Sandhi Bo and teachers.

Engineer-in-charge U Win Tin of Naungton Construction Co Ltd reported on progress of work of the main lecture hall of the college and tasks to be undertaken.



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party view the study of the students at Kengtung Degree College in Shan State (East). — MNA

Minister U Thuang, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Chairman of Naungton Construction Co Ltd U Sai Tip Aung gave supplementary reports.

The Secretary-2 and party inspected construction of the three-storey reinforced concrete main lecture hall. The government computer college was opened on 19 March 2001. Construction of the main lecture hall started on 1 July 2002. Eighty per cent of the project have been completed.

The Secretary-2 and party proceeded to Kengtung government technological college. Principal U Win Tun Oo reported on historical background of the college, location, courses being conducted, development of human resources, civil service and academic matters.

Engineer-in-charge U Thein Aung of Naungton Construction Co Ltd reported on start of the project on 16 July 2002, construction of lecture halls, completion of the project and tasks to be done.

The commander, Minister U Thuang and Chairman U Sai Tip Aung gave supplementary report. The Secretary-2 gave instructions and inspected the construction.

(See page 9)



Kengtung Degree College in Shan State (East). — MNA

Tatmadaw Military Band Contest opened

YANGON, 10 Jan — The opening of the 13th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Contest to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day took place at the People's Square on Pyay Road here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Committee for Holding the band contest Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers, departmental heads, members of the Organizing Committee, Panel of Judges, military bands and others.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win delivered a speech on the occasion. The military bands saluted the chairman of the Leading Committee.

Next, the bands of the students representing Tamway Township Basic Education High School No 4 and Mingala Taungnyunt Township BEHS 3, the bands representing Fire Services Department, Myanmar Police Force, the Guard of Honour of Defence Services and the band of the Military Band Unit performed skill demonstration.

U Saw Aung Naing of Myanma Alin Musical Instruments Co Ltd and wife and family, and U Khin Maung Htoo of the American Services (Myanmar) Co Ltd, donated K 1 million each to the Committee for Organizing the contest through the chairman of the Leading Committee.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented cash awards to leaders of the bands that presented skill demonstration.

Altogether 51 bands from the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)'s Office, the Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Office, military commands, Light Infantry Divisions and military training schools are taking part in the contest. — MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win addresses the opening of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Military Bands Competition. — MNA