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Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects all-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park. — MNA

Commander inspects upgrading of Kandawgyi Park

YANGON, 12 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the tasks being carried out for all-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and its surrounding areas this morning and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The commander arrived at the Relaxation Zone in the park at 4 pm, where he was welcomed by Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo and officials. The commander and party there inspected progress of the measures being taken to beautify the park and gave instructions.

Next, the commander and party looked into the measures being taken for 'Viewing Deck' to be constructed at Mahamyain Kyun and the place chosen for the erecting of white el-

ephant statues. The commander then gave instructions on speedy implementation of the tasks for the upgrading of Mahamyain Kyun in the Relaxation Zone.

Later, the commander and party went to the Education Zone, where he oversaw the progress of constructing flower shops, landscaping, the planting of flowering plants, and veg-

etable patches at Myepadetha Kyun. The commander also inspected the construction of a freshwater fish garden by the Fisheries Department. (See page 9)

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

Ministry of Health striving to raise health standard of the nation and to ensure highest attainable level of health for entire nation South-East Asia Constituency Meeting on Global Fund opens

YANGON, 12 Jan — The South-East Asia Constituency Meeting on the Global Fund, hosted by Myanmar was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this morning with an opening address by Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint,

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May May Yee, directors-general from the ministry, the Project Managers of AIDS/STD, Malaria and TB Elimination Projects, resident representatives of UN agencies, delegates from Myanmar, Indonesia, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, India, the Maldives and East Timor and invited guests.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an

opening address. He said:

In Myanmar, the CCM was formed in March, 2002, with 19 members from organizations including UN agencies and NGOs, and later expanded to 29 members. The 29 members include nine from the Ministry of Health, one from the other related government ministries, nine from the NGOs and three from the private sector, one from HIV/TB/Malaria patients group, four from the

UN and two from religious/faith groups, he explained.

Under the guidance of the State Peace and Development Council, the Ministry of Health is striving to raise the health standard of the nation and to ensure the highest attainable level of health for the entire nation by systematically developing and implementing health plans that will lead to achieving the "Millennium Development Goals."

He continued to say that

the existing health development plans are "Myanmar Health Vision 2030", "Special Four-Year Plan for Promoting National Education (Health Sector)", "Rural Health Development Plan", "Project for Upgrading Hospitals", and "National Health Plan". With these plans, the health care infrastructure of the country along with access to health care has been improved by the establishment of more (See page 8)



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivers an address at the opening of the South-East Asia Constituency Meeting on the Global Fund. —HEALTH

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 13 January, 2004

Successful realization of seven-point roadmap calls for active and united cooperation

The Tatmadaw Government, since its assumption of State responsibilities, has been working for the emergence of a peaceful and developed nation through the implementation of the twelve political, economic and social objectives. And on 30 August, 2003, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt declared the seven-point roadmap to a peaceful and developed democracy. The declaration of the roadmap manifested the genuine goodwill of the Government.

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, in his meeting with departmental personnel in Kengtung of Shan State (East) on regional development on 9 January, said that the most important things for the State are security, peace and prevalence of law and order, that the development of the nation would be impossible without them and that the entire people are now able to enjoy the fruits of security, peace and stability as the seventeen armed groups have returned to the legal fold.

The Government is striving for the all-round development of other sectors of the economy based on the development of agriculture. And it is working for the development of the industrial sector by establishing 18 industrial zones and by investing the profits of other sectors in the industrial sector. Moreover, the development plan for border areas and national races, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks are being implemented for the parallel development of various regions across the Union.

Now the Government is spending a lot of funds on the construction of universities, computer colleges, technological colleges, 200-bed hospitals, nurses training schools and communication facilities in the special development regions. At the same time, the Government is fighting against the danger of narcotic drugs as a national duty.

Now the time has come for the entire national people to unitedly work, hand in hand with the Government, for the successful realization of the seven-point roadmap so that the emergence of a peaceful and developed democracy is ensured.

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Chess Championship qualifiers open

YANGON, 12 Jan — The National Chess Championship Qualifiers (Second Stage), organized by Myanmar Chess Federation, was held at Aung San In-

door Stadium, here, this afternoon.

Altogether 36 players are taking part in the competitions that continue till 21 January. —MNA

Seminar on Publishing continues

YANGON, 12 Jan — The Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association continued for the fourth day today at the hall of MWJA in Sarpay Beikman building this afternoon.

It was attended by MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen News and Periodicals Enterprise Managing Director U Tin Kha (Takkatho Tin Kha) and U

Than Maung (Than Maung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) and CEC members, Chairman of the work committee for holding the seminar U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and members, Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Maung Maung, resource persons and guests. At the seminar, resource persons submitted their papers.

The seminar continues tomorrow. — MNA

Armed Forces Day Exhibition Organizing Committee meets

YANGON, 12 Jan — The 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day Exhibition Organizing Committee held its first coordination meeting this afternoon at the meeting hall of the De-

fence Services Museum here.

It was attended by senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and departmental officials.

First, Chairman of

the committee Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe made an opening address at the meeting.

Next, responsible officials reported on arrangements for exhibition booths

and those present discussed general matters.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Brig-Gen Hla Shwe.

MNA



Chairman of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition Organizing Committee Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe addresses the committee meeting. — MNA



U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) taking part in the discussions at the Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association. —MNA

US casualties in Iraq more than first three years of Vietnam

DOVER, 12 Jan — In November 2003, US casualties in Iraq surpassed the number of Americans killed in the first three years of the Vietnam War, according to a *Reuters* analysis of Pentagon statistics.

For a time, growing casualties threatened President Bush public approval ratings as he prepared for re-election amid fears that Iraq could turn into a quagmire for American forces.

Heritage Foundation senior policy analyst James Carafano said casualties appear to have become less of an issue for the public and the media since Saddam's capture.

"The American people will accept casualties as long as they see progress toward the setting up of a legitimate government in Iraq," Carafano said.

"Look at the headlines. Casualties were on page one every day. Now they're drifting back to page four or page five."

Back at Dover Air Force Base, the media are not allowed to see silver caskets arrive on the tarmac because of a

Pentagon blackout first implemented in 1991 under Bush's father, former President George Bush. It was reissued in March.

Pentagon officials say the policy is meant to protect the wishes and privacy of the soldiers' families.

But policy experts say military officials are also driven by fear that news images of American casualties — at Dover or in Iraq — will erode public support for US policy.

"The general assumption is that if people see the casualty visually, they will not any longer support the war," said retired Air Force Col Sam Gardiner, a vocal critic of the Bush administration.

"The fear of images is a left-over Vietnam thing. However, the notion of controlling them is a modern thing."

Internet

US Navy says jet fighters attacked Iraq on 9 January

MANAMA, 12 Jan — The US Navy said on Sunday two of its fighter jets had attacked Iraqi guerilla bases north of Baghdad two days earlier and dropped 2,000 pounds of precision-guided bombs.

The F/A-18 *Hornet* strike fighters took off from the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* in the Gulf and struck "enemy mortar positions" near Balad, north of the Iraqi capital, a US Naval Forces Central Command statement said.

"It was the carrier's first

use of precision-guided munitions since the beginning of the new year," it said, adding that both planes had safely returned to their bases.

Early this month, one US soldier was killed and two others were wounded in a mortar attack on a US base

near Balad. *Enterprise* fighter jets last struck a target in Iraq on November 28, the statement said.

Enterprise is the US Navy's only aircraft carrier deployed in the Gulf. The US Navy's Fifth Fleet's headquarters is in Bahrain.

MNA/Reuters

Report says Bush planned Iraqi invasion pre-Sept 11

NEW YORK, 12 Jan — Former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill charges in a new book that President George W Bush entered office in January 2001 intent on invading Iraq and was in search of a way to go about it.

O'Neill, fired in December 2002 as part of a shake-up of Bush's economic team, has become the first major insider of the Bush Administration to launch an attack on the President.

He likened Bush at Cabinet meetings to "a blind man in a room full of deaf people", according to excerpts from a CBS interview to promote a book by former *Wall Street Journal* reporter Ron Suskind, *The Price of Loyalty*.

To go to war, Bush used

the argument that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and had to be stopped in the post-September 11, 2001, world. The weapons have never been found.

"From the very beginning, there was a conviction that Saddam Hussein was a bad person and that he needed to go," O'Neill said in the "60 Minutes" interview scheduled to air on Sunday. "For me, the notion of preemption, that the US has the unilateral right to do

whatever we decide to do, is a really huge leap."

CBS released excerpts from the interview on Friday and Saturday.

The former Treasury secretary and other White House insiders gave Suskind documents that in the first three months of 2001 revealed the Bush Administration was examining military options for removing Saddam Hussein, CBS said.

"There are memos," Suskind told CBS. "One of them marked 'secret' says 'Plan for Post-Saddam Iraq.'"

Another Pentagon document entitled "Foreign suitors for Iraqi Oil Field Contracts" talks about contractors from 40 countries and which ones have interest in Iraq, Suskind said.

O'Neill was also quoted in the book as saying the President was determined to find a reason to go to war and he was surprised nobody on the National Security Council questioned why Iraq should be invaded.

"It was all about finding a way to do it. That was the tone of it," said O'Neill. "The President saying 'Go find me a way to do this.'"

White House Spokesman Scott McClellan rejected O'Neill's remarks.

MNA/Reuters

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A US Army soldier keeps watch at a vehicle checkpoint in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, on 11 January, 2004. —INTERNET

Protest in Amara after killing of five Iraqis

AMARA (Iraq), 12 Jan — Crowds of Iraqis gathered outside local government offices in the southeastern city of Amara on Sunday to protest the killing of at least five people by Iraqi police and British troops a day earlier.

Police and soldiers opened fire on demonstrators in Amara on Saturday, saying that the crowds threw grenades and stones as a protest against unemployment turned violent. Hospital sources said at least seven people were wounded.

Witnesses said that scores of Iraqis, many of them relatives of those killed on Saturday, staged another protest in Amara on Sunday morning demanding compensations.

The protest began peacefully and Iraqi police and British troops were watching the protest from a distance but there were no immediate reports of violence.

A number of protests over lack of jobs have been staged in Iraq since Saddam Hussein was toppled in April. On Tuesday, police opened fire in the southern city of Basra on former members of Saddam's military demanding payment of a promised stipend. At least four people were wounded.

A joint United Nations/World Bank report issued in October put the number of unemployed and underemployed people in Iraq at 50 per cent of the country's 26 million population. Of those, some 400,000 are Iraqi soldiers who lost their jobs when US administrator Paul Bremer abolished the Army. — MNA/Reuters

Thaksin orders crackdown as cocaine usage soars

BANGKOK, 12 Jan — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra Saturday said that he had ordered the police to launch an urgent crackdown on cocaine usage after finding that the government's successful war against methamphetamines had been accompanied by a rise in cocaine abuse.

Addressing the public on his weekly radio show, Thaksin said that the Thai Government is continuing its war against drugs, albeit at a low-key level, the *Thai News Agency* reported.

Stressing that the government still had a tight control on the border situation, and was working closely with neighbouring countries, Thaksin noted that the government's drugs suppression policy had won widespread public acclaim.

Nonetheless, he expressed concern that cocaine abuse is on the rise.

"A few days ago, I called on metropolitan police and narcotics suppression division officers to show that cocaine use was now soaring. I know who's importing it and how. The police will deal with the situation," he said, warning that action was already being taken against foreign cocaine smugglers.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam strives to boost footwear export

HANOI, 12 Jan — Vietnam has targeted to export 2.5 billion US dollars' worth of footwear this year, up 13.6 per cent over last year, according to *Vietnam News Agency* on Friday.

To turn out products with higher competitiveness, the country's footwear makers will use more locally-made materials, and apply more advanced technologies and equipment.

Meanwhile, it will also strengthen trade promotion so as to boost footwear export.

Vietnam earned 2.2 billion US dollars from exporting footwear in 2003, up 17.8 per cent over 2002. Its major markets included the European Union, the United States and Japan.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldiers searches for weapons inside an Iraqi home as a child sleeps on Sunday, 11 Jan, 2004 near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. —INTERNET

Tensions flare in south Iraq; Mosul Kurds shelled

AMARA (Iraq), 12 Jan—Scores of angry protesters gathered Sunday in Amara in southern Iraq, demanding compensation for at least five Iraqis killed when police and British troops opened fire to quell a violent demonstration.

In the nearby city of Basra, an Iraqi-born US citizen working for the civilian administration in southern Iraq was found shot dead, a spokesman for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) said.

"An Iraqi-born American citizen working with CPA South was found shot dead in Basra Saturday," spokesman Dominic d'Angelo said. "His body was found together with that of another man, who was not associated with CPA South."

There were no further details on the killings. Guerrillas fighting the US-led occupation in Iraq have often targeted Iraqis cooperating with the civilian administration.

Mainly Shi'ite southern Iraq has been far more peaceful than the restive Sunni Muslim areas around Baghdad,

where most of the resistance to the occupation has been concentrated.

But tension flared Saturday in Amara, 365 km (230 miles) southeast of Baghdad, when a demonstration over unemployment turned violent.

Iraqi police believed they were shot at during the protest and returned fire, while British troops with armoured vehicles were deployed to support them, Britain's Defence Ministry said in a statement. It said British troops opened fire when grenades were hurled at them.

All the dead were Iraqi civilians.

"One, maybe two, (of the dead) were possibly killed by British troops," British army spokesman Major Tim Smith told *Reuters* in Amara Sunday.—Internet

ဝက်မွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Khatami says Turkey's security is important for Iran

ANKARA, 12 Jan — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has told visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul that Turkey's security was important for Iran, the Anatolia news agency quoted diplomatic sources as saying on Sunday.

During his meeting with Gul, who visited Teheran on Saturday, Khatami gave the guarantee that Turkey's enemies in terrorism and other fields would not launch activities against Turkey by using Iranian lands, the sources said.

"Turkey's security is Iran's security," Khatami was quoted as saying.

Expressing his sorrow over the recent terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Khatami said that Iran is proud of Turkey's determination in fighting against terrorism.

He stressed that Iran fully supports this fighting and urged Turkey to make cooperation with other countries to eliminate those who commit crimes against humanity.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi-born American shot dead in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Jan—An Iraqi-born US citizen working for the civilian administration in southern Iraq has been found shot dead in the city of Basra, a spokesman said on Sunday.

The man's body was found on Saturday along with the body of another man, said Dominic d'Angelo, spokesman for the Coalition Provisional Authority in southern Iraq. There was no further information immediately available.

Internet



Iraqis gather around burning old Iraqi Army trucks in Abu Ghraib district near Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, 11 Jan, 2004. According to Iraqis on the scene US Army soldiers and Iraqi police have set seven trucks on fire. —INTERNET

ASEAN signs MoU with China to combat transnational crimes

BANGKOK, 12 Jan— China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of non-traditional crime issues, pressing ahead their joint efforts in combating transnational crime.

The signing of the memorandum indicated that China and ASEAN's strong willing to improve their existing cooperation in combating transnational crimes, which had posed great challenged to the region's peace and development, said Tian Qiyu, Chinese executive vice-minister of public security at a Press conference Saturday afternoon.

Tian and ASEAN's Secretary-General Ong Keng Rong inked the memorandum at a ceremony Saturday at the end of the one-day ASEAN plus China, Japan and South Korea ministerial meeting on combating transnational crime held in Bangkok.

The memorandum put China and ASEAN's ongoing cooperation programme

and workshop on combating non-traditional crimes into words and set down medium- and long-term goals for further cooperation in this field, Ong told reporters after the signing ceremony.

Non-traditional crime including terrorism, money laundering, cyber crime and international economic crime, many of which alrimes, the first of its kind.

The participation by China, Japan and South Korea in the meeting had significant meaning for the region to explore a holistic, comprehensive and integrated approach to address the issue of transnational crime, said Thai Justice Minister Phongthep Thepkanjana.

Tian said that the mechanism, hailed by all parties to the meeting, would not only benefit the establishment of a security community in East Asia but also promote the region's economic development.

Trying to promote the development and peace in the region, China has worked actively with ASEAN in the field of fighting non-traditional crimes.

In 2002, China proposed an ASEAN plus three ministerial meeting on combating transnational crime at the sixth ASEAN plus three summit. In November 2002, the two sides made a joint declaration in which the two sides were determined to strengthen their cooperation in fighting transnational crimes.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Australia rushes aid to cyclone-hit Niue

CANBERRA, 12 Jan — An Australian plane carrying medical staff and equipment has landed on the cyclone-hit South Pacific island country of Niue Saturday, the Defence Department said.

The C-130 Hercules aircraft carried about 115,000 US dollars in aid committed to the immediate crisis, including water purification equipment, first aid supplies and food and shelter.

Australia will also help provide for the installation of a new satellite dish to restore the country's com-

munications, Acting Prime Minister John Anderson announced Friday.

One person was killed and capital Alofi was flattened when tropical cyclone Heta swept through Niue, a country with an area of 260 square kilometres and about 2000 people, earlier this week.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese official calls for tighter information security

BEIJING, 12 Jan — Vice-Premier Huang Ju Saturday called for the recognition of the importance of information security and strengthening of the capability to maintain information security in a comprehensive way, so as to ensure and promote the healthy development of the information industry.

Huang made this remark at a national conference on the issue of information security held here on January 9-10.

Alongside the rapid development of the IT industry in China and worldwide, information networking is playing an increasingly important fundamental role concerning the overall situa-

tion of the nation, Huang said.

He stressed both development and security through the reform and opening-up policies, with the focus on both management and technology. Currently, the major task is to promote the rule of law in the field of information security.

MNA/Xinhua

Three Gorges to generate 30 billion kwh of electricity in 2004

YICHANG, 12 Jan— The China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation said Friday that the Three Gorges hydropower plant is expected to generate 30 billion kilowatts hour (kwh) of electricity in 2004.

Four more generators, with an installed capacity of 700,000 kilowatts each, are expected to be installed and go into operation in 2004, which will help ease the shortage of electricity across the country, especially in the central and eastern regions.

The gigantic water-control project will have 26 generators and will have an annual generating capacity of 84.7 billion kwh of electric-

ity when it is completed in 2009.

Six generators have been installed and put into operation since construction of the project began in 1993.

By the end of 2003, the hydropower plant had generated 8.6 billion kwh of electricity, which was transmitted to areas in central, eastern and southwestern China.



A horseman trots on a beach polluted by the Prestige tanker in Spain. Traces of fuel oil have been discovered on up to three kilometres of western French beach on the Atlantic coast, officials said.—INTERNET

Iraq threat reported exaggerated

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan—Three experts at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said in a report Thursday that the Bush administration systematically misrepresented a weapons threat from Iraq, and US strategy should be revised to eliminate the policy of unilateral preventive war.

"It is unlikely that Iraq could have destroyed, hidden or sent out of the country the hundreds of tons of chemical and biological weapons, dozens of Scud missiles and facilities engaged in the ongoing production of chemical and biological weapons that officials claimed were present without the United States detecting some sign of this activity," said the report by Jessica Mathews, Joseph Cirincione and George Perkovich.

Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged Thursday that he had seen no "smoking gun, concrete evidence" of ties between

Saddam Hussein and the al-Qaida terror network, but insisted that Iraq had had dangerous weapons and needed to be disarmed by force. Iraq's nuclear program had been dismantled and there was no convincing evidence it was being revived, the report said.

Danish and Icelandic troops have uncovered a cache of 36 shells, containing a liquid blister agent, buried in the Iraqi desert, the Danish military said. The 120mm mortar shells are thought to be left over from the war between Iraq and Iran, which ended in 1988.—Internet

East China boosts agricultural development on line

SHANGHAI, 12 Jan—East China's six provinces and Shanghai municipality have established an agricultural information platform to promote agricultural development in the area, said Zhang Yuxiang, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture, Saturday. Zhang said east China's agriculture was highly developed, but the provinces lacked communication because there was not a united information platform.

The web site — www.hdagri.gov.cn — established by the six provinces and Shanghai municipality would fully utilize of the area's agricultural information resources, creating conditions for the formation of a single agricultural market in east China, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Bush painted as "blind man"

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan—Former US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill likened President George W Bush at Cabinet meetings to "a blind man in a room full of deaf people", according to excerpts on Friday from a CBS interview.

O'Neill, who was fired by Bush in December 2002, also said the President did not ask him a single question during their first one-on-one meeting, which lasted an hour.

"As I recall it was just a monologue," he told CBS' "60 Minutes", which will broadcast the entire interview on Sunday.

In making the blind man analogy, O'Neill told CBS his ex-boss did not encourage a free flow of ideas or open debate.

"There is no discernible connection," CBS quoted O'Neill as saying. The President's lack of engagement left his advisers with "little more than hunches about what the President might think," O'Neill said, according to the programme.—MNA/Reuters

US soldier critically injured in road accident in Kabul

KABUL, 12 Jan—A US soldier was critically injured near the Afghan capital city when his vehicle rammed onto an Afghan tanker overnight, a US military spokesman said here on Saturday.

"The incident took place in a suburb west of Kabul on Friday evening and the soldier was badly injured," Colonel Bryan Hilferty told reporters.

"He had been taken to

Bagram in critical condition for treatment," the spokesman added, referring to the headquarters of US-led coalition forces about 60 kilometres north of Kabul.

Afghan sources here said that the US soldier was on his way back from a military operation in the volatile Zabul Province of south Afghanistan when he met the accident.

Another US soldier was wounded when his van came under enemy fire in the south-east province of Paktia Province early this week, according to the spokesman.

Soldiers of the US-led coalition and their local allies in Afghanistan have been frequently under attacks from suspected fighters of the ousted Taliban militia since last summer, especially in south Afghanistan where the Taliban's leader Mullah Omar is believed to be hiding. According to the US military spokesman, US troops on Friday concluded an operation near a border town of south Afghanistan.

"The operation in Spin Boldak has concluded but no one was arrested in the operation," Hilferty said.—MNA/Xinhua

အာရှဒီမိုကရေစီ



A woman stands over her son in a hospital after he was wounded during a protest over unemployment in the southeastern city of Amara, on 10 January, 2004. British troops said they opened fire on grenade-throwing Iraqi protesters in a clash in which at least five people were killed on Saturday.—INTERNET

495 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Jan—As of Sunday, 11 Jan 495 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Defence Department. Of those, 342 died as a result of hostile action and 153 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 55 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 357 US soldiers have died — 227 as a result of hostile action and 130 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department's figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,461 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department as of Friday. Non-hostile injured numbered 388.—Internet

Bank of China cuts ties with economic entities

BEIJING, 12 Jan—The Bank of China, a leading state-owned bank, said Saturday it has cut ties with 1,155 economic entities it set up years ago, and disposed of 72.4 billion yuan (8.8 billion US dollars) worth of non-performing assets by the end of 2003.

Sources with the bank said the Bank of China recovered 28.9 billion yuan (3.5 billion US dollars) in cash from its domestic non-performing assets and 337 million US dollars from its overseas non-performing assets.

The bank has cancelled 35.8 billion yuan (4.3 billion US dollars) worth of bad loans and disposed of 9.6 billion yuan (1.1 billion US dollars) worth of assets used by its debtors to pay back its bank loans, a leading bank official said.

The official said the bank has lowered the ratio of non-performing assets to total assets, part of the efforts by the bank to restructure. The State Council, China's Cabinet, has decided to allocate 45 billion US dollars of the nation's foreign exchange reserve to supplement the capital of the bank and China Construction Bank in a bid to make them modern banking companies, featuring sufficient capital, strict internal control, safe operations, good service and good economic returns.

The two banks are required to launch financial regrouping, solve the problem of bad assets, increase the ratio of capital sufficiency, lay a solid financial foundation, and set strict financial standards under the government's plan.

The two banks, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and the Agricultural Bank of China are China's four solely state-owned commercial banks, which have dominated the country's banking sector during the past several decades, but they have a high ratio of bad assets and low capital sufficiency, due to structural flaws and historical factors.

Controlling up to 70 per cent of domestic market shares, the four banks were forced to take active measures to enhance their competitiveness, focusing on reducing their average non-performing loan (NPL) ratio to less than 15 per cent by 2005, or an annual drop of 3-5 percentage points.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese firm to build power plant in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 12 Jan—The provincial government in Indonesia's West Nusa Tenggara and China Metallurgical Equipment Corporation (CMEC) on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the construction of a power plant in the province.

The MOU was signed by Governor Serinata and CMEC representative Zhou Zheng with regional legislative council leaders witnessing the ceremony, reported the Antara news agency.

Serinata said a new power plant would be crucial for the province's efforts to attract investors in tourism and mining sectors.

He said poor power supply had prevented foreign direct investments while the state-run electricity company, PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN), was facing limited capacity.

On the occasion, Zhou Zheng promised to supply the province with the sophisticated equipment for a new steam power plant.

MNA/Xinhua



A flag reading 'No War on Iraq' flutters over demonstrators during a protest march against the government's decision to send troops into Iraq at Tokyo's Ginza shopping district on 11 January, 2004. — INTERNET

US mortuary sees no let-up from Iraq war dead

Dover, 12 Jan—Nearly a month after Saddam Hussein's capture. American war dead from Iraq continue to arrive with somber regularity at the wind-swept Air Force base in Delaware that is home to the world's largest mortuary.

The remains of the fallen, wrapped in body bags and encased in ice-laden metal transfer cases, descend from the sky aboard gray military planes or white civilian Boeing 747s.

They are met at the airstrip by an honor guard, chaplain and small motorcade of blue vans.

The chaplain prays while the honor guard drapes a flag over each coffin and escorts it to the vans, which ferry the

dead on a two-mile trek to the 70,000-square-foot Dover Air Force Base Port Mortuary.

There, at the US military's only stateside mortuary, the remains are identified, autopsied, embalmed, clothed in dress uniforms, placed in coffins and shipped to grieving relatives in the company of military escorts.

The bodies of nine soldiers who died aboard an Army Black Hawk helicop-

ter that crashed near Falluja on Thursday were expected to arrive this weekend.

"That will put us over 500 for Iraq," said Karen Giles, an Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel who heads a permanent eight-member staff supplemented by FBI fingerprint experts, pathologists and other specialists.

"We'll probably have 50 or 60 people working here over the weekend," Giles said. —Internet

Malaysia to work closely with China to enhance bilateral ties

MELAKA, 12 Jan— Malaysia hopes to work closely with China so that the bilateral relationship is always on the best of terms, feelings and solidarity, Minister of Culture, Art and Tourism Abdul Kadir said on Saturday.

"We want to always have very, very special relationship with China," Abdul Kadir said at the launching ceremony of Malaysia-China Friendship Year (2004) in the ancient town of Melaka, central Malaysia.

The cooperation between the two countries in the culture and tourism sectors will further strengthen the bilateral diplomatic relations, he added.

The Sino-Malaysian Friendship Year is held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of diplomatic relations between the two countries and Admiral Cheng Ho's arrival at Melaka in the mid 1400s.

Cheng Ho, born in 1371, was a towering icon of the global age of expeditions in the 15th century. He made seven historic expeditions from China to Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East and as far as East Africa

from 1405 to 1433. On the same occasion, Chinese Vice-Minister of Culture Meng Xiaoshi said, "We believed that the series of celebrations for Malaysia-China Friendship Year will attach significant influence to the development of political, economic and cultural relations and play a positive role in enhancing mutual understanding and friendship and in ushering joint prosperity between the two countries."

After the ceremony, Abdul Kadir and Meng opened a photo exhibition on the 30-year diplomatic relations between Malaysia and China as well as Cheng Ho Gallery here.

The bilateral relations have progressed substantially in the last 30 years following the signing of a joint communique between the two countries on 30 May, 1974 in Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua

Charity programmes launched in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 12 Jan — The Shanghai Charity Foundation launched a series of charitable programmes in this east China metropolis Saturday, to collect funds and stimulate greater public awareness of the importance of charity among local residents. The programmes included jogging, auctioning of donations, artistic performances, a Miss Shanghai contest, and free surgical operations for two needy patients.

Over the past 10 years, the foundation has raised over 700 million yuan (about 84 million US dollars) from domestic and overseas donors. So far, it has spent over 400 million yuan on medical fees for almost 300 aged people and children from poor families, and assisted over 300,000 local residents in various ways. — MNA/Xinhua



The first case of mad cow disease in the United States may encourage carnivores to consider putting meat from bison, the largest land mammals in North America and beloved symbols of the West, on their dinner tables, meat industry officials said. The bison historically played a large economic role in the lives of American Indians on the Great Plains who used every part of the animal for food, shelter and fuel. A farmer feeds a bison at the B and B Bison Ranch in Ellicottville, New York in this 18 March, 2001 file photo.—INTERNET

US decision to consider Saddam POW condemned

US decision to consider Saddam POW condemned

AMMAN, 12 Jan— The Jordanian Lawyer Union on Sunday said that the US decision to consider former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein a prisoner of war (POW) would not change the fact that the US occupation of Iraq is illegal.

Hussein Majalli, chief of the union, stressed to reporters that Saddam is Iraq's "legitimate president" and the US occupation of Iraq is illegal, thus "any action or decision stemming from it should be considered null and void".

One month after Saddam's falling into the hands of the US forces, the Pentagon said Friday that the Defence Ministry had decided to consider Saddam a POW because of his former position as the general commander of the Iraqi Army.

Majalli condemned the criminal actions of the US occupation forces in Iraq,

saying that any trial of Saddam would not be right according to International Law.

"Our union is working to transfer Saddam to Switzerland," he said, adding that he has sent a telegram to Swiss President Joseph Deiss to follow up the matter, because Switzerland is the site where the Geneva accord was signed, which provisions different human rights of POW.

It was reported that since Saddam was captured last December, about 600 Jordanian lawyers have signed up to defend Saddam, and the number is increasing.

MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai to provide 500,000 new jobs in 2004

SHANGHAI, 12 Jan— Shanghai plans to create 500,000 new jobs in 2004 in a bid to reduce the city's unemployment rate to under 4.6 per cent, the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Labour and Social Security said Friday. Most of the new jobs will go to workers laid off from state-owned enterprises, said Director Zhu Junyi of the bureau at a meeting on employment and social security in 2004.

Zhu said the government will try to develop a number of projects this year, which are expected to provide about 10,000 new jobs each.

Individuals are encouraged to start their own businesses, and the government will make incentive policies concerning taxes and loans to support the endeavour.

MNA/Xinhua

Minister says Indonesia cannot meet Internet use target

JAKARTA, 12 Jan— The Indonesian Government has admitted that it would be impossible for the country to meet the target of Internet use set at the recent World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), *The Jakarta Post* reported Saturday.

The UN-sponsored WSIS, the first global conference on the Internet held in Geneva in December, set the target that over 50 per cent of the citizens in each country should have access to the Internet by 2015. "At the moment, only about 1 per cent of Indonesia's population has access to the Internet. It would be impossible to increase this figure by fifty-fold in a little over 10 years," State Minister for Communications and Information Syamsul Mu'arif was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



Members of the political party Partido de Trabajo (Workers Party) join a protest against the war in Iraq and the US government's focus on terrorism during a march in Monterrey, Mexico, on Sunday, 11 Jan, 2004. The Special Summit of the Americas, where more than 20 heads of state will be attending, begins on Monday, 12 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

HKSAR government to improve governance

HONG KONG, 12 Jan— Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) said Saturday his government needs to promote comprehensive community development, to get closer to the people, to improve governance and to properly plan political arrangements for the future.

In his "Letter from Hong Kong" delivered on Radio and Television of Hong Kong, Tung said the HKSAR Government fully understands the aspirations of the people and will seriously and properly handle all matters relating to the constitutional review in strict accordance with the Basic Law. The central government is seriously concerned about the development of Hong Kong's political structure, he added.

"The HKSAR Govern-

ment considers that to make proper arrangements for the constitutional review, we must first achieve a clear understanding of the important issues of principle and law which the process implies."

He said he has commissioned a task force to seriously examine these issues, in particular those concerning the understanding of the relevant provisions of the Basic Law, and to consult relevant authorities of the central government.—MNA/Xinhua

Expose unscrupulous avaricious businessmen

Maung Waing

In accord with the objective calling for uplift of health, fitness and education standard of the entire people, the government is taking systematic measures to enhance the health care services of the people. In so doing, the government has always been exposing fake medicines hazardous to the health of the people while opening and upgrading more hospitals and health care centres across the nation.

There were altogether 617 hospitals in 1988 and there are now 757 in total including 13 hospitals and 37 station hospitals in border areas. For enhancement of health care services in rural regions, 429 dispensaries, 1414 rural health care centres, 348 maternal and child health care centres, 84 primary health care centres and 214 traditional medicine clinics were opened and 80 school health teams formed.

To produce medical professionals, more institutes of medicine were opened. And there are five institutes of medicine and two institutes of dental medicine at present when compared with three institutes of medicine and one institute of dental medicine in 1988. In addition, three institutes of nursing, two institutes of pharmacy, two institutes of paramedical science and one university of primary health were opened.

Likewise, there were 28 nurses training schools in 1988 and there are now 43 nurses training schools in states and divisions. At the same time, seven more doctorate courses on medicine plus 20 courses on M.Med.Sc., six courses on diploma in medicine and four courses on diploma in medical and paramedical science were opened. To ensure development of medical treatment, medical specialists majoring in six specialised subjects were appointed in the district hospitals while medical specialists majoring in 12 specialized subjects were appointed in the state and

division hospitals.

With advanced hospital equipment, surgical operation on hearts and kidney transplant have been successfully performed in the general hospitals. Progress has been made in the health sector of Myanmar with the improvement of medical science. Surgical operation on conjoined twins were successfully performed for four times, on kidney transplant for nine times and on amputated crushed distal forearm two times.

The government has been exposing fake medicines hazardous to the health of the people while striving for enhancing the health care services of the people. In the process, the National Intelligence Bureau, acting on information, in August 2001, searched the Golden Crown Pharmaceutical Ltd that obtained the licence issued by the Ministry of Health to produce MOM brand carminatives, No 64, Sitoung Street, 64 Ward, Dagon Myothit (South) and found fake medicines—Vit B, B6, B complex, Burmiton (pink and yellow colour), Sulphur and Paracetamol, and apparatus and equipment used in producing the fake medicines in the factory of the company. The seizure of the fake medicines led to the arrest of four persons who distributed the medicines. As a result, the authorities have been able to expose and destroy the fake medicines hidden in other places.

Likewise, the National Intelligence Bureau, acting on information that some private medicine stores were selling counterfeit medicines, on 12 December 2003 searched the medicine stores and seized 2,392,680 capsules of counterfeit Ampicillin; 128,540 capsules of counterfeit S-MOX (Amoxycillin); 236,700 capsules of counterfeit Amoxycillin; 1,261,340 capsules of counterfeit Cloxacillin-250; 36,280 capsules of counterfeit C-Clox; 2,440 capsules of counterfeit AMCLOX, 290 capsules of

fake AMPICLOX; 862,200 capsules of counterfeit CIPROLOX-250; 65,067 tablets of counterfeit DECECID and 27,080 tablets of counterfeit ZINETAC totalling 5,012,167. Action has been taken against those who were involved in distributing the drugs. The drugs were smuggled into the country from India and China. Those smuggled from India are the ineffective ones produced by the companies that did not hold the license to produce medicines in India. The fake drugs smuggled into the country from China were produced by a company which belongs to a fugitive wanted by the authorities in China for running the illegal business.

In an effort to successfully implement the objective calling for uplift of health, fitness and education standard of the entire people, the government has accepted that the exposing of fake medicines hazardous to the health of the people is a task of paramount importance. Thus, the government has been always exposing the production and distribution of the fake medicines by unscrupulous avaricious persons. The task amounts to protecting the lives of the people as well as safeguarding the interests of those who are engaged in the drug industry. Those engaged in the drug industry are needed to realize this. It is incumbent upon those engaged in the drug industry to market the authorized medicines only. The businessmen, on their part, are to market medicines at reasonable prices, realizing mutual benefit between buyers and sellers. Otherwise, both buyers and sellers will be in danger. Therefore, the entire national people are required to expose the fake medicines hazardous to the health of the people.

Translation: TS

(Myanma Alin, Kyemon 11-1-2004)



Myanmar ICT Week

2004

21.1.2004 - 27.1.2004

MICT Park, Yangon

China develops superior underwater GPS system

BEIJING, 12 Jan — Chinese scientists have developed its first high-precision underwater positioning system, which is believed to be up to the advanced international level.

The underwater global position system (GPS) can, apart from internationally prevailing functions of monitoring and dynamic positioning, pilot and position underwater objects in real time, said Li Deren, a senior official with the National Remote Sensing Centre of China. The system is a sign of China's accession to the top levels of underwater GPS technology.

The system operates by gathering sound and GPS data from four buoys and a GPS detector which is trans-

ferred to the system, which computes the object's exact position. Tests have indicated that in depths less than 45 metres, horizontal position accuracy is within five centimetres and depth precision 30 centimetres.

MNA/Xinhua

Four dead, 10 injured in Nepal bus accident

KATHMANDU, 12 Jan — At least four people died and 10 others were seriously injured Saturday evening when a passenger bus plunged into a river in western Nepal, Radio Nepal reported Sunday.

The passenger bus plunged into the Seti River in Doti District, some 700 kilometres west of Kathmandu, the state-run radio quoted a local police

officer as saying.

The other passengers who were travelling in the vehicle are still missing, the officer said on condition of anonymity. "It is not yet known how many passengers were travelling on the bus," he noted, adding that those on board the bus were returning from a temple after performing religious rites.—MNA/Xinhua

Still no signal from "Beagle 2" Mars probe

LONDON, 12 Jan — The latest attempt to contact a British-led mission to Mars from its orbiting mothership failed on Saturday, compounding the growing fears that the *Beagle 2* probe crashed during its landing on Christmas Day.

A spokeswoman for the mission said that no signal had been detected when the mothership, the *Mars Express*, passed above the probe's presumed landing site at 1404 GMT.

"I can confirm no signal was detected, the next opportunity will be on the 12th," she said, adding that the communication should be better on the 12th than in the last two days due to its position.

The gloom surrounding the first all-European mission to Mars contrasts with the elation at NASA, which has received high-definition pictures in the last few days

from its robot explorer *Spirit* which landed safely on the Red Planet last week.

After the 12th, the *Express* will pass over the landing site again on the 14th. The last attempt will be made in February.

The failure to pick up a signal increased fears that the probe, no bigger than an open umbrella, has suffered the same fate as many craft before it and ended up as scrap metal strewn across Mars.

But Professor Colin Pillinger, the lead scientist on the mission, has repeatedly said he refuses to give up.—MNA/Reuters

Brazil says to keep fingerprinting US visitors

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 12 Jan — Brazil said on Saturday that it would continue fingerprinting and photographing US visitors for at least 30 days in retaliation for new US anti-terrorism controls.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the government has approved a measure, to be published on Monday, that will keep the security system in place while a government panel reviews immigration rules.

The Brazilian move comes three days before Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and US President George W Bush were to discuss the issue at a regional meeting in Mexico.

"We respect and understand the United States' security problems, but we must find a solution that also respects the dignified treatment of citizens from all countries," Brazil's Foreign Minister Celso Amorim told reporters before meeting President Lula in Brasilia.

The United States on January 5 started fingerprinting and photographing visitors including Brazilians who need visas to enter the country. It exempts citizens of 27 mainly European nations who do not need visas for short trips.

In retaliation, a Brazilian federal judge ordered that starting January 1, US visitors to Brazil must be fingerprinted and photographed, initially resulting in long lines. The Brazilian Government will not appeal the judge's order.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistani court convicts two French journalists

KARACHI, 12 Jan — A Pakistani court has sentenced two French journalists to six months in prison and fined them about 1,700 US dollars each after they pleaded guilty of unauthorized travel inside the country, court officials said on Saturday.

Judge Nuzhat Ara Alvi convicted Marc Epstein and Jean-Paul Guilleoteau, both from the French weekly, *L'Express*, of visiting the southwestern city of Quetta without a visa, the officials said.

Quetta, about 375 miles northwest of the port city of Karachi, is the provincial capital of Baluchistan Province, which borders Afghanistan.

Court officials said the two French men, arrested on December 17 in Karachi, had pleaded guilty of unauthorized travel. However, their lawyer told reporters after the judgement that the two would appeal the sentence.

MNA/Reuters



Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye tees the smoke ball off to mark the opening of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament for Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy on 11.1.2004. (News reported) — MNA

South-East Asia Constituency Meeting ...

(from page 1)

health care facilities, and training and deployment of more health care professionals and workers.

The ministry is also closely collaborating with UN agencies, local and international NGOs and other partners in the country as well. One of the outstanding achievements in disease prevention aspect for the year 2003 was the success achieved in the "First Exhibition on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Activities" at a national level that was held in Yangon during November 2003, he said.

In 2003, Myanmar was able to declare itself free from Leprosy and Polio, indicating the success of an integrated and well-coordinated effort involving communities, NGOs, public and private sectors as well as international agencies. The commitment, enthusiasm, competency of health care providers and strong partnership among all the stakeholders were

also major contributing factors.

Provision of better health care services need more resources. In attempting to mobilize external resources to fill the resource gap, CCM Myanmar had submitted proposals to the Global Funds to fight AIDS, TB, Malaria (GFATM) for the AIDS, TB and Malaria. Proposal for the TB component was approved in the second round, Malaria component in the third round and HIV component in the third round with subject to verification in January 2004, he said.

One of the significant progresses during the past few months was that UNDP was selected by the Global Fund Board to act as Principal Recipient (PR) for National TB Programme on receiving Global Funds.

Myanmar has been collectively fighting against common health problems that occurred along the border areas with the aim to enhance better health collaboration and improve the

health of the people in the border areas with emphasis on reduction of morbidity and mortality from Malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB, he elaborated.

The Ministry of Health of Myanmar and the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand are also preparing to apply for the Global Funds to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria along border areas. Preliminary meetings on development of a "Joint Proposal for Myanmar-Thailand Cross Border Disease Control Programme" were already conducted during 2003 in Bangkok and Yangon.

Since the establishment of GFATM in last two years ago, our member countries from South-East Asia region have been submitting proposals to the GFATM board and many have been approved. This meeting will provide us with a very good opportunity to clarify certain modalities in handling GFATM funds and to exchange countries' experiences in implementing GFATM funded projects. It will also enable us to understand current situation of the GFATM funds. Be-

sides, member countries will have a chance to know about the technical support arrangements and mechanisms for the forth coming round four.

In conclusion, the minister thanked the member countries for allowing Myanmar to host such an important meeting in Myanmar, and UNAIDS for supporting this meeting. He said he is sure the discussions and deliberations that came out during the meeting period will not only be fruitful and valuable for the member countries, but also further strengthen the existing friendship among the member countries.

Afterwards, Global Fund Board Member Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert made a speech and the opening ceremony came to a close. The Global Fund Meeting, organized by the ministry and Global Fund, was held in March, 2003. Delegates from eight countries from Southeast Asian region, representatives from UN agencies attended the South-East Asia Constituency Meeting on the Global Fund that continues tomorrow. —MNA

Development activities in Ngwehsaung region inspected

YANGON, 12 Jan—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials inspected 11 miles two furlongs long road linking Ngwehsaung Village and other four villages in Patheingyi Township on 10 January.

The commander inspected beaches from Ngwehsaung to Nyaungmaw village and beach hotels there.

The commander inspected Shaukchaung Bridge in Shaukchaung Village and gave instructions on maintenance of the bridge, regional development and upgrading of Gyaingale-Magyihamaw-Hsinma village road to all-

weather one.

The commander inspected Kyaukkyi and Gyaingale bridges. The commander and party went to Ngwehsaung Village Basic Education High School. They then inspected construction of new extended building and the primary school in the school compound. The commander and party met teachers and members of the school board of trustees. The 200 feet long and 30 feet wide new extended building is being built at a cost of K 9.9 million including K 2.7 million by the Ministry of Education. The primary school is being built on self-reliance basis with the contribution of K 6.6 million by the people.—MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing being welcomed back at the airport on 11-1-2004 after attending the fourth ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Transnational Crime Control held in Bangkok, Thailand. (News reported) — MNA

Resource persons honoured, at Rice Milling Industry exhibition



YANGON, 12 Jan — The ceremony to present gifts to resource persons who presented papers at Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Exhibition 2004, to present prizes to best booths and to review results of the exhibition was held at the second floor of Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road, here, this morning, with an opening address by Chairman of the leading committee for holding the exhibition Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun.

Also present on the occasion were the secretary of the leading committee and members, chairmen and officials of sub-committees, the president of the UMFCCI, the president of Myanmar Rice Millers Association, the president and members of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Wholesalers Association, guests, officials from the local and foreign companies that took part in the exhibition and departmental officials. Brig-Gen Aung Tun made a speech and Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of Myanmar Agriculture Produce Trading explained the results of the exhibition.

The deputy minister then gave away gifts to the resource persons who presented papers at the exhibition. The deputy minister, the managing director and the UMFCCI president presented the first, second and third prizes to winners for best rice mill booths, winners for best rice milling spare parts booths and winners for paddy-related equipment booths.

Afterwards, a general rounds of discussions on results of the exhibition followed. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the deputy minister. — MNA

Regional development measures inspected in Bago Division

YANGON, 12 Jan — Col Myo Myint, Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, inspected the construction project of Minywa-Kyaungsu wooden bridge on Thanatpin-Thabawkan-Minywa motor road being undertaken by the DAD of Bago Division this morning.

At the briefing hall of the project, he heard a report on construction of the approach

road, the erecting of concrete piles and the laying of floors and gave necessary instructions. The wooden bridge under construction is 250 feet long and 14 feet wide.

The director-general also looked into the tasks being carried out to keep Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road clean and also the nursery garden in Shinsawpu Park in Bago Division.

The director-general also inspected development measures being taken to beautify Bago Division.

MNA



A Myanmar tennis player at the U-14 Asian Zone-2 Tennis Tournament. — NLM



Yangon Division MCWA Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay addresses opening of floral and fruit arrangement course.
YGN COMMAND

Floral and fruit arrangement course opened

YANGON, 12 Jan — The Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Yangon Command launched the floral and fruit arrangement course No 2/2004 at the hall of the command here this morning.

It was attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Patron of the Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division MCWA.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor's wife Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Deputy Commander Col Wai

Lwin and wife, senior military officers of the command and their wives, members of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division MCWA and Yangon Division Health Officer Dr Hla Myint and members of the committee, and

officials.

Daw Khin Thet Htay explained the purpose of opening the course.

As part of measures to increase the family income, the Yangon Division MCWA conducts the course. A total of 44 trainees are attending the course.

MNA

Commander inspects upgrading of Kandawgyi...

(from page 1)

The commander and party proceeded to the construction project of modern restaurants and looked into the tasks being carried out there. On arrival at the Central Forest Zone, the commander and party also inspected construction of modern restaurants. At the

construction project of the Water Plaza, the commander oversaw the flooring work and the installation of iron beams. After hearing the reports presented by officials, the commander gave instructions on timely completion of the projects.

MNA



U Chit Naing (Chit Naing- Psychology) presents his paper at the second day of the Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar. (News on page 2). —MNA



U Myo Myat Thu presents his paper at the fourth day of Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar. (News on page 2). —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Mr Suresh Menon open ITF 14 and Under ASIAN Championships 2004 Zone-2. —NLM

Drug dealers get prison terms

YANGON, 12 Jan — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Yangon Special Anti-drug Squad searched Pale Yadana Guest House at No 51, Ledauntkan Street, Thingangyun Township, on 26 August 2002. In the search, the authorities found 140 stimulant tablets and 204 grams of heroin and arrested Myint Swe, Tint Naing, Polon (a) Myo Min Tun, Pauk Phaw, Aung Htay and Ko Sai (a) Zaw Min Oo.

Thingangyun Police Station filed a lawsuit against Myint Swe, son of U San Myint of South Okkalapa Township; Tint Naing, son of U Thein Aung of Mayangon Township; Polon (a) Myo Min Tun, son of U Tint Naing of Lashio; Pauk Phaw, son of U Tun Lu of Lashio; Aung Htay, son of U Thauang Htay of Pantanaw Township; and Ko Sai (a) Zaw Min Oo, son of U Bo of Lashio, under Sections 15/19 (A) / 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic and Substances Law. The case was handed to Yangon East District, which on 28 November 2003 sentenced the

drug traffickers each to 20 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A).

In a similar action, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and the district crime control unit, acting on information, searched Win Guest House in Ward 5, Kamayut Township, on 17 January 2003 and caught Ar Ti (a) Myint Soe and Ma Rasuri together with 195 stimulant tablets.

Kamayut Police Station filed a lawsuit against Ar Ti

(a) Myint Soe, son of U Tin Ko of Kawkayeik Township, and Ma Rasuri, daughter of U Kho Li of the same township, under Sections 15/19 (A) / 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

The case was handed to Yangon District Court, which on 24 November 2003 sentenced Ar Ti (a) Myint Soe to 20 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A) and Ma Rasuri to 5 years' imprisonment under Section 15.

MNA



Soccer tournament continues

YANGON, 12 Jan — The soccer tournament organized by the Myanmar Football Federation continued here this afternoon at Aung San Stadium.

In the match between Development Affairs team and Tagun team, the former beat the latter 3-2. The man of the match award went to Aung Zaw Myo of Development Affairs team.

MNA

Minister inspects financial institutions in Mandalay

YANGON, 12 Jan — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Director-General of Internal Revenues Department U Win Naing, OSD Col Hsan Tun and General Manager of Myanmar Economic Bank Lt-Col Maung Maung Win, met with officials under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue at the meeting

hall of Mandalay Division branch of the Internal Revenue Department in Mandalay on 10 January morning.

At the meeting, the minister said that as the departments under the ministry are the ones that are engaged in the monetary matters the service personnel of the departments will have to carry out their work systematically. He added that being the departments that are mainly responsible for earning finances absolutely imperative are officials at different levels to make supervision for successful realization of the objectives of the departments.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected Myanmar Economic Bank Branch-2 at the corner of 23rd and 93th Streets in Aungmye Thazan Township where officials reported to the minister on deposit and withdrawal of money in the bank. Next, the minister and party inspected MEB (Mandalay Division Head Office) on 83rd Street and Myanmar Economic Bank Branch-3 on 26th Street in Aungmye Thazan Township where officials reported to the minister on measures taken. The minister gave necessary instructions.

In the afternoon of 11 January, the minister and party inspected Office of Customs Department (Mandalay Division). Officials reported on functions of the department to the minister who fulfilled the needs. —MNA

Minister visits Myanmar Economic Bank branch in Mandalay. —F&R



Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the minister, the MTF patron and officials together with contestants pose for documentary photo at the opening of ITF 14 and Under Asian Championships 2004 Zone-2.—NLM



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addresses the opening of ITF 14 and Under Asian Championships 2004 Zone-2.—NLM

ITF 14 and Under ASIAN...

(from page 16)

Menon and official of ITF, President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd), Secretary Dr Tin Aung Lin (Aung Mingalar Co Ltd), executive committee member Major Tin Saw Naing (Ministry of Defence), tennis players and guests. Managers, coaches and players of Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Laos and Mongolia took the designated places and saluted the State flag. Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win delivered opening addresses.

Next, President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) extended greetings.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Patron of TFM Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and officials presented flowers to the players.

The commander, the minister and Mr Suresh Menon formally opened the championships. They then posed for documentary photos and watched the events.

The tournament will continue till 20 January. Admission is free.—MNA



MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win addresses the opening of ITF 14 and Under Asian Championships 2004 Zone-2.—NLM

Kyimyindine ABM School to hold respect-paying ceremony

YANGON, 12 Jan — The 28th ceremony to pay respects to teachers of Kyimyindine ABM School will take place at the house of Sayamagyi Daw Hla Shein in the compound of the School at 14 February noon. Old students wishing to make a donation of cash and kind should contact Daw Yi Yi May, Tel: 220370, Daw Yin May, Tel: 526248, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aye, Tel: 535546, Daw Kyi Kyi Sein, Tel: 380101, Daw Swam (Shanna), Tel: 223325, and Daw Lwin Lwin Kyaw, Tel: 578921. — MNA

Commander meets officials, departmental personnel, national race leaders in Hkamti Township

YANGON, 12 Jan — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with chairman of Ward and Village Peace and Development Councils, national race leaders in the region and social organizations at the township hall of Hkamti on 8 January.

Chairman of Hkamti Township Peace and Development Council U Mya Oo reported on regional data. Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Tin gave a supplementary report.

Next, townselders and national race leaders reported on requirements. The commander fulfilled the requirements and presented exer-

cise books for basic education schools in the township.

The commander visited People's Hospital and presented cash to patients.

The commander inspected the library, basic education high school and border areas and national races training school.

In the afternoon, the commander attended the opening ceremony of Township Court Office and Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Lat formally opened the office.

Hkamti District Justice U San Lwin reported on construction of the office. Commemorative pennants were presented to the commander and officials.

On 9 January, the commander presented offertories to Agga Maha

Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara of Khamti and members of the Sangha and supplicated on religious matters.

The commander and party went to Kalaymyo and donated provisions to members of the Sangha.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejavanta. The commander and party donated provisions to members of the Sangha, followed by sharing of merits gained.—MNA

Rice Milling Industry Fair up to 14 Jan

YANGON, 12 Jan — Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004 has been extended up to 14 January

2004, and entertainment programmes will also continue at the fair.

MNA

Young Women Work Committee meets

YANGON, 12 Jan — The work coordination meeting for Young Women Work Committee of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at the meeting hall of Social Welfare Department here on 9 January.

It was attended by Vice-President of the Central Executive Committee of MWAFF Professor Dr Daw

May May Yi, advisers Daw Myint Myint Ko and Professor Dr Daw Than Nu Shwe, leader of the committee Daw Khin Myo Myint and others.

At the meeting, Vice-President Professor Dr Daw May May Yi discussed matters related to work to be carried out by the committee, followed by a general round of discussions.—MNA

Rehabilitation and Resettlement Work Committee meets

YANGON, 12 Jan — The Rehabilitation and Resettlement Work Committee of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of

Social Welfare Department on 2 January, attended by Vice-President of the Central Executive Committee Professor Dr Daw May May Yi, advisers, leader of the work committee and

members.

At the meeting, Professor Dr Daw May May Yi made a speech and those present dealt with future tasks.

MNA

Tun Razak to work for enhancing Malaysia-China ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 Jan — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Sunday he would work for enhancing Malaysia's relations with China, first established by his late father, former Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, 30 years ago.

"I will personally push for a closer and deeper relationship with China" he said at the signing of the Second Executive Programme for the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between Malaysia and China at the National Art Gallery and launching of the Contemporary Art Exhibition From China here.

Najib said this was not only due to personal reasons arising from his late father's role in the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1974 but also in line with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's foreign policy.

Describing the event as a special occasion for him since it was part of the year-long programme to commemorate "Malay-

sia-China 30 years of friendship", Najib said the bilateral relationship had benefitted both countries economically and culturally.

Malaysia was China's largest trading partner within ASEAN and seventh globally while China was Malaysia's fourth largest trading partner, he said.

The bilateral trade between China and Malaysia was estimated at 20 billion US dollars last year. Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), set up in 1967, now groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Malaysia hoped to attract one million Chinese tourists to Malaysia this year, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

India, Pakistan to hold 3 rounds of high-level talks in Feb

ISLAMABAD, 12 Jan — Ruling out chances of Islamabad accepting Line of Control as border to resolve Kashmir issue, President Pervez Musharraf has indicated that India and Pakistan would be holding three rounds of talks at Foreign Secretary-level, beginning from next month to work out a step-by-step approach to discuss Kashmir and other matters.

"We have neither accepted the idea of making the LoC a permanent border nor is there any question of accepting it in the future talks with India," he reportedly told leaders of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) while apprising them of his meeting with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Musharraf also admitted that the methodology for the talks agreed by the two countries in the meet-

ing between him and Vajpayee was "a re-enactment of the Lahore process," according to the resume of the President's meeting on Thursday with PoK leaders, published in the local daily *Dawn* Saturday.

Musharraf told the Kashmiri leaders from PoK that as per the understanding reached during the recent political contacts between leaders of the two countries at the highest

level, India and Pakistan have agreed for a "step-by-step approach" under which there would be "three crucial Foreign-Secretary level rounds of talks" between the two countries starting from next month.

In the run-up to the proposed composite talks in February, different groups will be set up at the lower officials level to discuss matters pertaining to trade, people-to-people contact, etc. —MNA/PTI

Three arrested in fatal gas blowout investigation

CHONGQING, 12 Jan — Three workers at the gas well that blew out and killing 243 people in Chongqing Municipality last month have been arrested in connection with the accident.

The natural gas well operated by the China National Petroleum Corporation, in Kaixian County, blew out on December 23 last year, sending out a poi-

sonous cloud of sulfurated hydrogen that spread through nearby villages.

A special panel was set up immediately to investigate the cause of the accident. Investigations showed that the accident occurred after safety regulations were violated, said Wen Qiang, deputy director of Chongqing Municipal Public Security Bureau, on Sunday. Both technical work-

ers at the gas well, Wang Jiandong and Song Tao, are alleged to have removed the back pressure regulator inside the drill, which was strictly forbidden under the production regulations. Xiang Yiming is alleged to have injected less than the required amount of drilling fluid into drilling tools, leading to the gas build-up and the blowout.

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese women splash ice water onto themselves during a cold-endurance festival, at Tokyo's Kanda Myojin shrine, on 10 Jan, 2004. A group of 30 applicants attended the annual New Year's festival as temperatures reached 7 degrees Celsius (45 degrees Fahrenheit) in Japan's capital.—INTERNET

APPF meeting to promote friendship in Asia-Pacific region

BEIJING, 12 Jan — The 12th annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) will promote understanding and friendship between countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, Yasuhiro Nakasone, former Japanese Prime Minister and current APPF chairman, said here Sunday.

At a meeting of the APPF executive committee presided by Yasuhiro Nakasone, Lu Congmin, director in charge of organization of the annual meeting and vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress outlined preparations.

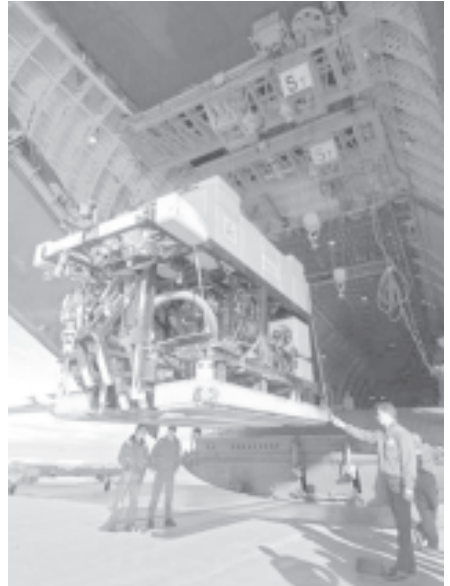
Lu said 232 participants from 23 APPF member countries had registered for the annual meeting, including four speakers, four deputy speakers, 75 members of Parliament, over 100 consultants and parliamentary staff and 42 diplomats from the 19-member countries.

By Sunday evening, delegations from 12 countries had submitted 39 draft resolutions and five amendments on issues such as international and regional security, Lu said.

The executive committee meeting also discussed the selection of a new APPF chairman and the agenda of the annual meeting, scheduled to open on January 12.

Yasuhiro Nakasone has been chairman of the forum since January 1993 when the APPF was established in Tokyo.

MNA/Xinhua



Military officers and flight crew direct the loading into an Antonov 124 transport plane a special submarine that can dive to 1,100 meters (3, 610-feet), on 10 Jan, 2004, at the military air base of Istres, southern France. The submarine, owned by French state-run France Telecom, is to be flown Saturday by France to Sharm El-Sheik to try to recover the two black boxes from the charter jet that crashed into the Red Sea last Saturday, 3 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Iranian President talks to Vajpayee over phone

NEW DELHI, 12 Jan — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Friday spoke over phone to India's Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who said New Delhi is prepared to give further assistance for relief and rehabilitation as required for the earthquake devastated southeastern port Iranian city of Bam.

Khatami conveyed his thanks for the assistance provided by India for relief to victims of the quake that took a heavy toll.

The Iranian President also congratulated the Prime Minister for his successful visit to Islamabad, official sources said.

India was among the first countries to send relief supplies to Bam. As part of its assistance, India despatched 20,000 blankets and high protein biscuits and set

up a field hospital with doctors and paramedics.

An Army spokesman here said a field hospital had become operational outside Bam, where 16 doctors and 47 paramedics have carried out 101 surgeries and had treated more than 1,265 patients. Four medium IL-76 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force have so far ferried over 20 tons of medicines and relief for the earthquake victims.

MNA/PTI

Latam nations resist US efforts at regional summit

MONTERREY (Mexico), 12 Jan — Latin American nations resisted US efforts on Sunday to push trade issues and tough sanctions against some governments at a regional summit this week.

US officials want leaders throughout the Americas to commit to reaching a 34-nation free trade pact by January 2005, and they are proposing that the most corrupt governments face possible exclusion from regional meetings. But several Latin American nations insisted the two-day Summit of the Americas, which starts on Monday in Mexico's northern city of Monterrey, stick to the issues it was originally called to discuss —

poverty, economic and social development.

"There's a lot of opposition," a senior Latin American delegate said. "The summit is about reducing poverty. We shouldn't allow it to lose that focus."

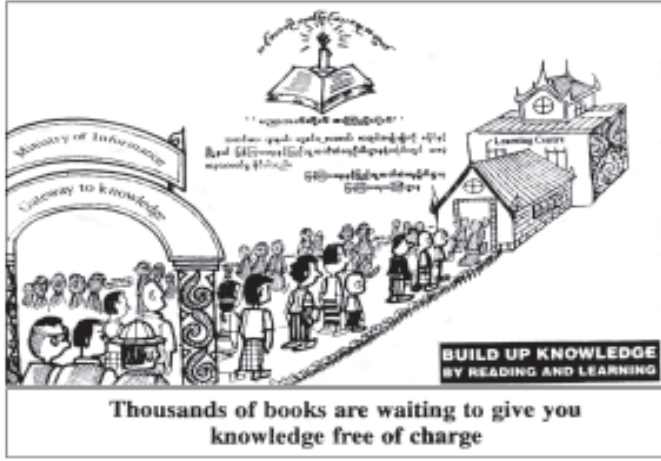
Brazil led the opposition to making trade talks a central part of the summit agenda and several nations, while backing anti-corruption measures, criticized the US proposal aimed at punishing the region's corrupt governments.

"The US proposal is not clear, because who will decide which government is corrupt? We think there would be a risk that this mechanism could be used as political retaliation against any government," Jorge

Valero, Venezuela's ambassador to the Organization of American States, or OAS, told Reuters.

OAS Secretary-General Cesar Gaviria said there was "no consensus" on the US corruption proposal but that most points of a summit declaration had been agreed. Delegations were locked in informal talks on Sunday in the search for accord before the region's presidents meet.

Assertive new leaders in Latin America are increasingly questioning US leadership of the Western Hemisphere, saying the economic policies pushed by Washington have failed to generate growth and done even less to ease poverty levels.—MNA/Reuters



ADVERTISEMENTS

MARRIAGE

Myat Min Zaw

Diploma in Architectural Technology (Sydney TAFE)

second son of (U Lay Myint) (Director, Yuzana Co. Ltd) - Daw Yadanar, residing at No.2 Bayintnaung Main Road, Hlaing township, Yangon

to

Suu Suu Thet

Bachelor in Business (Banking and Finance) (University of Technology, Sydney)

daughter of Dr. Htin Aung (The International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur) and Dr. Hla Yee Yee (The IMU, Kuala Lumpur), residing at 54 (H) Golden Valley, Bahan Township, Yangon; granddaughter of U Nyi Aung (Trustee, Maha Myatmuni Pagoda) - (Daw Thet Tin) and Thiripyanthi Sithu Thray Sithu (U Ba Htay) (I.C.S. Retd.) (Chairman, Multiparty Democracy Election Commission) - Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Daw Mya Tin on 2nd December, 2003 at the Myanmar Embassy, Canberra, Australia with the consent and blessing of parents of both sides in the presence of H.E. Ambassador U Soe Win - Daw Khin Win Kyi and Consular U Kyaw Aye - Dr. Myo Aye Aye Tint.

UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS. INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Round Nose Tools, Insert Tools, Spare Parts for Locomotives Engine (MTU 6V,12V,16V 396 TC 11/12/13/14) and DC Air Compressor Motor (10.4) KW which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Qty:
1.	12(T) 20/MR (ML) 2003-2004	Round Nose Tools	200-Nos
2.	12(T) 21/MR (ML) 2003-2004	Insert Tools	480-Nos
3.	12(T) 22/MR (ML) 2003-2004	Spare Parts for Locomotives Engine (MTU 6V,12V,16V 396 TC 11/12/13/14)	1-Lot
4.	12(T) 26/MR (ML) 2003-2004	DC Air Compressor Motor (10.4)KW	10-Nos

Closing Date: 27-1-2004 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours } For S No (1) and (2)
Opening Date: 27-1-2004 (Tuesday) (14:00) Hours
Closing Date: 19-2-2004 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours } For S No (3) and (4)
Opening Date: 19-2-2004 (Thursday) (14:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 13-1-2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605, 612.

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

Suspect murderer of Japanese industrialist killed in Colombia

BOGOTA, 12 Jan — A member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), who was suspected of murdering Japanese industrialist Chikao Muramatsu, was killed in clashes with government troops on Friday, Army Commander General Martin

Carreno said.

The rebel, who was only identified as Jeremias, was killed together with another co-fighter, near Villeta, in the central Colombian state of Cundinamarca.

Other arrested rebels said Jeremias was one of "the individuals who shot dead the

Japanese businessman" on November 24, 2003 when the Armed Forces were about to rescue Muramatsu near San Juan de Rioseco, a place also situated in Cundinamarca, said Carreno. —MNA/Xinhua

Don't smoke

မြန်မာ့ငွေ့ပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

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JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ(၅) အမှတ် (၄၃) ပြန်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာရင်းစဉ်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ စာပေဗိမာန်စာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ
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The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်ဖို့သူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များငှားရန်

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THE UNION OF MYANMAR YANGON CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, PROCUREMENT & SALES COMMITTEE

Dated 7 January, 2004

INVITATION TO TENDERS

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Yangon City Development Committee for the supply of the following materials for Construction of the Multi Purpose Hall:-

- (a) Air-Conditioning and Ventilation Equipment 3 Lots
- (b) Tempered Glass Door, Reflective Glass, Clear Glass and Aluminium Cladding 4 Items
- (c) Sanitary Equipment 5 Items

2. Tender documents will be available at the office of Budget & Accounts Department, Procurement & Sales Section, City Hall, Yangon, during office hours by cash at Kyat 500/- to be paid to the above office for each set of documents. Tender closing date is 21-1-2004 at 16:00 hours.

3. Tenders shall be accepted only from Tenderers who have officially purchased the Tender documents.

Chairman,
Procurement & Sales Committee

Austrian changes ice plates after Munich jet scare

VIENNA, 12 Jan — Austrian Airlines is changing the Rolls-Royce-made ice protection equipment on eight of its nine Fokker 70 planes because of doubts over its safety after one such jet made an emergency landing in Munich on Monday.

Austrian said in a statement released on Friday it had decided to change the Rolls-Royce-made equipment, which protects the plane's engines from ice damage, after inspections

led to complaints about safety.

The airline has said a preliminary investigation showed that the emergency landing, in which eight people were slightly injured on Monday, was probably caused by so-called "ice impact trays" breaking off.

"New ice protection equipment will be installed by the manufacturer's specialist teams in all engines in which the strength of the ice protection equipment's

mounting could not be established beyond doubt," Austrian said in a statement.

"To avoid any risk, the ice protection equipment will be changed on eight aircraft."

Austrian said it had inspected all its Fokker 70 fleet with Rolls-Royce.

"These (inspections) led to complaints," it added, without giving details.

An official investigation into the Munich accident is ongoing.

MNA/Reuters

Spain to grant Iran \$20m in aid

MADRID, 12 Jan — The Spanish Government announced on Friday it will donate 20 million US dollars to the Fund of Development Assistance (FAD) to help tackle the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that flattened the southeastern Iranian city of Bam on December 26, 2003.

This donation is the first one issued to FAD by the Spanish Government after the application of the 2004 budget law, which sets terms for relief aid for natural disaster scenarios.

These resources will be channelled into assistance and reconstruction projects of the affected areas, giving priority to the sectors of infrastructure, health, potable water, sanitation and electricity supply.

MNA/Xinhua

EC offers winter assistance to Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 12 Jan — The European Commission (EC) on Friday decided to offer 6.27 million euros (about 8.03 million US dollars) as winter assistance to vulnerable population in Afghanistan.

The executive arm of the European Union (EU) said the aid would go to those Afghans who are in the greatest need through "providing them with the means to survive during the harsh winter months".

"More than 20 years of civil war in Afghanistan has led to massive population displacement, loss of livelihood, and widespread food shortages," a Press release issued by the EC said.

The EC noted that it offered the humanitarian aid because "the vulnerability of the affected populations in the country becomes more acute due to difficult climatic conditions in winter".

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Scientists sees more long, hot European summers

LONDON, 12 Jan— Extreme summers and scorching heatwaves similar to the one that killed an estimated 20,000 people across Europe last summer could become more frequent in the future, climate scientists said on Sunday.

Last summer's record-breaking temperatures were very unusual but global warming and an increase in climate variability means more heatwaves are likely in years to come.

"It is likely that these types of events will become more common," Dr Christoph Schar, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zurich, told Reuters.

"Our simulations show that, roughly speaking, every second European summer is likely to be as warm, if not warmer, than the summer of 2003."

Summer temperatures change slightly from one year to another but they have become more variable with stronger fluctuations in temperature making it more difficult to predict changes and more likely they will be extreme.

Schar and scientists at the Swiss meteorological service

MeteoSwiss made simulations of future climate from 2071 to 2100 using records from the past 150 years and assuming that concentrations of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide from cars and factories would rise to twice their current level by the end of the century.

Their predictions are published online by the science journal *Nature*.

"By the end of the century we will still see some normal summers, looking from today's perspective, but the mean would be more like 2003 and the maximum would be even warmer," Schar added. In some parts of Europe, last summer's temperatures were up to five degrees Centigrade (8 or more Fahrenheit), higher than normal over a period of three months. — MNA/Reuters



Myanmar - Thai & Thai Myanmar Cultural and Economic Cooperation Association, Myanmar contributed 1.5 million kyats as the payment for shops at the fun-fair of Hninzigon Home for the Aged to Trustee Board Chairman U Maung Tin recently.—NLM

Panama captures top Colombian drug lord

PANAMA CITY, 12 Jan— Panamanian police and US Drug Enforcement Administration agents have captured a man they believe is one of Colombia's most important cocaine lords, Arcangel de Jesus Henao Montoya, authorities said on Sunday.

Henao Montoya, accused of being second-in-command of the Norte del Valle cocaine cartel and wanted by the United States, was captured on Saturday in the Torti region of the Darien Gap, a lawless swath of jungle on the Colombian border where he was apparently hiding out for months, Panama police chief Carlos Bares and Colombian police said.

"He is still in Panama to be extradited, but we don't know where to," a Panama

police official told Reuters.

Colombian Attorney General Luis Camilo Osorio said Henao Montoya could be deported to Colombia or extradited to the United States. Colombian authorities use extradition to the United States as the ultimate punishment for drug lords, whose power and money have in the past bought them many privileges in Colombian jails.

"He could be required by Colombia or by the United States to answer for the crimes

he is accused of," Osorio said.

Henao Montoya's brother, Orlando, who was considered the successor of the late Pablo Escobar as Colombia's most powerful drug lord, surrendered to Colombian authorities in 1997 but was killed a year later in a prison battle between rival drug gangs. Diego Montoya, the supposed boss of the Cali-based Norte del Valle cartel, now considered the largest in Colombia, is still on the run and is also wanted by US authorities for shipping cocaine to the United States.—MNA/Reuters

WFP launches drive to feed 100,000 Iranian quake survivors

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Jan — The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) launched on Friday a three-month emergency operation to feed 100,000 victims of the earthquake that devastated the southwestern Iranian city of Bam two weeks ago.

"Most people have lost family members, their homes and all their belongings," said WFP Representative in Iran, Marius de Gaay Fortman, quoted by a Press release issued here Friday.

"The food WFP is sending will fill their immediate needs while they get to the immense task of rebuilding their lives and securing other sources of support," he noted.

The 2.9-million-US-dollar package is part of the 31.3 million dollars UN urgent appeal launched Thursday and will ensure that each beneficiary receive a daily ration of bread, rice, lentils, vegetable oil, sugar, nutritional biscuits and salt. WFP has al-

ready airlifted 35 metric tons of the biscuits, which provide each person with 450 calories, to Bam. Some 200,000 people were affected by the earthquake, which struck one of Iran's poorest regions, already hit by severe drought in recent years. The quake killed more than 30,000 people, left 30,000 injured and destroyed 85 per cent of buildings in the city, including hospitals and schools.

"The overwhelming devastation caused by the earthquake magnifies the existing poverty in the region and will certainly affect most of the population's ability to feed themselves," Fortman said.—MNA/Xinhua

Small industries critical to poverty alleviation in Nigeria

ABUJA, 12 Jan— The development of small industries is critical to the success of poverty alleviation in Nigeria, a high-ranking Nigerian official said here on Friday.

Minister of Information and National Orientation Chukwuemeka Chikelu made the remarks when meeting with Modupe Adelaja, director-general of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria.

He explained that the conclusion was based on the premise that small-and medium-sized enterprises served as a means of showcasing entrepreneurship of Nigerians.

The Information Minister reiterated the federal government's commitment toward the growth of the manufacturing sector, saying that it would also serve as a means of saving Nigeria from being a dumping ground for foreign goods and services.

"We can no longer continue to import everything in this country. We have to start manufacturing," he said.

He therefore urged the manufacturing sector to utilize the opportunity, provided by the federal government in creating jobs for Nigerians. — MNA/Xinhua

Environmental condition of Three Gorges dam improved

CHONGQING, 12 Jan— The environmental condition of the area at the Three Gorges dam on the Yangtze River has improved, according to Liu Fuyin, director of west China's Chongqing municipality.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the municipal people's congress, Liu said the local government had made achievements in environmental protection of the area and prevention of geological disasters.

Liu said the government of Chongqing municipality had constructed 19 sewage

treatment plants on the Three Gorges' Chongqing section and 13 refuse dumps.

The government also increased re-forestation around the Three Gorges, converting 191,000 hectares of over-exploited farmland into forest, said Liu.

The Chinese Government had invested four billion yuan (484 million US dollars), from 2001 to 2003, in the prevention and control of geological disasters in the area, establishing a monitoring system, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

British pair cleared in NY child endangerment case

NEW YORK, 12 Jan — A New York court said on Friday it would dismiss child endangerment charges against a British couple who left their baby in a car, if the two avoid being arrested in the next six months.

Yisroel Singer, 26, and his wife, Golda, 25, could have faced up to a year in prison for leaving their six-month-old baby in a car outside a Long Island shopping centre while they took their two older daughters to the bathroom.

On Friday on a judge told them that if they do not get arrested again in the next six months their record would be wiped clean. Their lawyer told the court the incident was due to a cultural misunderstanding and the needs of their other children.

"The American mentality holds very strongly not to leave a baby for one second," the Singer's lawyer, Meir Moza, told reporters. "The British system would have been a little bit more lax, a little bit more liberal."

The Nassau County District Court in Long Island returned the passports of Canadian-born Golda, who was

brought up in New York, and British-born Yisroel after agreeing to dismiss the case on the condition that the couple avoid new charges.

The Singers, who were arrested on 23 December, said they left Rosie in the locked car with a slightly opened window as their other daughters Rachel, three, and Chaya, two, had to use the bathroom.

MNA/Reuters

90% of Beijing's university graduates find jobs in 2003

BEIJING, 12 Jan— The latest statistics show that 89.68 per cent of last year's graduates from schools of higher learning in Beijing, the national capital, had found jobs by 31 December, 2003.

The number of graduates from schools of higher learning topped 103,000 last year, up 26 per cent over the previous year, according to statistics from local educational authorities.

The employment rate of postgraduates reached as high as 96.27 per cent and the employment rate of university graduates was 89.78 per cent.

The municipal education committee, together with local personnel and labour departments, took a series of effective measures to help graduates to find jobs as the sudden outbreak of SARS in the country early last year plus the increase in the number of graduates added more difficulties and inconveniences in job seeking.

MNA/Xinhua



The cast of the drama television series 'Joan of Arcadia' (L-R) Jason Ritter, Amber Tamblyn, Joe Mantegna, Mary Steenburgen and Michael Welch pose back stage after winning the favourite new television dramatic series award at the 30th annual People's Choice Awards in Pasadena, California on 11 January, 2004.—INTERNET

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S**Valencia winter champions as Real Madrid slip**

MADRID, 12 Jan—Valencia claimed the honorary title of winter champions in Spain with a 1-0 win over Albacete on Saturday, as Real Madrid suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat away to Real Sociedad.

Valencia, trailing Real by two points at the start of play, clinched an away victory thanks to a Jorge Lopez penalty after nine minutes.

Real, left needing to win to reclaim the league leadership at the halfway point in the season, turned in a dismal display against struggling Sociedad, who secured all three points with a Valery Karpin goal after 63 minutes.

With 19 games played, Valencia lead the standings with 43 points, followed by Real Madrid on 42.

Deportivo Coruna, in third place on 36 points and the only other side with a realistic chance of taking the title, will look to close in on Real with victory at home to Racing Santander on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters



Inter Milan's Andy Van der Meide (L) challenges Emanuele Filippini of Parma for the ball during their Serie A soccer match at Ennio Tardini stadium in Parma, January 10, 2004. AC Parma won 1-0.—INTERNET

Troubled Parma get boost with win over Inter

MILAN, 12 Jan—Crisis-club Parma gave themselves a much-needed boost on Saturday with a 1-0 home win over Inter Milan in Serie A.

A 41st minute goal from Emanuele Filippini settled the match for Parma, whose future has been clouded by the scandal that has hit their owners Parmalat. The win moved them up to fifth in Serie A — a point behind Inter. Filippini slotted into an unguarded goal after a mix-up between Inter defender Javier Zanetti and keeper Francesco Toldo, who raced out of his area but failed to intercept a Marcello Castellini cross.

Under intense pressure from Inter, Parma's French goalkeeper Sebastien Frey pulled off a series of saves to defend his team's lead.

Parma's president Stefano Tanzi and the club's entire board resigned on Friday ending the 14-year control of the club by the Tanzi family, founders of Parmalat.

Tanzi, whose resignation takes effect from Wednesday, attended the game and witnessed a determined display from Cesare Prandelli's team.

Inter struggled to find a pattern to their play but went close to taking the lead when Christian Vieri struck the crossbar with a header from a Giovanni Pasquale cross.

After Filippini gave Parma the advantage at the break, the home side had an Alberto Gilardino effort disallowed for offside in the 58th minute.

Five minutes later Vieri also had a "goal" disallowed after he was ruled to have been offside, but that prompted a heavy spell of domination from Inter as they searched for an equalizer.

Frey was down well to keep out a low drive from the dangerous Vieri and then

another stop to keep out an Obafemi Martins effort. The French keeper was again at full stretch, seven minutes from the end, to keep out a curling free-kick from Inter's Turkish midfielder Emre Belozoglu and ensure a major morale boost for Parma.

The Parma player's ran over to the main stand to applaud their supporters at the end of the game and midfielder Simone Barone said the tribute also went to outgoing president Stefano Tanzi.

"We have a lot of affection for the president and we dedicate this victory to him," he said. "We are alive as we showed by playing like this and leaving problems aside. We can still do something big."

Coach Cesare Prandelli said: "We were never afraid and we looked to put them under pressure every time we got the ball."

"For the umpteenth time this team showed they have quality and not just footballing quality."

"I have been trying to transmit to the players the need to stay together as a team and focus on our job on the field, leaving others to resolve other problems," added Prandelli. Stefano Tanzi's father Calisto was arrested last month after the Parmalat food group, who own almost 100 per cent of the club, revealed a multi-billion-euro hole in its accounts.

With Parma now effectively under the control of Enrico Bondi, a turnaround expert who is overseeing Parmalat's insolvency, the club is set to be put up for sale at the end of the season with no obvious buyer in sight.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal win turns up heat on Manchester United

LONDON, 12 Jan—Arsenal knocked champions Manchester United off the top of the Premier League on Saturday with a convincing 4-1 win over Middlesbrough at Highbury.

With United hosting Newcastle on Sunday, a Thierry Henry penalty, an own goal by Boro's French defender Franck Queudrue and second-half strikes from Robert Pires and Freddie Ljungberg hoisted Arsenal top on alphabetical order.

The win, which gave Arsenal 49 points and identical goals scored and conceded to United, was a setback for third-place Chelsea, who are now seven points adrift of both their title rivals ahead of their match against Leicester City on Sunday.

But the spotlight was inevitably turned on Highbury, where Arsenal played the first of four games in 19 days against the same opponents. Arsene Wenger's men also face Boro in the FA Cup fourth round and a two-legged League Cup semifinal.

The outcome was a good omen for the home side, whose fluid attacking football was interrupted only when Boro's Italian substitute Massimo Maccarone converted an 86th minute penalty.

"It was a complete team performance, defensively and offensively," Wenger told Sky Sports. "Until 75 minutes, we were really, really good."

"What killed the game was maybe the second goal just before halftime ... but today we could have scored more."

Birmingham City 2 Southampton 1

Former Southampton defender Jeff Kenna hit the winner against his former club to add to Saints' woes after manager Gordon Strachan announced this week that he would step down at the end of the season.

Southampton, who have gone five games without a win since they went fourth last month, went ahead early on through Brett Ormerod, only for a Stephen Clemence header to quickly restore parity.

Kenna's fine finish on 67 minutes from Clinton Morrison's cross proved decisive, but the left back was forced out of the game soon after with a gashed eye after being elbowed by Southampton midfielder David Prutton, who was sent off.

Blackburn Rovers 3 Bolton Wanderers 4

Bolton staged a thrilling comeback at Ewood Park to leave Rovers in relegation trouble, fighting back from 3-1 down to win a seven-goal thriller.

Latecomers missed an explosive start with two goals inside the first three minutes. Bolton midfielder Kevin Nolan scored after just 14 seconds, the fourth fastest Premier League goal ever, but Slovakia midfielder Vratislav Gresko equalized almost immediately.

Goals from Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole put Rovers in control, then Youri Djorkaeff, just before halftime, and Stylianos Giannakopoulos, on 73 minutes, made it 3-3. Nolan hit the winner five minutes later.

Charlton Athletic 2 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0

Charlton stayed fourth with a workman-like win over bottom side Wolves, the game notable for striker Jason Euell netting twice on his 100th appearance for the club.

His first came just before halftime and followed fine build up play from Matt Holland and Paolo Di Canio, but his second 11 minutes from time was slightly fortuitous, Denis Irwin's goal line clearance hitting him and flying into the net.

Fulham 2 Everton 1

Fulham striker Louis Saha, angry at being denied a move to champions Manchester United, netted his 15th goal of the season with a first-half penalty that set Chris Coleman's side on their way to victory.

Saha fired home after Steed Malbranque was felled by Gary Naysmith. Malbranque added a second 45 seconds after the restart and Kevin Kilbane's fine long-range strike nine minutes from time came too late to save Everton.

Leeds United 0 Tottenham Hotspur 1

Spurs, in the bottom three at the turn of the year, continued their fine start to 2004 with their second league win of the week to plunge Leeds further into relegation trouble.

Robbie Keane's 56th minute strike against his former side settled the game, the Ireland striker latching on to a fine through ball from Mauricio Taricco to fire past Paul Robinson.

Liverpool 1 Aston Villa 0

Liverpool celebrated England striker Michael Owen's return from a long injury lay-off by grinding out victory at Anfield to maintain their pursuit of the fourth Champions League place.

The only goal came nine minutes before the break when a Harry Kewell cross deflected in off Villa defender Mark Delaney's thigh. Owen, making his first start since late November after recovering from a torn thigh muscle, should have capped his return with a goal but hit the bar from just two metres out.

Portsmouth 4 Manchester City 2

City's freefall shows no sign of ending, this defeat marking their 14th game without a win in a run that has pushed Kevin Keegan's side deep into the relegation mire.

The game started off badly for the visitors when former England keeper David Seaman suffered a shoulder injury and his replacement Kevin Stuur-Ellegard was immediately beaten by Dejan Stefanovic's 19th minute header.

City hit back to lead 2-1 at the break through Nicolas Anelka — his 15th of the season — and Antoine Sibierski, but Portsmouth found another gear in the second half and turned the match around with a double from Aigyegebeni Yakubu and a 58th minute effort from skipper Teddy Sheringham.—MNA/Reuters



Wales goalkeeper Paul Jones, seen here in 2002, said his one-month loan move from Southampton to Premiership rivals Liverpool was a 'dream come true.'
INTERNET

MRTV-3
**13-1-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 9:06 Toddy Palm Arts
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Featherback
Cake Salad)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Naga Traditional New
Year Festival
- 9:25 Hparaman and Manaw
Dances of Rawan
National Dance
- 9:28 Old Master Artist
U Ba Yin Galay
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Green Turtle
- 9:40 To a Silvery Seagull
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 A Day's Work in Pearl
Culture
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 13-1-2004 (Tuesday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**
- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 15:36 Toddy Palm Arts
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Featherback
Cake Salad)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Naga Traditional New
Year Festival
- 15:55 Hparaman and
Manaw Dances of
Rawan National Dance
- 15:58 Old Master Artist
U Ba Yin Galay
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Green Turtle
- 16:10 Song "To a Silvery
Seagull"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 A Day's Work in Pearl
Culture

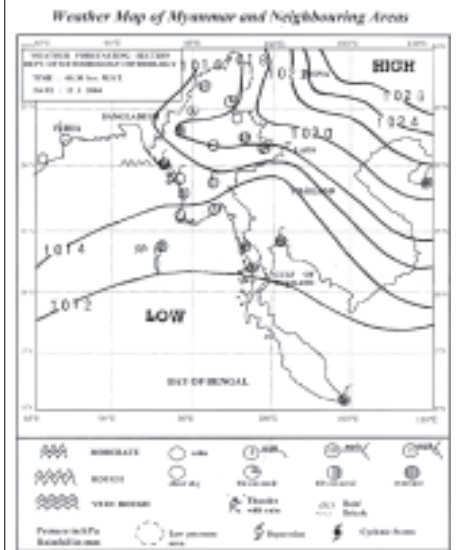
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Mingalabar"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Music for your Ears
(Guitar Aung Shein)
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Coconut Rice with
Chicken Curry"
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 16:55 A Romantic Duet
Mother O'pearl Mosaic
Painting
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Making of traditional
Lacquerware
- 17:10 Song "Across The
Ayeyawady"
- 17:12 The Great Bell of King
Sintgu
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Leisurely Cruise Along
The Coast (Myeik to
Kawthoung)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**
- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 The Salone in Myeik
Archipelago
- 19:40 National News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Stir Sheat
Fish)
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Finished Products of
Teak
- 19:55 The Stage Male Dance
Langkho Bridge
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Parabaik Writings
- 20:10 Song "Be Back To
Neem Lane"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 University of Culture
(Yangon) (Graduation
Ceremony) (Part-IV)
- 20:25 Song "Lodestar"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Recreation at Inlay
Lake
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Roasted-Rice Powder
with Fish"
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Arts of Myanmar
Traditional Tapestry
- 20:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Photo by Artist Photo
Show (Mg Mg Hla Myint)
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Moonlight"

- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Leisurely Cruise
Along The Coast
(Mawlamyaing to
Myeik)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sight
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 21:36 Toddy Palm Arts
- 21:40 National News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Featherback
Cake Salad)
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Naga Traditional New
Year Festival
- 21:55 Hparaman and Manaw
Dances of Rawan
National Dance
- 21:58 Old Master Artist
U Ba Yin Galay
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Green Turtle
- 22:10 Song "To a Silvery
Seagull"
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 A Day's Work in Pearl
Culture
- 22:25 Songs On Screen
"Hmoneshweyee"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Music for your Ears
(Guitar Aung Shein)
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Coconut Rice with
Chicken Curry"
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 22:55 A Romantic Duet
Mother O'pearl Mosaic
Painting
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Making of Traditional
Lacquerware
- 23:10 Song "Across The
Ayeyawady"
- 23:12 The Great Bell of King
Sintgu
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Leisurely Cruise Along
The Coast (Myeik to
Kawthoung)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 13-1-2004 (Tuesday) &
14-1-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 23:36 Toddy Palm Arts
- 23:40 National News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Featherback
Cake Salad)

- 23:45 National News**
- 23:50 Naga Traditional New
Year Festival
- 23:55 Hparaman and Manaw
Dances of Rawan
National Dance
- 24:00 National News**
- 00:05 Green Turtle
- 00:10 Song "To a Silvery
Seagull"
- 00:15 National News**
- 00:20 A Day's Work in
Pearl Culture
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Mingalabar"
- 00:30 National News**
- 00:35 Music for your Ears
(Guitar Aung Shein)
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Co-
conut Rice with
Chicken Curry"
- 00:45 National News**
- 00:50 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 00:55 A Romantic Duet
Mother O'pearl Mosaic
Painting
- 01:00 National News**
- 01:05 Making of Traditional
Lacquerware
- 01:10 Song "Across The
Ayeyawady"
- 01:12 The Great Bell of King
Sintgu
- 01:15 National News**
- 01:20 Leisurely Cruise Along
The Coast (Myeik to
Kawthoung)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 14-1-2004 (Tuesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**
- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 03:36 The Salone in Myeik
Archipelago
- 03:40 National News**
- 03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Stir Sheat
Fish)
- 03:45 National News**
- 03:50 Finished Products of
Teak
- 03:55 The Stage Male Dance
Langkho Bridge
- 04:00 National News**
- 04:05 Parabaik Writings
- 04:10 Song "Be Back To
Neem Lane"
- 04:15 National News**
- 04:20 University of Culture
(Yangon) (Graduation
Ceremony) (Part-IV)
- 04:25 Song "Lodestar"
- 04:30 National News**
- 04:35 Recreation at Inlay
Lake
- 04:40 Myanmar Cuisine

- "Roasted-Rice Powder
with Fish"
- 04:45 National News**
- 04:50 Art of Myanmar Tra-
ditional Tapestry
- 04:55 Kayin Dance (Ton
Pana (or) Kywe Min
Don Dance)
- 05:00 National News**
- 05:05 Photo by Artist Photo
Show (Mg Mg Hla Myint)
- 05:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Moonlight"
- 05:15 National News**
- 05:20 Leisurely Cruise Along
The Coast (Mawlamyaing
to Myeik)
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sight
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 05:36 Toddy Palm Arts
- 05:40 National News**
- 05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Featherback
Cake Salad)
- 05:45 National News**
- 05:50 Naga Traditional New
Year Festival
- 05:55 Hparaman and Manaw
Dances of Rawan
National Dance
- 05:58 Old Master Artist
U Ba Yin Galay
- 06:00 National News**

- 06:05 Green Turtle
(Sagging-Minwun)
- 06:10 Song "To a Silvery
Seagull"
- 06:15 National News**
- 06:20 A Day's Work in
Pearl Culture
- 06:25 Song
"Hmoneshweyee"
- 06:30 National News**
- 06:35 Music for your Ears
(Guitar Aung Shein)
- 06:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Coconut Rice with
Chicken Curry"
- 06:45 National News**
- 06:50 The Pa-O Traditional
Bag
- 06:55 A Romantic Duet
Mother O'pearl Mo-
saic Painting
- 07:00 National News**
- 07:05 Making of Traditional
Lacquerware
- 07:10 Song "Across The
Ayeyawady"
- 07:12 The Great Bell of King
Sintgu
- 07:15 National News**
- 07:20 Leisurely Cruise Along
The Coast (Myeik to
Kawthoung)
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**WEATHER**

Monday, 12 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Mandalay Division and (3°C) above normal in Taninthayi and Ayeyawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.
Maximum temperature on 11-1-2004 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 12-1-2004 was 16.2°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-1-2004 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 1-1-2004 was (8.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 12-1-2004 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 15 mph from Northeast at (11:45) hours MST on 11-1-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13-1-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Chin, Kachin, northern Shan, northern Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, southern Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi coasts. Surface wind speed in Squalls may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-1-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-1-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Timely Rainfall warning
(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 12th January, 2004)
According to the observation at (12:30) hrs MST today, isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Chin, Kachin, northern Shan, northern Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, southern Bago and Taninthayi Divisions within next (48) hours commencing this afternoon.



Tuesday, January 13

View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. ကျေးဇူးတင်ပေးကမ်းခြေအတွက်
ဘုရားကြီးပိုင်ဆိုင်ထားသော
ဘုရားအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်များစွာ
အသိပေးပေးရန်အတွက်
အထူးအသိပေးအတွက်
အထူးအသိပေးအတွက်
အထူးအသိပေးအတွက်
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
5. ကဗျာပန်းပွင့်ပွင့်
- 8:00 am**
6. Song of Yester years
- 8:15 am**
7. ခါးတတ်တတ်

- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Grammar made easy
- 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. Musical programme
- 5:55 pm**
5. အစားအသုံးအဆောင်အတွက်
ရုပ်ရှင်သရုပ်ဆောင်များ
ပေးအပ်သော (သရုပ်ဆောင်
ရုပ်ရှင်သရုပ်ဆောင်များ)
(သရုပ်ဆောင်များ)
- 5:10 pm**
6. Dance of National
races
- 5:25 pm**
7. ခံစားရသောစားစားစားစား
- 5:40 pm**
8. သားငါးပွင့်မြင့်အမျိုးမျိုး
- 5:50 pm**
9. Sing and enjoy

- 6:30 pm**
10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
12. Milo Success in
soccer
- 7:10 pm**
13. The mirror Images of
the Musical oldies
- 7:25 pm**
14. ၂၀၀၃-၂၀၀၄ ပညာသင်နှစ်
ပညာရေးရပ်ဆိုင်းတော်
ထူးချွန်ဆုတံဆိပ်
ကျေးဇူးတင်ပေးကမ်းခြေအတွက်
အထူးအသိပေးအတွက်
(အထူးအသိပေးအတွက်)
- 7:40 pm**
15. Musical Programme
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြား စာတတ်ပေးတဲ့
"တုံ့ပြန်လွှာ" (အစိုးရ-ဘုရား)
20. Calcio Serie A
Highlight
22. The next day's
programme

- Radio
Myanmar**
- Tuesday, January 13**
- Tune in today:**
- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music (Spotlight
on the star)
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch Time Music
- 9.00 pm** -All I have to
got is dream
(Juon newton)
Story (LoBo)
- 9.10 pm** English lesson:
Look Ahead
- 9.15 pm** Article/ Music
- 9:25 pm** Weekly sports
Reel
- 9:35 pm** Music for your
listening pleasure
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and guests watch events of the ITF 14 and Under ASEAN Championships 2004 Zone-2.—MNA

ITF 14 and Under ASEAN Championships 2004 Zone-2 commences

YANGON, 12 Jan—The ITF 14 and Under ASEAN Championships 2004 Zone-2 jointly sponsored by International Tennis Federation and Myanmar Tennis

Federation was opened at Theinbyu tennis court this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of

Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Yangon

City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, General Secretary of MOC Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thauing Htaik and members, leading patrons of

Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, presidents of sports federations, ambassadors and embassy staff, international tennis development officer Mr Suresh (See page 10)

Myanmar tennis players advance into quarter final

YANGON, 12 Jan—The opening events of the ITF 14 and Under ASEAN Championships 2004 Zone-2 jointly sponsored by International Tennis Federation and Myanmar Tennis Federation began at Theinbyu Tennis Court this morning.

Five Myanmar players advanced into quarter final.

Phyo Mintha and Babar of Pakistan, Aik Kyauk and Shanmugam of Malaysia, Zin Bo and Kwang of Malaysia and Win Htet Paing and Dinesh Kanthan of Sri Lanka will play in the quarter final.

In women's singles event of the quarter final, Moe Chit The of Myanmar will play against Arudpragasam of Sri Lanka. The events will continue on 13 January.—MNA

Commander inspects agricultural zone, summer paddy plantation in Lashio

YANGON, 12 Jan — Chairman of the Shan State Peace and Development Council (North) Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, accompanied by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and departmental officials, on 9 January morning arrived at the site where modern water supply system was to be launched for 1,000-acre plantation in special high yield agricultural zone in Lashio. Officials of the Asia World Co Ltd reported on construction of 80-ft long, 80-ft wide and 6-ft high reservoir, and plans for water supply system.

Afterwards, the commander inspected the modern water supply system at 100-acre of macademia plantation and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the commander also inspected the construction site of the reservoir which will have a water storage capacity of 240,000 gallons of water, coffee plantation and pigeon pea plantation and gave necessary instructions.

Later, the commander proceeded to 120-acre summer paddy plantation in the irrigated area of Humon Dam and inspected summer paddy plantation of the Myanmar Police Force, local battalion and Lashio District Peace and Development Council. — MNA



Minister Col Tin Hlaing speaking at the opening of Special Refresher Course No 13 for police officers of Myanmar Police Force.— HOME AFFAIRS

Special Refresher Course No 13 for police officers of Myanmar Police Force opened

YANGON, 12 Jan—The Special Refresher Course No 13 for police officers of Myanmar Police Force was opened at the Nawarat Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning with an address by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and members, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and senior police officers, Rector of the

CICS Col Win Maung, the directors-general and deputy directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs, departmental officials, course instructors and trainees.

In his address, Minister Col Tin Hlaing said that altogether 2,982 trainee officers

have already been trained and taught from course No 1 to course No 12, adding that subjects on current political, economic, social and management conditions in Myanmar as well as functions of the police force, Bureau of Special Investigation and Prisons Department will be taught at

the present course.

In building a new modern developed nation personnel of departments under the ministry are to strive to their utmost, realizing the prevailing situation of the nation, he stressed. The four-week course is being attended by 250 trainees.—MNA

Military band contest continues

YANGON, 12 Jan — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative military band contest of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) continued for the second

day today at the People's Square on Pyay Road here. Before the contest, students' band troupes of Dagon Township BEHS No 2 and Hmawby Township BEHS

No 1 performed their skill demonstration. The band troupe of Central Command, the band troupe of Coastal Region Command, the band troupe company-2 of Eastern Command, the band troupe of Officers' Training School, the band troupe of North-West Command and the band troupe of No 55 LID participated in the contest.

Chairman of the committee for organizing the military band contest Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe presented cash awards to the students' band troupes.

Among the spectators were Director of Resettlement Maj-Gen Aung Thein, senior military officers, invited guests, Tatmadawmen and their families and students. — MNA



Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe watches performance of a military band.—MNA