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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party being welcomed by local people in Makyongalet Village on Bo Cho Island, near Lanpi Island, Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Division. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects development tasks in Dawei, Kawthoung

YANGON, 14 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of Dawei District Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, townsenders, members of social organizations and entrepreneurs at the City Hall in Dawei at 7 am on 12 January.

First, Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Kywe of Dawei District Peace and Development Council reported to the Prime Minister on land use and reclamation, sown acreage and yield of monsoon paddy, cultivation of summer paddy, local rice sufficiency, cultivation of oil palm, rubber and pepper, arrangements for extended cultivation, issuance of fishing licenses, fishing and income, conservation of forest, mining of lead, tungsten

and alloy, power distribution, regional development tasks, transportation, education and health care services in the district.

After hearing the report, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and gave a speech. He said he, dignitaries of the State and departmental heads came to the region to help with the arrangements for the development and long-term progress of the region.

He had visited rural areas at the edge of Launglon Township to witness the educational, health, social and economic conditions of the rural people, transportation of the areas and fulfilled the requirements on the spot, the Prime Minister said.

As the transportation plays an important role in regional development, he

had also looked into the transport conditions of Dawei region by car and gave instructions on maintenance of roads, the Prime Minister added.

Efforts were being made for the long-term development of the region by building a deepsea port and a highway to link the region with the neighbouring and regional countries. At the same time, plans were under way to establish an industrial zone in the region and to upgrade Maungmakan beach into a modern resort of international standard, the Prime Minister said.

On completion of the projects, the region would develop speedily.

Requirements for development of education and health had been fulfilled during the visit. He had made arrangements to up-

grade Auk Yebyu Basic Education High School (Branch) and Kyauk Nimaw Affiliated High School in Launglon Township into high schools and Launglon 16-bed hospital into a 25-bed one, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister, pointing out the field tours of the dignitaries of the State to rural areas of the country, urged the officials concerned to make field tours of rural areas and look into the social life of local people and carry out necessary works for development of rural areas. Only with the supervision at different levels, regional and national development tasks would meet with success, he said.

The Government had been implementing national development projects for the equitable development

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

of the entire Union. Besides border areas development projects, special development zones had been set up in states and divisions to ensure that there was no development gap in the entire nation.

In Taninthayi Division, development projects were based in Dawei and Myeik regions. So, universities and 200-bed hospitals had emerged in the regions.

In Shan State, besides Taunggyi, Lashio and Kengtung, a special development zone was established in Loilem-Panglong region and development projects were being

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects tasks for upgrading Myoma Bridge and Myoma Port in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Division. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 15 January, 2004

Let's actively and unitedly work for regional development

The Union of Myanmar is at the centre of Southeast Asia and South Asia. Now, there has been increased relations among the nations of these two regions in the economic, trade, social and cultural fields and plans are under way to build highways linking the countries in the regions crossing Myanmar. And measures have been taken to boost cooperation among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in the economic, trade, social and cultural sectors, especially in tourism industry, and for the construction of the highway linking India, Myanmar and Thailand.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on 11 January visited Launglon Township, Taninthayi Division, and inspected the site chosen for the construction of a deep-sea port.

In his meeting with responsible personnel, the Prime Minister said that the purpose of his visit to the Dawei region was to make a first-hand study of the conditions for the construction of a deep-sea port and a highway. Steps have been taken to build a deep-sea port and a warehouse and an industrial zone at Hnyawbyin village 71/2 miles away from the mouth of the Dawei river. On completion, the port will surely contribute to the strengthening of cooperation among regional countries and regional development.

During World War II, in Taninthayi Division, there were motor roads and railroads linking Myanmar with the neighbouring country.

However, these roads disappeared for different reasons. Now there are favourable conditions for the construction of roads linking several nations in the region.

Tourism industry is very popular in the world today. As Myanmar has a great deal of potential for the development of tourism industry, the Government is encouraging the development of its tourism industry.

Therefore, we would like to urge the respective ministries, local authorities, departmental personnel and local people to actively and unitedly lend themselves to the tasks of implementing the objectives of the State and developing their region.



Education Work Committee Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing explains matters relating to the course.—UMFCCI

Rice marketing course opened

YANGON, 14 Jan — The Myanmar Rice Marketing Course (Programme-1) No 3 was opened with ceremony at the training Centre of UMFCCI on Bo Sun Pat Road, Pabedan Township here yesterday.

Adviser of UMFCCI U Khin Maung Yi delivered the opening address and Education Work Committee Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing explained matters relating to the course.

Altogether 46 trainees are attending the course which will last up to 23 January. — MNA

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



Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win presents cash award to Phyto Min Tha who reaches the men's single final in the ITF 14 and under Asian Championships Zone-2 on Wednesday. — NLM

Salone Traditonal Festival stage show

YANGON, 14 Jan — The traditional festival of Salone people of Myeik Archipelago will be held on a grand scale under the sponsorship of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council and the Ministry of Hotels & Tourism with a view to promoting tourism industry in the division. A fund-raising musical stage show will be presented at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel here on 31 January evening with famous songsters, it is learnt. — MNA

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 14 Jan — Military Attache of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Myanmar Senior Colonel Xu Shulai got hole-in-one at the Dean Cup Invitational Golf Tournament, sponsored by him at Dagon Golf Course at 3.30 pm yesterday. He drove the ball with Titleist Honma Twin Marks No 6 to the 13th hole from 150 yards away. He was playing together with Thai Military Attache Col Kasem Nakpun, Russian Military Attache Col Victor S Timoshkov and Lt-Col Myo Aung. — MNA

Cooperative Product Exhibition & Market Festival

YANGON, 14 Jan — The 2004 Cooperative Product Exhibition & Market Festival continued for the second day at the Cooperative Trade Centre (Saya San Plaza) here today. Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo visited the exhibition this morning and gave necessary instructions. Contracts worth over K 59.425 million were signed this morning. Consumer goods, import-substitute items, regional products, textiles, cosmetics, etc are displayed at 279 booths there. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

All this needs to be known

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



Salone Festival 2004

(Sea Gypsy Festival)

Ma Kyone Galet Village, Myeik Archipelago
Union of Myanmar
14 to 17 February 2004



Visitors buying pure coffee at the Chin State Cooperative Society Shop at the Coop Product Exhibition & Market Festival.—coop

Another US chopper crashes in Iraq amid fresh US criticism of war

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan—Another US helicopter crashed in Iraq, probably shot down by guerilla fire, as a probe got under way in Washington into the use of official documents in a book accusing President George W Bush of planning to invade the country all along.

The Apache helicopter crashed near the hotbed town of Fallujah west of Baghdad, the third such incident in two weeks, as Iraq remains in the grip of insurgency exactly one month after the capture of Saddam Hussein.

"We are aware a helicopter went down," a US military spokesman said. "There is an initial report of enemy fire."

Two crew members survived but the US military said it did not know whether they

had been injured in the crash, which happened around 10.00 am (0700 GMT) some 35 kilometres (20 miles) northwest of Fallujah.

Nine US soldiers were killed when a Blackhawk helicopter was hit by "enemy fire" near Fallujah last Thursday, and one soldier died and another was wounded when ground fire struck a Delta Kiowa reconnaissance aircraft on January 2.

Internet



A US Army Apache sits in a field without its rotors and surrounded by US vehicles near the restive central Iraq town of Fallujah on 13 January, 2004. A US Apache helicopter that crashed west of Baghdad on Tuesday may have been shot down by Iraqi guerillas, a US military spokesman said. —INTERNET

Soros says Bush must not be re-elected

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan—Billionaire fund manager George Soros, who plans to spend millions of dollars to try to prevent George W Bush from being re-elected in November, said on Monday the US President was pursuing an undesirable dream of American supremacy.

The financier and philanthropist likened the Bush Administration's international policies to George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. In that book the farm animals are all equal but the powerful pigs take charge and change the rules to justify their behaviour.

Soros said Bush "used the war on terror as a pretext to pursue a dream of American supremacy that is neither attainable or desirable."

"I consider it crucial that the policies of the Bush Administration be rejected in the forthcoming election," Soros said in a speech promoting his new book at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Soros, whose 11.5-billion-US-dollar Soros Fund Management is one of the world's largest hedge funds, has pledged 12.5 million US dollars to his campaign to defeat Bush.

Bush has raised more than 130 million US dollars in campaign funds toward a goal of at least 170 million US dollars. But even with the large war chest and a big advantage in fund-raising over Democratic candidates, the Bush campaign says it could be outspent because Soros and others will spend up to 400 million US dollars on issue advertisements.

Soros said the invasion of Iraq was an example of the "Bush doctrine" which he charges entails pre-emptive military action and lack of tolerance for military rivals, suggesting two levels of national sovereignty in which the US is "exempt" from constraints of international law.

"This is reminiscent of George Orwell's famous book *Animal Farm* in which all animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others," said Soros, a Hungarian-born American.

"If we re-elect Bush in 2004 we endorse the Bush doctrine and we will have to live with the consequences," he added. —MNA/Reuters

Singapore schools to begin mass SARS checks

SINGAPORE, 14 Jan—Singapore will start taking the temperature of school students this week to guard against a fresh outbreak of the deadly respiratory illness, the government said on Monday.

All of Singapore's nearly

600,000 students — from kindergarten to junior college — will have their temperatures taken, beginning on Wednesday, said Saravanan Tanapal, a Ministry of Education spokesman. About 53,000 first-year students were given free digital thermometers last month, he said.

Singapore was the world's fifth-most affected region in last year's SARS outbreak that began in southern China and was spread by travellers. About 8,000 people were infected worldwide and nearly 800 of them died. —MNA/Xinhua

Thailand targets 12 million tourists in 2004

BANGKOK, 14 Jan—The Tourism Authority of Thailand has launched a campaign to promote tourism to attract 12 million tourists who may spend around 9.6 billion US dollars in the country, the *Businessday* newspaper reported Tuesday.

The campaign under the concept "Thailand the Heart of Asia" was directed at all market segments, including high end workers, families, students and youngsters. It would focus on the main markets including South Korea, China, Japan, the United States and Malaysia.

The new strategy also aims to increase the average tourist daily spending to 107.5 dollars to 112.5 dollars from the current 95 dollars and to increase the average length of stay to nine days from seven days. —MNA/Xinhua

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US to open Iraq bids to more countries

MONTERREY (Mexico), 14 Jan—The United States is shifting its position on which countries will be allowed to bid for a second round of major reconstruction contracts in Iraq and will allow Canadian firms to compete, a Canadian official said Tuesday.

The official, speaking on the sidelines of a summit of Americas leaders in Mexico, also said it was likely that French and German companies would be allowed to compete for the contracts.

"We will not have access

to the first major wave of contracts, which is closed. We will have access to the second major wave of contracts," the official told reporters.

"This is a policy decision that the Americans have come to over the last four weeks. It will apply to countries who have made significant contributions to the reconstruction

of Iraq. I am told it is likely France and Germany will also have access."

The United States angered a number of countries late last year when it insisted that only companies from countries that supported the US-led war in Iraq would be allowed to bid for major reconstruction contracts. —MNA/Reuters

Governing Council says Al-Arabiya to resume Iraq coverage soon

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan—The Iraqi Governing Council is in talks with Al-Arabiya aimed at lifting a ban on the Dubai-based satellite television from coverage in Iraq.

"I think we will close that chapter very quickly—we are just finalising our understanding," council member Samir Sumaiyah said, adding that he hoped Al-Arabiya will resume coverage soon.

Al-Arabiya was banned on November 24 by the council from working in Iraq on charges of "murder incitement" after it broadcast a tape of ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein calling for attacks on council members.

The Saudi-owned broadcaster has denied the charges and the ban was condemned by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists. Iraq's interim Governing Council is also pushing for a comprehensive media law that would regulate some content as the country moves towards self-governance while the US-led coalition is advocating a more liberal approach.

The council invited journalists to what was to be a briefing about the role of a future industry watchdog called the National Media Committee. The meeting, the first of its kind, never took place because of a booking conflict with a wedding at the same venue, according to Ibrahim al-Zubaidi, secretary-general of the council's media committee.

Mr Zubaidi had intended to circulate a document titled "A Code of Conduct for Media Work" for "voluntary signature" by all journalists working in Iraq.

The document urged media to refrain from "fuelling racial or ethnic tensions and inciting hate, violence and killing," and not to use the terms "jihad" and "resistance" to describe attacks against "civilians and national institutions". —Internet



A wounded Iraqi is wheeled into a hospital following clashes between Ukrainian soldiers and Iraqi demonstrators in the southern city of Kut. —INTERNET

US troops kill driver, child in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan—US soldiers opened fire at a car in Baghdad, killing the driver and a 10-year-old boy, moments after an Army vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, relatives said Tuesday.

One soldier was killed in Monday's bombing, the US military said. The slaying increased the American death toll in Iraq to 495, with most of those deaths occurring after President Bush declared an end to major hostilities on 1 May.

Monday's shooting is the latest in a growing number of cases of civilians being shot by US soldiers nearing the end of their tour before a massive rotation begins next month.

Coalition forces also "likely" shot to death four Iraqi civilians, including a 7-year-old boy, in a taxi near Tikrit earlier this month, a senior US Army officer said Tuesday.

A preliminary inquiry into the 3 January shooting indicated that a heavy-caliber machine gun was used, local commander Lt Col Steve Russell said. The report has been sent to military headquarters in Baghdad.

Brig General Mark Hertling, a deputy commander of the division responsible for security in the Iraqi capital, said Monday's shooting "has not

been confirmed" and the Army was investigating.

The Baghdad shooting occurred near the Oil Ministry when the car passed two Humvees on a patrol, said Wijdan Abdel Wahab, whose two sisters, two nephews and a niece were in the car.

As the vehicle passed the convoy, one of the Humvees was hit by the roadside bomb and the other Humvee started shooting indiscriminately, Abdel Wahab told *The Associated Press*.

She said her nephew, 10-year-old Mustafa Jamal Shaikhly, and the family driver, identified only as Haider, were killed. Mustafa's 30-year-old mother, Istabraq, and 40-year-old aunt, Hayam, were seriously wounded, Abdel Wahab said.

She said the family is fed up with the situation and wants to "leave Iraq because of the Americans and the (US-installed) Governing Council."

Istabraq was impaled in the eyes by shrapnel and could lose her sight if she survives, Abdel Wahab quoted doctors

as saying.

Abdel Wahab said Hayam was shot in the hand and chest and suffered shrapnel wounds in the legs.

She said the family was coming back from a hospital where Hayam was undergoing treatment for asthma. The others went with her for the ride.

Istabraq's other two children, 8-year-old Ahmed and 6-year-old Nour, suffered minor bruises and cuts but were not shot, she said.

Separately, the driver of the taxi, Ibrahim Allawi, told the AP this week he was transporting four passengers when he was caught behind a convoy of four Humvees on a bypass road leading to the main highway through Tikrit.

He says soldiers in the last Humvee directed him to pass the convoy. When he had nearly cleared all the vehicles, machine gun fire struck his taxi, killing the four passengers, he said.

The shooting came from the lead vehicle in the convoy, Allawi said from his hospital bed, where he was recovering from his injuries. — *Internet*

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US forces kill four civilians in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan—US soldiers in Iraq have killed four civilians after coming under rocket attack near Fallujah.

The shooting occurred after hundreds of Iraqis gathered to protest the arrest of a young woman by US troops.

When someone fired rockets at them, the soldiers opened fire, killing an elderly woman standing on a balcony and three men in a passing car.

In another incident nearby, groundfire brought down a US helicopter, the third to be shot down near Fallujah in less than two weeks.

Meanwhile, Danish officials say a US-led group testing mortar shells discovered in southern Iraq suspects they are filled with a liquid blister agent.

The US military believes the shells date back to the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran that ended in 1988. Intelligence analysts are only just beginning tests on the 120-millimetre shells.

They were discovered last week north of Basra by Danish troops and an Icelandic de-mining team.

Investigators say the shells may just be regular mortar shells. — *Internet*



Mortar shells lie on the ground near the southern Iraqi town of Qurnah on 13 Jan, 2004. On Friday, Danish and Icelandic troops uncovered a cache of 120mm mortar shells, thought to be left over from the eight-year war between Iraq and neighbouring Iran, which ended in 1988. — *INTERNET*

Russian company denies US accusations of arms sales to Iraq

Moscow, 14 Jan—A Russian company denied selling military equipment to the Iraqi government of ousted leader Saddam Hussein in face of renewed US charges that Russian companies had violated UN sanctions against Iraq.

"Since we received in 1996 the right to independently go to the international arms market, KBP has never signed any contracts with Iraq and did not deliver any arms to this country," an official with KBP Tula told the *ITAR-TASS* news agency.

KBP Tula is one of the Russian companies which Washington accused of selling military equipment to Baghdad as the war against Iraq got underway in March 2003.

The company had asked

its customers to provide "certificates of end-use," Valery Vozbranny told the news agency.

"Thus the governments that bought Tula's arms assumed the responsibility not to resell the equipment and not to pass it on to third countries. Up to now we have not had any evidence of any violations by our partners," he said.

Over the weekend, senior US officials said that discoveries in Iraq had "corroborated" allegations of

arms sales, a charge that Russia has vigorously denied.

One of the US officials said that Moscow's denials of the allegations — made in the early days of the war — had been inadequate and had done considerable damage to US-Russia relations.

"Those were very difficult issues and we never received entirely satisfactory explanations of the evidence that we obtained in the heat of the war," the official told reporters. — *Internet*

Oil at fresh postwar highs as US shivers

NEW YORK / LONDON, 14 Jan — Oil prices hit fresh post-Iraq war highs on Monday as speculators bet on a market underpinned by low US crude inventories and the threat of another bout of Arctic weather in the United States.

US light crude futures rose 41 cents or just over 1 per cent to close at 34.72 US dollars a barrel, the highest price since the approach to the US-led invasion of Iraq in March. London Brent closed 39 cents higher at 31.76 US dollars a barrel.

Speculative funds have driven the price strength, expecting another spell of very cold weather in the US Northeast, a centre for heating oil demand.

"It's still a pretty firm market," said Marshall Steeves, analyst at Refco "Crude supplies remain quite tight."

The US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) said on Friday that in the week to January 6 speculators increased net long positions on the US crude contract, a bet prices will rise, to a four-year high of 61,356 from 50,587.

Net longs held by speculators, who often represent large investment funds, also rose in US gasoline to an all-time high, and increased in heating oil.

Colder than normal weather in the US has already cut US crude stocks to their lowest since 1975.

Private forecaster Meteorlogix said temperatures in the US northeast would slide 15-20 degrees Fahrenheit below normal between Wednesday and Friday, and that the eastern United States would be prone to invasions of Arctic air for at least the next two weeks.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore's Deputy PM inaugurates work on ITPL

BANGALORE, 14 Jan—Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Chief Minister of southern Indian state Karnataka S M Krishna on Monday inaugurated the construction work on 15 million US dollars fifth phase of International Tech Park at whitefield at the state capital here.

The nine-storied building, to be called "Inventor", will have a total built-up area of about 2,80,000 square feet. That would take the total built-up area of the India-Singapore cooperation park to about two million square feet. "The expansion of ITPL is of valuable lesson to all Singapore investors—that when exploring a new market, we must expect glitches and difficulties, especially in the beginning," Lee said.

"Venturing abroad is never meant to be easy. We need to learn how to operate in a different culture and different business environment.

But over time, with good business judgement and perseverance, we can succeed. In so doing, we will bring growth to our host country, and at the same time grow the external wing of the Singapore economy, investment," Lee said.

MNA/PTI

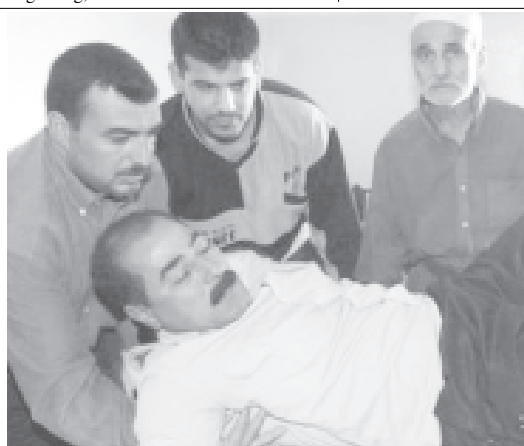
Sri Lankans to discuss bilateral defence agreement with India

NEW DELHI, 14 Jan — A high-level Sri Lankan Defence delegation arrives here on Wednesday to discuss a broad bilateral defence agreement between the two countries.

The delegation headed by Defence Secretary Cyril Herath would be here for three days and would hold wide ranging talks with senior Indian Defence Ministry officials and may also call on Defence Minister George Fernandes, according to official sources here.

Though Sri Lanka and India already have a bilateral agreement on intelligence sharing, training of Armed Forces personnel and supply of life saving equipment, Colombo wants the cooperation to be broadened to include sale of non offensive weapons systems by New Delhi.

MNA/PTI



An injured policeman is carried to a hospital bed after a suicide bomber blew up a car outside a police station in the Iraqi town of Baquba, on 14 January, 2004. The blast killed two civilians and wounded more than 20, mostly police. *INTERNET*

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Two US Army Apache attack helicopters fly over the Tigris River recently. A US AH-60 Apache helicopter 'went down' in Iraq west of Baghdad recently, a military spokesman said. — INTERNET



Italian MSU Carabinieri, paramilitary police, Sgt. Mazzei Giovanbattista, stands in front of the destroyed former MSU Carabinieri headquarters, in Nasiriyah, Iraq, on Tuesday, 13 Jan. 2004. A truck bomb rocked the headquarters of the Italian Carabinieri police in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah on 12 Nov, 2003 killing 19 soldiers.—INTERNET



Wijdan Abdel-Wahab tries to comfort her sister Hayam who lies in a hospital bed in Baghdad with multiple gunshot and shrapnel wounds on Tuesday, 13 Jan, 2004 after a car she was travelling in was fired upon in Baghdad on Monday night. US soldiers opened fire at a car in the Iraqi capital, killing the driver and a 10-year-old boy, moments after an Army vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, relatives said. One soldier was killed in the Monday bombing, the US military said.—INTERNET



Iraqis gather around a truck which Iraqi police said was fired upon by American forces before slamming into another truck in Fallujah, Iraq on Tuesday, 13 Jan, 2004. According to witnesses, American forces opened fire killing two and wounding four after they were attacked in Fallujah following a protest in the city over the detention of a 17-year-old woman the day before.—INTERNET



Ukrainian soldiers take shelter behind military vehicles after Iraqi demonstrators started throwing grenades towards them in the southern city of Kut recently.

INTERNET



US soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division on patrol in Tikrit. An Iraqi Civil Defence Corps soldier and an alleged attacker were killed in a firefight after security officials found a weapons cache in a vegetable truck, the US Army said.—INTERNET

Desperate for jobs, Iraqis take what they can get

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan — Mohammad Jawat used to teach mechanical engineering at Iraq's Naval Academy in Basra. Now he has had to take a job as a security guard, checking identity papers and opening doors.

"Suddenly I found myself on the shelf," he said. "When I went to the University of Baghdad they wouldn't give me a job because I used to be part of the Ministry of Defence. I was four months without work.

I feel like this (security job) isn't my place, but if I leave it we won't eat."

Millions of Iraqis are either jobless or underemployed qualified people working as cleaners, guards, or drivers to pay the rent and put food on the table.

The disbanding of the old Army and firing of those associated with his regime has left even more people idle.

The reconstruction effort has created jobs, but not enough.

Frustration is high, with job-related protests in the cities of Basra, Amara and Kut turning violent in recent days.

In Amara, six people died when soldiers and police shot at the crowd.

There are no reliable unemployment statistics in Iraq, but the United Nations and World Bank estimated in October that 50 per cent of the workforce were jobless

or underemployed.

At a job centre in central Baghdad, women sit patiently in the hope that someone seeking domestic help may come in.

One man does, but leaves when he learns a housekeeper will cost 100,000 dinars (about 65 US dollars) a month.

"The government needs to create jobs. Real jobs. Cleaning the roads is not a solution. Security guards and so on are only a small percentage of people," centre manager Sami Jawad said.

"Only when everyone has jobs will there be security. Iraq today needs security and work. Only that."

Salama Ismail Ahmad said she was hoping to find work as a cook. She left her job at the Health Ministry before the war, fearing bombs, and said she had failed to get it back.

"It's my right to get my job back. Seventeen years I worked there, and it's not just me. There were a lot of us," she said.

MNA/Reuters

Philippine economy grows 4.4% in 2003

MANILA, 14 Jan — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced Tuesday that the Philippine economy grew 4.4 per cent in 2003.

"The economy is moving up. GDP (gross domestic product) expansion accelerated to 4.4 percent (last year), the fastest since the Asian crisis," Arroyo said in a statement.

Arroyo also said the economy is poised to grow more rapidly at 5.2 percent this year, with construction — a major job creator and a key indicator of investor confidence — expected to turn out as much as 7.8 per cent growth.

The government's economic planning department is expected to announce details of last year's economic performance in February. Economists had earlier said GDP growth last year was around 4.2 per cent, the lower end of the official target between 4.2 and 5.2 per cent.

The Philippines was among the nations in the region hit by the 1997/1998 financial crisis which plunged most economies into recession.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq to send delegation to regional meeting in Kuwait

BAGHDAD, 14 Jan — Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiar Al Zibari said that an Iraqi delegation would attend a regional meeting due to be held in Kuwait to discuss the issue of Iraq.

"The meeting of Iraq's neighbouring countries will be held on February 1 in Kuwait, and we will attend it," said Al Zibari in a joint Press conference with his visiting Spanish counterpart Ana Palacio. "We will explain the situation in Iraq, for UN chief Kofi Annan recommended the forming of a regional communication group about Iraq and we asked to be part of it," added Al Zibari.

MNA/Xinhua



A gray wolf walks through the snow in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, in this undated file photo provided by Yellowstone National Park. The US Fish and Wildlife Service postponed a decision on 13 Jan, 2004, on whether to drop federal protection for gray wolves, which were hunted nearly to extinction decades ago but have made a remarkable recovery since the 1990s. The agency said the state of Wyoming has failed to submit an adequate plan for protecting the animals if the federal government were to step aside.—INTERNET

မြို့ခြံချွေတာ၊ မိန်းပါလေထွင်း ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



Iraqi men walk past the damage done to a school's wall on 13 January, 2004 by one of three rockets that landed in Baghdad's Abu Nawas District the night before. —INTERNET

US troops kill seven in fuel smuggling incident

TIKRIT (Iraq), 14 Jan — US troops killed seven men in a gun battle with an armed gang trying to steal fuel from a pipeline near the Iraqi town of Samarra, a US Army spokesman said here.

An Iraqi citizen led US troops late on Sunday to a group of about 40 men, armed with AK-47 assault rifles, who were trying to siphon fuel from a stretch of pipeline 11 miles north of Samarra, Sergeant Robert Cargie of the 4th Infantry Division told reporters in Tikrit.

The bandits, who had between 10 and 15 trucks, shot at the soldiers as they came forward to capture them, he said. The troops

returned fire with rifles and a 125mm cannon on a Bradley fighting vehicle, killing seven.

"Three fuel trucks and one transport truck were destroyed," Cargie said. He said the men did not succeed in breaching the pipeline.

Rampant fuel smuggling has contributed to chronic fuel shortages. Iraq has the world's second-biggest oil reserves.

MNA/Reuters

ASEAN launches international year of rice

JAKARTA, 14 Jan — The international year of rice was launched here Tuesday as a part of the commemoration of the international year of rice by the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The event in the ASEAN headquarters was opened by ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong, which was witnessed by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assistant director-general and regional representative for Asia and the Pacific, He Changchui, and ambassadors from ASEAN countries, China, Japan and South Korea.

Changchui said at the ceremony that the year 2004 has been declared the international year of rice because rice is the staple food for more than half of the world's population.

"Rice is grown in all the continents of the world, ex-

cept Antarctica. In Asia alone, more than two billion people obtain 60 to 70 per cent of their caloric intake from rice and its derived products," Changchui said.

He said the FAO and the International Rice Research Institute had stressed the need to raise global awareness and promote concrete actions for sustainable rice development, resulting in their joint desire to have an international year of rice declared.

According to the data available in the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN region accounts for over 42 per cent of the world's rice production, or 9,800 million metric tons out of 23,428 million

metric tons of the world's total. Farmers in south and southeast Asia grow approximately 10 million hectares of flood-prone rice, which account for nearly 88 percent of all such rice grown in the world. Rice farming and post-harvest activities employ approximately one billion people.

In most Asian countries, the average citizen consumes 150-200 kilogrammes of rice annually. About 90 per cent of the world crop is eaten in Asia. The ASEAN groups Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand says clear of bird flu

BANGKOK, 14 Jan — Thailand, one of the world's biggest chicken producers, is free of bird flu but is battling an outbreak of cholera in its poultry industry, a senior disease control official said on Tuesday. "I would like to insist that Thailand is free of bird flu," Nirundorn Aungtragoolsuk, director of

the Agriculture Ministry's Livestock Disease Control Division, told Reuters. He said the government had destroyed hundreds of thousands of chickens since November to stop the spread of a virulent strain of poultry cholera known as "Pasteurella Multocida Type A". "More chickens have

been killed lately, but mainly due to poor farm management," said Nirundorn. "The difference between the cholera and the bird flu is that the cholera can be cured by antibiotics, while bird flu cannot be cured," he said, adding poultry cholera could not be transmitted to humans.

MNA/Reuters

Agricultural development measures inspected in Lashio

YANGON, 14 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, arrived at Tangyan yesterday afternoon. At the hall of the local battalion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with officers, other ranks and their families, departmental staff and gave instructions on extended agriculture for regional development.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected high-yield summer paddy plantations in Nanpao village in Lashio Township and gave instructions to local farmers on high yield of crops and local rice sufficiency.

This morning, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen

Myint Hlaing and officials, inspected the coffee nurseries undertaken by the North-East Command. He also looked into the high-yield strain of paddy on 40 acres of land undertaken by Shan State (North) police station.

At Humon irrigated high-yield paddy plantation on 120 acres of land, the commander reported to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on measures being taken for local sufficiency of food.

The deputy commander, officials and farmers also reported on step by step nursing of seedlings of high-yield paddy strain and progress of the tasks.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on assistance being rendered by the Government for regional development, the collective efforts of departmental employees to successfully carry out their duties, and harmonious cooperation among local farmers, departmental officials and local people. Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win himself spread



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win views high-yield summer paddy fields in Nanpao village in Lashio Township.

MNA

the strains of high-yield paddy crops together with the local farmers.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also oversaw the 40-acre nursing ground being undertaken by Lashio District

Peace and Development Council, and another 40-acre paddy field being worked by the local battalion. Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected a brick making industry, being un-

dertaken by North-East Command and Soe Soe Pyay Pyay brick company on the basis of mutual benefit, which will produce 60,000 bricks daily, and plantations of macadamia

plants and honey orange plants. After hearing the reports presented by officials, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions and attended to the requirements.

MNA

National Convention heading for national consolidation and flourishing of democracy

Aung Moe San

Nowadays, the advancement in the inanimate world and human world depends on stability. Stable and peaceful conditions with developing productive forces go down in the history while unstable and restless conditions with decreasing productive forces are put aside throughout the history. Today, the developing nations that regained their independence after the World War II can be categorized into two groups. The nations of the first group enjoying cumulative development in the economic, political and social sectors are now in the forefront. Among them, some have been upgraded to newly industrialized countries. The nations in the second group continue to face economic, political and social crises and various kinds of hardships. It is found that the difference between the two groups is based on whether or not they can choose the correct trend towards development.

According to the modern political economy, a developing nation can become a developed one only if it practises capitalism first but not socialism. It is totally right. Because, in the world, the nations that immediately practised socialism first lag far behind in development while the nations that practised capitalism first have developed. Some developing countries encountered total failure in practising the market-oriented economic system owing to the fact they ignored their present social lives, existing circumstances and time but immediately copied the style of the industrialized nations that were established many generations ago. Therefore, the nations of the first group could make great progress gradually, practising the market-oriented economic system and democracy that is in accord with their present social lives and time and condition. Like these nations, Myanmar has been on her correct path of development, marching towards the goal of a democratic nation practising market-oriented economic system. In line with the time and condition, it has adopted the seven-step political programme for building up a democratic nation.

The Tatmadaw Government that practised the market-oriented economic system and launched a democratic revolution has given the first priority to national solidarity. In this regard, it has placed emphasis on smooth implementation of the tasks for bringing about national reconsolidation between the Government and the national

race armed groups. The Government allowed the armed groups, that had forsaken the armed struggle line, to hold and carry arms in their regions that previous governments never allowed them to do so. And it also allowed them to participate in the regional development tasks. Myanmar has suffered much from armed insurgencies for a long time. So, it is time armed insurgencies were stopped. Naturally, this type of armed conflict cannot put to an end in a short time. As such, a great number of innocent people have fallen victim to the armed insurgencies not to mention casualties on both parties involved. Furthermore, the nation's human resources, productive forces and countless number of property got ruined. With the decline in social and economic sectors, the people became rough. Then, the laws were no longer effective, and more severe and strict laws had to be prescribed. Therefore, it is high time to weigh the long-existing armed insurgency.

In some Asian and African nations that are encountering civil war or local armed conflicts, their people are experiencing crises and even severe famine. It can be vividly found that certain big powers, so-called saviours, have busied themselves with selling arms to these nations and then providing them with food and assistance.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government the 17 armed groups of the national races, who were opposed to the successive governments for years, returned to the legal fold and joined hands with the government for national development. It amounts to taking a great step for prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the country. It also means securing reconsolidation on the right path of changes and developments in the history of mankind. The political organizations have to adopt different kinds of tactics to realize the policy of their choice. In this context, armed struggle line is just a tactic. It is also just a part of the political programme. If the armed struggle line does not serve the interests of the State and the people and becomes a hindrance or an obstacle in implementing the objectives they have laid down, they will have to change it and employ other tactics in time.

Leader of the Blacks Martin Luther King who fought the policy of apartheid in USA in the past said that in an effort to set the Blacks free from racial discrimination they should not take the armed struggle line practised by

the Red Indians; that the Red Indians had fallen due to their wrong armed struggle line; that they ought to adopt the non-violence policy of Gandhi, within the framework of law. Therefore, in the American history, the Blacks won the right to vote after 94 years. But the Red Indians had the right to vote only after 172 years. It is because of the armed conflicts that have completely ruined the mankind and productive forces.

Nowadays, the Tatmadaw government, which is marching to democracy after introducing market-oriented economic system, has set out the seven-point future political roadmap to democracy for national reconsolidation through the forthcoming National Convention. That is why the government has been making efforts day in, day out for ensuring reconsolidation with the national forces underground and aboveground.

The UN Secretary-General presented a report on Myanmar's efforts for the national reconsolidation and flourishing of democracy in the country to the 58th session of UN General Assembly on 6 November 2003. The UN Secretary-General stated in the report in which he said in the letter replied to the Prime Minister of Myanmar and in meeting with the Foreign Minister of Myanmar that the seven-point political roadmap of the State are firm steps which will lead to political reforms; and that he would like the political parties, the national leaders and the national race groups to participate in successful realization of the political roadmap.

At such a time, it is a golden opportunity for all to coordinate and discuss the differences with the family spirit while joining hands for the common objective through peaceful means. If they hesitate to grab the golden opportunity, it is sure that the momentum of national development will continue to be slow.

Therefore, the armed groups, especially those underground, are urged to return to the legal fold and participate in the National Convention in the interests of the State and the people in anticipation of the national reconsolidation and flourishing of democracy in the nation.

Translation: MS + TS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 14-1-2004

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects...

(from page 1)

implemented there, the Prime Minister said. Development projects were carried out in both eastern and western parts of Bago Division to ensure that they had harmonious development. In Kachin State, besides Myitkyina and Bhamo regions, development projects were being carried out in Mohnyin and Mogaung regions.

Moreover, five rural development tasks such as education, health, transportation, water supply and economic development were also being carried out in the entire country. As development of all the rural and urban areas of the country was essential for the harmonious national development, work implementation of township level departmental personnel was important, the Prime Minister pointed out. Township level departmental person-

nel were required to make field tours of rural areas and fulfil the requirements of the local people. The Prime Minister urged the township level officials to form work committees for respective work sectors in cooperation with the departments concerned and to practise collective leadership and cooperation. Citing the goodwill and kindness of parents to their offspring, the Prime Minister said that the Government had been implementing development projects in the entire nation without any discrimination.

As the Union was home to all the national races, harmonious development of all the regions of the country would strengthen the national consolidation, the Prime Minister said. In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged those present to make concerted efforts, with the full sense of Union Spirit and national solidarity spirit, for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State laid down for the perpetuity of the Union and strengthening of national unity by the Government.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Dawei Airport and inspected the passenger lounge and services for passengers. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and officials conducted the Prime Minister and party round the airport. Next, the Prime Minister gave instructions on upgrad-

ing of the runway of the airport.

Next, the Prime Minister, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, left Dawei by air and arrived at Kawthoung at 9.30 am.

The Prime Minister and party were met at Kawthoung Airport by Supreme Court Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye, Officiating Commander of Taninthayi Naval Base Headquarters Naval Captain Win Shein, Tactical Operations Commander Col Myint Tun, local authorities, departmental officials, and members of social organizations.

At 10 am, the Prime Minister met with members of Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Soe briefed the Prime Minister on regional development tasks. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for upgrading the Aye Yeiknye Basic Education High School (Branch) and Pale Island Basic Education Middle School into high schools and made arrangements for approval of the organizational set-up of Thauingbyu Basic Education Primary School.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the pearls produced by Myanmar Pearl Enterprise in Pale Island, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Division. — MNA

national entrepreneurs at Myintzuthaka hall in Kawthoung.

First, Chairman of Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Soe briefed the Prime Minister on regional development tasks. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for upgrading the Aye Yeiknye Basic Education High School (Branch) and Pale Island Basic Education Middle School into high schools and made arrangements for approval of the organizational set-up of Thauingbyu Basic Education Primary School.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister made a speech.

He said he and the ministers and heads of departmental officials and local people to make concerted efforts for regional development hand in hand with the government and the people.

He said Kawthoung has developed and become pleasant with magnificent buildings due to the government's fulfilments. Being a

forever.

He said departmental officials are to organize local people to make endeavours for regional development and food, clothing and shelter needs including sufficiency of food in the region and other personal goods without relying on others.

Taninthayi Division gets better foundations for success of ecotourism and therefore the government is making arrangements for development with added momentum, he added. He said he would inspect arrangements for Salone traditional festival to be held in Makyongalat Village on Ba Cho Island as part of promotion of tourism.

He called on departmental officials and local people to make concerted efforts for regional development hand in hand with the government and the people.

The Prime Minister and party inspected

health care for them.

The Prime Minister and party watched skill demonstrations of the dolphins. Managing Director of Shanbhala Co Ltd Dr Phone Win reported on matters related to Salone Marina and Resort Project.

Consultant expert Mr Jim Styers of Myanmar Dolphin Project presented a small dolphin statue to the Prime Minister who posed for documentary photos together with experts and staff of Shanbhala Co Ltd.

The Prime Minister and party observed along the beach and environs of the island and conditions for ecotourism. They arrived at Makyongalat Village in Ba Cho Island where Salone traditional festival is to be held.

They were welcomed by members of village peace and development council, social organizations, teachers, students and local people.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu re-



A beautiful and pleasant scenery of Kawthoung Township. — MNA



Kawthoung Airport in Taninthayi Division seen on 12-1-2004. — MNA



The Salone Island in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Division. — MNA

town bordering a neighbouring country, Kawthoung is a main business area for trading and fisheries, he said.

He spoke of the need for departmental personnel to make efforts for regional development and to preserve bilateral goodwill relations for perpetuity. He said lopsided trade must be avoided and emphasis is to be placed on fair progress on both sides. Various national races reside in Kawthoung. Unity among them is to be safeguarded

Bayintnaung Cape and measures taken for cleansing of Bayintnaung Statue.

The Prime Minister and party inspected Myoma Bridge in Kawthoung and gave instructions on upgrading of Myoma port. The Prime Minister and party went to Salone Island in Kawthoung Township by boat. They proceeded to dolphin breeding and training camp of Shanbhala Co Ltd. Regional Manager Dr Ye Min Oo reported on nature and habit of dolphin, breeding and training and

ported on arrangements for holding of Salone traditional festival at Makyongalat Village, accommodations for visitors, arrangements for skill demonstration of Salone nationals and funfair and visit to dolphin breeding camp. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported on transport arrangements for visitors who will be participating in the festival.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung also reported on arrangements for foreign visitors and (See page 10)

Health sector development reaches satisfactory level due to harmonious efforts of Government, academics, private sector, social organizations

Prime Minister addresses Myanmar Medical Association 50th Conference

YANGON, 14 Jan.—Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the 50th Conference of the Myanmar Medical Association at the Hall-A of the MMA on Theinbyu Road in Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township here this morning.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the NHC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy min-

isters, members of the NHC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Health Department, heads of department, resident representatives of the UN agencies, the president, executives and members of the MMA, Myanmar doctors living abroad, members of social organizations and guests.

Because of the spirit to serve the national interest or the family spirit — Blood is thicker than water — the 50th Conference of the 55-year-old MMA can be held today. The efforts to develop the Myanmar medical science and conduct public health care services are in accord with the lofty aims as well as the aims of the health sector to serve the national interest.

In this world today, there exist a continuous competition among the nations against one another on all fronts to serve their own interest. Rather than relying on others, a developing nation like Myanmar will have to strive with her own resources and the united strength of the nationalities for the prosperity and development of the people in enabling them to stand tall among the world nations.

To fulfil the national requirement, the State has been developing the qualification, mind and body, health and fitness and intellectual power in producing brilliant human resources. Health and fitness of the people is an essential social foundation that will help further strengthen other

sectors developing the nation, relying on their own resources. Thus, the Government is making systematic efforts for development of the medical science, enabling the nation to apply the advancing sciences and technologies, diagnosis methods, and medical equipment and office automation, emergence of brilliant human resources in the health sector and development of research programmes that will benefit the public.

The health sector including the medical science sector is developing satisfactorily, resulting from the harmonious efforts of the Government, academics includ-

Ph.D. courses and 30 Dr.Med.Sc. courses, and the Government has produced 17 Ph.D. degree holders and 55 Dr.Med.Sc degree holders. The Government is also giving enabling the candidates of different studies to attend MRCP, MRCPPH, MRCOG, FRCS and MRCS courses at the prominent universities in the United Kingdom. Starting from 1991, 82 new MRCP degree holders, 28 new MRCPPH degree holders, 35 new MRCOG degree holders, 78 new FRCS degree holders and ten new MRCS degree holders totaling 233 have emerged in the nation.

The new medical science



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech at the opening of the 50th Conference of the Myanmar Medical Association. — MNA



ing the physicians, the private sector and the social organizations. In the health care sector, specialist hospitals, general hospitals, 350-bed hospitals, 300-bed hospitals and 250-bed hospitals have been extended in the entire nation. A 200-bed hospital has been built in ever, state and division and every development zone. Thus, there are 763 hospitals in the nation at present, up from 617 in the past. Up to March 2003, the MMA has over 18,000 member doctors and nearly 5,000 in-service doctors, up from 11,300 member doctors and 3,200 in-service doctors in 1987. Institutions of higher learning in the different fields of the health sector have been extended to 14 in the whole nation at present, to produce brilliant health resources. The four-year national education programme of the health sector has been laid down and implemented to use international level teaching aids in teaching medical science. The medical universities now have resource centres, e-libraries, Internet and Intranet. Thus a practical surgical lesson can be studied by many places at the same time.

Post-graduate courses have been extended, and the number of post graduate courses have reached six and the master's degree courses, 29. In the past there were only on post-graduate diploma course and 12 master's degree courses. In addition, there are now seven

and international level brilliant outstanding practitioners are emerging in the nation at present, and the Government is supplying advanced medical equipment in diagnosis and treatment sectors. Advanced equipment including cardiac catheterization unit, angiogram, heart and lung machine, magnetic resonant imaging, CT scanner, gamma camera probe counter, X-ray machine with fluoroscopy, mammogram, auto-analyzer, c-arm X-ray with TV system, hand surgery operating microscope, eye-operating microscope, neurosurgical operating microscope, ultrasonic aspirator and argon plasma have been equipped at the hospitals in Myanmar.

Thanks to harmonious endeavours of the Government in all sectors, qualified human resources are continuously emerging in the nation, all branches of the medical field are advancing, and treatment, diagnosis and rehabilitation operations of the hospitals are developing. Moreover, through the combination of modern hospital equipment and brilliance and competence of professors and specialists, various sorts of medical performances can be carried out successfully, which will make medical history.

For instance, open heart surgery and kidney transplant can be performed at both Yangon General Hospital and Mandalay General Hospital. Besides, cardiac operations can be carried out

with the use of cardiac catheterization laboratory in these two hospitals.

Similarly, Myanmar physicians have successfully separated conjoined twins and carried out performances on replantation of a forearm cut off and a traumatically amputated crushed distal forearm. These successes have brought credit to the entire people and will go down in the medical history.

As regards the diseases control sector, thanks to the combined and concerted efforts of the medical staff, social organizations and the people including physicians as mass activities, epidemic diseases have been nearly eradicated.

In the year 2003, the WHO declared that Myanmar was totally free from leprosy and polio. Likewise, effective measures can be taken to fight against such diseases as trachoma and blindness, and elephantiasis, removing them from the public health problems. Success has been achieved to some extent in a bid to prevent and control such diseases as hepatitis B and C diseases and dengue hemorrhagic fever which are infected from other countries.

Particularly, Myanmar won a significant victory in preventing against the disease SARS that spread all over the world in 2003, as a result of the collective efforts of medical experts and the entire people with full sense of health knowledge. The departments concerned,

social organizations and the people hand in hand with the international NGOs widely carried out tasks as the national duty for control and prevention of HIV-AIDS that pose danger to the mankind. Educative talks on HIV-AIDS can be given well to the national people and the achievements can be made known to the international community through the First Anti-AIDS Exhibition.

In connection with the public health care services, social organizations such as Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Medical Association and so on and so forth are actively and enthusiastically participating in the steps for reduction of mother and child fatal rate, caring of pregnant women in giving birth, reproductive health services, AIDS-HIV prevention and control tasks, nurturing of children, and profanation of iodine deficiency. In such a time when the Government's drive to uplift the national health standard and the health sector is making progress remarkably, all physicians are to make continuing efforts in unison to accelerate the already-gained development momentum, the Prime Minister urged.

Sheer accomplishments of the State's lofty and noble aims of public health care services and successful implementation of national health plans mainly depend on high qualifications, firm

nationalistic resolution and great perseverance. Today, it is necessary to nurture and produce a lot of healthy and highly-qualified medical experts equipped with nationalistic spirit, who play a main role in enabling the nation to stand tall among the international community. So, all the physicians are to endeavour to maintain the momentum of health care services, he stressed. The Prime Minister again called on the physicians to make efforts to enable the Myanmar Medical Association with a fine historical tradition to exist long. He also urged the physicians to participate in the tasks for successful implementation of the State's seven-step Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation that can stand tall in the world nations.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister wished the physicians to carry out tasks with added momentum to ensure ever lasting of the association and to serve the interest of the people and the nation; and to provide health care services for the people to become fit and strong and highly-qualified citizens through the medical knowledge. After the conference, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the medicines and medical equipment exhibition.

Next, the ministers and the guests viewed the booths round the exhibition. MNA

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Next, the ministers and the guests viewed the booths round the exhibition. MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects...

(from page 8)

diplomats who will be taking part in the festival.

The Prime Minister said the festival will be held with the aims of publicizing Myeik Islands and Salone nationals, promotion tourism in the island and ensuring regional development.

He also gave instructions on success of the festival.

He then presented bags of rice to the Salone nationals and posed for photos with them.

The Prime Minister and party arrived at Pale Island in Bokeyyin Township at 6.30 pm. They were welcomed by members of Township Peace and Development Council, social organizations, managing director of Myanmar Pearls Enterprise and service personnel, teachers and students.

They went to the pearl production unit and observed pearls there. Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on the background history of pearl production, efforts for boosting production of pearl, undertakings with local and foreign firms under the production sharing system and annual production of pearl.

Next, Managing Director of Myanmar Pearls Enterprise U Maung Toe reported on kinds of pearls produced in the world, popularity of Myanmar pearl, change of pearl production, boosting yearly production of pearl in Myanmar, production cost, market and future tasks.

The Prime Minister then fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions on protection of sea pollution and security.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV and video deck for Pale Island Basic Education Middle School to Headmaster U Tin Myint.

The Prime Minister upgraded the BEMS to affiliated Basic Education High School.

The Prime Minister and party inspected pearl oyster breeding camp. In the evening, they arrived in Myeik where they were welcomed by local authorities and social organizations.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for a documentary together with local people in Makyongalet Village on Bo Cho Island, Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Division. — MNA

Deputy Minister inspects distribution of fuel oil

YANGON, 14 Jan — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, accompanied by Managing Director Col Sein Tin Win of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise and officials, arrived at Monghsat on 10 January and inspected the distribution of fuel oil there.

The deputy minister met Col Tin Yu of Monghsat Station and the chairman of Monghsat District Peace and Development Council and staff and attended to the

requirements.

On 11 January, the deputy minister and party arrived at Tachilek.

After inspecting the extended construction tasks for fuel oil distribution station, they proceeded to Kengtung.

On 12 January morning, the deputy minister met with the staff and gave instructions and inspected construction tasks. The deputy minister arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

Pirated video tapes...

(from page 16)

seizing a total of 8,882 pirated karaoke discs. The seizures will be destroyed at this ceremony and the persons involved will also be dealt according to the law.

Next, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Pictures Enterprise U Bo Kyi explained that at a time when the Government is taking measures to ensure the emergence of video tapes that will help accelerate the modernization pace of the country, preserve Myanmar cultural heritage and strengthen the national solidarity, the Television and Video Law was enacted to bring under control the video tapes which will spoil our culture and traditions.

If the number of pirated tapes and discs are not on

the decline, more punitive action will have to be taken against the unscrupulous persons.

Later, he called upon those present on the occasion to render cooperation in these measures to educate the general public through media.

Later, Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Brig-Gen Than Tun and officials inspected the tapes and discs on display to be destroyed.

The pirated video tapes and discs were then crushed by road-rollers.

The number of pirated video tapes and discs destroyed were 5,397 Myanmar and foreign video tapes, 44,690 video laser discs, 584 digital video laser discs, 5,435 song tapes, and two laser discs. The value of the seizures stood at some K 30 million.

MNA



Brig-Gen Than Tun makes clarifications at the press conference. — MNA

Commander inspects Htantabin Township development

YANGON, 14 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe discussed with officials the cultivation of summer paddy and conducting of development activities in Htantabin Township, Yangon North District, this morning.

Accompanied by officials, the commander observed summer paddy fields

along the Yangon-Nyaungdon Road and gave instructions to officials on the use of four methods — application of correct cultivation techniques, quality strains, natural and chemical fertilizers and water.

At the special zone to produce 100 baskets of paddy per acre, the commander heard a report on cultivation of summer paddy and other crops and irrigation projects pre-

sented by officials. During his meeting with local farmers, the commander urged them to grow summer paddy as targeted, and to extend mixed cropping.

The commander then inspected Kyungu water pumping station, and heard reports on its functions. He spoke of the need to upgrade the feeder canal and the distributor canals to irrigate summer paddy fields. At Lamudan water pump-

ing station at Bawlekyun in the township, the commander observed the feeder canal and operations of the station. He also urged local farmers to grow beans and pulses, edible oil crops and vegetables in addition to paddy. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe also inspected construction of stalls at the Htantabin Municipal Market and the sports ground.

MNA

Myanmar reaches finals in first round U-14 tennis tournament

YANGON, 14 Jan — The first round matches of the Asian Zone-2 U-14 Tennis Tournament jointly organized by International Tennis Federation and Tennis Federation of Myanmar took place at Theinbyu tennis court here this morning.

Among the spectators were Patron of TFM Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, President

U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd), Secretary Dr Tin Aung Lin (Aung Mingalar Co Ltd) and executives.

At today's matches, Phyo Min Tha and Zin Bo of Myanmar team beat the players from Malaysia and Sri Lanka and reached the finals of the first round matches for men's singles event.

At the doubles events, Phyo Min Tha and Win Htet Paing of Myanmar team beat Zin Bo and Aung Kyaw Naing of Myanmar team and reached the final of the first round. Pakistan doubles team of Barbar and Nazir reached final as their rival team had sustained injury and could not play for the match.

At women's singles event, Malaysia and Sri Lanka reached final, and a Malaysia team and a Malaysia-Sri Lanka team reached final at the doubles event.

Final matches for the first round of the tournament will take place tomorrow morning at the same venue. — MNA



Seized pirated video tapes and video tapes copying machine and related accessories. — MNA

Uncensored Myanmar Karaoke VCDs seized

YANGON, 14 Jan — The team comprising officials of Yangon Division Police Commander's Office, Yangon Division Video Supervision Committee and Ward Peace and Development Council, acting on information, searched the house of Aung Moe at No 52, 14th Street, Aungmyadana 14th Street, 4/North Ward in Thakayta Township today.

The officials found machines used in copying VCDs, 90 Myanmar Karaoke original VCDs, 320 uncensored VCDs and 30 X-rated VCDs in a room in the back of the house.

The team also searched the house of Phyo Thiha at No 22 (GF), 42nd Street, Ward 7, Botahtaung Township, and found machines used in copying VCDs, 16 Myanmar Karaoke original VCDs, 338 uncensored VCDs and 31 X-rated VCDs in the attic of the house.

At the house of Naing Win Aung at Room 9/B, No 110, 52nd Street, Ward 1 in Pazundaung Township, the team found 1,500 uncensored Myanmar Karaoke VCDs and related items in the attic of the house.

The police stations concerned filed against Aung Moe, Phyo Thiha and Naing Win Aung who illegally copied and distributed uncensored Myanmar Karaoke VCDs and X-rated VCDs.

MNA



Myanmar Golf Federation President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing delivers an address at the press conference on Myanmar Golf Open 2004 on 14 January. — MNA

Press conference on Myanmar Open Golf Tournament-2004 held

YANGON, 14 Jan — The press conference on the Myanmar Golf Open 2004, organized by Myanmar Professional Golfers Association (MPGA) and the Octagon and mainly sponsored by the Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon.

The press conference was attended by MPGA and Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF) President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing, officials from Sports and Physical Education Department, departmental officials, Secretary U Aung Kyi of MGF, Deputy Managing Director Col Aung San of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, Officer on Special duty Col Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Director (News) U Hla Tun and officials, President U Sao Kai Hpa of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and members, mediamen, Myanmar selected golfers and invited guests.

Maj-Gen Win Hlaing presented a brief account of the golf tournament. Managing Director Mr Arend Ng of

Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd explained assistance to be rendered at the golf tournament. MPGA Secretary U Chan Han briefed on arrangements for the golf tournament and Myanmar Star Player U Kyi Hla Han extended greetings. Afterwards, queries of the mediamen were replied and the ceremony came to a close.

The golf tournament will be held at Yangon Golf Club, Danyingon, here, from 12 to 15 February. A total of US\$ 200,000 will be presented to the winners including US\$ 32,300 for the first prize, US\$ 22,260 for the second prize, US\$ 12,400 for the third prize.

The co-sponsors of the golf tournament were Myanmar Airways International (MAI), Sedona Hotel, Yangon, Wilson, Grand Slam (Munsing wear), Inetol (Headwear Company), Canon (Accel International Co Ltd), Maruman (Kaung Myat Co Ltd), Dagon Beer (Dagon Brewery Co Ltd), Alpine Purified Drinking Water (Loi Hein Co Ltd), UPG (United Paint Group), Mims Logistics and Max Myanmar Co Ltd. — MNA

Independence Day reception held at Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia



Myanmar Ambassador U Hla Maung welcomes Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to the Independence Day reception. — MNA



Myanmar Ambassador U Hla Maung and wife present a mosaic painting of Mogoke to Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar. — MNA



Daw Thandar Khin, wife of the Myanmar Ambassador and Datin Seri Sharifah Ajjah, wife of the Malaysian Foreign Minister present a flower basket to the dance troupe at the Independence Day reception. — MNA



The dance troupe of the Ministry of Culture of the Union of Myanmar perform a dance item at the Independence Day reception. — MNA



Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar continued for the third day on 11-1-2004. Writer U Kyaw Hsan (Thukhi Aung) chairs the afternoon session with MWJA Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun - Twantay) and Myanmar Publishers Association Chairman U Maung Maung. (News report) MNA

YANGON, 14 Jan — The 56th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar organized by Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung was held at the Prince Hotel and Residence KL in Kuala Lumpur on 5 January evening.

It was attended by Chief Guest Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and wife, ambassadors of foreign embassies in Malaysia and their wives, high ranking departmental officials of Malaysia, entrepreneurs, journalists, Myanmar entrepreneurs, technicians and doctors and their families in Malaysia, and staff of the Myanmar Embassy and the Office of the Military Attaché in Malaysia and their families totalling over 500 persons. The Myanmar Ambassador and the Malaysian Foreign Minister made best wishes each other, and the ambassador presented a gem mosaic picture of Mogoke gemland to the foreign minister. The guests were entertained with traditional Myanmar dances and hosted with traditional Myanmar food. — MNA

ကူးစက်မြန် (ဦးနောက်အမြွေးရောင်)

ရောဂါကာကွယ်ရေး

(က) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပုံ

- ဤရောဂါသည် ဘက်တီးရီးယားပိုးကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည်။
- တစ်ဦးမှတစ်ဦးသို့ အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်း မှတစ်ဆင့် ကူးစက်သည်။
- အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး ရောဂါဖြစ်နိုင်ပြီး ကလေးသူငယ် များတွင် ပိုမိုဖြစ်သည်။
- လူစုလူဝေးနှင့် နေထိုင်မှုသည် ရောဂါပိုမိုပြန့်ပွားလွယ်သည်။
- ဆောင်းနှင့် နွေရာသီများတွင် ရောဂါအဖြစ်များလေ့ရှိသည်။
- ဤရောဂါသည် ကူးစက်မြန်ပြီး လူများတွင် တစ်ဖြည်းဖြည်း ဖြစ်တတ်သည်။

(ခ) ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ

- ရုတ်တရက်ပိုင်းထန်စွာဖျားခြင်း။
- ပြင်းထန်စွာခေါင်းကိုက်ခြင်း၊ ဇက်တောင်ခြင်း၊
- အော့အန်ခြင်း၊ တက်ခြင်း၊ သတိလစ်ခြင်း။
- ကြွက်သားများ နာကျင်ခြင်း။
- အရေပြား၌ သွေးခြေစွန်းခြင်း၊ အနီစက်အနီကွက်များ ဖြစ်ပေါ်လေ့ရှိခြင်း။
- သွေးလန့်မှု ဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။
- ရုတ်တရက်အသက်ဆုံးရှုံးနိုင်ခြင်း။

(ဂ) ကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်နိုင်ခြင်း

- တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းရေးကို အလေးထားဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကို စားသုံးပါ။
- လုံလောက်စွာ အနားယူပါ။
- ပွဲလမ်းသဘင်၊ လူထုထပ်သောနေရာနှင့် ဖုတ်ထပ်သော နေရာများကို တတ်နိုင်သမျှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- နှာစေး၊ ချောင်းဆိုးလျှင် ရောဂါမပြန့်ပွားစေရန် လက်ကိုင်းပုလိကို အသုံးပြုပါ။
- တစ်ဦးအသုံးပြုထားသော အသုံးအဆောင်နှင့် အဝတ်အထည်များကို အခြားတစ်ဦးမှ အသုံးပြုခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

- (ဃ) ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများရှိလျှင် အသက်ဆုံးရှုံးမှုနှင့် ရောဂါပြန့်ပွားမှုများမှ ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန် ကျန်းမာရေးဌာန တွင် ဆေးလျှင်စွာ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Minister receives Chinese delegation

YANGON, 14 Jan — A delegation from the People's Republic of China headed by Deputy Minister of Culture Mrs Meng Xiao Si arrived here by air yesterday evening.

The delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, officials and PRC Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung received the PRC delegation at his office on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here at 11 am today. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and heads of departments.

The Chinese delegation this morning visited Shwedagon pagoda and paid homage to the pagoda. Mrs Meng Xiao Si made cash donations to the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book.

The delegation next visited the National Museum on Pyay Road here. In the evening, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation at Karaweik Palace.

MNA

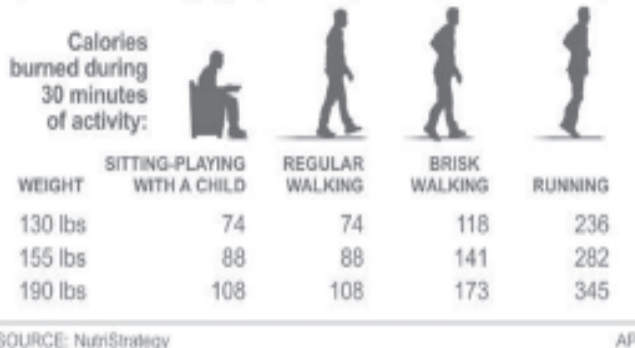


ANNIVERSARY HELD: The 12th anniversary of Kyaw Win & Co of Myanmar was held in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of Hovid Co of Malaysia at the Traders Hotel in Yangon on 13 January evening. Managing Director of Hovid Co Mr David Ho hands over medicines worth K 2.75 million to Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Soe Aung. —(H)

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Physical activity keeps the pounds off

Overweight adults who are not on a diet need to exercise to prevent further weight gain, according to a study released Monday.



Overweight adults who are not on a diet need only a small amount of exercise, the equivalent of a half-hour of brisk walking per day, to prevent further weight gain, a study found.—INTERNET

Surface-to-air missile 'Akash' test-fired

BALASORE, 14 Jan — India on Tuesday test-fired its medium range surface-to-air missile *Akash* from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-sea, about 13 kilometres from here in eastern state of Orissa.

The missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher at 0622 hrs GMT, defence sources said.

The indigenously-built sophisticated multi-target missile, which has the capability to carry a 50 kilos payload and hit a moving target. The 650 kilos missile has a range of 25 kilometres and is one of the five missiles currently under various stages of development at the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

The missile uses ramjet propulsion system and is powered by an air breathing engine. Its surveillance radar-Rajendra— was also developed indigenously and could simultaneously keep track of 64 aircraft within a range of 40 to 60 kilometres, the sources said. — MNA/PTI

India's first LNG shipment from Qatar to arrive on Jan 31

NEW DELHI, 14 Jan — India's first liquefied natural gas import terminal at Dahej in the western Indian state Gujarat is complete and will receive the first shipment from Qatar on January 31, Petroleum Minister Ram Naik said Tuesday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the 5th Oil and Gas Conference, he said a 138,000 cubic metre-capacity cryogenic ship, *Disha*, sailed out of Korean shipyards for Qatar on January 9 to bring natural gas that has been liquefied at sub-zero temperature.

The LNG tanker will reach Qatar on January 24 and load its first cargo of LNG the next day. It will sail for Petronet LNG Ltd's Dahej terminal

on January 27 and bring the first-ever LNG cargo to India on January 31.

India is importing natural gas in the form of LNG as it is faced with a widening demand and supply gap.

Naik said state gas firm GAIL (India) Ltd is laying a 610-kilometres pipeline from Hazira to Vijaipur, parallel to existing trunk Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline so as to supply the gas to the consumers in the

states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

"The 29 billion rupees pipeline is scheduled for completion by April 2004," he said.

Another pipeline of 387-kilometres length is being laid by GAIL from Dahej to Uran in Maharashtra at a cost of 14 billion rupees.

This pipeline is scheduled for completion by December 2004, he added. MNA/PTI

Ugandan capital city's spring wells contaminated

KAMPALA, 14 Jan — About 90 per cent of spring wells in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, are polluted, a research has shown.

The research carried out by Kampala Urban Sanitation Project, covered 300 wells in the city's five divisions.

The research report was quoted by local media as saying on Monday that 200 spring wells are polluted with industrial waste and human excreta.

Coordinator Dan Twebaze of the project warned that the contamination poses a health risk to more than 500,000 people who consume spring water daily.

He said they have recommended to the Kampala City Council to erect signposts at these spring wells warning the public not to consume the contaminated water there.

"Most of the water looks clear but laboratory tests carried out by a sanitation consultancy firm show that the water is contaminated," he said.

He said 5.4 million euros (about 6.4 million US dollars) has been funded and will be used to improve water and sanitation in the capital city. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore says Asia must boost health controls

SINGAPORE, 14 Jan — Asia must invest more money to tighten public health controls and fight future outbreaks of SARS and other contagious diseases, Singapore's Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan said on Tuesday.

The warning came as the region faced a new health scare following the death of three Vietnamese from "bird flu", a form of avian influenza that has ravaged the poultry industry, and as southern China struggled to prevent another SARS outbreak.

"There is under-investment both in developed and developing countries in this area," said Khaw, referring to the region's public health infrastructure.

Singapore should adopt Japanese-standard public hygiene practices, he added, noting that sick people should wear face masks in public. "Wearing masks when unwell to prevent spreading infection to others must become our norm," he said in a speech.

"We all need to change our daily habits."

Singapore was the world's fifth-most affected region in last year's severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak that began in

southern China and infected around 8,000 people worldwide. Nearly 800 of them died, including 33 in Singapore.

It won praise from the World Health Organization for its swift response to the outbreak, and the UN health body took the republic off its list of SARS-affected countries on May 31, a month before declaring the global outbreak over on July 5.

Khaw said the outbreak exposed gaps in public health defences but forced Singapore to strengthen its infection controls, laboratory bio-safety measures and bio-defence controls, while strengthening the hand of the WHO.

"We have now a small demonstration of what bio-terrorism may be like in the future," he said.

He said more is needed to be done to ensure that public health systems were able to respond rapidly to disease outbreaks.

MNA/Reuters

US rover ready to roll, sees water clues on Mars

PASADENA (California), 14 Jan — Broken rocks and a "magic carpet" of smeared soil were among clues to water discovered in a 360-degree panoramic photo taken by the US rover *Spirit* and released on Monday by NASA scientists.

The high-definition photograph — actually a series of 225 images taken by the rover's panoramic cameras — provided crucial information that scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory needed to finish planning the rover's first foray onto martian soil on Wednesday night, or sol 12 in local time.

The *Spirit* team also

presented the first 3-D model derived from those photos and other data beamed down by the rover during its nine days on the Red Planet.

The golf cart-sized rover had landed at Gusev Crater, which scientists believe may be the site of a dry lake bed once fed by a long, deep river.

The new images revealed exciting features, including a mud-like substance dug up by the rover's airbags,

and fissured rocks resembling those formed in cold Earth climates by freezing and thawing water, scientists said.

"The fact that I see more cracked and split rocks at this site than at all the other sites combined to me suggests at some time in the history of the (Mars) surface, water was involved..." scientist Michael Malin said.

Malin cautioned that the rocks may have been split on impact by the space matter that formed the massive Gusev crater where the rover landed on January 3.

Spirit's cameras also picked up a soil disturbance about 10 cm (four inches)

square where the rover's airbags disturbed the fine red dust coating the planet's surface, revealing a darker, cohesive layer of soil that intrigued the science team.

The patch, dubbed "the magic carpet," appears sticky like mud although scientists doubted whether the particles' cohesive consistency means the soil is wet.

"It would be very unusual for it to have any water," Malin said.

"The atmosphere, pressure and temperature are not likely to keep... water around (but) very fine particles in the absence of water are capable of doing very strange things."

MNA/Reuters



This image, taken on Mars, shows the view from the front hazard avoidance cameras on the Mars Exploration Rover *Spirit* after the rover has backed up 25 centimetres (10 inches) and turned 45 degrees clockwise on 13 Jan, 2004. *Spirit* remained on track to roll onto the martian soil late Wednesday or early Thursday. The rover cut the last cable attaching it to its lander and began a three-part turn to line it up with the exit ramp it should use to reach the ground, flight director Chris Lewicki said. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Nistelrooy makes it to UEFA's team of year

LONDON, 14 Jan— Ruud van Nistelrooy has made it into the UEFA's team of the year after the Manchester United star was overlooked in the 2001 and 2002 polls, said the club's web site on Monday.

Van Nistelrooy received 18.7 per cent of the strikers' votes with over 43,000 nominations.

Arsenal striker Thierry Henry was the only other Premiership player to be named in the line-up.

Former United star David Beckham was also nominated, as was his Real Madrid teammate and current FIFA World Player of the Year Zinedine Zidane.

The complete line-up for UEFA's team of the year is as follows: Goalkeeper: Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus)

Defence: Paulo Ferreira (Porto), Alessandro Nesta (AC Milan), Paolo Maldini (AC Milan), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid)

Midfield: Luis Figo (Real Madrid), David Beckham (Real Madrid), Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid), Pavel Nedved (Juventus)

Forwards: Thierry Henry (Arsenal), Ruud van Nistelrooy (Manchester United)

Coach: Jose Mourinho (Porto).—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese striker signs for Man United

BEIJING, 14 Jan— Chinese teenage striker Dong Fangzhuo has signed for Manchester United in a 3.5-million-pound (6.48-million-US-dollars) deal with Dalian Shide, the China club said on Tuesday.

"It is worth it," Dalian's general manager, Lin Lefeng, told Reuters. "It's good for the two sides and for Dong Fangzhuo himself."

The deal was signed in Dalian on January 3. Dong, 18, emerged as the cream of a crop of youngsters sent by China's top clubs to England for trials in August and United manager Alex Ferguson said in November that the club was pursuing him.

Former Dalian defender Sun Jihai, the first Chinese international to join the Premier League, plays with rivals Manchester City.—MNA/Reuters



Chinese football sensation Dong Fangzhuo has joined Manchester United in a deal worth 3.5 million pounds.—INTERNET

Ronaldo, Figo see Real through to Cup quarters

MADRID, 14 Jan— Second-half goals from Ronaldo and Luis Figo earned Real Madrid a 2-0 win at home to second division Eibar on Tuesday and a place in the quarter-finals of the King's Cup.

After a 1-1 draw in the first leg, Real were under pressure for much of the return until Ronaldo broke the deadlock in the 58th minute. Eibar continued to threaten, but a Figo free kick 10 minutes later settled the contest, giving Real a 3-1 aggregate win.

Apart from the injured David Beckham and Raul, Real fielded their strongest line-up, including Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane, Roberto Carlos and Figo, but it was Eibar who made the better start.

The visitors created three good chances inside the first three minutes, the best of which saw midfielder Francisco Corredoir crack a half-volley over the bar.

Gaizka Saizar was then put through but failed to get behind his shot and Real keeper Iker Casillas was able to clear.

At the other end the Eibar defence did an

expert job in stifling Ronaldo and Real only threatened from set pieces, keeper Garikoitz Basauri reacting sharply to turn successive Zidane free kicks around the post.

Eibar should have taken the lead in the 57th minute when Roberto Cuevas found himself free at the far post only to hoist the ball over from two metres out.

A minute later Real went ahead. Roberto Carlos beat the offside trap with a run down the left and curled in a precise pass for Ronaldo to guide in unopposed.

Real made sure of the victory 10 minutes later when Figo curled a free kick around the wall and in at the keeper's near post.

Barcelona, 1-0 down after a first leg away to Levante, will also have a tough task on their hands when they play the second division promotion candidates at the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

League leaders Valencia, who drew 2-2 at home to Osasuna, will also have plenty to do in another of Wednesday's second leg games.—MNA/Reuters

Totti, Nedved named Italy's best players

ROME, 14 Jan— AS Roma striker Francesco Totti and Juventus midfielder Pavel Nedved shared Italy's Best Player award for the 2002-03 season at a ceremony on Monday.

It was the first time that the prize, voted for by the members of the Italian Association of Footballers, had been shared in its seven-year history.

Earlier in the ceremony, dubbed the Italian football "Oscars", Czech Nedved beat Roma's Brazilian midfielder Emerson and Romanian striker Adrian Mutu, who moved from Parma to Chelsea last year, to win the award for Best Foreign Player.

Totti came out ahead of international

team mates Paolo Maldini of AC Milan and Christian Vieri of Inter Milan in the award for Best Italian Player.

Nedved was also named the European Footballer of the Year and World Soccer Player of the Year last month.

It was a good night for Juventus in the other categories too.

Gianluigi Buffon was voted Best Goalkeeper, while Marcello Lippi pipped AC Milan's Carlo Ancelotti to the award for Best Coach. The Young Player of the Year trophy went to Roma striker Antonio Cassano, while Pierluigi Collina repeated was voted Best Referee for the second year in a row.

MNA/Reuters

Former England keeper Seaman retires



File photograph shows former England goalkeeper David Seaman celebrating his side's victory over Argentina in a group F World Cup Finals match at the Sapporo Dome Stadium on 7 June, 2002. The 40-year-old Manchester City and former England and Arsenal goalkeeper has announced his retirement after suffering a recurring shoulder injury, Manchester City said on 13 Jan, 2004.

INTERNET

LONDON, 14 Jan— Former England goalkeeper David Seaman has announced his retirement after over 20 years in football, his Premier League club Manchester City said on Tuesday.

The 40-year-old, who won 75 England caps, joined City at the start of the season after spending most of his career with Arsenal but has been plagued by a recurring shoulder injury.

"I have reached this difficult decision after much discussion with my family and those in the game whose views I respect," Seaman told City's web site.

"It has become clear to me that this type of injury will not quickly disappear and I think now would be a good time to hang up my boots, rather than at the end of the season as planned. "I believe I have had a fantastic career playing at the highest level."

"After deciding to retire it was a pleasure to recommend David James — so I know the position is in safe hands," Seaman added.

Seaman joined City on a year's contract last June after 13 years at Arsenal, where he won three league titles, four FA Cups, and the European Cup Winners Cup.

MNA/Reuters

Weakened Bolton suffer Cup exit to Tranmere

LONDON, 14 Jan— Premier League Bolton Wanderers paid the price for fielding a weakened side when they crashed out of the FA Cup on Tuesday, losing to second division Tranmere Rovers 2-1 in a third round replay.

A dull game sprang to life in the final 10 minutes when Eugene Dadi put Rovers ahead in the 82nd minute, only for Bolton to level with a last-gasp equaliser from Ricky Shakes.

Iain Hulme restored Rovers' lead in the first minute of extra time and they hung on to set up an all second division tie at Luton Town.

On a night of seven replays Wolverhampton Wanderers put their Premier League woes to one side with a 2-0 victory over third division Kidderminster Harriers courtesy of a goal in each half from Kenny Miller.

However there was joy for other third division survivors. Northampton Town

beat first division Rotherham United 2-1 to set up a lucrative fourth round tie at home to English champions Manchester United.

The meeting will revive memories of the 1970 Cup tie between the two sides when George Best famously scored six goals in an 8-2 victory for United.

Colchester United also reached the fourth round as

they ended the dreams of minor league Accrington Stanley in a bad-tempered 2-1 victory at their Layer Road ground.

Accrington's Steve Halford was sent off while manager John Coleman had to be restrained during a touchline scuffle at halftime. Colchester now travel to 1987 winners Coventry City.—MNA/Reuters

Machete-wielding burglar threatens Chelsea's Veron

LONDON, 14 Jan— Chelsea's Argentine midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron was threatened by a machete-wielding burglar at his London home at the weekend, police sources said on Monday.

Richmond Magistrates Court confirmed that a 35-year-old builder had appeared, charged with aggravated burglary for allegedly breaking into a house in the up-market southwest London neighbourhood of Barnes armed with a machete on Sunday morning.

The address of the house in court records matches that of Veron's luxury home. Police sources said residents reported a burglar had climbed through the window near dawn and threatened them, demanding jewellery.

Chelsea made no comment on the incident.

MNA/Reuters

Butt asks Man Utd for a transfer

LONDON, 14 Jan— England midfielder Nicky Butt wants to leave champions Manchester United, according to a BBC report on Tuesday.

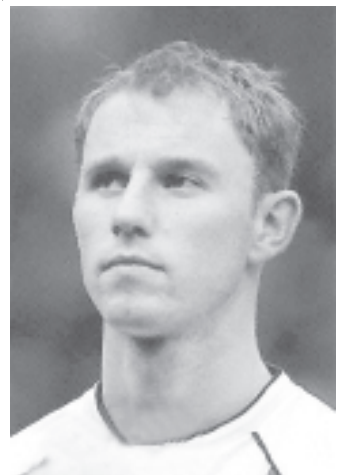
"Nicky Butt has asked to leave, it is a very sad situation," United manager Alex Ferguson was quoted as saying on the BBC's web site.

Butt's decision to ask for a transfer stems from his failure to earn a regular place in United's first team this season.

"With Phil Neville (moving into midfield), and the emergence of Darren Fletcher and Kleberson, it has made it difficult to get in the first team so he (Butt) has asked to leave," said Ferguson.

Tottenham were set to make a five million pound bid (9 million dollar) for Nicky Butt after Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson agreed to the England midfielder's transfer request.

INTERNET



MRTV-3
**15-1-2004 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Kayah State
9:10 National News
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Prawn Salad)
9:15 National News
9:20 Baungte: My Village
9:25 National Dance
"Kayah Dance"
9:30 National News
9:35 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
9:40 Song "Pleasant Kayah"
9:45 National News
9:50 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**15-1-2004 (Thursday)
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 "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
15:36 Kayah State
15:40 National News
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Prawn Salad)
15:45 National News
15:50 Baungte: My Village
15:55 National Dance
"Kayah Dance"
16:00 National News
16:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
16:10 Song "Pleasant Kayah"
16:15 National News
16:20 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30 National News

- 16:35 Music for Your Ears
(Than Sann Lyric
Notes)
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Noodle with Coconut-
soup)
16:45 National News
16:50 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
16:55 Culture Stage
"Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar-Kan Ahla"
17:00 National News
17:05 Hsinbyushin Temples,
Stone Carving and
Monasteries
17:08 Song "Golden Land,
Myanmar"
17:15 National News
17:20 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
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 Scenic Myanmar
Golden Rock Pagoda
(I)
19:40 National News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fry bitter
gourd with pounded
dried Prawn Powder)
19:45 National News
19:50 Visiting Artist, a Cen-
tury Ago
19:55 Culture Stage "The
Beauty and Grace of
the hands"
19:58 The Art of Stone
Sculpture
20:00 National News
20:05 Scenic Myanmar
"Golden Rock Pagoda
(II)"
20:10 Song "Aristocratic
Beauty"
20:15 National News
20:20 Tour in Myanmar
"Taunggyi, Inlay"
20:30 National News
20:35 Bentonite
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Steamed Fish)
20:45 National News
20:50 The beautiful green ice
20:55 National Dance
"Kachin Dance"
20:58 Myanmar Tapestry Art-
ist

- 21:00 National News**
21:05 Welcome to Bagan
21:10 Song "Golden Myan-
mar Golden Welcome"
21:15 National News
21:20 Pickled Fish in Shwe
Kyin
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
21:35 Kayah State
21:40 National News
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Prawn Salad)
21:45 National News
21:50 Baungte: My Village
21:55 Kayah Dance
22:00 National News
22:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
22:10 Song "Pleasant Kayah"
22:15 National News
22:20 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
22:25 Song "The Art Winning
Post"
22:30 National News
22:35 Music for Your Ears
(Than Sann Lyric
Notes)
22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Noodle with Coconut-
soup)
22:45 National News
22:50 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
22:55 Culture Stage "Shuta-
ing Thaswa Nandar-
Kan Ahla"
23:00 National News
23:05 Hsinbyushin Temples,
Stone Carving and
Monasteries
23:10 Song "Golden Land,
Myanmar"
23:15 National News
23:20 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
**15-1-2004 (Thursday) &
16-1-2004 (Friday)
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 Kayah State
23:40 National News
23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty

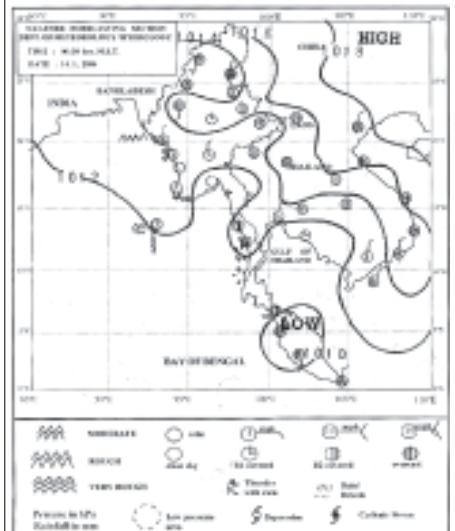
- Dishes (Prawn Salad)
23:45 National News
23:50 Baungte: My Village
23:55 National Dance "Kayah
Dance"
24:00 National News
00:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
00:10 Song "Pleasant
Kayah"
00:15 National News
00:20 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Mingalabar"
00:30 National News
00:35 Music for Your Ears
(Than Sann Lyric
Notes)
00:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Noodle with Coconut
-soup"
00:45 National News
00:50 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
00:55 Culture Stage
"Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar-Kan Ahla"
01:00 National News
01:05 Hsinbyushin Temples,
Stone Carving and
Monasteries
01:08 Song "Golden Land,
Myanmar"
01:15 National News
01:20 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**16-1-2004 (Friday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 Scenic Myanmar
"Golden Rock
Pagoda (II)"
03:40 National News
03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fry bitter
gourd with pounded
dried Prawn Powder)
03:45 National News
03:50 Visiting Artist, a Cen-
tury Ago
03:55 Culture Stage "The
Beauty and Grace of
the hands"
03:58 The Art of Stone
Sculpture
04:00 National News
04:05 Scenic Myanmar
"Golden Rock
Pagoda (II)"

- 04:10 Song "Aristocratic
Beauty"
04:15 National News
04:20 Tour in Myanmar
"Taunggyi, Inlay"
04:25 Song "Two, Together"
04:30 National News
04:35 Bentonite
04:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Steamed Fish)
04:45 National News
04:50 The beautiful green ice
04:55 National Dance
"Kachin Dance"
04:58 Myanmar Tapestry
Artist
05:00 National News
05:05 Welcome to Bagan
05:10 Song "Golden
Myanmar Golden Wel-
come"
05:15 National News
05:20 Pickled Fish in Shwe
Kyin
05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
05:35 Kayah State
05:40 National News
05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Prawn Salad)
05:45 National News
05:50 Baungte: My Village
05:55 Kayah Dance

- 06:00 National News**
06:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
06:10 Song "Pleasant Kayah"
06:15 National News
06:20 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
06:25 Song "The Art Win-
ning Post"
06:30 National News
06:35 Music for Your Ears
(Than Sann Lyric
Notes)
06:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Noodle with Coconut-
soup"
06:45 National News
06:50 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
06:55 Culture Stage "Shuta-
ing Thaswa Nandar-
Kan Ahla"
07:00 National News
07:05 Hsinbyushin Temples,
Stone Carving and
Monasteries
07:10 Song "Golden Land
Golden Myanmar"
07:15 National News
07:20 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
07:30 Close Down

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas
**WEATHER**
Wednesday, 14 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Mon State, (3°C) below normal in Bago Division, (6°C) below normal in Magway Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 13-1-2004 was 33.5°C (92°F) Minimum temperature on 14-1-2004 was 16.5°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-1-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 13-1-2004 was (6.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 14-1-2004 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 10 mph from Northerly at (11:30) hours MST on 13-1-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 15-1-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-1-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.


Thursday, January 15
View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. ဂျော့ဇ်နီနီကွန်းဆရာတော်
တရားကြီးမင်းတော်သံသယဟောသော
အဖို့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
အသိပေးဟောပြောချက် အသိပေး
အမှုဟောသည့်ဗုဒ္ဓဓာတ်တော်
တိရိစ္ဆာန်ရေမှတစ်ဆင့်ရရှိက
ဆရာတော်အဖို့မိမိတ္တသောရာ
အိပ်သစ် ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. Dance of national
races
8:05 am
6. Dance variety

- 8:20 am**
7. ရွှေလိပ်တား
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Let's Go
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
5:00 pm
5. အစားသင့်တော်သည့်အရာ
ရရှိနိုင်သည့်အခန်းကဏ္ဍ
ပထမအပိုင်း (သတ္တဗျူဟာ၊ ရုက္ခဗျူဟာ၊
အကျဉ်းချုပ်) (သတ္တဗျူဟာ)
5:15 pm
6. Cute little dancers
5:30 pm
7. မြန်မာစာ ဖြန့်ချိရေး
5:45 pm
8. Musical programme
6:00 pm
9. "အနိဂါဓနု"

- မိမိ၊ ကောင်းမြတ်
(အိဂါဓနု-အနိဂါဓနု)
6:05 pm
10. နိုင်ငံအခန်း သစ်တော့စွမ်းဖြင့်
မိမိလန်းစေရမည်
6:15 pm
11. ဗုဒ္ဓသွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြပေ
6:30 pm
12. Evening news.
7:00 pm
13. Weather report.
7:05 pm
14. Milo success in
soccer.
7:10 pm
15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"မိုးမြေဆုံးစေတော့ကွယ်"
(အမိုး-၄)
7:40 pm
16. Musical programme
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. (၅၆) နှစ်မြောက်ပြည့်တော်မူနေ
တိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာအက ဆုတံဆိပ်
အနိအဓိ
21. The next day's
programme


Thursday, January 15
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
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Remember me
(Marc Anthony)
- I should've never
let you go
(Bardot)
9.00 pm Special features
The progressing
region of Kayah
State
9.10 pm Arile/ Music
9.20 pm Topics potpourri
- NY doctors find
cause for some
cases of mystery
disease
9.30 pm Favourite songs
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chinese Deputy Minister of Culture Mrs Meng Xiao Si and party. — MNA

Prime Minister receives Chinese Cultural Deputy Minister

YANGON, 14 Jan—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Deputy Minister of Culture Mrs Meng Xiao Si of the People's Republic of China and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on

Konmyinthta, here, at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Min-

ister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff.

MNA

Prime Minister receives national race leaders

YANGON, 14 Jan—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Shan national race leader U Khun Mein and party of Shwe Pyi Aye Development village, who have returned to the legal fold, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta, here, at 4.50

pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Vice Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw

Win, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and Director-General U Soe Tint of Government Office.

The national race leaders expressed their support for the seven-point future political programme of the State and pledged to actively participate in the tasks to successfully implement the programme. Afterwards, they reported matters relating to regional development, agriculture and economic enterprise. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Shan national race leader U Khun Mein. — MNA

Salone traditional festival to be held

YANGON, 14 Jan—Salone traditional festival will be held in Ma Kyone Galat Village in Kawthoung Township from 14 to 17 February 2004 under the aegis of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council and Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council.

Visitors can get information on the festival on the website under the name of Myanmar.net/mtt/salone.htm www.salonefestival.com and www.sea.gypsyfestival.com.

The tour will be arranged by Shabhala Tours Co. The e-mail address is info@salonefestival.com.—MNA

Pirated video tapes, laser discs, digital discs destroyed

YANGON, 14 Jan—Video tapes, laser discs and digital discs, which were inconsistent with Television and Video Law, were destroyed in the compound of the Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Hanthawady Road and Kyundaw Street in Kamayut Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Head of Department of the Office of the Military Intelligence Headquarters Brig-Gen Than Tun and senior military officers, members of the central committee for video scrutinizing board, departmental heads, journalists, and guests.

In his explanation, Brig-Gen Than Tun said that uncensored video tapes and la-

ser and digital discs were seized and action was taken against the culprits. It is the fifth time that such ceremony has been held.

In our country, the video censorship board decides what films are fit for public entertainment in order to pre-

vent our culture from being influenced by alien decadent culture. Steps are being taken to deter the porn films, video tapes and discs from entering the country. A total of 915 porn video laser discs were among the seizures to be destroyed.

Pirated Myanmar karaoke songs discs are also on the increase annually. Such kinds of discs are available even on roadside platforms and at shops in Yangon and Mandalay. Therefore, the video censorship board, the city development com-

mittee, the Myanmar police force and other responsible organizations held a meeting in November to address the issue. Later, the authorities launched a one-month educational campaign and announced through newspapers, journals and magazines

that severe action will be taken against law-breakers in the wake of the campaign. However, the sales of pirated tapes and discs did not come to a halt. Therefore, the authorities made many arrests in Yangon and Mandalay, (See page 10)



Seized pirated video tapes and laser discs being destroyed with the use of road-rollers. — MNA