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Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 15 Jan —The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of the Republic of Poland:

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Polish nation and on my own, I convey to you and to all the citizens of the Union of Myanmar my heartfelt congratulations.

I wish, Mr President, that the coming future, beside achievements in economic and social development of your country, may also bring a sustainable progress in the process of the national reconciliation with participation of all the political and social forces of the country, thus bringing the Union of Myanmar's nation closer to full implementation of its desires and aspiration.

Please accept, excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Stjepan Mesic, President of the Republic of Croatia:

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I am pleased to extend to you my most cordial congratulations and those of the citizens of the Republic of Croatia, as well as best wishes for the prosperity of your country and its citizens.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Leonid Kuchma, President of the Republic of Ukraine:

On behalf of the people of Ukraine and on my own, I sincerely congratulate you on the occasion of the National Holiday of the Union of Myanmar — Independence Day.

I am confident that the relations of friendship and mutually beneficial partnership, which exist between our states, will be further successfully developed and strengthened on the benefit of Ukraine and the Union of Myanmar.

I wish you, Your Excellency, happiness, good health, success and inspiration in your State activity as well as peace and prosperity to the friendly people of Myanmar. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Deep-water seaport in Dawei District will benefit not only Myanmar, but also neighbouring and regional countries Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects development tasks in Myeik

YANGON, 15 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, inspected the upgrading of approach roads of Kyweku-Kyaukphyu Bridge on Myeik-Dawei road near Myeik, the current of the Kyaukphyu river and the bridge from Kut hillock on 13 January Morning.

Superintending Engineer U Ba Wan of Public Works reported to the Prime Minister on salient points and construction tasks of the bridge.

Kyweku-Kyaukphyu bridge, with reinforced concrete foundation and steel frames, is situated on Myeik-Dawei road and 3,162-foot long. It supports a 28-foot motorway flanked by 6-ft pedestrian lanes on both sides. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Government Computer College (Myeik). Principal Daw Mya Mya Zin and teachers welcomed the Prime Minister there. After hearing the report on academic and administrative affairs of

the college presented by the principal, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for construction of the main building and a recreation centre for the students.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to the construction site of Maha Theikdzaya pagoda on Sandawadi hill in Myeik. First, the Prime Minister inspected the construction tasks of the pagoda and paid reverence to a Buddha Image in the Gandakuti Taik and Htidaws to be hoisted atop the main pagoda and circling pagodas.

After hearing the report on construction of the pagoda presented by Superintending Engineer U Ba Wan, the Prime Minister gave instructions on taking measures for durability and gracefulness of the pagoda by employing Myanmar traditional architecture.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo accepted a total of K102.5 million donated to the funds of the pagoda including K 2.5 million donated by the ministers who accompanied the Prime Minister, K 30 million donated by Chairman Dr Khin Shwe of Zay Gaba Co Ltd, K 10 million donated by Chairman U Htay Myint of Yuzana Co Ltd, K 6.3 million each by Pyi Phyto Tun Co and International Fisheries

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views Kyweku-Kyaukphyu Bridge on Myeik-Dawei Road in Myeik, Taninthayi Division. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 16 January, 2004

Towards higher national health standard

It goes without saying that health and fitness of people is the basic requirement for the development of a nation. Therefore, the government is taking systematic measures to provide better and wider health care services. It is also striving for the development of human resources, medical sciences and research work and for the emergence of modern hospitals.

The 50th Conference of the Myanmar Medical Association was held at the Hall (A) of the Association on the morning of 14 January in Yangon and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of the National Health Committee, attended the ceremony and delivered an address. In his address on the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that progress of Myanmar medical world and providing better health care services are the objectives of the health sector.

The Government, since its assumption of State responsibilities, has been building new hospitals the length and breadth of the nation. As a result, there has been 763 hospitals now, compared with 617 in 1988. In 1988, there was a total of 11,300 doctors in the whole nation and, out of them, only 3,200 were in the government service but in March last year, 5,000 out of 18,000 were serving in various hospitals under the Ministry of Health. In 1988, there were only three medical institutes and one institute of dental medicine. But now, there are altogether 14 institutes and universities under the Ministry of Health, including four institutes of medicine, two institutes of dental medicine, two institutes of nursing, two institutes of pharmacy, two institutes of paramedical sciences, one university of primary health and one university of traditional medicine.

In the past, only one postgraduate diploma course and 12 master's degree courses could be conducted. But now, there are six postgraduate diploma courses and 29 master's degree courses. Moreover, as seven Ph.D courses and 30 Dr.Med.Sc courses are being conducted, 17 Ph.D degree holders and 55 Dr.Med.Sc degree holders have been turned out up to now. Not only that, there have been 82 MRCP's, 28 MRCPPH's, 35 MRCOG's, 78 FRCS's and 10 MRCS's of royal colleges of the United Kingdom.

Therefore, we believe that, as there are highly-qualified health staff, the development of the health sector and higher national health standard are ensured if they work in concert in the interests of the nation and the people.

ITF 14 and Under ASIAN C'ship 2004 Asia Zone-2 continues

YANGON, 15 Jan —The matches of the ITF 14 and Under ASIAN Championship 2004 Asia Zone-2, jointly organized by the International Tennis Federation and Myanmar Tennis Federation, continued at Theinbyu Tennis Court here this morning.

Among the spectators were Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) and Secretary Dr Tin Aung Lin (Aung Mingalar Co Ltd), Executive Major Tin Saw Naing (Ministry of Defence) and executive committee members, ambassadors, invited guests and tennis enthusiasts.

Final matches were held today.

In men's singles event, Phyo Min Tha beat Zin Bo 6-2, 6-0.

In men's doubles event, Phyo Min Tha and Win Htet Paing of Myanmar beat Babar and Nazir of Pakistan 3-6, 6-3, 7-6.

In the women's singles event, Noordin of Malaysia beat Aru Dpragasam of Sri Lanka 6-0, 6-0.

In the women's doubles event, Noordin of Ma-

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.

Foreign Head of Government sends felicitations to General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 15 Jan —The following is the message of felicitations from foreign Head of Government sent to General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Viktor Yanukovych, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ukraine:

On behalf of the Government of Ukraine and on my own, I sincerely congratulate you on the occasion of the National Holiday of the Union of Myanmar — Independence Day. I am confident that the relations of friendship and cooperation, which exist between two countries, will be further developed and strengthened on the benefit of our peoples. Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish you, Your Excellency, good health and success in your state activity as well as peace and prosperity to the people of Myanmar. — MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 15 Jan — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
1. U Saw Maung Hla	Director-General, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance & Revenue
2. U Mya Than	Managing Director, Myanma Investment and Trade Bank, Ministry of Finance & Revenue

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Col Soe Win of the Ministry of Defence as Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

laysia and Jayatilaka of Sri Lanka beat Thirumalai Chelvam and Vythinathan of Malaysia 6-2, 6-0.

The matches of the first round of the championship finished today and the matches of the second round continue tomorrow at the same venue. — MNA



Phyo Min Tha stands first in men's singles of first round of ITF 14 and under Asian Championship 2004 Asia Zone-2. — NLM

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.

Myanmar ICT Week 2004

MICT Park, Yangon.

(From 9 am to 5 pm daily from 21 to 27 January)

21 January 2004

- 7:30 am — Opening Ceremony + Projects Launching
- 1 pm — Professional Certification (seminar & ceremony)
- 1 pm — Capability Maturity Model Integration (workshop)

22 January 2004

- 9 am — Role of women in ICT industry (workshop)
- 9 am — PKI application (CA)
- 1 pm — Myanmar language implementation (workshop)
- 1 pm — Hardware Trend for software developers (seminar)

23 January 2004

- 9 am — Database Trend Technology (workshop)
- 1 pm — Object oriented software development with unified modeling language (workshop)

24 January 2004

- 9 am — Software products for SME (presentation & promotion)
- 1 pm — Software products for SME (presentation & promotion)

25 January 2004

- 9 am — Security issues and related products (seminar)
- 1 pm — e-Procurement (seminar)

26 January 2004

- 9 am — Wireless and broadband application (seminar)
- 1 pm — Myanmar National Counter-Strike C'ship Final (Admission free)



The PRC delegation visit Myanmar Gems Museum.—MNA

PRC delegation visit Gems Museum

YANGON, 15 Jan — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mrs Meng Xiao Si and party, together with official went on a trip and arrived at the Myanmar Gems Museum on Kaba Aye Pagoda road here at 9:30 am. Officials conducted them round the museum.

MNA

US Army's suicide rate in Iraq said higher

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—The Army's suicide rate in Iraq has been about a third higher than past rates for troops during peacetime, the Pentagon's top doctor said Wednesday.

Also, the military still has about 2,500 troops waiting for medical care after returning from overseas, said Dr William Winkenwerder, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. The Pentagon is preparing for even more soldiers on "medical extension" after tens of thousands of troops are rotated home from Iraq this spring, Winkenwerder said.

The issue of suicides so worried the military that the Army sent an assessment team to Iraq late last year to see if anything more could be done to prevent troops from killing themselves. The Army also began offering more counseling to returning troops after several soldiers at Fort Bragg, NC, killed their wives and themselves after returning home from the war.

Winkenwerder said the military has documented 21 suicides during 2003 among troops involved in the Iraq war. Eighteen of those were Army soldiers, Winkenwerder said.

That's a suicide rate for soldiers in Iraq of about 13.5 per 100,000, Winkenwerder said. During recent peacetime years, that number for the Army has hovered around 10.5 to 11 per 100,000, Winkenwerder said.

"We don't see any trend there that tells us that there's more we might be doing," Winkenwerder told a breakfast meeting of Pentagon reporters.

The military has nine combat stress teams in Iraq to help treat troops' mental health

problems, and each division has a psychiatrist, psychologist and social worker, Winkenwerder said. He said between 300 and 400 troops have been medically evacuated from Iraq for mental health problems.

The military prefers to treat mental health problems such as depression by keeping troops in their regular duties while they get counseling and possibly medication, Winkenwerder said. Less than one percent of the troops in Iraq are treated for mental issues during an average week, he said.

Winkenwerder said he had no specifics on the number of troops being treated for battlefield stress, although the military is focused on treating that problem.

"We believe they are being identified, they are being supported," Winkenwerder said. The military also is working to solve the issue of soldiers awaiting medical care. Since November, about 1,900 of the 4,400 troops waiting for medical care have been treated, Winkenwerder said.

But the military expects more problems when tens of thousands of troops are rotated in and out of Iraq this spring, Winkenwerder said. Many of those troops may have to wait at various bases for medical treatment such as physical therapy for injuries, he said.

The Army is working to sign contracts with civilian medical providers and bringing in more staff from the Navy, Air Force and Department of Veterans Affairs to help, Winkenwerder said. —Internet

ထိုက်တုန်းက ဆိုခဲ့တာ



At least 21 US troops have committed suicide in Iraq, a growing toll that represents one in seven of American 'non-hostile' deaths since the war began last March, the Pentagon said on 14 Jan, 2004. The Defence Department's top health official said the military plan to deal with 'battle stress' in Iraq more aggressively than in past conflicts such as the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War. US soldiers are shown in Tikrit, on 21 Sept, 2004.

INTERNET

Two dead, about 30 injured in Iraq car bomb explosion

BAQUBA, 15 Jan—A car bomb blew up outside a police station in the restive Iraqi town of Baquba on Wednesday, killing two people and wounding around 30, local police, doctors and the US military said.

Witnesses and a US soldier at the scene said the explosion was set off by a suicide car bomber but a military spokeswoman later said the blast appeared to have been remotely detonated.

"A suicide bomber in a green civilian sedan targeted the quick reaction police force," First Lieutenant Brian Elliott of the US 4th Infantry Division told Reuters at the scene, adding that there were at least two deaths and a number of casualties.

"It could have been much worse if he had gotten the car inside the compound," he said.

The US military estimated 29 people were injured in the explosion.

Doctors at Baquba's main hospital said two people had died and more than 25 people were admitted with injuries sustained in the blast, which threw scores to the ground.

"The two dead were civilians and we have admitted 26 people for injuries, many of them police," said Mohammed Apiya Jibouri, a surgeon and deputy head of Baquba General Hospital.

A police officer at the scene said he saw the car heading toward the police station

seconds before it detonated about 50 feet from the entrance to the compound.

He said police fired on the vehicle but the driver didn't stop. One policeman at the scene said it appeared the bomber had tied his foot to the accelerator to make sure the car would speed ahead even if he was killed.

"I was inside and I heard an explosion and went out and I saw a car with someone whose body was blown to bits," said police Sergeant Raed Mehdi Zuhairi. "There was nothing left."

Police said they spoke to the driver moments before the attack and told him to get away from the area as it was a secure zone. The man spoke with something other than an Iraqi accent, they said.

US military spokeswoman Major Josslyn Aberle said the car bomb "was an IED (improvised explosive device) consisting of artillery rounds and grenades that was placed in a small automobile near the scene of the explosion."

"It was command detonated. Two additional IEDs were found nearby and disarmed by US troops," she said. —Internet



Relatives transport an injured Iraqi man in the back of their truck to the hospital from the site of a car bomb explosion in Baquba, Iraq, on 14 Jan, 2004. A car bomb exploded outside a police station killing at least three people, including the driver, and injuring nearly 30 others, police and witnesses said. —Internet

Iraq seeks Australia's help to clean river

CANBERRA, 15 Jan—Iraq's interim governing body, the Governing Council, on Tuesday asked Australia to help clean up the polluted Tigris River.

Iraq's Environment Minister Abdul-Rahman Kareem told local ABC radio that Iraq needs Australia's scientific expertise to rid the historic river in human's civilization of raw sewage, factory waste and heavy metals.

In an interview from Baghdad, he said his government hopes that Australia, a participant in the US-led coalition in Iraq, "will make an offer of assistance to help our environment and to train our staff".

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil's President says US fingerprinting rules useless

MONTERREY (Mexico), 15 Jan—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Tuesday the new US policy of fingerprinting Brazilians entering the United States would do nothing to stop terrorism.

The United States says the week-old policy of fingerprinting arrivals from all but 27 countries is aimed at tracking terrorists, preventing criminals from entering the country and controlling illegal immigration.

Brazil retaliated by requiring US citizens entering the South American country to be fingerprinted as well.

Government officials privately complain the US measure is aimed at illegal immigrants using forged documents, and that the United States is using the threat of terrorism to justify tougher controls.

"If the problem is to fight terrorism, this measure makes no sense. We have no culture of terrorism (in Brazil)," Lula told reporters at the Summit of the Americas in the northern Mexican city of Monterrey. —MNA/Reuters

12,000 evacuated as violent storms hit Bolivia

LIMA, 15 Jan—Violent tropical storms caused the evacuation of 12,000 people from the Bolivian city of Trinidad, capital of the Amazon state of Beni, the official news agency ABI reported on Tuesday.

Figures from Civil Defence showed the intense downpour affected 70 per cent of the 100,000 inhabitants of Trinidad, which is about 600 kilometres northeast of La Paz, capital of Bolivia.

It forced 5,000 of them to be evacuated at the weekend as their houses were flooded or verging on collapse.

On Monday, another 7,000 Trinidad people were evacuated aboard boats to provisional shelters.

Rescue teams, which included civilians, worked hard to take food, clothing, blankets and medicine to the victims, and try to re-establish the sewage system which had collapsed.

Beni Governor Edwin Rivero said that those evacuated "remain in provisional shelters located in the highlands of Trinidad". They expect rains to ease allowing a start for humanitarian relief programmes, the prevention of diseases and assessing material damage. —MNA/Xinhua

Tests show no agent in Iraq mortar shells

CAMP EDEN, 15 Jan—US tests on mortar shells found in Iraq and suspected of containing blister agents have turned up negative, though further tests will be conducted, a Danish army spokesman said Wednesday.

The 36 shells, discovered last week by Danish troops, are believed to be from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Four initial tests by British and Danish experts came up positive for blister agents, Danish spokesman, Capt Kim Vibe Michelsen, told The Associated Press.

But later tests by US experts from the Iraq Survey Group on five of the shells have shown no trace of chemical weapons, the Danish military said.

However, more tests are needed, and the results will be sent to the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, the military said in a statement.

A US official said the tests suggest the munitions may not contain blister agents, as initial field tests had indicated.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the test results aren't definitive, but "it seems to be turning away from being a blister agent." The official said there are chemicals associated with certain munitions, such as phosphorous, that can produce false positives.

Initial tests by troops in the field are designed to favour a positive reading, erring on the side of caution to protect soldiers. More sophisticated tests are often necessary.

"The Iraqi Survey Group has never encountered this type of shells before," the Danish military said. "They will

therefore take a shell for closer investigation," including a look into why the four initial tests gave a positive result.

Before invading Iraq, the United States said Saddam Hussein's regime had stockpiles of mustard gas, a World War I-era blister agent that is stored in liquid form. The chemical burns skin, eyes and lungs.

US intelligence officials also claimed Iraq had failed to destroy stocks of sarin, cyclosarin and VX in violation of UN resolutions. So far, however, no such materials have been found nine months after the collapse of Saddam's regime. The Danish troops initially found 36 shells, exposed by rain, in the ground outside a village near Qurnah on Friday. The Danish army's Camp Eden is near Qurnah.

"This was a stash. They were stacked and ordered and wrapped in plastic," Michelsen said, adding they must have been buried 10 or more years ago.

Michelsen said the 120mm shells, which have no markings indicating the country of manufacture, "don't look like any known" mortars in the Iraqi arsenal.

Michelsen said the Danes have unearthed 50 shells so far and at least 50 more are believed still buried. Villagers told the troops that they had found about 400 or more some years ago and threw them in the Tigris River, Michelsen said.—*Internet*



US soldiers spread out documents and other objects on the floor while looking for evidence during a raid on an Iraqi house on 14 Jan, 2004 near Fallujah, Iraq. The owner of the house is suspected of being responsible for attacks on coalition forces. —INTERNET

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

US curfew in northern Iraqi city arouses complaints

BAGHDAD, 15 Jan—A 12-hour curfew imposed by American forces overnight in the city of Balad, 80 kilometres north of Baghdad, has aroused complaints by local residents.

The American forces slapped a curfew on Balad from 6 pm (1500 GMT) Monday to 6 am (0300 GMT) Tuesday as they were about to be replaced by a batch of reinforcements, local residents told *Xinhua* on Tuesday.

"American military vehicles with loudspeakers informed people in Arabic language the decision of the curfew," said 29-year-old Saad Abdul Ameer.

He described the decision as a way to increase the suffering of the people in the city, which might lead to increasing dissatisfaction and widen the gap between the citizens and the occupying forces.

The curfew was due to the arrival of new US forces to replace the current, said a source from the local Iraqi police on condition of anonymity.

Some residents criticized the American decision as it hinders work in the city and paralyzes people there.

"Farmers come early to sell their goods from the surrounding areas of Balad, such a decision delays their return to their houses," said Abdullah Khalil, a 45-year-old farmer.

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign nationals killed in Iraq

TIKRIT, 15 Jan—Occupation forces and foreigners come under attack near Tikrit. Three foreign nationals have been killed near the Iraqi town of Tikrit when unknown assailants fired on their convoy.

The three men two Pakistanis and one Turkish were killed when unknown assailants opened fire on their vehicles on Wednesday, said Iraqi police. The US military confirmed that two foreign nationals had been killed. A spokeswoman said one US

soldier, a driver of an unspecified nationality and one US civilian were also injured. Police said the incident took place 15km south of Tikrit.

Earlier, there were reports of an ambush on a convoy operated by US contractor Kellogg, Brown and Root.

Two drivers were reported killed while several others were injured. It was also revealed on Wednesday that eight Iraqis were killed on Tuesday in an apparent firefight with US soldiers near the town of Samarra, north of Baghdad.—*Internet*

Kenyan grandfather joins primary school at 84

NAIROBI, 15 Jan—An 84-year-old Kenyan grandfather has joined primary school to learn to read, after the government introduced free primary education last year, Kenyan daily newspapers reported on Tuesday.

Kimani Murage, who has 30 grandchildren, said he hopes to become a veterinarian.

His classmates' average age is seven years old, and two of his grandchildren attend more advanced classes in the same school in Kenya's Eldoret District, some 162 miles northwest of the capital Nairobi.

Headmistress Jane Obinchi told the *Daily Nation* the school first thought Murage's interest was a joke.

"So we told him to come this year in first term, then we could see about it. It was a total surprise when he showed up - in school

uniform!" she was quoted as saying.

Murage said he was part of the Mau Mau movement that fought against British colonial rule in Kenya in the 1950s, and wanted to learn to read so he could count his hoped-for compensation.

"When they start paying us, I do not want any young man... trying to rob me of my money due to illiteracy," Murage told the *East African Standard*.

Kenya registered the Mau Mau movement in November, which lawyers said could help surviving fighters obtain compensation. —*MNA/Reuters*

US jet accidentally drops unarmed bomb in Britain

LONDON, 15 Jan—The United States Air Force is investigating how one of its fighter jets dropped an unarmed bomb onto the countryside in northern England last week, a spokesman said on Monday.

There were no injuries and only "limited property damage" in the incident, which happened near the town of Market Weighton in Yorkshire at around 1715 GMT on Thursday, the Air Force spokesman said.

The 25 lb practice bomb was dropped by a *F-15E Strike Eagle* on a routine training run from a base in eastern England.

"Trained and experienced base personnel including Ministry of Defence, and local constabulary authorities responded to the scene and an investigation team is determining the cause the incident," the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters



A sequence of television images shows an Argentine man lying with a lion named Quique on top of him, after he leapt over a fence at the Buenos Aires Zoo, in Argentina on 12 Jan, 2004. Television footage showed Quique the lion sitting on top of 22-year-old Lucas Tomas, padding him with his paw and leaving only superficial injuries to his head, arm and chest, doctors said. INTERNET

World's largest cruise ship sets sail

SOUTHAMPTON (England), 15 Jan—The world's largest cruise ship, the 800 million US dollars *Queen Mary 2*, set off across the Atlantic on its maiden voyage on Monday.

Bathed in multicoloured lights like a floating city, smoke winding out of its enormous stack, the *QM2* drifted out of the English port of Southampton, bound on a 14-day journey to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

As it left the harbour fireworks filled the night sky.

The send-off contrasted with a subdued launch from

France three weeks ago, when festivities were cancelled in honour of 15 people who fell to their deaths in November when a dockside gangway to the ship collapsed.

Bad luck continued to plague the ship after it arrived in Britain, when two women in their 60s broke their legs in separate inci-

dents on board.

But it received a celebratory baptism from Queen Elizabeth at a pomp-filled naming ceremony last week.

The British-registered liner is 1,132 feet long—the equivalent of 41 London double-decker buses—and more than 236 feet high. It can take 2,620 passengers.

MNA/Reuters

Over 60 Bulgarian soldiers quit Iraq-bound unit

SOFIA (Bulgaria), 15 Jan—A total of 62 Bulgarian soldiers have quit a peacekeeping unit due to replace troops in Iraq after a car bomb killed five of their compatriots last month, Chief of Staff Nikola Kolev said Wednesday.

The Balkan country, a staunch supporter of the US-led military campaign that toppled Saddam Hussein, has sent a 480-strong light infantry battalion to serve in the Polish-led force in Iraq's holy city of Kerbala. Bulgaria plans to rotate the peacekeepers in Kerbala with another 480 soldiers by mid-February, but dozens of the new unit have decided to abandon the mission after the Kerbala deaths.

State radio quoted Kolev as saying some of the Bulgarian contingent's duties would be taken over by coalition allies because of increased tension among soldiers after the bombing.

He did not say which duties the Bulgarians would give up.

Kolev and President Georgi Parvanov

went to a military base in Kazanlak, central Bulgaria, Wednesday to kick off the rotation of Iraq-based troops. The peacekeepers are volunteers from the NATO-candidate country's professional army.

The Kerbala deaths have sparked debate in Bulgaria about security at their base in the Polish sector, with many asking why the troops had not been better protected.

Earlier this month 40 soldiers of the new Iraq-bound unit said they would quit but later their number grew to 62, despite raised payment and Sofia's attempts to boost morale.

Tuesday the government raised daily pay to troops in Kerbala to \$82-\$90 from \$62-\$75 after soldiers demanded their compensation be doubled because of higher risk.

Internet

Nations cautious on Iraq contracts

PARIS, 15 Jan—Nations frozen out of US-financed reconstruction contracts for opposing the Iraq war reacted cautiously to an apparent policy change that could allow them to bid for future projects.

US President George W Bush yesterday outlined a new policy as he announced that Canada would be allowed to bid on some of the \$US18.6 billion (\$23.95 billion) in reconstruction work from which it had been excluded.

And Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said three or four other countries, which he declined to name, would be eligible to bid for a second wave of reconstruction contracts.

France, Germany and Russia - which vehemently opposed the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein - stand to benefit from any policy change on rebuilding contracts.

Jochen Muenker, head of the Middle East division at the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, said the US hints were welcome.

"Naturally it's a very encouraging development," he said. "There are big German companies that have led projects in Iraq in recent decades that could shoulder such jobs."

"If confirmed, this would be a breakthrough for German business in Iraq."

French companies are also eager to participate in the reconstruction effort, but the French government will not drop its demand for the transfer of power into Iraqi hands.

"We have expressed for a long time our availability to participate in Iraq's construction," French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said.

"But obviously only if it is in the framework where the Iraqi authorities will get back their sovereignty and the ability to exercise their powers in full."

Alliot-Marie was to hold talks in Washington with Rumsfeld tomorrow. President Jacques Chirac said in a speech to French diplomats earlier this month that France was ready to assist in rebuilding the country "at the request of the Iraqis themselves".—Internet

US soldier dies in Iraq

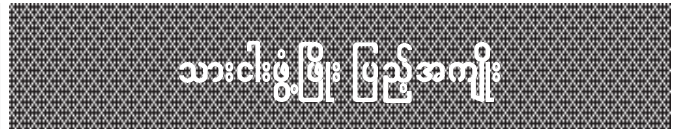
BAGHDAD, 15 Jan—An American soldier has died in a non-hostile incident in northern Iraq, the US military said today, raising the US death toll since the Iraq conflict began to 496.

A US press statement said the soldier, attached to the 101st Airborne Division, died last night in the northern city of Mosul.

It said the "non-hostile incident" that led to the death is under investigation. It gave no other details.

The name of the soldier was withheld pending notification of next-of-kin.

Since the US invasion of Iraq last March, a total of 496 soldiers have died including 342 in combat. Most of the deaths—358—have occurred after May 1 when President George W Bush declared an end to major hostilities. — Internet



A destroyed police car after a suicide car bomber blew himself up in Baquba, Iraq, recently. Violence raged unabated, with a car bomb killing at least two people and US forces gunning down nine guerillas.—INTERNET

Turkey, Finland sign security cooperation agreement

ANKARA, 15 Jan—Turkey and Finland signed an cooperation agreement on fight against crimes here on Tuesday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said that Turkey attaches great importance to international cooperation in the field of security.

Aksu said, adding that

the target was to form an international platform to fight against crimes that were changing in course of time and were committed through more sophisticated methods.

He stressed that it is no more possible to register ter-

rorism with national borders of a country.

For his part, Finnish Interior Minister Kari Rajamaki said the signed cooperation agreement would lay the foundation for fight against crimes.

MNA/Xinhua

Record number of ancient bronze characters confirmed in China

XI'AN, 15 Jan—Chinese epigraphy experts have identified a record of 4,048 characters on a collection of 27 ancient bronzes unearthed in northwest China's Shaanxi Province after a year of study and research.

Zhang Runtang, deputy director of Baoji bureau of cultural relics in Shaanxi, said at a meeting to mark the anniversary of the discovery that the bronzes, including vessels used for rituals, drinking and food, were all large and elegantly shaped. The bronze site was unearthed on January 19 last year by five villagers in Meixian county.

"Inscriptions are found on all the vessels, the content of which covers 12 emperors of the Western Zhou Dynasty (about 1046-771 BC)," said Zhang.

A three-legged, wide shallow bowl with handles has 372 characters, the most of all the bronzes ever discovered from the Western Zhou Dynasty, the content of which is about eight generations of the Shan family, an important political power of the time.

"The inscriptions not only provide valuable material for research into the history and culture of the Western Zhou Dynasty, but are also significant to the dating of the Xia (about 2070-1600 BC), Shang (about 1600-1046 BC) and Zhou (about 1046-221 BC) dynasties, which is still unclear because of the lack of recorded history, but is important for the research into the development of ancient Chinese culture," said Zhang.

Liu Yunhui, deputy director of Shaanxi bureau of cultural relics, said the five villagers were rewarded for protecting the bronzes.

MNA/Xinhua

East China sees rapid economic development

JINAN, 15 Jan—East China's Shandong Province enjoyed a coordinated and healthy economic development in 2003, said Han Yuqun, governor of Shandong Province.

Speaking at a session of the provincial people's congress, Han said that the gross domestic product (GDP) of Shandong amounted to 150 billion US dollars, up 13.3 per cent from the previous year.

The growth rates of the provincial industry, agriculture and service industries were 5.6 per cent, 16.1 per cent and 11.9 per cent respectively, contributing 8.6 billion US dollars to the provincial finance, said the governor.

Shandong Province spent 64 billion US dollars in fixed assets in 2003, the governor said, and over 1,000 projects with over 12 million US dollars investment each were being constructed.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi man, suspected of involvement in attacks on coalition forces, is questioned in the living room of his home during a raid by the 82nd Airborne Division on 14 Jan, 2004 near Fallujah, Iraq. —INTERNET

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

BAGHDAD, 15 Jan—As of Wednesday, 14 January, 496 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 343 died as a result of hostile action and 153 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

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

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 358 US soldiers have died — 228 as a result of hostile action and 130 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department's figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,490 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 394.

The latest deaths reported by the military: A 101st Airborne Division soldier died Tuesday in a non-hostile incident in Mosul. —Internet

Frustration, clashes rise in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq, 15 Jan — Angry Iraqi demonstrators confronted Ukrainian army tanks and police in Kut for a second day, the *Washington Post* reported Wednesday.

Officials and witnesses said at least a dozen civilians and police were injured Tuesday, the fifth day of anti-government protests since 6 January in southern Iraqi cities with largely Shiite Muslim populations. The southern Shiites were systematically repressed during the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, and, until recently, largely supported the US-led invasion and appointed interim government.

The southern demonstrations coincided with a growing split between US officials and a prominent Shiite leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, who demanded Monday that direct elections be held soon. US authorities plan to hold regional caucuses to choose a national assembly but do not want to schedule elections until mid-2005.

The protests in Kut included recently dismissed soldiers and laborers who have long been without jobs. Their anger was directed largely at local and regional officials who they said demanded bribes or were former members of Saddam's Baath Party.

Internet

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Conflict continues



Map of Iraq locating the latest developments.—INTERNET

Art therapy helps Iraqi children recover from war

BAGHDAD, 15 Jan—At the Seasons Art School in south Baghdad, the goal is not to teach or learn but to give back Iraqi children their lost childhood.

There are no classes and no exams. After formal lessons at other schools, about 180 children from five to 18 come here for a few hours a day, and teachers help them use art, music and drama to unlock emotions which they may have suppressed during years of war.

"Music or painting can help the children by making them forget their real life," staff member Iyad Hadi said on Tuesday, as a class of girls and boys scribbled happily with wax crayons on paper.

"When they get here, they play, that makes them psychologically happier."

Set up in last October by a new Iraqi non-governmental organization called Childhood's Voice, the school welcomes disabled and deprived children among an intake from a wide range of backgrounds.

"We believe in the inherent creativity and loving potential of all children," reads a poster drawn up for a small art exhibition of the school's paintings at a Baghdad hotel.

The pictures displayed are bright drawings of brick houses and fir trees and sunshine which could hang on any classroom or fridge door worldwide. But teachers said that when the children first came to the school, their images were darker.

"A lot of kids used to draw tanks, airplanes, guns," Husni Mohammad said. "We used to tear them apart, say it's over, it's OK now."

Kiyoko McCrae, who works for an anti-war coalition in the United States and visited the school in Baghdad, said her experience was that traumatized children used art as both

an escape and a way to deal with buried problems.

"Art therapy is a way to express emotions we are feeling inside," she said. "Many children have no way to express themselves at all, when you go through a traumatic situation your only defence is that you shut off, don't speak very much."

The school has two psychologists on hand to monitor the children and help them mix. One of the psychologists, Rasha Imad, said she had seen significant improvement in many children since starting work there three months ago.

"They have started to be calmer in the classroom, to mix better, to recognize letters and numbers and understand the meaning of play," she said.

MNA/Reuters

US economic policies under fire at Americas-wide summit

MONTREY, (Mexico), 15 Jan— Latin American leaders told President George W Bush on Tuesday "perverse" US-backed economic policies had failed their nations although they also agreed to fight corruption and terrorism together.

Bush tried at the 34-nation Summit of the Americas in Mexico to win back the support of regional leaders after spending the last two years focused almost exclusively on Iraq and security.

Although he earned backing for modest anti-corruption measures and the fight against terrorism, he also heard stinging criticism that rampant free market policies had done nothing to ease poverty and had forced countries like Argentina into deep crisis.

Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the "Washington consensus" of unfettered capitalism in Latin America in the 1990s had not delivered growth and kept millions of people hungry in shanty towns and far-flung villages.

"After the 1980s — the so-called lost decade — the 90s was a decade of despair," he said, calling for new policies to tackle poverty directly.

"It was a perverse model that wrongly separated the economic from the social, put stability against growth and separated responsibility and justice," Lula said. "Economic stability turned its back on social justice."

The Iraq war was widely unpopular in Latin America and countries like Brazil and Argentina have moved to the political left so US-backed policies are no longer an easy sell.

President Nestor Kirchner of Argentina, which suffered financial collapse two years ago, said past mistakes were being repeated today and complained he was not getting enough support for his efforts to rebuild the economy and pay off debt.

"We suffer pressures, incomprehension and delays from international organizations which do not appear to understand our need to grow," he said. "It is unacceptable to insist on recipes that have failed."

Latin American nations defeated a US proposal that the most corrupt governments in the Americas be barred from regional meetings. They said it was too vague and some feared Washington would use it to isolate its rivals.

Other anti-corruption proposals were approved, however, including a commitment to deny safe haven to corrupt officials on the run as well as extradite them to their home countries and help seize their assets.

MNA/Reuters

NASA says "Space Station" leak traced to US lab

Moscow, 15 Jan— A leak which caused air pressure to drop aboard the *International Space Station* is most likely to have origi-

nated in a hose in a US laboratory on board, a NASA official in Russia said on Monday.

The leak, discovered

late last month, sparked a fresh row over the 16-nation station between the United States and Russia. But both acknowledged that

it posed no danger to the two-man crew.

"The leak is in a flex hose in the lab window," Jim Neuman, Director of NASA's Human Space Flight Programme in Russia, told *Reuters* by telephone.

"It's 95 per cent at this stage... It is most likely the culprit."

He said the problem, if confirmed, would probably be solved by replacing the hose which helps keep air and condensation out of the windows around the laboratory.

Neuman believed there was no longer any need to proceed with a plan to isolate the crewmen — US astronaut Michael Foale and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri — in a station module for five days.

That plan called for closing hatches connecting the four main modules — two Russian and two American — in order to trace the leak.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqis men look into the window of a car in Baghdad on 13 Jan, 2004 which was riddled with bullets the day before killing the driver and a 10-year-old boy according to relatives of the victims. Relatives say that US soldiers opened fire at the car moments after an Army vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb on the street. One US soldier was killed in the bombing, the US military said.—INTERNET

Enjoying the taste of independence

U Maung Maung Soe Tint (Retired Ambassador)

In the airspace of the Union of Myanmar, I flew to Tachilek in eastern Shan State on 25 December 2003 on board a Myanmar Airways flight. I saw the Flag of the Union proudly flying in the morning breeze under the blue sky, with bluish mountain ranges in the background during the stopover at the Heho Airport, and also at the Tachilek Airport. As a citizen of Myanmar, I was happy and proud to see the State Flag fluttering in the air. And with so much joy, I felt the taste of independence.

At that moment, my mind went back to the morning on 19 September 1985. At 9.15 am on that day, as already agreed upon as Myanmar Ambassador to Australia, I presented my credentials to the Governor General in Canberra, Australia. I also took the salute of the guard of honour. While saluting the Union Flag being hoisted to the accompaniment of the national anthem, I came to remember the gratitude I owed to the State and the gratitude of my parents and teachers. I could serve as an Ambassador as Myanmar is an independent and sovereign nation. I was deeply thinking about the actual taste of independence.

As a citizen of the Union of Myanmar, I attended the ceremony to open a new hospital, covered by the Yaungkha Village Project, Monghsat District, eastern Shan State, on 16 December 2003. The project is being jointly implemented by Myanmar and Thailand under a friendship programme. The project has come into being under the agreement signed between the two countries to jointly wipe out the narcotic drugs and conduct border area development task. The Thai side contributed 20 million baht to the project to show its friendship towards Myanmar.

To prove her seriousness to the bilateral relations, the Myanmar Government sent high level officials of the State including Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region

Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, and local national race leader U Pauk Yuchan. Also present at the ceremony were Commander of the No 3 Military Area of Thailand Lt-Gen Pichammeth Muangmanee, the Thai in-charge of the project and senior military and civilian officials of Thailand. The motorcades from both countries met near the Friendship Bridge. From the bridge, the motorcades drove on for over 30 miles together to Yaungkha. The earth road was rather rough. But it was an important friendship journey.

Till we reached the hospital and school, the villagers greeted us. We felt refreshed when we saw them waving at us and welcoming us with their traditional songs and dances. And like the villagers, we were also happy. It was a victory of the Union people.

After the ceremony, they served us with the meals cooked from the vegetables and fish and meat from the local farms. I was having a cordial conversation with Thai senior military officer, who sat at the same table with me. I also discussed about the project with the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand. The Thai officials happily accepted my invitation to visit Yangon for further discussions. Because of Myanmar's fine historical traditions, the Thais respect the Myanmar people. We will have to preserve the traditions.

All along the journey, I was enjoying the taste of independence fully. I know well the sufferings of living under subjugation, oppression and torture, as I have had the personal experience of living under the Fascist occu-

pation and colonial enslavement. And when the nation was independent, I started to enjoy the dignity and rights of a citizen of an independent nation. Thus, I know the very difference between living under subjugation and living under independence, and also value the independence. Those were my memories for the independence. At the same time, I was thinking about and thanking the Tatmadaw members and the national people who sacrificed lives to restore and safeguard independence. Because of their sacrifices, we can live in the independent Union of Myanmar with dignity. I heartily thank all the heroes.

Then, I remembered what my Russian friends told me while I was serving as the Cultural Attache at the Myanmar Embassy in Moscow. They were the persons who defended Leningrad while the Nazi troops besieged the city for over 400 days. With patriotism, they faced hunger and all kinds of sufferings to drive out the enemy in safeguarding independence. More than 20 million Russians died during the World War II. They knew the value of a loaf of brown bread. They told me that they wished their children understand the sufferings they had faced to safeguard independence; that they wanted their children to enjoy the independence they had safeguarded with a lot of life, blood and sweat.

We crossed the Friendship Bridge, and went up a hillock to pay homage to a pagoda built by King Alungphaya near Maesai. When viewed from the hillock, we saw Tachilek and Maesai lying together peacefully. I was also enjoying the taste of independence with pride, as I saw from the hill the State Flag of the Union of Myanmar flying in Tachilek.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 12 January 2004.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects development tasks in Myeik



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views text books prescribed at Myeik University in Myeik, Taninthayi Division on 13-1-2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects tasks for construction of the Maha Siddhi Pagoda on Sandawady Hill in Myeik, Taninthayi Division on 13-1-2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects newly-constructed Myeik General Hospital (200-bed) in Myeik, Taninthayi Division on 13-1-2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Daungkumaw crab breeding farm in Thannut Village-tract in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Division on 13-1-2004. — MNA

Deep-water seaport in Dawei District ...

(from page 1)

(Taninthayi) Ltd and Htoo Htoo Toe Fisheries Ltd, K 5 million each by Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council and Coastal Region Command Headquarters, K 3.6 million each by the Mon peace group, U Saw Jet of Annawa Soe Co and Tetnay Co, K 2 million each by Myeik, Kawthoung and Dawei District Peace and Development Councils, K 1 million each by Ahsaung Kaung Fisheries Ltd and Moekaung Oil Palm Co, K 200,000 by U Sai Kyaw of the Paradise Hotel, K 350,000 each by U In Hone and U Maung Win (Kanphy), K 1.05 million by Thida Fisheries Co, K 6.3 million by Vintage Co and Summit Co, and K .5 million each by Dr Soe Win and U Khin Zaw of Tour Mandalay. Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Myeik University. Pro-rector U Khin Maung Cho and faculty members welcomed the Prime Minister.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt reported to the Prime Minister on brief history of the university, courses and specialisation conducted, student population, organizational set-up and IT centre complete with 84 sets of computers and construction tasks. Senior Engineer U Kyaw Myint reported to the Prime Minister on construction tasks. After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister gave instruction on construction of a main building attached to convocation hall.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed round the books displayed at the oceanography lab and gave instructions on taking necessary measures for development of oceanography. Later, the Prime Minister and party went to new 200-bed General Hospital in Myeik. The medical superintendent, doctors and nurses welcomed the Prime Minister and party. Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed round the hospital and inspected the construction of the main operation theatre.

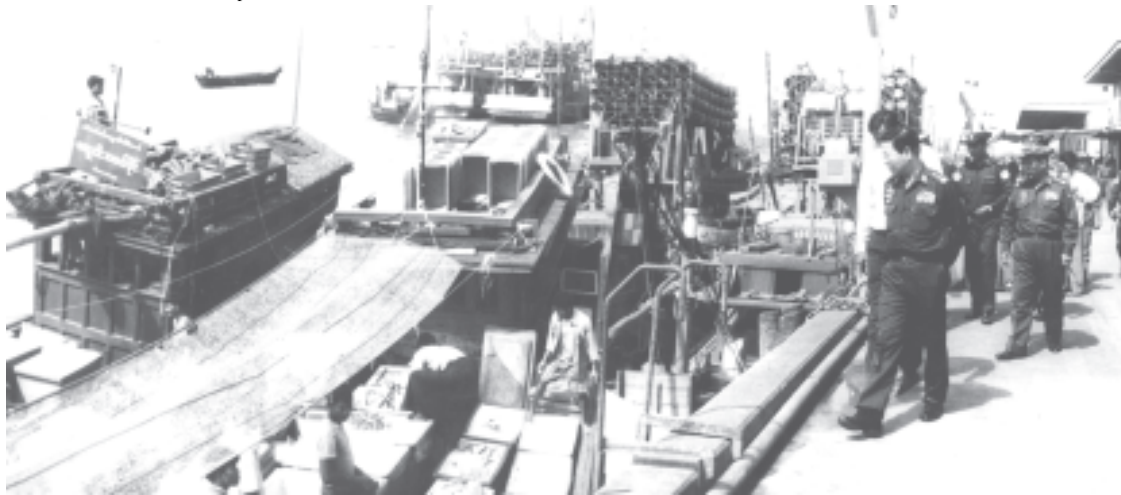
Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and the medical superintendent of the hospital reported to the Prime Minister on treatment and construction tasks of the hospital. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. Afterwards, the Prime Minister arrived at Laykyun Hsemi pagoda in Myeik and paid reverence to a Buddha Image. The Prime Minister and party also contributed cash towards the funds of the pagoda. Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the International Fish Auc-

team of high level officials were touring Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung regions in Taninthayi Division to look into the regional development undertakings, while inspecting the state-sponsored projects.

The team inspected the deep-water seaport that will benefit the nation much in the future as well as the transport, health, education and social sectors and the situation of the local agricultural entrepreneurs and the economy of Dawei region. If a deep-water seaport can be built in Dawei



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the 1,000-ton cold storage of Pyae Phyo Tun Int'l Co Ltd on Pahtaw Island in Kyunsu Township on 13-1-2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the International Fish Auction Market in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, on 13-1-2004. MNA

tion Market in Myeik and inspected the business of private companies.

Later, the Prime Minister met with members of Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and members of social organizations at Pale Yadana hall in Myeik.

First, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported to the Prime Minister on arrangements for ensuring the local rice sufficiency, yearly rice output, targeted monsoon paddy acreage, arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy, winter crops, oil palm, rubber and pepper, production of meat and fish, and livestock breeding tasks by citing facts and figures.

After hearing the report, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said starting 11 January he and his

District, the sea-borne goods from West Europe and South Asia can be transported to Thailand via the district. Thus, the project will benefit not only Myanmar, but also the neighbouring and regional countries. The inspection tour was meant to witness the deep-water seaport as well as the arrangements to start a transnational highway project that will be jointly implemented by Myanmar, India and Thailand. He and his team has already attended to the needs of an industrial zone project in Launglon Township, Dawei District, and world-class infrastructure projects to develop Maungmakan beach.

On 12 January, the team after looking into the requirements of Kawthoung region development, studied the rich aqua resources of the

southern tip of the country, prospects of eco-tourism development in Myeik archipelago, and Ma Kyone Galet, Salone and Pale islands. The whole Taninthayi Division including Myeik Township is rich in natural resources, and have been the region contributing much to Myanmar economy throughout the successive eras. In addition to fisheries, rubber plantation and mineral mining, oil palm cultivation is also standing as one of the main economies of the region at present.

The Government has been encouraging the participation of the private entrepreneurs, while implementing necessary economic projects on self-reliant basis for progress of the entire Taninthayi Division including Myeik, Dawei and Kawthoung, to become a zone contributing towards

the national development. Local authorities and departmental personnel should strive for the successful implementation of the State's national development projects, while giving support to the private sector. Local authorities and departmental heads will have to make efforts with heart and soul for regional rice sufficiency, to provide encouragement and assistance to the private oil palm cultivation business to help fulfil the edible oil consumption of the nation and to further develop the fisheries that is the largest sector and the most basic foundation of the regional economy. The private sector is extending coastal and deep-sea fishing in cooperation with the neighbouring countries. In order to effectively utilize the nation's riches for the State interest,

the Government is making arrangements to assign duties to the private sector, combining its financial power, efforts and efficient management system, base on common interest. Thus, the private entrepreneurs should extend their enterprises, while existing as a force worthy of the State's protection and support. Officials are required to strive for progress of the regional businesses including rubber, pepper and mining. As pearl culture is achieving success under the leadership of the State, efforts should be made for the business to flourish with added momentum.

As the private sector has been assigned to develop nature tourism in Taninthayi Division possessing wide and long beaches, vast diversity of flora and fauna, (See page 9)



The newly-constructed 200-bed General Hospital (Myeik) in Taninthayi Division. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with local authorities, departmental officials and members of social organizations at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik. — MNA

Deep-water seaport in...

(from page 8)

and pristine islands and coral reefs, the government bodies are required to support the sector. The team inspected the arrangements to hold the Salone Festival, making arrangements for the national entrepreneurs and the departments to implement development undertakings including the eco-tourism business to help Salone race settle at appropriate places, improve their social standard, promote their culture, and preserve their race. The Salone is a rare and significant people of the world living on boats, and earning their living fishing, their skilled profession. The Government has been further improving the transport sector, the main requirement for development of the whole Taninthayi Division.

In addition to Lenya Mandaing Bridge and Kyweku Kyaukphya Bridge, major bridges were constructed. Moreover, Kawthoung-Myeik-Mawlamyine motor road was constructed. As a result, there has emerged a motor road linking Kawthoung, the southernmost town in Myanmar, to Putao, the northernmost town in Myanmar.

At a time when the Government is making systematic arrangements for developing all sectors in Taninthayi Division, departmental officials, on their part, should make field trips down to grass-roots level and implement the Government's regional development measures to ensure the higher living standard of the people.

A peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy, which is the national goal, will take shape in a not too distant future without a shadow of doubt should the departmental officials lend themselves practically and energetically to the drive to improve the regions where they are assigned duties.

Now that the seven-point roadmap of the State designed to create a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic state is put into action

systematically by the Government, it is incumbent upon departmental officials as well as the entire national people to make active and harmonious cooperation with the Government so as to secure achievements in these tasks in the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit, he concluded.

Next, U Htay Myint, Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd, donated K 50 million to the education, health and rural development tasks of Myeik region and K 500,000 to the Pale Kyun BEHS (branch); Zegaba Co Ltd Chairman U Khin Shwe, K 500,000 to the Pale Kyun BEHS (branch); U Kya Maung of International Marine Products Co, K 500,000 to the Pale Kyun BEHS (branch); and Managing Director of Tour Mandalay Co Ltd U Khin Zaw, K 200,000 to the same school. The donations of cash were received by Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Hseiknge Bridge in Myeik, and then they left for Daungkumaw crabs breeding camp in Thantok village-tract in Kyunsu Township.

Officials of Ahsaung Kaung Industries Co Ltd reported to the Prime Minister and party on production of fresh fish and prawns, the breeding of crabs in 15 ponds, and

the condition of the company's incomes realized from the export of crabs.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions, saying that efforts are to be made to breed crabs which have a ready market in foreign nations as many as possible and that the ministries concerned are to offer necessary assistance to private sectors with the conviction that the development of private economies is in other way round the economic growth of the country.

Manager of Ahsaung Kaung Industries Co Ltd U Aung Lin donated K 1.5 million worth of school exercise books and pencils to the basic education primary schools; Director U Maung Sit, K 1 million for the same reason. The donations were received by Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected the production and breeding of crabs at the camp.

The Prime Minister and party also went to the 1000-ton cold storage of Pyae Phyo Tun Intl' Co Ltd on Pathaw Kyun in Kyunsu Township. There they were conducted round the storage by officials. In giving instructions to officials of the storage, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt



Buildings on Myeik University campus in Taninthayi Division. — MNA



The developing condition of Taninthayi Division. — MNA

said that ways and means should be sought for the penetration of fish and prawns into foreign markets. Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party left Myeik by air and arrived back here in the evening.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, one of the members of the entourage of the Prime Minister, went to the subprinting house in Shanchaung Ward of Myeik on 13 January morning. There the minister inspected the construction works being carried out at the subprinting house and heard reports on progress of construction. Officials also conducted him round the construction site.

Later, the minister gave instructions on construction of the buildings meeting the set standards. He also met with employees of the Information and Public Relations Department at district and township levels and gave instructions on efforts to achieve the targeted goals in the implementation of the tasks. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects the construction site at the subprinting house in Myeik, Taninthayi Division. — MNA



School buildings of the Government Computer College (Myeik) seen on 13-1-2004 in Taninthayi Division. — MNA

Regional development measures inspected in Myitkyina

YANGON, 15 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, and departmental heads, left here by air for Myitkyina of Kachin State on 12 January morning.

On arrival at the Myitkyina Airport, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed there by Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman and Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Brig-Gen Bo Kyi of Myitkyina Station and senior military officers, departmental officials, and local people.

At the Myitkyina Government Technological College, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the teaching aids at the electronic communication department, the electric power department and the mechanical department, workshops and computer rooms.

At the briefing hall, the principal of the college gave a brief account of the history of the college, courses available at the college, the population of students and the strength of faculty members of the college, followed by supplementary reports by Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said that the Government is making efforts to develop human resources crucial for the establishment of a modern nation. Therefore, it is necessary for the teachers of the college to arm themselves with advanced technologies while nurturing their students to be intellectuals.

Moreover, steps are to be taken to be able to produce essential new items and innovate import-substitute goods through the integration of their intellects with the growing private industries. The Secretary-1 then cordially met with the faculty members of the college.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at the Drug Addicts Treatment Hospital in

Myitkyina, where officials of the hospital reported on matters related to treatment being given to drug addicts, mental as well as physical treatment, and anti-drug campaigns. Director-General of the Health Department also made additional reports.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 gave instructions and inspected round the hospital. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Ye Myint signed in the visitors' book of the hospital.

At the Myitkyina 300-bed General Hospital, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the man and women patient

vide public health care are in accord with the social objectives of the State. The Secretary-1 later attended to the requirements.

The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to the Myitkyina University, where he met with the rector, professors, associate professors, lecturers, demonstrators at the hall of the university. On the occasion, the rector reported on matters related to the university. After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 gave instructions, saying that the Government is making efforts to achieve simultaneous development in political, economic



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with the rector, professors and associate-professors of Myitkyina University. — MNA

wards, the surgical room, the intensive care unit, and the operation theatre. At the hall of the hospital, the Secretary-1 met with specialists, doctors and nurses and heard reports on treatment being given to patients, the raising of medical trust funds, and necessities of the hospital.

In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 said that with an average life expectancy of 62 years for men and that of 65 years for women, it is found that the people of Myanmar now enjoy longer life. Apart from it, Myanmar made clear to the world that since 2003 it has reached the status of a country free from leprosy and polio, and of a country that has brought TB under control. Similarly, the successful separation of conjoined twins, kidney transplants, and the rejoining of crushed arms are significant achievements in the health sector.

These measures being taken by health staff to pro-

vide and social sectors. Success has been achieved in these tasks owing to the active participation of employees and the people. An adequate amount of infrastructure has been provided for the health, education and road transportation sectors. Arrangements are under way to further provide such requirements.

At the same time, as the seven-point roadmap of the State has been set, measures are being taken phase by phase to ensure the economic security of the people. He then called upon the faculty members of the university to do everything in their capacity to implement the goals.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the microbiology laboratory and the library at the university and the construction works being carried out there. After inspecting the construction of Adipadi road and the archway of the university, the Secretary-1 gave instructions to officials.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party headed for Government Computer College in Myitkyina. Principal Daw Khin Than Mya reported on salient points about the college and Managing Director of the Ever Green Construction Co Ltd U Than Shwe, on construction tasks. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe gave a supplementary report.

The Secretary-1 inspected the scale model of the college and left necessary instructions. Next, they attended the stake-driving ceremony for construction of a Government Technological College near Pammati Village in Myitkyina. Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander drove the stakes at the designated places and sprinkled scented water on them.

The Secretary-1 looked into the site chosen for construction of the college and gave instructions to the officials concerned.

The Secretary-1 and party held a meeting with industrialists at Myitkyina Industrial Zone. Chairman of Myitkyina Industrialists Association U Soe Myint Tun reported on establishment of the industrial zone, and assistance rendered by Kachin State Peace and Development Council for development of the zone; and industrialists, on tasks being implemented.

In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 elaborated on necessary assistance pro-

vided and encouragement being given by the State for the industrial development. He spoke of the need of the industrialists to visit the other industrial zones for development of Myitkyina Industrial Zone.

The Secretary-1 and party viewed the farm implements, and machines produced by Myitkyina Industrial Zone.

Next, they headed for Bala Minhtin Bridge across Ayeyawady River. Officials reported on implementation of Mali Hydropower Project, work being done, efforts being made for ensuring completion of the project by the end of 2004, and arrangements being made for distribution of electricity from the 10.5 megawatt power plant to Myitkyina and Waingmaw.

The Secretary-1 gave instructions to the officials concerned. Afterwards, Deputy Superintending Engineer of Bridge Special Group 15 U Soe Thet reported on condition of the flow of Ayeyawady River, construction of stone embankment near the bridge on the left of Myitkyina and work progress.

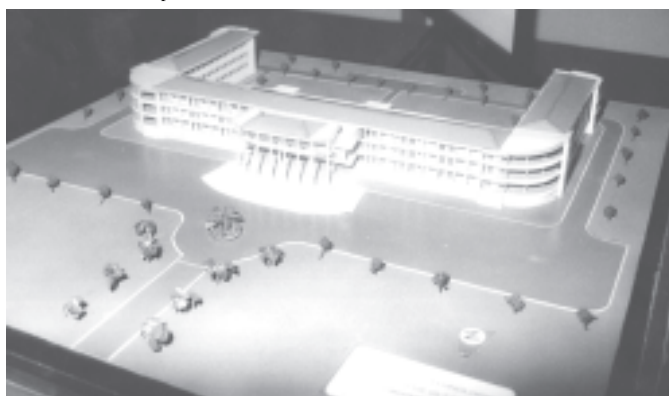
The Secretary-1 inspected the site chosen for construction of a control tower, progress in construction of the stone embankment and the bridge opened in November 1998. They proceeded to Waingmaw in the evening. U Hsin Wah Naung of Kachin State Special Region 2 reported on measures being taken for upgrading of Myitkyina-

Bhamo Road by Kachin State Special Region 2 and Jade Land Myanmar Co; and Engineer (Project) U Tin Myint, on repair work to the road. The Secretary-1 and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected construction of 110-mile Myitkyina-Bhamo Road.

They arrived back Myitkyina later in the evening and inspected the chosen site for construction of the main sub-power station of Malikha Hydropower Project. They inspected the stone embankment along Ayeyawady River near Kachin State Development Affairs Committee office. Officials reported on building of the stone embankment. The Secretary-1 and party visited Myitkyina Dhamma Rakkhita Wuntho Monastery and presented offertories to Presiding Sayadaw Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Silavamsa and members of the Sangha.

Member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, met with secretaries, executives and members of Kachin State, Myitkyina District, Putao District and Myitkyina Township USDAs at the office of Kachin State USDA office. —MNA



The scale model of Myitkyina Government Computer College. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the Meeting No 1/2004 of the ASEAN Steering Committee. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ASEAN Steering Committee Meeting 1/2004

YANGON, 15 Jan — ASEAN Steering Committee Meeting 1/2004 was held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 4 pm today attended by Chairman of the ASEAN Steering Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

It was attended by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the auditor-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the judge advocate-general, deputy ministers, members of the steering committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

First, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported on the requirements to add new members in the steering committee, and attendance of the delegations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at ASEAN meetings. Next, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu reported on matters related to reduction of taxes for imports up to 0 per cent in accord with the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme, participation of Myanmar in Standards and Conformance of the ASEAN, the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Trade Negotiating Group held in conjunction with the 10th Meeting of the ASEAN-China Trade Negotiating Committee held in the PRC from 11 to 14 November, 2003.

Afterwards, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone reported on matters related to the first meeting on implementation of ASEAN economic agreements, and formation of

subcommittees for respective economic sectors. Next, the chairman of the CSSTB, Dr Than Nyun reported on matters related to the participation of Myanmar delegation in the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN on Government Employees held in Brunei from 13 to 15 October 2003.

Vice-President U Win Aung of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry reported on matters related to ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) Meeting. After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister made a speech. He said the ASEAN stood firmly as a united organization with rapid momentum of development. As a result, international organizations including western and European nations shifted their attention to the ASEAN and promoted friendly relations with it.

At the ASEAN Summit held in Cambodia, the delegation of South Africa attended the meeting on behalf of the African nations and discussed the possibilities of cooperation with the ASEAN.

The People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea was participating in ASEAN+3 cooperation in the Asia region, the Prime Minister added.

The Republic of India started its cooperation with the ASEAN in the Ninth Summit of the ASEAN in Indonesia.

Members of the ASEAN countries was offering opportunities to the newcomers including Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam by rendering assistance. The unity

of the ASEAN became stronger and leaders of the member countries were extending friendly relations based on mutual respect towards each others, said the Prime Minister.

In this way, leaders of the ASEAN nations supported the seven-point future policy programme of Myanmar.

Today, problems caused by rapid developments in international affairs could not be overcome by any single nation. With this in mind, world nations had established organizations to work for the mutual benefit.

Myanmar was participating not only in the ASEAN but also in the BIMSTEC that would connect the South Asian and South-East Asian countries.

It could be seen that with its participation in regional countries and organizations, Myanmar was able to enjoy the gradual progress in political, economic, social sectors, as favourable foundations had been achieved in the country.

Ministries concerned were required to actively participate in the ASEAN meetings and implement the results of the meetings in Myanmar, the Prime Minister pointed out. In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged those present to exert efforts to enable Myanmar to actively participate in the activities of the ASEAN for the realization of the objectives enshrined in the ASEAN Vision: 2020 that aims at the harmonious development of its member countries and strengthens the political, economic, social infrastructures of them. — MNA

Hsamalauk Village MCWA's day nursery opened

YANGON, 15 Jan — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members arrived at Hsamalauk Village in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division, this morning.

They were welcomed there by Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Patron Daw Tin Tin Lat, wife of Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of South-West Com-

mand Maj-Gen Soe Naing, local authorities, members of the supervisory committee, officials, wellwishers, townsenders and others.

They attended the opening of the day nursery of Township MCWA (branch) at the township. Patron Daw Tin Tin Lat and Director of Dagon International Ltd Daw Moe Mya Mya formally opened the building. The MMCWA president unveiled the signboard of the day nursery.

Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party viewed the building and presented gifts

to the children.

At the cash donation ceremony, the MMCWA president made a speech. Maubin District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Sein Maung presented facts about the nursery. Chairman of the company U Win Aung handed over the documents related to the building, K 300,000, other cash donations made by the wellwishers to Division MCWA Supervisory Committee President Dr Than Aung, who then presented certificates of honour to him.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented teaching and learning aids to the school through Patron Daw Tin Tin Lat.

The team proceeded to Myanmar-Known You Peasants' Hospital in the village. They inspected the hospital and donated cash to the hospital and comforted the patients.

Vice-President Dr Kyi Soe held discussions with the youths of Lungye Yeikmon opened at the rural health care centre in the village.

MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents gifts to kids at the day nursery of Hsamalauk Village Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Branch) in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

CPT Minister arrives back

YANGON, 15 Jan — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, after attending the Asia IT Ministers' 2nd Summit held in Hyderabad, India on 12 and 13 January, arrived back here by air yesterday evening.

The minister was welcomed at the airport by Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Chairman of Civil Service

Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, officials of Indian embassy, departmental heads from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Myanma Telecommunication and family members.

CEC member U Thang Tin of the UMCCI, who accompanied the minister, also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

West Bangalore State Governor arrives

YANGON, 15 Jan — At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, West Bangalore State Governor Mr Viren J Shah and party of India arrived here by air this afternoon.

The guests were welcomed at the airport by Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department, Director-General

U Thang Tun of Political Department, Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Military Attaché Colonel Jasvinder Singh Chopra and officials.

The Indian governor was accompanied by his wife and his personal assistants.

The Indian guests, together with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

visited the National Museum on Pyay Road here in the evening.

After looking around the museum, the governor signed in the visitors' book and left there.

Minister U Win Aung hosted a dinner in honour of the guests at Karaweik Palace, Kandawgyi, here.

MNA

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Eastman Kodak Co on 13 Jan, 2004 said it will stop selling traditional film cameras in the US, Canada and Western Europe, another move by the photography company to cut lines with declining appeal in favour of fast-growing digital products. With sales of digital cameras poised to overtake film cameras for the first time this year, Kodak is redefining itself in an effort to keep pace. But the No 1 maker of photographic film will continue to sell one-time use cameras in the West and expand its sales of these and other film-based cameras — and film — in emerging markets where demand is on the rise. Kodak Advantix cameras are seen in this February 1996 file photo.—INTERNET

WHO confirms new polio cases in Cameroon, Benin

GENEVA, 15 Jan—The World Health Organization (WHO), battling to eradicate polio worldwide by the end of the year, confirmed on Tuesday that the disease had resurfaced in Cameroon and Benin.

The UN health agency said one case had been identified in each of the West African states, and had spread there from neighbouring Nigeria.

Once one of the world's most devastating and wide-

spread diseases, polio is now endemic in only six countries — India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Niger and Egypt — but stamping it out completely has proved difficult.

Over 650 cases were

reported in 2003, Nigeria topping the list with 300, followed by India with 214 and Pakistan with 96. But the total was sharply down on the 1,918 recorded in 2002.

MNA/Reuters

Bam survivors face rising heat, irrigation damage

BAM (Iran), 15 Jan—Rapidly rising temperatures in southern Iran and damage to underground irrigation systems vital to the local economy are clouding the outlook for the survivors of last month's devastating earthquake in Bam.

Mohammad Ali Karimi, Governor of the southern Kerman Province, told the European Union's visiting foreign policy chief Javier Solana that the initial rescue phase was over but the impending onslaught of the desert spring and summer heat made housing the top priority.

Karimi told Solana that he believed 42,000 of Bam's 100,000 people had died in the quake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale, significantly higher than the official toll of around 30,000.

Fears were also raised that an ancient system of underground irrigation canals, or qanats, may be badly damaged, threatening the long-term future of the desert oasis, whose economy depends on horticulture, especially dates.

Aid workers from around the world working at Bam echoed Karimi's concerns as the temperature stood at over 20 Celsius (68 Fahrenheit) even in January, with the brief spring set to give way to summer heat of over 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

"Very soon it will be too hot for tents," said Chian Hung-chi, whose Taiwan-based Dharma Drum charity assisted in housing after an earthquake in Taiwan four years ago.

"But before permanent housing can be built, we need 15,000 mobile homes," he said, adding that there were probably only 1,000 immediately available.

The most striking feature of Bam from the air is the huge palm grove stretching around the town which produces the world-famous dates that provide much of Bam's livelihood. All around is the desolate Dasht-e-Lut Desert.

Kerman Member of Parliament Hassan Khoshrou told Reuters 25 out of 64 qanats in the region had been damaged.

The full extent of the damage was not yet clear, but one visiting diplomat said there were fears the local qanats may have been shattered. "If they're not repaired, you're probably faced with desolation," he said.

Despite the devastation and piles of rubble everywhere, Bam had a sense of calm and order on Tuesday, as children played and queues formed patiently at mobile hospitals.

"We're treating about 550 outpatients a day, mostly for the normal things you'd expect in a community of this size," said Ingrid Tjoflaa, a Norwegian nurse at a tent hospital.

MNA/Reuters

India, Bahrain sign five agreements

NEW DELHI, 15 Jan — India and Bahrain Tuesday signed five agreements including an Extradition Treaty that deals with concrete steps to combat terrorism and strengthens bilateral cooperation in suppression of crime.

The agreements, signed in the presence of visiting Bahrain Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, includes a Memorandum of Understanding on Foreign Office consultations.

The other agreements are of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and judicial, commercial and civil matters. The two sides also signed a bilateral investment, promotion and protection agreement.

The Extradition Treaty was signed by Finance Minister Jaswant Singh and Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa al Khalifa, Bahrain's Transportation Minister. Bahrain is the second Gulf country after UAE with which India has signed the Extradition Treaty.

The MoU on Foreign Office consultations which recognizes the importance of exchange of opinions at different levels on matters of bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest was inked by External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha and Bahrain's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

At the delegation-level talks, Vajpayee

underlined the historical links between India and Bahrain and their cooperation in multi-lateral fora like the Non-Aligned Movement.

Vajpayee hoped that the visit of the Bahraini Prime Minister would mark a qualitative surge in bilateral relations, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

Referring to the agreements signed on Tuesday, he said these would initiate regular exchanges between security and law enforcement agencies of the two countries and establish a framework for institutional and investment relationship.

The Prime Minister lauded the consistent policy of the Bahrain Government of ensuring that Indian expatriates work in an atmosphere that enables them to contribute fully to the economic success of that country.

He also welcomed the initiatives taken by the Gulf Cooperation Council to establish institutional relations with India, both in the political and economic fields.

India's External Affairs Minister called on the Bahrain leader who will also have meetings with Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat.—MNA/PTI

Knife-wielding 90-year-old sends NZ intruder packing

WELLINGTON, 15 Jan—A 90-year-old New Zealand man grabbed a carving knife from his kitchen and chased away a masked intruder who had threatened his wife with a butter knife.

The intruder waved the flimsy weapon at David Saulbrey's wife when she tried to ring the police to report Tuesday's break-in at their home in Lower Hutt, near Wellington, the Dominion-Post newspaper reported.

Saulbrey, who failed to hear the hapless intruder's demand for money because

he was not wearing his hearing aid, then beat the burglar in a search for a more threatening weapon.

"Once I got the carving knife I said: 'Now you bastard, you're for it.' With that he threw his knife at me and took off out the door," Saulbrey told the newspaper.

"I was that bloody wild.

I would have stuck (the knife) in his Adam's apple," he said.

New Zealand police said they did not recommend confronting an armed intruder but praised Saulbrey's bravery.

"He's a tough old bugger. You wouldn't think he was 90, that's for sure," Detective Scott Cooper was quoted as saying.

MNA/Reuters



White smoke rises about 800 metres (2,600 feet) in the air from a crater of Mount Aso in Kumamoto Prefecture (state), southern Japan, on 14 Jan, 2004. The Fukuoka Meteorological Observatory issued public warning on Wednesday of volcanic activity. The 1,592-metre (5,223-foot) volcano is one of Japan's five most active volcanoes.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Inter scrape draw in Italian Cup quarter-finals

ROME, 15 Jan— A second-string Inter Milan side scraped a 0-0 draw against Udinese in the first leg of their Italian Cup quarter-final on Tuesday.

With several first-team regulars resting, including Christian Vieri and Fabio Cannavaro, the most impressive visiting player at Udinese's Friuli stadium turned out to be reserve keeper Alberto Fontana, who kept his side in the contest with a string of fine saves.

Udinese midfielders Valentim Alberto and Martin Jorgensen and playmaker David Pizarro all had close-range efforts blocked by Fontana in a one-sided first half.

Inter's only chance before the break arrived in the 25th minute, when Obafemi Martins blasted the ball against the side netting.

There was no rest for the visitors after the interval either, though they tightened up their defence enough to ensure they carried the deadlock into the second leg on January 21.

In Wednesday's quarter-final fixtures reigning Cup champions AC Milan repeat last season's final when they face AS Roma and Parma play Lazio, while Perugia take on Juventus on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters



Levante's Colombian player Edwin Congo, right, fights for the ball against FC Barcelona's Giovanni Van Bronckhorst during a 3rd round, 2nd leg King's Cup match in Barcelona, Spain, on 14 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Ecuador beats Peru 4-2 in Olympic qualifier

SANTIAGO, 15 Jan — Johnny Baldeon scored twice in the first half to help Ecuador beat Peru 4-2 in a South American Olympic qualifying match in Coquimbo, Chile, on Monday. Colombia beat Bolivia 2-0 in another Group B game. Baldeon opened the scoring in the 9th minute in a counterattack on a pass from Fernando Saritama.

He made it 2-0 seven minutes later, dribbling past three defenders to score with a low shot.

Alberto Rodriguez scored again for Peru one minute into the second half. But Franklin Salas scored on a penalty kick in the 58th minute and Roberto Mina scored in the 47th minute to give Ecuador its second victory in the tournament.

MNA/Xinhua

Real fine Ronaldo for flying visit to London

MADRID, 15 Jan— Brazilian striker Ronaldo has been fined by Real Madrid for making an unauthorized trip to London, the club's sporting director Jorge Valdano said on Tuesday.

"Ronaldo made the trip without the permission of the club and the appropriate sanction was applied," Valdano told Telemadrid Radio.

The player said last week that he did not think he should be punished for the visit, explaining that he had gone to London to fulfil publicity obligations with the sportswear firm Nike and had missed training on his return because of difficulties with his flight. "I don't think I will be fined because I have done nothing wrong," he said at the time.

"The plane couldn't land at the airport on time because of fog and that's why I arrived late for training. I'm fully aware of my obligations and want to fulfil all of them."

Valdano said that reports that the club had intervened to prevent him attending Chelsea's match against Liverpool on Wednesday were not true.

"It is not correct that we rang him to stop him going to see Chelsea because we didn't even know he was in England at that time".

MNA/Reuters

England keeper James to join Man City

LONDON, 15 Jan— England goalkeeper David James is set to join Premier League Manchester City from first division West Ham United for an undisclosed fee, replacing the retiring David Seaman.

The 33-year-old James, who has yet to agreed personal terms, is likely to make his debut against Blackburn Rovers at the City of Manchester stadium on Saturday providing he passes a medical on Wednesday. City said on their website on Tuesday. James has won 20 caps for England, where he has succeeded Seaman as Sven Goran Eriksson's number one keeper.

"David James is a tremendous acquisition," City manager Kevin Keegan said.

"We have been looking to strengthen the goalkeeping position and to secure the England number one is terrific news."

James joined West Ham, relegated from the Premier League last season, in 2001 following a two-year spell at Aston Villa and seven years at Liverpool. —MNA/Reuters

Charlton turn down Chelsea offer for Parker

LONDON, 15 Jan— English Premier League side Charlton Athletic have rejected a move by Chelsea to buy midfielder Scott Parker, the south London club said on their web site on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old former England under-21 international renewed his contract with Charlton for five years last July and the club's chief executive Peter Varney said: "Scott Parker is not for sale and we do not welcome this enquiry".

Third-placed Chelsea are looking for cover in midfield after injuries to Frenchman Emmanuel Petit, Argentine Juan Sebastian Veron and Ireland winger Damien Duff.

The big spending club, bankrolled by Russian tycoon owner Roman Abramovich, have been linked with several players during the transfer window this month but no signings have been confirmed.

Charlton, in fourth place 11 points adrift of Chelsea, are competing for a European place next season. Varney said Parker was "a vital part of our plans as we continue the process of establishing Charlton as one of the top clubs in the country." — MNA/Reuters

Bayern's Scholl, Linke agree to stay to 2005

BERLIN 15 Jan— Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich have extended the contracts of midfielder Mehmet Scholl and defender Thomas Linke until June 2005, the club's web site reported.

Bayern said both had agreed to extend their contracts, which were due to expire at the end of the season, whilst in Dubai at a training camp during the traditional winter break. "They will sign their contracts when they are back in Munich," said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

Former Germany player Scholl, 33, joined Bayern from Karlsruhe in 1992. He has been plagued by injuries in past years, most recently having surgery on an intervertebral disc, and played only three matches this season.

Rummenigge, however, said Scholl was recovering quickly and now pain free.

Linke joined Bayern in 1998 from fellow Bundesliga club Schalke 04 and the 34-year-old, who has 41 international caps, said he hoped to play on after his Bayern contract expired. — MNA/Reuters

Chelsea, Scarborough set up FA Cup classic

LONDON, 15 Jan— Chelsea thumped Watford 4-0 in their FA Cup third round replay on Wednesday to set up a classic fourth-round tie against minor league Scarborough, who upset Third Division Southend 1-0.

In the night's other replay, an all-Premier League clash, two late goals gave Manchester City a desperately needed 3-1 success at Leicester City to end their 14-game winless run.

Chelsea advanced with two goals from Adrian Mutu, one from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and another from Eidur Gudjohnsen as they atoned for a lacklustre performance at Vicarage Road 11 days ago.

There they had to come from behind twice to draw 2-2 with a side beset by financial problems and now sixth-from last in the First Division.

Watford started well, earning four corners in the first four minutes, but went behind to Mutu's first after seven minutes.

Hasselbaink got the second in the 34th minute and Watford's hopes evaporated in the 76th when Mutu scored his second — the Romanian striker's third in two games having gone 14 without a goal.

Gudjohnsen finished it off in the 84th minute when he put away a cross from fellow substitute Damien Duff, making his first appearance since dislocating his shoulder last month.

Manager Claudio Ranieri was delighted his three strikers had found the target. "It's important for strikers to score. It's like oxygen to them," said the Italian.

He was also pleased with the return of Duff. "When he runs one to one with the ball he is devastating," he said.

Scarborough left it late to set up their dream tie at their 6,250-capacity ground. Striker Mark Quayle got the only goal from close range seven minutes from time.

Their third win over league opposition in the competition this season meant that Scarborough followed fellow Conference team Telford United into the fourth round but it the Yorkshire side who landed the plum tie as the Chelsea game will be televised live earning them a huge payout.

Manchester City, like Chelsea, also twice came from behind to draw 2-2 in the initial meeting and they too took early control of the replay — albeit away from home.

They struck after 12 minutes when a deep cross by Trevor Sinclair was headed in by French midfielder Antoine Sibierski.

Leicester upped the pressure after the break and equalized with a deflected Les Ferdinand free kick after 73 minutes but Nicolas Anelka seized on some hesitant defending to strike for the visitors in the 90th minute.

Jonathan Macken added a third in injury time to secure the win that earned City a home tie with Tottenham Hotspur.

MNA/Reuters



Roma's Gaetano D'Agostino, left, and Daniele de Rossi, centre, fight for the ball with Milan's Clarence Seedorf of the Netherlands, right, during the 'Italy Cup' Coppa Italia soccer match between Milan and Roma, in Milan, on 14 Jan, 2003.—INTERNET

MRTV-3



16-1-2004 (Friday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 9:06 Tour In Myanmar
"Yangon"
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant)
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Lucky Bamboo
- 9:25 Sound of the harp at-
tracting Love
- 9:28 Beautiful Taninthayi
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-I)
- 9:40 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady River
(Sagaing)"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Mogok, The Gems
Land
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

16-1-2004 (Friday) 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 "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Tour In Myanmar
"Yangon"
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant)
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Lucky Bamboo
- 15:55 Sound of the harp at-
tracting Love
- 15:58 Beautiful Taninthayi
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-I)
- 16:10 Song "The Beauty of

- the Ayeyawady River
(Sagaing)"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Mogok, The Gems
Land
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Socioeconomic Condi-
tions of Chin State
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Traditional
Shwedaung Noodle)
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 An Umbrella For Style
- 16:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Feel like an
Earthquake"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victoria
- 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 "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 19:36 Kayah State
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Prawn Salad)
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Baungte: My Village
- 19:55 Kayah Dance
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
- 20:10 Song "Pleasant Kayah"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
- 20:25 Song "Invitations from
Manaw Land"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Music for Your Ears
(Than Sann Lyric
Notes)
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Noodle with Coco-
nut-soup"
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
- 20:55 Shutaing Thaswa

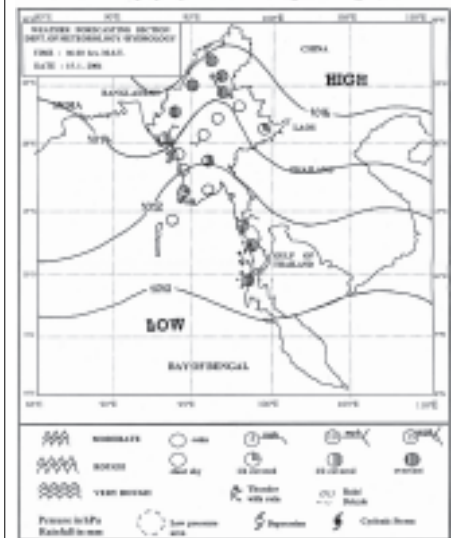
- Nandar-Kan Ahla
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Hsinbyushin Temples,
Stone Carving and
Monasteries
- 21:10 Song "Golden Land,
Myanmar"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Tour In Myanmar
"Yangon"
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant)
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Lucky Bamboo
- 21:55 Sound of the harp at-
tracting Love
- 21:58 Beautiful Taninthayi
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-I)
- 22:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady River
(Sagaing)"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Mogok, The Gems
Land
- 22:25 Song "The Land of
Myanmar"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Socioeconomic Condi-
tions of Chin State
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
(Traditional Shwe-
daung Noodle)
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 An Umbrella For Style
- 22:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Feel like an
Earthquake"
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victoria
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 16-1-2004 (Friday) &
17-1-2004 (Saturday)**
- Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 23:36 Tour In Myanmar
"Yangon"
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant)
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Lucky Bamboo
- 23:55 Sound of the harp at-
tracting Love
- 23:58 Beautiful Taninthayi
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part -I)
- 00:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady River
(Sagaing)"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Mogok, The Gems
Land
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Socioeconomic Condi-
tions of Chin State
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional
Shwedaung Noodle"
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 An Umbrella For Style
- 00:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern Song
"Feel like an Earth-
quake"
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victoria
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 17-1-2004 (Saturday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**
- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 03:36 Kayah State
- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Prawn Salad)
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Baungte: My Village
- 03:55 Kayah Dance
- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
- 04:10 Song "Pleasant Kayah"
- 04:15** **National News**

- 04:20 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
- 04:25 Song "Invitations from
Manaw Lan d"
- 04:30** **National News**
- 04:35 Music for Your Ears
(Than Sann Lyric
Notes)
- 04:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Noodle with Coco-
nut-soup"
- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
- 04:55 Shutaing Thaswa
Nandar-Kan Ahla
- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 Hsinbyushin Temples,
Stone Carving and
Monasteries
- 05:10 Song "Golden Land,
Myanmar"
- 05:15** **National News**
- 05:20 The Art of Making
Paper Toys
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 05:35 Tour In Myanmar
"Yangon"
- 05:40** **Headline News**
- 05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant)
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:50 Lucky Bamboo
- 05:55 Sound of the harp at-
tracting Love

- 05:58 Beautiful Taninthayi
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-I)
- 06:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady
(Sagaing)"
- 06:15** **National News**
- 06:20 Mogok, The Gems
Land
- 06:25 Song "The Land of
Myanmar"
- 06:30** **National News**
- 06:35 Socioeconomic Condi-
tions of Chin State
- 06:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional
Shwedaung Noodle"
- 06:45** **National News**
- 06:50 An Umbrella For Style
- 06:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)
- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 07:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Feel like an
Earthquake"
- 07:15** **National News**
- 07:20 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victoria
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 15 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather have been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in upper Sagaing Division, (5°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was Lashio (0°C).

Maximum temperature on 14-1-2004 was 34.0°C (93°F) Minimum temperature on 15-1-2004 was 15.5°C (60°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-1-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 14-1-2004 was (6.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 15-1-2004 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 8 mph from Northerly at (14:30) hours MST on 14-1-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-1-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-1-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.



Friday, January 16

View today:

- 7:00 am**
- 1. ဓမ္မစာအုပ် ဖတ်ရှုရန် အချိန်အခါ
တရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ
နာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်အားဖြင့်
အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဌာန အဘိဓမ္မ
မဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မစာအုပ် တိပိဋက
ဓမ္မဋ္ဌာနာရုံတော်ရှိ အရာတော်
အဖွဲ့အစည်းမှ အရာတော်
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. ရိုးရာဓလေ့ထုံးတမ်းစဉ်း
- 8:05 am**
- 6. The mirror images of
the musical oldies

- 8:15 am**
- 7. ရွှေစာအုပ်အဖွဲ့အစည်း
- 8:30 am**
- 8. International news
- 8:45 am**
- 9. English for Everyday
Use
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Song to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm**
- 4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. အစောဆုံး တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရရှိသည့် သင်္ဃာတော်
ဗုဒ္ဓဟင်္တော် (ဂုဏ်ဓာတ်အထူးပြုချီး
မြှင့်)
- 5:10 pm**
- 6. Song of national
races
- 5:25 pm**
- 7. နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာတော်
- 5:35 pm**
- 8. Musical programme
- 5:50 pm**
- 9. ရွှေစာအုပ်အဖွဲ့အစည်း

- 6:00 pm**
- 10. Song of Yesteryears
- 6:15 pm**
- 11. Discovery
- 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
"မိုးမြင့်မြင့်ဇာတ်ကွယ်"
(အပိုင်း-၇)
- 7:40 pm**
- 16. Myanmar ICT Week
ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင် (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 8:00 pm**
- 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. Myanmar video
feature:
"ဝိတံသံဃာ" (အပိုင်း-၁)
(ရန်အောင်၊ နိုင်ငံခြား၊ ထွန်းအောင်)
ခါရံတော် - နိုင်ငံခြား
- 21. The next day's
programme



Friday, January 16
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
- 9.00 pm** World of music
- 9.15 pm** Article / Music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your
request
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

World-class commercial-scale gas deposit found at A-1 block offshore Rakhine coast

The deposit can hold gas from 4.2 trillion to 5.8 trillion cubic feet

According to calculations, A-1 block may yield up to 14 trillion cubic feet of gas

As host nation, it will enjoy proportionate benefits, considerable amount of profit from shares

YANGON, 15 Jan — The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise reached an agreement with the Daewoo International Corporation of the Republic of Korea to explore and exploit oil and gas at A-1 block offshore Rakhine coast on 4 August 2000 under production sharing contract. Seismic survey was conducted up to 3,552.75 line kilometres in the area in 2001. Follow-up measures were then taken. The offshore drilling machine Energy Searcher started drilling at Shwe-1 test well in the block on 21 November 2003 and struck the gas deposit on 26 December 2003 at the G-5 sand layer 10,588 feet below the seabed.

According to the geological condition, the deposit may yield from 4.2 trillion to 5.8 trillion cubic feet of gas. Serving as the operator, the Daewoo International Corporation has a 60 per cent stake in the business, while Korea Gas Corporation, another ROK enterprise is holding 10 per cent of the share; ONGC Videsh Ltd of the Republic of India, 20 per cent; and GAIL (India) Ltd, 10 per cent.

It is a world-class commercial-scale gas deposit, with a promising geological condition to yield platinum and silver. According to the calculations, the whole



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi spuds in the Shwe-1 test well in Block No A-1, offshore Rakhine Coast in Myanmar. — ENERGY

A-1 block may yield up to 14 trillion cubic feet of gas. As the host, Myanmar will have the right to enjoy the proportionate share of the benefits. The country is going

to have shares of the business, and she will gain considerable profit from the gas deposit.

MNA



The Energy Searcher Drilling Machine at work at the Shwe-1 test well in Block No A-1, offshore Rakhine coast. — MNA