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Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 16 Jan — The following are the messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State to State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Kingdom of Bahrain:

The people of the Kingdom of Bahrain join me in conveying to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar our cordial congratulations and best greetings on the occasion of the Independence Day. May I avail myself of this opportunity to wish you continued good health and joy, further progress and prosperity to the people of your

country. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Colonel Muammar Al-Gadafi, Leader of the Great Al-Fateh Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya:

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, it gives me a great pleasure to convey to Your Excellency on my personal behalf and on behalf of the people of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya my sincere congratulations and best wishes for Your Excellency's continuous good health and happiness and to the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar progress and prosperity.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe greets Governor of West Bengal State of India Mr Viren J. Shah. — MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe receives Governor of West Bengal State of India

YANGON, 16 Jan — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received visiting Governor of West Bengal State of India Mr Viren J Shah and party at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road here at 10 am today.

Present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung

Aye, Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

The visiting Governor of West Bengal and party were accompanied by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives Governor of West Bengal State of India Mr Viren J Shah and party. — 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

Military band contest continues

YANGON, 16 Jan — The 13th Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Contest to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 continued at the People's Square on Pyay Road this morning.

Bands of the students representing Lanmadaw Township No 1 Basic Education High School and Kamayut Township (See page 8)

INSIDE

Perspectives

Explore and exploit natural resources for national interest (Page 2)

Article

To further raise the standard of Myanmar sports (Page 7)

Circulation

23,585

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 January, 2004

Explore and exploit natural resources for national interest

The State Peace and Development Council, laying down the 12 political, economic and social objectives, is striving day in, day out for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The economic sector plays a pivotal role in efforts for all-round development of the political, economic and social sectors of the State. The Government, in its drive for the State to possess strong economy, has been building various infrastructures on self-reliance basis making use of all possible means.

As a result, the economic sector of the State which includes manufacturing, service, trade, etc. has developed. To promote the development momentum, the abundant natural resources of the State are to be explored and exploited systematically.

Oil and gas are the resources that are to be exploited for flourishing of national interests. In cooperation with foreign companies, the Ministry of Energy is taking measures for exploiting oil and gas offshore and exploring new oil and gas fields on shore.

The Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy 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 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. We would like to urge officials concerned to lend themselves to endeavours for further exploring and exploiting natural resources such as oil and gas of the State for national interests.

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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



Myanmar ICT Week (2004)

21-1-2004 to 27-1-2004
MICT Park, Yangon.

Armed Forces Day TV Quiz held

YANGON, 16 Jan — The TV Quiz (higher education level) to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road this morning. Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative TV Quiz Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Secretary of the Work Committee Director-General of the MRTV U Khin Maung Htay, officials, teachers and students.

The first prize went to Maung Thiha Tun of Yangon Institute of Medicine (2), the second to Maung Lwin Naing Tun of Yangon Cooperatives Degree College (Thanlyin)

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)

and the third to Maung Kyaw Moe of the University for Development of National Races (Sagaing).

The prizes will be given away to the winners at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day prize presentation ceremony. — MNA



Salone Festival 2004

(Sea Gypsy Festival)

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



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein watches the TV Quiz (higher education level). — MNA

Many of US deaths in Iraq non-hostile

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan—The sorrow is the same. Sons and daughters, husbands and wives, have died while serving in Iraq, though not in battle. These lives were lost to car rollovers, drownings, heart attacks — the non-hostile deaths that make up nearly a third of US casualties.

As the tally of all troop fatalities closes in on 500, the percentage of such deaths may seem high. But such casualties have always been part of war — and, in some cases, non-hostile fatalities have made up an even greater portion of total deaths.

US fatalities in Iraq stood at 496 Thursday, with 343 killed in hostile action and 153 from non-hostile causes, the Defence Department said.

"Tome, he will always be my hero," said Rosemarie Simmons, whose 33-year-old husband, Sgt Leonard Simmons, died on 6 August — though she doesn't know definitively what happened and feels slightly estranged from the community around Kentucky's Fort

Campbell.

Sgt Nathaniel Hart Jr, a husband and father of two, was killed on 28 July when his vehicle rolled over. The military, friends and neighbours all gave him the honour he deserved, said his sister, Valerie Lowry. "The fact that his life ended touched people more than how it ended," she said.

Non-hostile deaths are all those lost to a military operation in which the cause is "not directly attributable to hostile action or terrorist activity," according to Defence Department definitions. Many have been car crashes, though some troops have drowned in the Tigris River, collapsed during physical training, fallen ill or been shot.

In the Persian Gulf War in 1991, more than half of the 382 total in-theater deaths were non-hostile. In Vietnam, nearly a fifth of the 58,200 deaths were not from battle; in World War II, it was more than a quarter of the 405,399 deaths.

In the ongoing operations in Afghanistan, non-hostile deaths outnumber those in battle: 70 of the 100 fatalities have been from non-hostile causes.

In earlier wars, disease was the big danger, as in the Civil War, when more than half the Union deaths were not from battle or wounds. In modern, industrial wars of trucks, tanks and large numbers of troops, accidents are the worry. —Internet

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Foreign fighters remain Iraq threat, US general says

TIKRIT, 16 Jan — The US Army general in charge of central Iraq on Thursday warned US forces faced a future threat from Iraqi nationalists and foreign fighters.

Major General Raymond Odierno, commander of the 4th Infantry Division based in Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit, said the capture of the former Iraqi President and other Baath Party loyalists had reduced attacks on coalition troops in his area.

But he warned that those Iraqis who may not have been loyal to Saddam but are still opposed to the US-led occupation, and foreign fighters who have infiltrated the country in recent months, still posed a threat. —Internet

Turkey warns against breakup of Iraq

ANKARA, 16 Jan — Turkey's Prime minister told an Iraqi leader Wednesday that Iraq neighbours would get involved to prevent the country's breakup along ethnic lines and that Kurds would be stopped if they pursue ambitions to control oil-rich areas in northern Iraq, news reports said.

Turkey has become increasingly concerned by Kurdish desires to create a federal Kurdish entity in northern Iraq, fearing such a move would inspire its own Kurdish population to rekindle a 15-year insurgency that ended in 1999. Iran and Syria, which also have Kurdish populations, have similar concerns. "If Iraq moves toward disintegration, neighbors will get involved. Both Syria and Iran think the same way," Anatolia quoted Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as saying. He did not say what Turkey's neighbors would consider doing.

Erdogan made the comments in a meeting with Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, a member of the US-backed Iraqi Governing Council who was in Ankara for talks on the future of Iraq.

Hakim later told reporters he was "united with Turkey over Iraq's future and stability."

As the Governing Council hammers out details of a new government for Iraq, Iraqi Kurdish leaders are asking for greater autonomy for the north and a federal Iraq based on two ethnic states.

Although Iraqi Kurdish leaders are not asking for independence, Turkey fears that increased autonomy and states based on ethnic identity will encourage separatism. The United States has said Iraq should not be divided after the US-led coalition authority leaves. Erdogan had recently met with Syrian President Bashar Assad, and Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul visited Iran last week. —Internet



A US soldier directs traffic at a checkpoint in the Iraqi city of Tikrit. Three civilians were killed and two wounded when a bus struck an explosive device near Tikrit, on 13 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

Growing Indian, Chinese economies helped global economy

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Jan — The rising economic weight of India and China has been a key factor in the global economic recovery and would have far-reaching implications for international patterns of trade, a new United Nations report says.

Both grew at a rate of more than twice the world average last year and continued strong growth in these "low-income" countries will benefit the world economy as a whole, reduce global poverty and serve as an incentive for other developing nations, the report 'World Economic Situation and Prospects 2004' says.

The analysis of data suggests that the developing nation in Southern and Eastern Asia are likely to achieve the United Nations Millennium goals of reducing poverty by half by 2015. But developing states in other regions are unlikely to do so unless more decisive action is taken.

The report says the size of economies of India and China means that their fast growth would have far-reaching implications for international patterns of trade, production and financing and for the global supply and demand for energy and commodities.

"For example, transnational corporations have been relocating plants from other economies in China, attracted partly by its vast domestic market and partly by its enormous supply of low-cost labour as an input for their global manufacturing operations. As a result, international competition in some manufacturing sectors has intensified," it notes.

This, the report points out, is a positive force for global efficiency and growth in the long run. But it also creates difficulties for some other countries, including many developing nations, in the short run.

The report says two-thirds of the population of the developing countries lives in countries that have achieved per capital output growth last year of at least 3 per cent. But this group is almost entirely accounted for by countries in Eastern and Southern Asia, particularly India and China. —MNA/PTI

\$150b investment needed to ensure India's energy security

NEW DELHI, 16 Jan — India will require investment worth between 100 billion and 150 billion US dollars in the next 10 to 15 years to meet energy demands and ensure long-term energy security, Finance Minister Jaswant Singh said Wednesday.

"An estimated investment of 100 to 150 billion US dollars is needed over the next 10-15 years to meet our projected early 21st-Century demand," Singh told the 5th Oil and Gas Conference here.

Expressing concern over the rising consumption of petroleum products in the country, he said "already demand far exceeds domestic supply".

Hinting of rising demand

as the economy grows, he said "for every 1 per cent growth in GDP, a 3-per-cent growth in energy is required. This implies either larger imports or exploration of new domestic oil reserves".

With a view to ensuring long-term energy security, he said government is building oil and gas equity abroad.

Moreover, an estimated additional refining capacity of 115 million tons per an-

num will be required by the year 2010 for domestic consumption and around 300 million tons by 2025, Singh said.

"Extensive oil and gas distribution infrastructure such as cross-country pipelines, port terminals, tankages and strategic reserves build-up will have to be developed to meet the projected requirements," he added.

MNA/PTI



A South Korean protester shouts slogans at an anti-US and anti-war rally near the national assembly in Seoul, on 16 January, 2004. The protesters demonstrated on Friday against the government's plan to dispatch more troops to Iraq. —INTERNET

Bangladesh launches project for development of char people

DHAKA, 16 Jan — The Bangladeshi Government has taken the biggest ever project to help improve the livelihood of the char (shoal) people.

The project named Char Livelihoods Programme (CLP) initially targets at 6.5 million char people living in five districts along the Jamuna River where they suffer most from the natural calamities, official sources said Wednesday.

According to a Wednesday report of the official Bangladesh News Agency, the project will be implemented in two phases at a cost of some 79 million US dollars, including about 1.67 million US dollars from the country's national exchequer and the rest from a grant from the Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom. —MNA/Xinhua

US 'negligence' in death of journalists in Iraq says media watchdog group

LONDON, 16 Jan—The killing of two journalists in a Baghdad hotel by a U.S. tank shell was the result of "criminal negligence" for which President Bush's government is partly responsible, a media watchdog group said on Thursday.

Reuters cameraman Taras Protsyuk and Spanish television colleague Jose Couso were killed by the shell fired by a U.S. tank at the Palestine Hotel in the Iraqi capital on April 8, in the final stages of the US-led war to topple Saddam Hussein.

The Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) watchdog said in a special report the incident had not been a deliberate attack on the media but U.S. soldiers should have been told by their commanders that many journalists were based in the hotel.

"The shooting at this building was therefore not deliberately aimed at journalists or the press in Baghdad, as some people have claimed," the watchdog said in a covering statement with the report.

"It was, however, an act of criminal negligence for which responsibility should clearly be established."

The report called for a reopening of a US army inquiry which ruled last August that American forces acted "in an appropriate manner" when they fired into the hotel.

RSF Secretary-General Robert Menard told a news conference in Paris that the US army's inquiry had done little more than excuse its own military of all responsibility.

He demanded more access to information on the death of the journalists and added: "We have the right to ask a big democracy to shed light on what happened."

The report criticized U.S. authorities for maintaining ahead of the inquiry that the reason for the firing of the shell was legitimate self-defense in response to shooting from the hotel.

"This first version of events became the official version and was a lie by the authorities," RSF said.

The report said the key to the tragedy was that soldiers in the field were never told that a large number of journalists were in the Palestine Hotel nor was it marked on maps used by artillery support soldiers.

"If they had known, they would never have fired," RSF said.—INTERNET

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British soldier's widow releases damning Iraq tape

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan—The widow of a British soldier shot dead in Iraq while not wearing a flak jacket has just released an audio tape made by her husband.

On it, he complains about the lack of proper equipment they had been issued for battle.

Sergeant Stephen Roberts made the tape the night before he died. Samantha Roberts says she has released her husband's audio diary because she wants the truth to come out.

"He had to give up his personal flak jacket to infantry soldiers because there were not enough to go around," she said "Steve is not here today because of kit shortages."

The Government has refused to comment on the case while there's an inquiry into the death of Sergeant Roberts underway.

Defence Minister Geoff Hoon insists that there was sufficient equipment in theatre to outfit the British troops in Iraq.

Mrs Roberts also says the Ministry of Defence has confirmed her husband was killed by friendly fire.—INTERNET



A man looks over the damage done to a vehicle after a suicide bomber blew up a car outside a police station in the Iraqi town of Baquba, on 14 Jan, 2004, killing two civilians and wounding more than 20, mostly police, in the latest assault on those backing the American occupiers. — INTERNET

Iraqi woman shoots dead husband mistaken as robber

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan — An Iraqi woman shot dead her husband in Baghdad when she mistook him for a robber breaking into their house, said an Iraqi newspaper Wednesday.

The woman in Hay Al Amiriyah, west of Baghdad, shot her husband dead who was checking the house at night last Friday, said Baghdad newspaper.

"My neighbour has no children, and he had trained his wife to use the weapon to defend the house in his absence," Mahmood Waid, a 53-year-old neighbour, told the paper.

The husband was checking the front door when the incident happened. Hearing the sound of the door, the wife brought the AK-47 machine gun and, without making sure, she shot at her husband, taking him as a thief, said the neighbour.

Due to the postwar deteriorating security situation in Iraq, families keep weapons in their houses to protect themselves against armed gangs that continuously commit crimes despite efforts of the Iraqi police to regain security.

MNA/Xinhua

War-weary Sean Penn reports on Iraq's "powder KEG"

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Jan—Actor Sean Penn's byline as a foreign correspondent appeared on Wednesday in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, with the Hollywood bad boy warning in a lengthy personal account of his November tour in Iraq that the occupation by US forces there "could ignite a powder keg".

"People from all sides of the debate acknowledge that the insurgency movement builds every day in manpower and organizational strength," Penn wrote.

"The Iraqis I speak to say that the US policy of de-Baathification is devoid of consideration of long-term goals, human nature and Arab culture and thus could ignite a powder keg," Penn warned, referring to efforts to round up former leaders of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party.—MNA/Reuters

Remains of four US servicemen leave Vietnam

HANOI, 16 Jan — The remains of four US servicemen killed in the Vietnam War were flown out on Wednesday, the first repatriation this year in an ongoing programme to recover those lost during the conflict that ended nearly 30 years ago.

Placed in metal cases, each draped with the American flag, the remains were loaded onto a US military transport plane.

The remains are expected to be taken to Hawaii for forensic identification, after which families will be notified.

There are more than 1,800 American troops still officially posted missing from the war that ended in 1975.—MNA/Reuters

140 British women died of domestic violence last year

LONDON, 16 Jan — One in nine women suffers severe abuse in Britain every year and domestic violence is blamed for 140 women's death in the country last year, a leading women's charity said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, one in four British women will experience domestic abuse in the course of their lifetime, the Refuge charity said when launching a one-million-pound (about 18.4-million-US-dollar) poster campaign across the country.

Domestic violence makes up almost a quarter of violent crimes but less than one-third of the incidents are ever reported to police, the charity sighed, urging every Briton to start taking more responsibility for the problem.

Refuge chief executive Sandra Horley said: "By recognizing that domestic violence is a crime, and by realizing that we're all accountable for the extent of the problem, we can bring about the changes in attitude that we so desperately need."

Britain is quite notorious for domestic violence. A recent research found more than one-third of people say they have witnessed friends being verbally or physically abused by their partners in public. —MNA/Xinhua

Sudanese man carrying bullets arrested at Heathrow

LONDON, 16 Jan — A 45-year-old Sudanese man was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport Wednesday for allegedly carrying bullets, police said.

The man, who had flown in by taking a Virgin Atlantic airliner from Washington DC and was intending to fly on to Dubai, was detected after passing through a security check, a spokesman for London's Metropolitan Police said.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt, Morocco sign six cooperation pacts

CAIRO, 16 Jan — Egypt and Morocco on Wednesday signed six pacts in a bid to further promote economic and trade cooperation.

The documents, signed by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher and visiting Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Benaissa, cover the areas of industry, environment, housing, power and tourism.

Speaking to reporters af-

ter the signing ceremony, Maher said the two countries will carry out the deals under instructions from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Moroccan King Mohammed VI.

The top Egyptian diplomat also expressed his hope

that the bilateral cooperation would be capped with the signing of the Agadir free trade agreement among Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.

The agreement is expected to be inked in late February.—MNA/Xinhua



Tourists touch sixteen-month-old baby elephant Wendi on 13 Jan, 2004 at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust nursery which shelter nine baby elephants in Nairobi. Foreign tourists and locals visit the nursery daily to watch the baby elephants, which are gradually prepared for transition back into wildlife.—INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



US Army troops watch a demonstration by the Iraqis in Baghdad, on 15 January, 2004. — INTERNET



A soldier with the 82nd Airborne Division keeps watch over a 16-year-old Iraqi boy during a raid while his father is questioned in another room on Wednesday, 14 Jan, 2004, near Fallujah, Iraq. A raid was conducted on the house of a man who is suspected of attacks on coalition forces.—INTERNET



Policemen manning a checkpoint near the main entrance to Baghdad's international airport are seen through the shattered window of a police car which was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade recently. The capital's airport is being used as a military base and a high security jail for top officials of the ousted regime.—INTERNET



US soldiers approach a target house during a raid in Samarra west of Baghdad. Earlier in Samarra US soldiers killed eight attackers and wounded one after they were attacked on 13 January, 2004.

INTERNET



Demonstrators run from British soldiers guarding the administration headquarters in the southeastern city of Amara. British troops said they opened fire on Iraqi protesters in a clash in which at least five people were killed on Saturday.

INTERNET



A wounded Iraqi policeman is wheeled into hospital after a suicide bomber exploded outside a police station in Baquba killing two people just days after an attack on a nearby mosque that left five dead.

INTERNET



A US army soldier of the Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment, looks around during a patrol in central Baghdad, Iraq on 14 Jan, 2004.

INTERNET

Chinese, Russian FM's confer on bilateral ties

BELJING, 16 Jan — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met here Wednesday with Russian counterpart Igor Ivanov for an exchange of views on bilateral ties and regional and international issues in 2004.

Li said the past year had seen Sino-Russian strategic cooperative partnership record big progress in every major sphere. In the new year, the two countries would implement the cooperation agreements reached between their presidents and prime ministers, enhance political mutual trust, further in-depth trade and economic cooperation, strengthen strategic coordination and expand social contacts so that cooperation would yield new results.

Ivanov expressed total agreement with Li on the goals he had outlined for the New Year, saying that Russia was ready to work with the Chinese side to consolidate past achievements and further advance their strategic cooperative partnership.

The two ministers also decided to designate 2004

as "the year for promoting friendship between young people of the two nations".

Li said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) would on Thursday inaugurate its secretariat and the SCO would usher in a new era.

He said member states of the SCO should strive to cooperate more substantially and bring their people real benefits.

Ivanov said the SCO was playing a crucial role in safeguarding regional security and stability. Russia would work closely with other member nations, including China, to further promote the work of the organization.

After the meeting, the two foreign ministers signed a plan for consultations between the two foreign ministries in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

US weapons hunter will not return to Iraq

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan — David Kay, the chief US weapons hunter in Iraq, has told the CIA he will not return to his post, a US Government source said on Thursday, a move that critics could seize upon as a sign that he has given up hope of finding banned arms.

"He has told the DCI (Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet) that he doesn't want to go back, they have been trying to get him to stay," the source told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear whether the CIA had had any success in persuading Kay, who came back to the United States for the Christmas holidays, to stay on the job, the source said.

Tenet last June appointed Kay, a former UN weapons inspector, as a special adviser to lead the search for biological and chemical weapons and any signs of a resurrected nuclear weapons programme in Iraq.

But the hunt, which is being conducted by the Defence Department's Iraq Survey Group, has come up empty, finding no stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons or any evidence that Iraq had restarted a programme to develop nuclear weapons. — *MNA/Reuters*

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US troops kill seven Iraqis in separate clashes

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan — US troops killed seven Iraqis in latest clashes with guerillas in central northern Iraq on Wednesday, a US spokesman said Thursday.

Among the seven, four were killed "as a result of the ensuing fire fight" in the village of Abu Kharma, a town northeast of Baghdad, US Sergeant Robert Cargie told reporters in Tikrit.

Another one was injured in the fighting, which occurred in one of the 28 US raids on former members of Saddam Hussein's Fedayeen militia in the vil-

lage, said Cargie.

The troops captured 31 suspects, including eight targeted figures, in the so-called Operation Warhorse Whirlwind, and confiscated weapons and munitions, among which were 19 AK-47 automatic rifles.

Two of the four suspect individuals were killed when they were digging a hole and planting home-made bombs

near Khalis, also northeast of Baghdad, said Cargie.

The other two escaped as a patrol of US soldiers fired warning shots to stop them.

In a third incident, which occurred south of Jallulla, a town near Tikrit, 160 kilometres north of Baghdad, US forces returned fire on two attackers, killing one and wounding the other

MNA/Xinhua

China, Russia, Central Asians open security office

BELJING, 16 Jan — China, Russia and four Central Asian states opened a regional security headquarters on Thursday, trying to breathe life into an anti-terror forum critics say has little to show for itself after seven years of existence.

Foreign ministers from the six countries hailed the launch in Beijing of the administrative office of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) — China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The SCO, born as the Shanghai Five in 1996 to resolve Soviet-era border disputes, admitted Uzbekistan

in 2001 and shifted its focus to combating Islamic militants.

The mandate also includes economic and other cooperation.

But analysts say the group has taken a long time to find its feet and its few successes have been small.

"The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is moving on to the international stage with a peaceful, cooperative

and open image," Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said.

"It has promoted mutual trust, mutual interests, equality and cooperation."

Kazakh Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev said the member states should set up and improve a system for travel and transport, a "very important responsibility".

MNA/Reuters



A Toyota employee removes his hands from the steering wheel as the Intelligent Parking system starts backing his car into a narrow parking space during a test drive with *The Associated Press* in Tokyo on 9 Jan, 2004. Parallel parking is now a breeze for just about anyone with the system that's part of an optional package from Toyota Motor Corp, available only on the Prius hybrid model sold in Japan. — *INTERNET*

US still holds child prisoners at Guantanamo

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan — The United States has held three child detainees at its military base in Guantanamo Bay for more than a year and the Pentagon said on Thursday it has no plans to move or free them, despite international pressure.

A defence official said doctors estimated the boys were 13-15 years old and were deemed "enemy combatants" along with about 660 prisoners being held at the base in Cuba after the US invasion in Afghanistan in response to the September 11, 2001, attacks on America.

"There has been lots of media speculation they were going to be moved out but that's all it has been, just speculation," the official told *Reuters* when asked if there were plans to move or release the teenage detainees any time soon.

A spokeswoman for the military task force holding the prisoners told *Reuters* last August that prison camp commander, Brigadier-General Geoffrey Miller, would recommend the three boys be sent home, and this was confirmed by Miller a month later. — *MNA/Reuters*

EU seeks trade sanctions against US

BRUSSELS/GENEVA, 16 Jan — The European Union, risking fresh tensions with Washington, on Thursday asked for the go ahead to slap trade sanctions on the United States just as efforts get under way to revive global commerce talks.

The EU was set to be joined in its request, lodged with the Geneva-based WTO, later on Thursday by nine nations including Japan, China, Brazil, India and

South Korea.

The sanctions, which could run to hundreds of millions of dollars of duties on US goods, aim to force Washington to revoke a scheme under which local companies benefit when anti-dumping duties are imposed on foreign competitors.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has repeatedly ruled the measure, known as the "Byrd Amend-

ment", illegal.

"The Byrd Amendment has raised widespread concerns from the outset as evidenced by the large number of complainants in this case," European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said.

The fight has come to a head days after the top US trade official called for efforts to revive talks to liberalize global trade, which flopped last year

MNA/Reuters

China urges US to fulfil obligations for world trade

GENEVA, 16 Jan — The Chinese Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Wednesday urged the United States to faithfully fulfil its obligations for the healthy development of the multilateral trading system.

"Given its high level of development, its large economic scale and its pivotal position in the multilateral trading system, there is much room for improvement with respect to its implementation of the multilateral trading rules and the principle of free and open trade," said Sun Zhenyu, head of the Chinese delegation at the WTO meeting on US trade policy review, which is being held in Geneva from Wednesday to Friday.

"It is a regret that, in certain areas, the standards the US sets for itself are even lower than those of the newly acceded members," he noted. — *MNA/Xinhua*

To further raise the standard of Myanmar sports

Maung Waing

As a national task, the Government is giving special priority to promoting the Myanmar sports to meet the international level. The State is honouring the victorious athletes. The ceremony to honour gold medalists of the XXII SEA Games in Vietnam was held at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel in Yangon. At the recent ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address, saying, "The gold medalists of the XXII SEA Games are urged to continuously try hard with unyielding spirit to win medals again and again in helping promote the Myanmar's image in the international games, while standing tall as the brilliant athletes worthy of public praise and honour. Systematic arrangements should be made for the sporting events that missed gold despite their winning edge in the games or the sporting events that won only silver or bronze to win gold in the coming international competitions. After making a review of the XXII SEA Games, officials of the Ministry of Sports will have to correctly point out the sectors which need remedial measures to be taken with might and main."

At the XXII SEA Games that were held from 5 to 13 December 2003 in Vietnam, the Myanmar sports contingent took part in 24 events and won 16 gold, 43 silver and 50 bronze totalling 109. It was at the seventh place in the table showing the country-wise medal standings.

The most successful athletes of the Myanmar contingent were of the wushu team. The team won five gold, six silver and six bronze totalling 17, despite the fact that the host claimed to grab all the gold in wushu event. The

team won medals more than it had expected. Khaing Khaing Maw and Swe Swe Than won two gold each and Ha Hon, one gold. Because of its excellent preparations, the team won decisive victories in the Games. Correct training methods, self confidence and the winning spirit had also contributed towards winning victories in the Games. The three-man and six-woman weightlifting team won four gold, two silver and one bronze. The four women — Kaythi Win, Khin Moe Nwe, Mya Sanda Oo and Cho Cho Win — won gold. They decisively won over their rivals.

The women athletes of the wushu and weightlifting events won medals not only in the Southeast Asia games, but also in the Asia and World games.

The Myanmar athletes are admirable as they have won medals in almost every competition they have taken part and have erected milestones of success for themselves, the sports federations concerned and the State. Myanmar men and women's rowing teams won one gold each in 22-oar 1,000-metre traditional boat race. In the canoe events, the men's kayak team won gold in the 1,000-metre four-oar event and the 500-metre four-oar event. The women's kayak team won gold in 500-metre four-oar event. Myanmar rowers also won two silver and one bronze in other events.

In the shooting competition, Maung Kyu won gold in 10M Air Pistol 60-shot event, while Min Maw Oo won another gold in 80-kilo bodybuilding contest. The contingent also won silver and bronze medals in other sporting

events. The Myanmar women soccer team excelled its rivals in individual as well as team-wise performance and skill. Because of the thundering Vietnamese crowd at the stadium, the Myanmar women soccer team lost individual as well as the team control and was defeated in the final. Although they missed the gold, their zeal and performance were worthy of honour. The team has much hope to win victories in the future if they try harder beginning now. The success won by the wushu, weightlifting and canoe teams within a short period is significant and admirable.

The Myanmar contingent stood at the seventh place with 16 gold, 43 silver and 50 bronze at the XXII SEA Games. But if all will review the weak points and strong points of the whole contingent correctly, and the officials concerned and the athletes will harmoniously strive together, we are sure that more gold medalist sports men and women will come out in the future games and championships to bring honour to and further raise the image of the Union of Myanmar.

In this regard, I would like to urge the men and women of the Myanmar sports world to continue to strive to win victories in the Asia and world competitions again and again and to further enhance the Myanmar sports to reach a higher level as the famous athletes and the good sons and daughters of the State in trying to uplift the national pride and prestige.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 13 January 2004.

Minister inspects railroad sections

YANGON, 16 Jan — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials of Myanmar Railways inspected Kyaw-Pakokku railroad section on Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad on 11 January.

Starting their tour from Kyaw Station, the minister and party inspected

maintenance tasks of railroads near Mile Post 112 between Wapin Station and Kyawtha Station, earth works at Kyaukleik Valley between Gaungpaung Station and Kyawtha Station and maintenance of Minkaing Bridge and sanitation tasks.

On 12 January, the minister and party went to the briefing hall of Chauk

Station at Kyeeni-Chauk railroad construction project site. Divisional senior engineer U Than Tun reported on construction progress of Kyeeni-Chauk railroad, future works and stockpile of heavy machinery and parts. Then the minister looked into the construction tasks and Kyeeni Station and gave necessary instructions to officials. The minister, the deputy minister and officials also inspected Hsatthwa-Aunglan-Pyay railroad section and fulfilled the needs there. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction of the tunnel on 10-1-2004. MR

TV Quiz (Basic Education Level) held

YANGON, 16 Jan — The TV Quiz (Basic Education Level), to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, was held at Studio A, MRTV on Pyay Road here yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the quiz Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein. Also present were Work Committee Secretary Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of MRTV, Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning & Training Department, Director-General U Saw Lwin of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Director-General U Tin Nyo of No 1 Basic Education Department, officials, teachers and students. Altogether 17 students from states and divisions took part in the quiz. Maung Zeya Phyio (9th standard) of Ahlon BEHS-2 in Yangon Division won the first prize, Maung Nay Myo Zaw (9th standard) of Monywa BEHS-2 (Ahlon Tatmyo) in Sagaing Division the second prize and Maung D Ye Lin (9th standard) of Myeik BEHS-1 in Taninthayi Division the third prize. Prizes will be presented to the winners at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day prize-presentation ceremony. —MNA

Second International Computer Ph.D Level Research Conference held

YANGON, 16 Jan — The Second International Computer Ph.D Level Research Conference organized by Yangon University of Computer Studies under the Ministry of Science and Technology was held in conjunction with the signing of the agreements on technological cooperation at the Traders Hotel here on 8 January.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister

for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, the rector of the university, the pro-rector, professors, computer scientists, professors and officials from the universities in the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Singapore, Japan and Australia, under Ph.D graduates of the YUCS and guests.

The YUCS launched the Computer Ph.D Course on 14 May 2001. With a view to enabling the candidates to

compile their theses for Computer Ph.D degree in conformity with the international standard, the YUCS is taking measures in cooperation with Hankuk Aviation University (HAU) (Korea), Hee University (Korea), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST), Keio University (Japan) and Osaka City University (Japan).

The First International Computer Ph.D Level Paper Reading Session took place in January 2003 and the second on 8 January 2004, and submitted at the sessions were 12 papers from the ROK, two from Japan, one from Canada, seven from Singapore, two from Australia, two from the People's Republic of China and 64 from Yangon University of Computer Studies. The under Ph.D graduates from the YUCS also attended the conferences and read their pa-

pers.

Next, the seminar on computer application followed at the venue. Professor Dr Keung Hae Lee of the HAU read the paper "Ubiquitous Computing in the Home"; Professor Dr Hiromitsu Hama of Osaka City University (Japan), the paper "Basics for Moving Image Processing"; and Dr Jong Sou Park of the HAU, the paper "Internet Security and Survivability". It was followed by a general round of discussions and queries were raised.

In the evening, the signing ceremony was held. Pro-rector of Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University U Tin Maung Nyunt and the President of the HAU signed the agreement between the MAEU and the HAU, and Rector of the YUCS Dr Paik Tin and President Dr Soon Kil Hong of the HAU signed the deal between the YUCS and the HAU. — MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Chan Nyein addresses the International Computer Ph.D Level Research Conference. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and party pose for documentary photo together with Governor of West Bengal State of India Mr Viren J Shah and party. (News page 1) — MNA

Ways and means sought to protect children from being recruited as child soldiers Committee for Preventing Recruitment of Child Soldiers meets

YANGON, 16 Jan — The Committee for Preventing Recruitment of Child Soldiers held its first coordination meeting at Zeyarthiri Beikman in Konmyinthta here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the committee Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Judge Advocate-General Brig-Gen Soe Maung, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Secretary of the committee Col Aung San Tin of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

The committee chair-



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the first meeting of the Committee for Preventing Recruitment of Child Soldiers. — MNA

man made a speech. In his speech, he said that the meeting was held to seek ways and means to safeguard the interest of children by protecting them from being recruited for military service in the country and to render supervision for ensuring the strict observance of rules, regulations and di-

rectives concerning the prevention against recruitment of children for military service.

The committee members Minister U Win Aung, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister U Tin Winn and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin reported on prevention against recruitment of children for

military service. Committee Secretary Col Aung San Tin reported on measures being taken by the Office of the Adjutant-General of the Ministry of Defence for preventing minors from being recruited for military service. Maj-Gen Aung Kyi reported on steps being

taken by the office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training under the Ministry of Defence for prevention against recruitment of children for military service.

Next, discussions were held on matters relating to measures actually being

taken to protect children from forceful recruitment for military service; and future work programmes.

The meeting ended in the evening with the concluding remarks by Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

MNA

Governor of West Bengal State of India and party tour Yangon

YANGON, 16 Jan — Visiting Governor of West Bengal State of India Mr Viren J Shah and party, accompanied by responsible personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. Officials of the pagoda board of trustees welcomed the visiting Governor of West Bengal State of India and party and conducted them round the pagoda.

After paying homage to the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda on the platform, the visiting Indian Governor of West Bengal State signed in the visitors' book of the pagoda and donated cash to the pagoda funds.

The Indian delegation also paid homage to the Jade

Buddha Image on the platform of the pagoda and studied the Bell donated by King Thawady and the old Htidaw hoisted by King Mindon.

On arrival at the King Zafar Shah's Tomb on Ziwaka Street in Dagon Township, U Soe Min, chairman of the supervisory committee for the Tomb, and officials welcomed the Indian delegation. After paying tribute to the tomb, they left there.

In the afternoon, the visiting Governor of West Bengal State of India and party arrived at the Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Kyundaw Street and Hanthawady Road in Kamayut Township. They were welcomed there by In-

charge of the museum Police Lt-Col Hse Maung and the curator and officials of the museum.

The visiting Indian delegation were conducted round the museum. Next, the Governor of West Bengal of India signed in the visitors' book of the museum. Police Lt-Col Hse Maung presented 'documentary books on drug eradication activities in Myanmar' to the visiting Governor of West Bengal of India.

The visiting Indian delegation also went to Myanmar Gems Museum on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, where they were conducted round the museum by officials.

The visiting Governor of West Bengal of India and party left the museum in the evening. — MNA

Military band...

(from page 1)

Institute of Education's Practising School presented skills demonstrations.

Next, Triangle Region Command band troupe, No 2 Basic Military Training Depot troupe, Coastal Re-

gion Command company-2 band troupe, South-West Command band troupe, No 101 LID band troupe and Coastal Region Command company-1 band troupe took part in the contest.

Chairman of the Committee for Organizing the

contest Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe presented cash awards to the band troupes of the students. Also present on the occasion were senior military officers, members of the panel of judges, guests, students and others. — MNA



Governor of West Bengal Mr Viren J Shah and party visit Myanmar Gems Museum. MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party and the congregation receive the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw. — MNA

Secretary-1 meets with departmental personnel in Myitkyina

YANGON, 16 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and member Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with members of Kachin State Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, members of Myitkyina District and Township Peace and Development Councils, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townsenders at the city hall in Myitkyina on 13 January morning.

Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-

crops, pulses and beans, kitchen crops, corn, rubber, tea, pepper and Thitseint (Balleric Myrobalam), water supply tasks, livestock breeding tasks, industries, transportation, education, health, and regional development tasks in Kachin State.

After hearing the report, the Secretary-1 made a speech. He said service personnel in Kachin state would take pride in being ones who served in the interests of the nation and local people would be pleased with the development, stability and peace acquired through their united strength. Various national races were residing in

tions for agriculture and rich in natural resources, said the Secretary-1.

Kachin State, which had not been able to produce sufficient rice for itself previously, began to enjoy the sufficiency of food. Effort must be exerted for the production of surplus food in Kachin State, the Secretary-1 added. As the Government was rendering assistance for the development of the agriculture sector, total sown acreage of the country reached 26.8 million acre. The Government had laid a firm foundation for production of sufficient food not only for the present generation but also for the

tillers, reaping machines and winnowing machines must be encouraged. The Government as well as private entrepreneurs were striving to produce farm machinery. National entrepreneurs and local people must be encouraged to in-

project, which would be able to produce 24 megawatt, were being implemented in Kachin State. The projects would contribute towards the industrial development of Kachin State, the Secretary-1 said.

The State was also mak-

made efforts to ensure the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order in accord with the four political objectives. Economic, social and transport infrastructures had been implemented in the



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets local authorities, departmental heads, members of social organizations and townsenders at the City Hall in Myitkyina.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win views the study of the students at the Government Computer College in Bhamo. — MNA

Gen Maung Maung Swe reported to the Secretary-1 on area of Kachin State, total sown acreage of crops, cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy, per acre yield, cultivation of oil

Kachin State since yore just like those in all other states and divisions of the Union. There were bright prospects for development in Kachin State because it was complete with favourable condi-

growing population of the generations to come, the Secretary-1 said. Efforts were being made to turn the farming system into a mechanized one. In so doing, extensive use of power

vest in the agriculture sector. As there were possibilities to reclaim large area of farms in Kachin State, agricultural works of it would benefit the state and the country. Perennial crops must also be grown in the state, the Secretary-1 pointed out.

As a new policy of free trade of rice and paddy had been adopted as of 2003, it was required to boost cultivation. Mali Hydel Power project in Waingmaw Township, which would be able to produce over 10 megawatt on completion, and Dabut Creek Hydel

ing efforts for the development of the transport sector of Kachin State by construction of 9 highways and 45 roads linking towns and villages in the state. Arrangements had been made for the development of the basic and higher education sectors of the state. Efforts must be made to ensure the schooling of all the school-aged children, the Secretary-1 added.

The Secretary-1 called on responsible officials at different levels to strive for the continued development of Kachin State. The Government had successfully

country, the Secretary-1 said. It was essential for the nation to be a discipline flourishing democracy complete with intellectuals and prosperity after the seven-point future policy programme of the State had been implemented.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged those present to strive for the development of the entire nation unitedly. Next, Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Hse presented clothes and other gifts worth over K 2.1 million for Kachin State to the Secretary-1.

(See page 10)



The Government Technological College's two-storey main building under construction in Bhamo. — MNA



The Nurses and Midwifery Training School in Bhamo. — MNA

Secretary-1 ...

(from page 9)

She also presented K 700,000 for Kachin State development to Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

She and her family and friends donated blankets and clothes worth K 1.7 million to the state. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accepted the gifts.

The commander's wife Daw Tin Tin Nwe, Patron of the Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, presented K 450,000 to the



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Bhamo Degree College. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win hears a report of an official at Bhamo Government Technological College. — MNA



School for the Blind in Myitkyina.

At Myitkyina Airport, the Secretary-1 and party observed tar laying of the runway that was 6,000 feet long and 50 feet wide.

On arrival at Bhamo Airport, they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Soe Nwe of Bhamo Station and officials. Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and personnel concerned explained the runway extension project of the airport and progress of work. Lt-Gen Soe Win and

Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into their requirements. The Secretary-1 and party then inspected the project. The runway is a 5,500-foot by 100-foot tarred facility.

With the use of heavy machinery, the runway is being extended up to 8,500 feet. The 200-foot by 300-foot apron is also being tarred.

At the Bhamo Government Computer College, the Secretary-1 and party heard a report on the academic matters, teaching aids and staff strength presented by

Principal Daw Khin Kyu Kyu. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein and officials explained the upgrading of roads in the campus and the plan to construct the three-storey main hall. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win urged the teachers to train their students to become computer experts. Later, the Secretary-1 and party went round the college.

During the inspection of Bhamo Degree College,

they heard a report on the academic programmes and progress in building of halls presented by Principal U Khin Maung Tin and officials. The Secretary-1 urged the faculties to strive for the college to meet its required standard. He then cordially greeted them. The Secretary-1 and party went round the college and visited the computer training centre and the language laboratory.

They also inspected the Nursing and Midwifery Training School and the 200-bed Bhamo District

People's Hospital where officials reported to them on extension projects and functions.

At the Government Technological College, officials reported to them on progress in erection of workshops and staff quarters, the two-storey main hall under construction and management and academic matters. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the main hall, teaching aids, computer room, workshops and lecture halls.

They paid respects to

Sayadaws of the monasteries in Bhamo at Sasana Beikman at 3.30 pm, and received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kaljana. They then presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

At the Bhamo District USDA Office, the Secretary-1 met with secretaries, executives and members of Bhamo District, Bhamo Township, Mansi Township, Momauk Township and Shwegu Township USDAs. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspect construction tasks at Myitkyina Airport. — MNA

Commander inspects regional development tasks

YANGON, 16 Jan—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Managing Director U Thein Htay of Myanma Port Authority, Commander Col Yan Naing Oo of No 4 Military Region and Secretary Lt-Col Myint

Kyi of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, inspected regional development tasks along the Yangon River in Yangon South District yesterday morning.

First, the commander and party left Nanthida jetty by boat and inspected the upgrading tasks along Yangon port. Next, the commander and party went to the river

mouth by boat and inspected development tasks along the river. Afterwards, the commander gave instructions on cleaning tasks along the river to the officials concerned. Later, the commander and party arrived at Myatseinkyun in Kawhmu Township.

The responsible officials reported to the commander on agriculture and livestock

breeding tasks. The commander gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the commander and party proceeded to the river mouth by boat. Next, the commander viewed the tasks being carried out by the pilots of the Maykhala pilot boat at the river mouth and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Reminder of satellite TV receiver licence renewal

YANGON, 16 Jan—Satellite TV receiver licences for the year 2003, granted by Directorate of Telecommunications, had been valid on 31 December 2003.

The reminders of satellite TV receiver licence renewal fees to be paid for 2004 had been carried in the

daily newspapers. Licence fees are to be paid within 30 days after the validity of licence. A fine of K 3000 will have to be paid in case of late renewal. It is reminded that regular licence renewal fees are to be paid within the period from 1 to 30 January.

MNA

Prime Minister receives...

(from page 16)

International Corporation of the Republic of Korea explored and exploited oil and gas at A-1 block offshore Rakhine coast; that the offshore drilling machine Energy Searcher started drilling at Shwe-1 test well in

the block on 21 November 2003 and struck a large gas deposit on 26 December 2003 at the G-5 sand layer 10,588 feet below the seabed; that according to the geological condition, the deposit from 4.2 trillion to 5.8 trillion cubic feet of gas

is stored in the field.

The chairman added that the deposit is the world class and there are also platinum and silver at the block; that according to the calculations, the whole A-1 block may yield up to 14 trillion cubic feet of gas;

that therefore, they were there to ask for permits to explore and exploit oil and gas at other blocks that will benefit the State much and report the success in exploring oil and gas offshore Rakhine State.

MNA

Don't smoke

Sports events of pre-primary schools

YANGON, 16 Jan — The Yangon Division inter-pre-primary school sports meets took place at Aung San Gymnasium this morning. Among the spectators were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, officials, responsible persons from Mo. Asia Co Ltd Dumex and Loi Hein Co Ltd and others.

After the events, the minister and wife, the deputy minister and wife and officials presented prizes to the winners. The first prize for the physical skill contest went to No 1 Pre-primary School, the second to No 2 Pre-primary School and the third to the pre-primary school of the National Defence College.

MNA



Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presents prize to a winner. — MNA

Coord meeting on organizing Salone Traditional Festival held

YANGON, 16 Jan — With the aim of developing global tourism industry in Taninthayi Division, a coordination meeting on organizing Salone Traditional Festival was held at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on Merchant Street in Botahtaung Township here this morning, with an address by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

Present at the meeting were Head of Office of Chief of Military Intelligence Brig-Gen Khin Aung, Captain Nyan Thein of Tatmadaw (Navy), Managing Director of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services U Htay Aung and officials, Myanmar Hotliers Association Chairman Dr Khin Shwe, Myanmar Tour Operators Association Chairman U Khin Zaw and officials.

Brig-Gen Khin Aung explained the successful holding of Salone Traditional Festival and arrangements for the development of Salone region. Capt Nyan Thein, the chairman of the associations and entrepreneurs reported on their respective sectors. Later, the minister attended to the requirements. — MNA

Japan and Myanmar exchange notes

YANGON, 16 Jan — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto signed two notes at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development this morning and exchanged the notes. According to the notes, the Government of Japan will offer

assistance worth yen 159 million for human resources development scholarship project to Myanmar. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, officials of the Japanese Embassy and officials. — MNA



Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Japanese Ambassador Mr Yuji Miyamoto sign the agreement. — MNA

Minister receives foreign guests

YANGON, 16 Jan — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received Mr Lee Tae-Yong, Chairman of Daewoo International Corporation of Korea, and party at his office at 3 pm today.

Yesterday afternoon, the minister also received Mr Guy Cervelle, Director of TMR of Phoenix Holidays Asia Group from France, and party at his office at 3.30 pm. — MNA



Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and guests watch a match of the ITF 14 and Under Asian Championship 2004 Asia Zone-2. — MNA

ITF 14 and Under Asian Championship 2004 Asia Zone-2 continues

YANGON, 16 Jan — The second round 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 Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co), Secretary Dr Tin Aung Linn (Aung Mingalar Co) and executives, diplomats and military attachés of foreign missions, guests and tennis enthusiasts.

After the men's and women's singles events, Phyto

Min Tha, Aik Kyaw, Win Htet Paing, Zin Bo and Moe Chit The of Myanmar moved to quarter finals.

In the men's singles event, Aik Kyaw of Myanmar beat Saif of Maldives 6-0, 6-0 and Dinesh Kanthan of Sri Lanka 6-2, 6-2; Pyo Min Tha of Myanmar beat Prince of Sri Lanka 6-2, 6-0; Win Htet Paing of Myanmar beat Nazir of Pakistan 6-1, 6-0; and Zin Bo of Myanmar beat Aung Ko Ko of Myanmar 6-1, 6-2.

In the women's singles event, Moe Chit The of Myanmar beat Abdulla of Maldives 6-1, 6-1. The second round quarter final matches of the championship will continue tomorrow at the same venue. — MNA

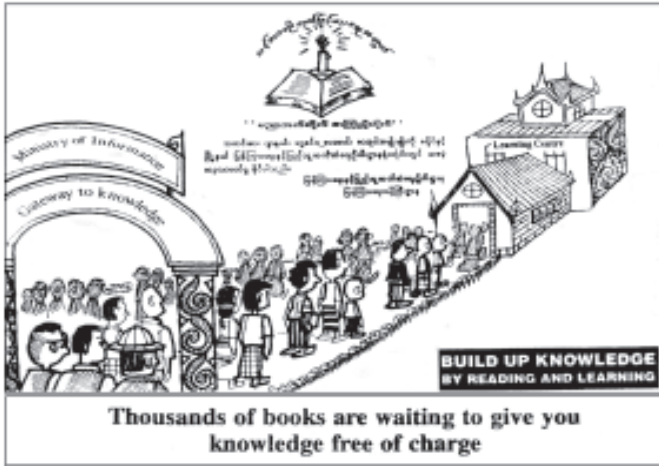
ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ - ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ သာမက၊ ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုပြည့်ဝခြင်း ကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကိုသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့် လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင်တန်းမျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္အန္တရာယ်မှကာကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္တောင်ခြင်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယင်လုံအိမ်သာကိုသုံးပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



NEWS OF THE WORLD

Hu Jintao approves role of SCO

BEIJING, 16 Jan — The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become an important force to safeguard regional peace, promote economic development and strengthen multi-lateral cooperation, Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Thursday.

Hu made the remarks while meeting with foreign ministers of SCO member states and heads of the SCO's two permanent organs — the secretariat and anti-terror centre — who were here to

attend the foreign ministers' meeting and the inaugural ceremony of the secretariat.

Hu said that the SCO, with concerted efforts of all members, had improved its organizational structure and shown a better image of peace, cooperation and openness in the world.

Hu called on all sides to promote concrete cooperation in anti-terrorism, security and economy and trade, so that the SCO can make active contribution to regional and global peace, stability and development.

The foreign ministers of six SCO members included

Li Zhaoxing from China, Kasymzhomart Tokayev from Kazakhstan, Askar Aytmatov from Kyrgyzstan, Igor Ivanov from Russia, Talbak Nazarov from Tajikistan, and Sodik Safaev from Uzbekistan. At present were also SCO Secretariat Secretary-General Zhang Deguang and Regional Anti-terror Centre Director V.T. Casymov.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Jordan on track for free trade deal

SINGAPORE, 16 Jan — Singapore and Jordan said on Thursday they expect to sign a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) by the middle of this year, the first between a Southeast Asian nation and a country in the Middle East. The target came in a statement released at the end of a third round of negotiations on the trade deal held in Amman.

"In view of the good progress achieved at this and

the earlier rounds of negotiations, both sides are now aiming to accelerate the conclusion of the FTA before the original target of July 2004," the countries said in a joint statement.

They said progress had been made on goods and services negotiations, and a substantive agreement had been reached on tourism cooperation. The next round of talks is set for February.

While trade between the

two countries was just 45.6 million Singapore dollars (26.9 million US dollars) in 2002, analysts see Jordan as providing a toe-hold for Singaporean business in the oil-rich Middle East and also for reconstruction efforts in Iraq. Singapore has free trade pacts with the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the four-nation European Free Trade Association, which groups Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

MNA/Reuters

Participants in China's manned space project honoured

BEIJING, 16 Jan — Forty work units and 400 individuals were honoured at a rally here Thursday for their eminent contributions to China's first manned space flight on October 15 and 16 last year.

The Ministry of Personnel, the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, and the General Armaments Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army decided that the participating

units, including the manned space project office, should be conferred the title of "the collective unit contributing tremendously to China's manned space project".

Individuals, including Chen Bingzhong, deputy chief designer for the project, were conferred the title of "Prominent contributor to China's manned space project". China launched its manned space programme in 1992. —MNA/Xinhua

3,000 kilos of charas seized in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 16 Jan — Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Thursday seized 3,000 kilos of charas in Swabi District, North-West Frontier Province, bordering Afghanistan.

A report of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reaching here said the contraband was recovered from a truck with a fake military number plate.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လှည့်အားပေးပါ

Pakistani soil will not be allowed for terrorist activity

ISLAMABAD, 16 Jan — Asserting that efforts to root out extremism will continue, President Pervez Musharraf Thursday said Pakistan would not allow its soil to be used by terrorists.

He was speaking to top military officers at the 89th Corps Commanders Conference in Rawalpindi.

Pakistan would not allow its soil to be used for any terrorist activity, he was quoted as saying by an Army statement.

Efforts to root out extremism and all kinds of terrorism from Pakistani soil would continue, he told the officers.

This was the first meet-

ing of top commanders after the recent SAARC summit and the meeting between Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Musharraf.

The conference reviewed the post-ceasefire situation along with Line of Control and discussed matters relating to operation and training preparations of the Army, it said.

The President also briefed the conference about the prevailing international and regional environment.

The conference was attended by corps commanders and principal staff officers of the general headquarters.

MNA/PTI

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Eyewitness to Diana crash says it was accident

LONDON, 16 Jan — An eyewitness to the Paris car crash which killed Britain's Princess Diana has told a British newspaper it was an accident, casting doubt on numerous conspiracy theories that she was murdered.

Mohamed Medjahdi, 29, said he was driving directly in front of Diana's Mercedes limousine when it crashed in a tunnel in the French capital in August 1997. The car had been speeding out of control, and no other cars or people had been involved, he said.

"I am absolutely convinced, clear and certain that this was a tragedy — but it was an accident," the *Daily Mail* quoted him as saying on Thursday. "Any conspiracy would have had to

be carried out by invisible men."

Diana, her lover Dodi al Fayed and their chauffeur Henri Paul died in the crash. French investigators, who the *Mail* said had repeatedly interviewed Medjahdi, concluded in 1999 the accident was caused by Paul being drunk and driving too fast.

But more sinister theories have continued to flourish, most recently fuelled by the revelation that Diana had written a letter 10 months before her death in which she claimed her former husband, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, was plotting to kill her in a car crash.

Dodi's father Mohammed al Fayed, multi-millionaire owner of the exclusive London store Harrods, has

long claimed British secret services were responsible because the couple's relationship was an embarrassment to the royal family.

At the opening of an inquest into Diana's death this month on the same day details of Diana's letter were published, Britain announced there would be a top-level police probe to clear up the speculation. Their findings will be revealed at the full inquest due next year.

Describing the crash, Medjahdi said: "The car was slewing across the carriage-way, a car which was completely out of control."

MNA/Reuters

Iran to invest in Indonesian oil sector

JAKARTA, 16 Jan — Iran planned to invest one billion US dollars in oil and gas sector in Indonesia, especially in the development of oil refinery in Tuban, East Java, an envoy said Thursday.

"We have made an investigation in several sectors in Indonesia, but we consider that investing in oil and gas sector is very interesting," Iranian Ambassador to Indonesia Shaban Shahid-moaddab was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying. He said the oil refinery development is very interesting because Tuban is an industrial area which needs much gasoline.

He did not elaborate when the investment will be materialized.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian women perform Giddha, a traditional folk dance, near a bonfire as they celebrate the Lohri festival in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh on 13 Jan, 2004. Lohri marks the culmination of winter in many parts of northern India and is celebrated on the 13th day of January every year. —INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဓာတ်ပုံဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Royal pheasant shoot terrifies British children

LONDON, 16 Jan— A British royal shooting party has apologized to a local school, after children watched in horror as pheasants were blasted out of the sky and fell yards from their playground, the headmistress said on Wednesday.

Media said the Queen's husband Prince Philip, was one of the shooters on the Sandringham estate in Norfolk, eastern England.

The children from St George's Middle School were shocked as dogs took the bloodied, dead birds back to the marksmen in full view of their playground.

"The school has a very thriving bird-watching club and a lot of the children that were upset were members of this club," headmistress Carol De Witt told BBC radio on Wednesday.

The party moved away from the school after a teacher asked them to stop shooting because the children, on a mid-morning break, were so distraught.

The children know that shooting is a countryside sport and occurs throughout the year "but we have never actually seen the birds being shot", De Witt added.

"Some of the children wrote letters to me to pass on to the royal estate asking that the shooting not take place in the field when they were playing," De Witt said the Sandringham estate has apologized and would try to stop shooting during school breaktimes.—MNA/Reuters

33 new recordings added to US Grammy Hall of Fame

LOS ANGELES, 16 Jan— The United States Recording Academy on Wednesday announced 33 additions to its Grammy Hall of Fame, including The Beatles' "Let It Be".

Other major hits added to the Grammy Hall Of Fame include Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and Frank Sinatra's "I've Got the World on a String."

The Recording Academy's National Trustees established the Grammy Hall Of Fame in 1973 to honour recordings of "lasting qualitative or historical significance that are at least 25 years old".

Song and album selections for the Grammy Hall of Fame, which now includes 639 titles, are drawn from all major categories of music. Winners are selected annually by a committee of professionals from all branches of the recording arts.

"This year's inductees span nine decades and represent a diverse array of genres from classical and show tunes to blues, jazz and rock and roll," said Academy President Neil Portnow.

"They exemplify the best qualities that make the recording arts such a vital part of our culture — and each not only uniquely reflects the zeitgeist of its time, but also

possesses the enduring power of transcending time," he said.

The oldest recordings on this year's list were Al Jolson's "Rock-A-Bye Your Baby With a Dixie Melody," which dates back to 1918, and the 1925 Ma Rainey blues single "See See Rider Blues".

The motion picture soundtracks from Walt Disney's "Fantasia," "West Side Story" and "Saturday Night Fever" made the cut, as did the 1964 "Funny Girl" Broadway cast recording featuring Barbara Streisand.

Also making the list were Simon & Garfunkle's "The Sounds of Silence", Billy Joel's "Just the Way You Are", Carly Simon's "You're So Vain", and the 1969 album "Johnny Cash at San Quentin".

Two R&B albums were chosen: Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" and Earth, Wind & Fire's "That's the Way of the World".

Sinatra was the only artist to make the latest list twice. "Come Fly With Me", his 1958 traditional pop album, was also singled out. —MNA/Xinhua

Olympic construction unearths the past



Graphic locates archeological sites unearthed in Athens, Greece, while building the competition venues for the 2004 summer Olympics. —INTERNET

Volcano in southwest Japan spews smoke

TOKYO, 16 Jan— A volcano in southwestern Japan began to spout earth, sand and smoke on Wednesday, prompting authorities to bar people from climbing the peak.

The 1,592-metre (5,220-foot) Mount Aso on the southern main island of Kyushu, 560 miles southwest of Tokyo, started to belch earth and sand around 3:40 p.m. (0640 GMT) on Wednesday, the Meteorological Agency said.

MNA/Reuters

Four ancient inscriptions unearthed in China

BEIJING, 16 Jan— Archaeologists have unearthed four ancient inscriptions, known as "oracle bones", dating back to the Shang Dynasty 16th - 11th centuries BC, at the Daxinzhuang Ruins in Jinan City, capital of east China's Shandong Province.

It was the first time Shang oracle bones had been found outside the dynasty's 3,300-year-old capital, Yinxu Ruins in Anyang City in central China's Henan Province.

Oracle bone inscriptions, widely known as Jiaguwen in Chinese, referred to words inscribed on tortoise shells or animal bones.

The shells had been dug out exclusively in Yinxu, and the latest finding could provide key clues on formation

of the dynasty and indication that the ruins might have been an important cultural centre, said Zhu Fenghan, deputy-curator of National Museum of China.

Among the cache, three bones bear only one or two words, still not deciphered.

The other is a large tortoise shell with 34 words, telling of three methods to offer sacrifice to gods or ancestors.

Jiaguwen were first discovered by Wang Yirong in 1899 and are the earliest systematic characters ever found

in China.

There are about 5,000 Jiaguwen words, half of which can not be deciphered, said Fang Hui, vice-director of Oriental Archaeology Research Centre with Shandong University.

The Daxinzhuang Ruins was first discovered in 1936 and has yielded many bronze pieces, jade articles and about 400 pieces of tortoise shells.

The ruins share similar traits with the ancient capital of Yinxu, including pottery,

bronze and jade, and the finding of similar Jiaguwen proved that they were using similar words.

The culture had spread from the ancient capital in central China's Henan Province to eastern areas, Fang said.—MNA/Xinhua

Iranian plane makes emergency landing in China

BEIJING, 16 Jan—An Iran Air plane made an emergency landing in Beijing shortly after takeoff on Thursday because of landing gear problems, an aviation official said. "The landing gear was broken. We don't know when, but the plane landed safely," an Air China official told Reuters.

Iran Air Flight IR 800 stops in transit in Beijing from Teheran en route to Tokyo. Its departure was around 9 am (0100 GMT).

Iran Air said it could not confirm if its plane was involved.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China said earlier the plane had landed "improperly". CAAC did not confirm the airline or the country from where the plane was from.

Visibility was clear at the time. Iran Air uses Boeing 747SPs on the route, according to the company's web site, a model that dates back to the 1970s.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

UN enlists broadcasters in battle against "AIDS"

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Jan—Top executives from 22 broadcasting giants around the world agreed on Thursday to join a UN campaign to educate the public about how to prevent AIDS.

"If there is one thing we have learned in the two decades of this epidemic, it is that in the world of AIDS, silence is death," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, urging the media companies to broadcast more public service messages and educational shows and also

to explore AIDS themes in their regular programming.

Annan organized the Global Media AIDS Initiative with help from Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates and Drew Altman, president and chief executive of the Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation.

"You are joining into something where there is very much positive momentum, but we're not even doing half of what should be done," said Gates, whose Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given extensive support to the search for an AIDS vaccine. "The challenge for all of you is to think about how to raise visibility," he told the group.

WHO launches final push to eradicate polio

GENEVA, 16 Jan— The World Health Organization (WHO) and six countries in which polio remains endemic agreed on Thursday on a final push to eradicate a disease that once paralyzed hundreds of thousands of children a year.

The plan calls for massive vaccination campaigns, mainly in the six states — India, Pakistan, Egypt, Nigeria, Niger and Afghanistan — with some 250 million children being vaccinated several times in a bid to stop transmission.

Polio was one of the world's most devastating and widespread diseases. But the number of new cases so far recorded worldwide for 2003 is just 650, although data is still coming in, only around a third of the figure for the previous year, according to the UN health body. — MNA/Reuters



Japan's electronics giant Sony unveils its new tiny portable USB audio player. Sony said it will launch a portable audio gadget globally in February under the AIWA brandname to compete in the popular MP3 music-downloading market.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Late Milan goal sinks Roma in Italian Cup

ROME, 16 Jan— An injury-time goal by midfielder Massimo Ambrosini gave AC Milan a 2-1 win over AS Roma in an Italian Cup quarterfinal first leg match on Wednesday.

It was the second time in eight days that the Cup holders had got the better of the Serie A leaders after their 2-1 league win at Rome's Olympic Stadium last week.

Milan dominated the first half and home striker Marco Borriello and Ambrosini had both gone close before Danish teammate Jon Dahl Tomasson broke Roma's offside trap and slotted the ball past stranded keeper Andrea Zotti in the 39th minute.

Without injured captain Francesco Totti and suspended striker Antonio Cassano, the visitors lacked their usual sharpness up front, but the introduction of Brazilian winger Mancini shortly after the hour changed the balance of the game.

Roma seemed to have done enough for a draw when burly Norwegian striker John Carew equalized in the 78th minute, chesting down a long ball in the area before spinning and shooting past Milan keeper Dida.

But Milan regained the lead in the first minute of stoppage time when Zotti parried a Serginho cross into Ambrosini's path and the midfielder sidefooted the ball into an open net. —MNA/Reuters



Perugia's Marco Di Loreto, on the ground, and Juventus' Enzo Maresca, right, appear in action, during the Italy Cup Coppa Italia soccer match between Perugia and Juventus in Perugia, central Italy, on 15 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Injured Crespo could be out for up to six weeks

LONDON, 16 Jan— Chelsea's Argentine striker Hernan Crespo could be sidelined for up to six weeks with a calf injury, according to the Premier League club's manager Claudio Ranieri.

"Crespo is having treatment and he could be out for a month or six weeks. (Damien) Duff and (Emmanuel) Petit will be back soon but Veron will be out a little longer. He may need an operation," said Ranieri.

Crespo pulled up 10 minutes into the game against Liverpool at Stamford Bridge a week ago, while Juan Sebastian Veron has not played since November due to a back injury and Petit has been out of action since September because of a knee problem.

Chelsea, who face Watford in an FA Cup third round replay on Wednesday, are also without midfielder Geremi, who has left to join the Cameroon squad for the African

Nations Cup.

However, Damien Duff could be on the bench after recovering from a dislocated shoulder suffered in December against Fulham.

"Duff I am waiting (on). If the shoulder specialist tells me it is okay, he can be on the bench against Watford," Ranieri told Chelsea's official web site.

"Of course, his fitness is not 100 per cent but it is important for him to smell the dressing room, the bench and maybe also the field, why not?" — MNA/Reuters

Man Utd youth player breaks leg in car crash

LONDON, 16 Jan — Manchester United youth team player Phil Marsh was airlifted to hospital with a broken leg after a car crash near the club's training ground on Wednesday.

The 17-year-old was said by the club to be in a stable condition after also suffering an arm injury and facial cuts and bruises.

Teammate Callum Flanagan, 18, was also in the car but escaped without any significant injuries. Both players featured as substitutes in United's FA Youth Cup win over Manchester City on Tuesday, Flanagan scoring the second goal in a 2-0 win.

As a result of the accident, which took place close to the club's training ground at Carrington, a few miles west of Manchester, United called off a reserve team match against Birmingham City scheduled for Wednesday. — MNA/Reuters

Chelsea join race for Saha

LONDON, 16 Jan— In a new twist to Fulham striker Louis Saha's transfer saga, free-spending Chelsea have reportedly joined the bid for his service.

Both Fulham and United have rejected Saha's claims that a 9.8-million-pound deal has been agreed, leaving the striker's future in doubt again.

Chelsea's reported interest in Saha came when Chelsea striker Hernan Crespo will be out of action for six weeks after sustaining a calf injury during the 1-0 loss to Liverpool last week.

After having splashed out about 110 million pounds on new players last summer, Chelsea is the name most often mentioned after the winter transfer window opens this month. If Chelsea really fall for Saha, they would drive the transfer price even higher.

But Saha seems to have set his heart on

United saying that it is "a dream" of playing for United.

"My dream of playing for United is close to being reality but first I have to complete a medical," Saha was quoted as saying by Wednesday's Daily Mail.

But Fulham spokesman Chester Stern told BBC sport that "there has been no fresh bid from Manchester United. There is no truth in the story at all."

United, who is looking for another striker to back up Ruud van Nistelrooy, also insisted that no deal is imminent.

Saha, who scored his 15th goal of the season last Saturday, moved to Fulham from Metz in 2000.

MNA/Xinhua

Lazio brush aside Parma in Italian Cup quarterfinal

ROME, 16 Jan— Roberto Muzzi and Dejan Stankovic scored a goal in each half to give Lazio a comfortable 2-0 win over Parma in an Italian Cup quarterfinal first leg match on Wednesday.

It was a disappointing result for financially troubled Parma who had got a little respite last Saturday from their woes with a 1-0 Serie A victory over Inter Milan.

Lazio coach Roberto Mancini's decision to field a full-strength team for the match at the Olympic Stadium paid off in the 36th minute when Muzzi outpumped defender Paolo Cannavaro to head home Fabio Liverani's precise cross.

The visitors came closest to equalizing shortly after

the interval when Lazio keeper Matteo Sereni pulled off a spectacular diving save to palm a long-range shot by midfielder Alessandro Rosina round the post.

But Parma could not keep up the pressure. Brazilian striker Adriano - playing his first match in more than two months after recovering from a hamstring injury — looked unusually sluggish in front of goal.

Stankovic sealed the result on the hour, firing home

low after good work on the right by teammate Bernardo Corradi.

Argentine striker Claudio Lopez could have made it three for Lazio with 10 minutes remaining, but shot wide when one-on-one with Parma keeper Sebastien Frey. In a later Cup quarterfinal on Wednesday, holders AC Milan take on Serie A leaders AS Roma in a repeat of last season's final.

MNA/Reuters

Fulham sign United States defender Bocanegra

LONDON, 16 Jan— Fulham have signed United States defender Carlos Bocanegra on a three-year contract, the English Premier League club said in a statement on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old moves to Fulham on a free transfer from Major League Soccer club Chicago Fire.

"I have seen Carlos play and I could see that he has great potential," Fulham manager Chris Coleman said. "He reads the game well and is very skilful and strong which are prime attributes for a defender."

Bocanegra has been a regular in the US side since 2002, winning 16 caps. Fulham lie sixth in the 20-team Premier League table.

MNA/Reuters

St Etienne beat Nice to reach French League Cup semis

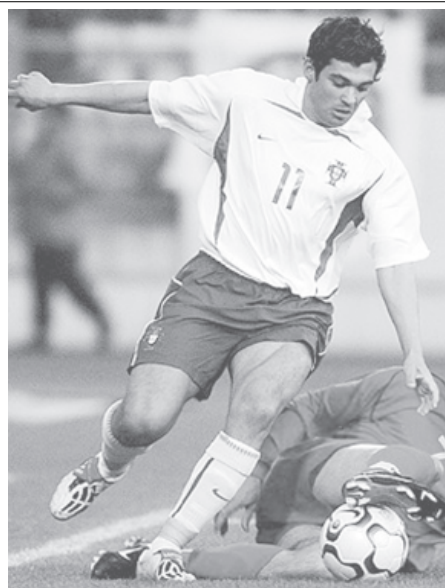
LONDON, 16 Jan— Former greats St. Etienne caused the upset of the French League Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday when the Second Division club beat Ligue 1 favourites Nice 2-0.

Auxerre also booked their place in the semifinals with Bonaventure Kalou's 86th minute strike in a 1-0 win over Second Division Gueugnon, while Nantes beat Le Mans 5-4 on penalties after their match had finished at 1-1.

Sochaux had already sealed their place in the last four on Tuesday with a 4-0 drubbing of Lens. St. Etienne, who were among the European footballing elite from the mid-1960s to mid-1970s, went ahead with a blistering shot from midfielder Fabrice Jau in the 23rd minute.

Having already knocked out Ligue 1 side Lille in the previous round, they made sure of another scalp in the 53rd minute when striker Lilian Coman converted from the penalty spot at the Stade Geoffroy Guichard.

MNA/Reuters



Portuguese winger Sergio Conceicao, seen here in 2003, said he had agreed to return to FC Porto, just two days after he ended his contract with Italy's Lazio by mutual consent.—INTERNET

Inter Milan in talks to buy Stankovic

ROME, 16 Jan— Inter Milan is in talks to buy Lazio midfielder Dejan Stankovic, local media reported Wednesday.

"We've met with Lazio's directors and we'll be seeing them again soon," Inter president Massimo Moratti was quoted as saying.

Media reports earlier in the week suggested that the two clubs had already agreed the terms of a January transfer but these were denied by Moratti.

The future of the Serbia and Montenegro international has been in doubt ever since talks broke down with Lazio on the terms of a new contract. His deal expires in June and the cash-strapped Serie A side is keen to sell now rather than losing one of its best players for nothing at the end of the season.

MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3



17-1-2004 (Saturday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctu-
ary
- 9:10 **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Head of River
Catfish and Indian
Leek Sour Soup)
- 9:15 **National News**
- 9:20 Red Panda
- 9:25 A Dance to the Harvest
- 9:30 **National News**
- 9:35 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-II)
- 9:40 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
- 9:42 Tours in Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 9:45 **National News**
- 9:50 Macadamia (Perennial
Cash Crop)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

17-1-2004 (Saturday) Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 15:36 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctu-
ary
- 15:40 **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Head of the
River Catfish and In-
dian Leek Sour Soup)
- 15:45 **National News**
- 15:50 Red Panda
- 15:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 16:00 **National News**
- 16:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-II)
- 16:10 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"



Saturday, January 17
View today:

- 7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး
တပျာစီစိတ္တသာရာသီဝိသုဒ္ဓိ
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. Delicacies
- 8:05 am
6. အတိတ်မြင်ပုံ
- 8:15 am
7. ရွှေလောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am
8. International news
- 8:45 am
9. Grammar made easy

- 16:12 Tours in Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 16:15 **National News**
- 16:20 Macadamia (Perennial
Cash Crop)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 **National News**
- 16:35 Travel & Description
(Mandalay to Lashio)
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
- 16:45 **National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact "Dark Green Col-
oured Moon"
- 17:00 **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 17:05 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Let go of me"
- 17:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 17:20 Myanmar Traditional
Food (Pone Ye Gyi)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**
- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Tours in Myanmar
"Yangon"
- 19:40 **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant)
- 19:45 **National News**
- 19:50 Lucky Bamboo
- 19:55 Sound of the harp at-
tracting Love
- 19:58 Beautiful Taninthayi
- 20:00 **National News**
- 20:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-I)
- 20:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady River
(Sagaing)"
- 20:15 **National News**
- 20:20 Mogok, The Gems
Land
- 20:25 Song "Young Love"
- 20:30 **National News**
- 20:35 Socioeconomic Condi-
tions of Chin State
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional Shwe-
daung Noodle"
- 20:45 **National News**
- 20:50 An Umbrella for Style
- 20:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)

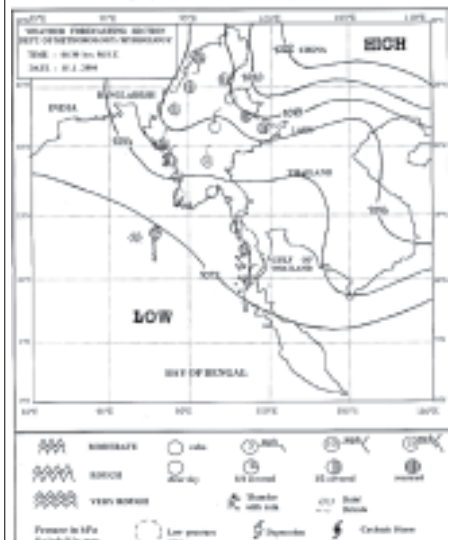
- 21:00 **National News**
- 21:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Feel like an
Earthquake"
- 21:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 21:20 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victoria
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 21:35 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctu-
ary
- 21:40 **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Head of River
Catfish and India Leek
Sour Soup)
- 21:45 **National News**
- 21:50 Red Panda
- 21:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 22:00 **National News**
- 22:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-II)
- 22:10 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
- 22:12 Tours in Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 22:15 **National News**
- 22:20 Macadamia "Perennial
Cash Crop"
- 22:25 Song "Magnificent
Darka Bridge"
- 22:30 **National News**
- 22:35 Travel & Description
(Mandalay to Lashio)
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
- 22:45 **National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact "Dark Green Col-
oured Moon"
- 23:00 **National News**
- 23:05 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Let go of me"
- 23:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 23:20 Myanmar Traditional
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 17-1-2004 (Saturday)
&
18-1-2004 (Sunday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 23:36 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctu-
ary
- 23:40 **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Head of River
Catfish and India Leek
Sour Soup)
- 23:45 **National News**
- 23:50 Red Panda
- 23:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 24:00 **National News**
- 00:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part -II)
- 00:10 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
- 00:12 Tour in Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 00:15 **National News**
- 00:20 Macadamia (Perennial
Cash Crop)
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Mingalabar"
- 00:30 **National News**
- 00:35 Travel & Description
(Mandalay to Lashio)
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
- 00:45 **National News**
- 00:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact "Dark Green Col-
oured Moon"
- 01:00 **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 01:05 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Let go of me"
- 01:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 01:20 Myanmar Traditional
Food (Pone Ye Gyi)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 18-1-2004 (Sunday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**
- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 03:36 Tour in Myanmar
"Yangon"
- 03:40 **Headline News**
- 03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fried Prawn
with Citrus Plant)
- 03:45 **National News**
- 03:50 Lucky Bamboo
- 03:55 Sound of the harp at-
tracting Love
- 03:58 Beautiful Taninthayi
- 04:00 **National News**
- 04:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-I)
- 04:10 Song "The Beauty of
the Ayeyawady River

- (Sagaing)"
- 04:15 **National News**
- 04:20 Mogok, The Gems
Land
- 04:25 Song "Young Love"
- 04:30 **National News**
- 04:35 Socioeconomic Condi-
tions of Chin State
- 04:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional Shwe-
daung Noodle"
- 04:45 **National News**
- 04:50 An Umbrella for Style
- 04:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)
- 05:00 **National News**
- 05:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 05:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Feel like an
Earthquake"
- 05:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 05:20 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victoria
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 05:35 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctu-
ary
- 05:40 **Headline News**
- 05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Head of River
Catfish and India

- Leek Sour Soup)
- 05:45 **National News**
- 05:50 Red Panda
- 05:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 06:00 **National News**
- 06:05 Picturesque Views in
Southern Shan State
(Part-II)
- 06:10 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
- 06:12 Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 06:15 **National News**
- 06:20 Macadamia (Perennial
Cash Crop)
- 06:25 Song "Magnificent
Darka Bridge"
- 06:30 **National News**
- 06:35 Travel & Description
(Mandalay to Lashio)
- 06:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
- 06:45 **National News**
- 06:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact "Dark Green Col-
oured Moon"
- 07:00 **National News**
- 07:05 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 07:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Let go of me"
- 07:15 **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 07:20 Myanmar Traditional
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 07:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 16 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, Weather had been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin and Shan States and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was (1°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 15-1-2004 was 34.0°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 16-1-2004 was 12.6°C (55°F). Relative humidity at 9:0 hrs MST on 16-1-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 15-1-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 15-1-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of the 17-1-2004:** Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-1-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-1-2004:** Fair weather.

Weather Outlook for third weekend of January 2004: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Lee Tae-Yong and party. — MNA

Prime Minister receives Chairman of Daewoo International Corporation and party

YANGON, 16 Jan—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Chairman of Daewoo International Corporation Mr Lee Tae-Yong and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta here at 4.30 pm today.

Also present on the oc-

casion together with the Prime Minister were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-

General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials.

At the meeting, Chairman Mr Lee Tae-Yong said that under the production sharing contract, the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and the Daewoo

(See page 11)

Development of Myanmar gems industry coordinated

YANGON, 16 Jan — A coordination meeting on the development of Myanmar gems industry took place at the meeting hall-1 of the Ministry of Mines at 2 pm today, with an address by Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt.

Also present at the meeting were ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general,

the deputy minister of the Ministry of Mines, members of the leading committee for Myanmar gems industry development, personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, and departmental heads.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on the condition of State's income from gems industry,

of the proceeds from the 2003 mid-year gems exhibition and of the mining of gems on a mutually beneficial basis, and arrangements for development of gems industry. Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein next reported on tasks being carried out by the central committee for gems supervision, gem mining works being conducted by the State and private entrepreneurs on mutual benefit.

In response to the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said as systematic steps are taken to develop Myanmar gems industry through more exploitation of jades and gems which fetch high prices, the mining sector has become one of the major sources of income for the State. Besides gems, the exploitation of more gold, silver, pearl and other mineral resources should also be undertaken on a broader scale.

Later, the Prime Minister urged officials of the ministry to make efforts to get more earnings from the mining sector.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the coordination meeting on development of Myanmar gems industry. — MNA

Doctors replant amputated forearm of 55-year-old man

YANGON, 16 Jan — After a nine-hour surgical operation, doctors were able to replant the amputated right forearm of a 55-year-old man at Yangon General Hospital on 11 January.

The operation started at 8.45 pm, and two hours later, the doctors were able to replant the vein and the artery of forearm of the patient, U Than Maung, whose right forearm was cut off when he was attacked by a sword. Doctors gave him I/V Heparin (5000-unit) injection to prevent blood clotting.

U Than Maung was transferred from Thimgangyun Sanpya Hospital, where he was initially ward, to YGH at 5.30 pm on 11 January.

The health condition of the patient is improving under intensive care at a special ward at the hospital.

He can now move his fingers.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo visited the patient at the hospital this morning. Medical Superintendent Dr Teik Wan, Surgical Specialist Dr Kyaw

Htay and officials gave reports on the patient and the operation. The minister looked into the requirements. It is the third time in Myanmar doctors have successfully replanted an amputated arm.

The State has provided one operation microscope each to Yangon and Mandalay general hospitals. The unit price of the microscope is US \$ 55,000. Medical doctorate degree course on hand surgery is being conducted at Institute of Medicine-1 in Yangon to produce medical practitioners. — MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo comfort the patient who had undergone operation at intensive care unit of Yangon General Hospital.

HEALTH