

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 276

12th Waning of Pyatho 1365 ME

Sunday, 18 January, 2004

## Remedial measures still need to be taken for prevalence of law and order and administration of justice Prime Minister meets judges and law officers

YANGON, 17 Jan— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with judges of the Supreme Court, states and divisions and districts and law officers of the Attorney-General's Office and states and divisions and districts at the Hall of Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Road this morning and gave instructions on judicial affairs.

Also present were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the mayor of Yangon, the deputy ministers, the deputy chief justices, the deputy attorney-general, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC office, judges and judicial officials.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that at a time when efforts are being made for the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the government is systematically building political, economic and social foundations that are in conformity with and suitable for the new State.

In the process, measures are being taken in the judicial sector for ensuring law enforcement, public security and all the people to live in the legal fold with peace of mind.

At such a time, the responsibility to develop the law enforcement sector, covering the administration of justice, in accord with the national goals depends on the morale, skill and work efficiency of experts and administrators including judges, law officers, attorneys, police officers, inspectors, forensic experts and doctors, and management officials.

The Prime Minister continued to say that he has to give instructions to officials as the government acknowledges the important role of officials of the law enforcement sector.

He also recounted the instructions that were given to officials— judges are to judge a case in accord with the seven principles of judicial system; to be free from bribery for correctness of judicial pillar; to strive for exposing the truth in order to win the trust of the people and ensure that the ones who break the law could not disrespect the court;

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the meeting with judges and law officers. — MNA



## Prime Minister attends demonstration of basic Maha Gita CD-ROM

YANGON, 17 Jan—A demonstration of basic Maha Gita CD-ROM was held at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Hline Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Prime Minister General

Khin Nyunt.

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

isters, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, Managing Director of Inforithm Maze Co Ltd U Thaung Su Nyein said the basic Maha Gita CD ROM was produced with the aims of participation in preservation of Myanmar traditional cultural music through modern technology, publicizing Myanmar Maha Gita in international circle and playing Maha Gita by international musical notes.

Computer Industry Association and Computer Enthusiasts Association and guests.

Managing Director of Inforithm Maze Co Ltd U Thaung Su Nyein said the basic Maha Gita CD ROM was produced with the aims of participation in preservation of Myanmar traditional cultural music through modern technology, publicizing Myanmar Maha Gita in international circle and playing Maha Gita by international musical notes.

Based on the experience of CD-ROM on Buddhism created in 2000, efforts were made for production of 13 basic Maha Gita songs in international musical notes with the help of musicians and computer technicians. The CD-ROM includes international musical notes, 13 Maha Gita songs, Myanmar traditional musical instruments and Myanmar's great composers.

Next, Ma The Myat Soe, a third year student majoring in music of University of Culture (Yangon) presented singing of Maha Gita songs with the help of musical instruments played by Assistant Lecturer U Zaw Win Min of University of Culture (Mandalay).

Managing Director of Inforithm Maze Co Ltd U Thaung Su Nyein presented CD-ROMs purchased by the Ministry of Education to Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin. He also presented the CD-ROMs to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said all sectors in the country will develop with the continuous efforts, innovation and cooperation of technicians.

He praised great musicians and computer technicians for their efforts to produce the CD-ROM in two

years. It is an attempt in cultural sector with the help of computer technology for studying Maha Gita systematically and entering international circle and it will be beneficial to the nation, he added.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted musicians and computer technicians.

MNA

### INSIDE

#### Perspectives

Strive to promote national income through extensive gem mining (Page 2)

#### Article

Promising Myanmar Information Technology (Page 7)

### Circulation

23,585



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives CD-ROMs from Inforithm-Maze Co Ltd Managing Director U Thaung Su Nyein. — MNA

## PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 18 January, 2004

### Strive to promote national income through extensive gem mining

Myanmar is a land abundant in natural resources including gold, silver, gems and pearls. Not only Mogok, Monghsu and Pyinlon gems lands but also Phakant, Lonkhin, Hsambhaw regions in Kachin State and Hkamti and Mawlu Mawhan jade lands in Sagaing Division are famous to the world.

To promote the sale of quality gems of Myanmar, Myanma Gems Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines is taking systematic measures in accord with the gems law.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended Work Coordination Meeting on Development of Myanma Gems Industry held at the Meeting Hall-1 of the Ministry of Mines the other day and gave necessary instructions.

After hearing the reports presented by responsible officials, the Prime Minister said the State was earning more income from the mining sector thanks to the extended exploration of precious jade and gems and systematic measures taken for the development of gems industry. In addition to the gems mining industry, efforts must also be exerted for the mining of gold and silver and culturing pearls to further promote the income of the mining sector of the State, the Prime Minister added.

Arrangements have been made for the generation of a gems market and development and systematization of gems mining industry.

The State and national entrepreneurs are exploring gems and jade on a mutually beneficial basis in gems mining blocks in gems lands.

Success of the gems industry must be attributed to the cooperation between national entrepreneurs and the State, assistance of local authorities, and prevalence of peace and stability of the regions concerned.

National gems entrepreneurs are allowed to participate in gems emporiums at home and abroad.

Gems mining industry provided tax for the State while national entrepreneurs enjoyed benefits from it. Gems entrepreneurs are required to serve the interests of the State with loyalty and honesty.

It is our belief that national entrepreneurs will strive to promote the income of the mining sector of the State by exploring gems, mining gold and silver and culturing pearls most extensively.

### The 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

### Efficient use of fuel

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

### People's Desire

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

### Efficient use of electricity

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

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

### Lt-Gen Ye Myint pay homage to Phayagyi Taik Naya Monastery Sayadaw

YANGON, 17 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, together with Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and officials yesterday afternoon asked after Phayagyi Taik Naya Monastery Sayadaw State Ovadhacariya Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Bhaddanta Medhiya Bhivamsa, who was undergoing medical treatments at Mandalay General Hospital, and presented offertories to the Sayadaw. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint asks after the health of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Medhiya Bhivamsa at Mandalay General Hospital. — MNA

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

YANGON, 17 Jan—The second round matches of the ITF 14 and Under Asian Championship 2004 Asia Zone-2 jointly sponsored by the International Tennis Federation and Myanmar Tennis Federation, continued at Theinbyu Tennis Court here this morning.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, President 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.

In the men's singles events of the second round quarter finals, Phyo Min Tha of Myanmar beat Kwang of Malaysia 6-2, 6-4; Babar of Pakistan beat Aik Kyauk of Myanmar 6-1, 6-1; Win Htet Paing of Myanmar beat Shan Mu gam of Malaysia 6-3, 7-6; and Munkhbaatar of Mongolia beat Zin Bo of Myanmar 6-1, 6-0 and moved to the

semi finals.

In the women's singles events, Noordin of Malaysia beat Rijal of Nepal 6-0, 6-3; Vythina Than of Malaysia beat Jaya Wickrema of Sri Lanka 6-2, 6-2; Thirumalai Chelvam of Malaysia beat Jaya Tilaka of Sri Lanka 6-2, 7-5; Arudp Raga Sam of Sri Lanka beat Moe Chit The of Myanmar 6-2, 6-4 and moved to semi finals.

In the women's doubles events, Noordin and Vythina Than of Malaysia beat Thin Htut Mon and Hnin Hla Pyae of Myanmar 6-0, 6-1; Arudp Raga Sam and Jaya Wickrema of Sri Lanka beat Abdulla and Hilmy of Maldives 6-0, 6-0; Khine Nyein Tha and Moe Chit The of Myanmar beat Somvong Sor of Laos and Thai of Bhutan 6-0, 6-3; and Jaya Tilaka of Sri Lanka and Thirumalai Chelvam of Malaysia beat Pandey and Rijal of Nepal 6-4, 6-4 and moved to the semi finals.

In the men's doubles events, Win Htet Paing and Phyo Min Tha of Myanmar beat Kapki and Sherpa of Nepal 6-2, 6-3; Kwang and Shanmu Gam of Malaysia beat Aung Ko Ko of Myanmar and Raza of Pakistan 7-5, 6-4; and Babar and Nazir of Pakistan beat Munkhbaatar and Munkhsaikhan of Mongolia 7-6, 6-3.

The second round finals will be held at the same venue on 18 January morning. — MNA



Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and guests watch Shan Mu Gam (Malaysia) backhanding the ball to his opponent. — MNA





## Landmine destroys packed bus in Iraq, as tens of thousands demonstrate

**BAGHDAD, 17 Jan—**A bus packed with Iraqi youths was blown apart by a landmine leaving three dead near Saddam Hussein's hometown Tikrit in northern Iraq as a new post-war currency began circulating and tens of thousands demonstrated in Basra for elections.

The attack on the Tikrit university vehicle, described as "cowardly" by the US military, came as Shiite Muslims filled the streets of the southern city of Basra to support their spiritual leader's call for elections.

Preparations meanwhile were underway for talks at the UN on Iraq's future.

Paul Bremer, the US civilian overseer in Iraq, was due for talks at UN headquarters in New York on Monday accompanied by Iraqi Governing Council president Adnan

Pachachi.

Pachachi told reporters that he, Bremer, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan would hold "three-way discussions."

"I am confident the talks will have positive results," he said. "We will clarify from Secretary General Kofi Annan and his aides what the UN can provide over the next months as Iraq regains its sovereignty."

US officials said Bremer would stop in Washington en route for talks at the White House.—*Internet*



US army troops watch a demonstration by the Iraqis in Baghdad, on 15 Jan, 2004. Tens of thousands of demonstrators shouting 'No to America' marched through Basra.

INTERNET

## Survey shows Israelis smoke less, but grow fatter

**JERUSALEM, 17 Jan—**A just released survey shows that although Israelis smoke less and are becoming more aware of their health problems, they grow fatter, Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* reported Thursday.

The survey, conducted between April and October last year, showed that the number of Israeli smokers dropped from 29 per cent in 1998 to 24 per cent in 2002, while the average weight of Israelis rose significantly.

The average weight of men rose from 75 kilos in 1998 to 78 kilos four years later, and the average weight of women rose from 63 kilos to 66 kilos during the period, according to the telephone survey, which is taken every two years. The result of the survey, which polled 3,500 Israeli residents aged over 18, was released earlier this week by Dov Tamir, director of the health promotion department with the Israeli Ministry's Education.

The main purpose of the poll is to locate risk factors for illness and death among Israelis, in order to better educate the public on good health habits, Tamir said.

"Most Israeli deaths are to a great extent connected to behaviour, such as lack of

physical activity, poor nutrition and smoking. Therefore, educating the public in these areas is very important, sometimes more so than building another hospital or hiring more doctors," he said.

According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the 35,000 people who die every year in Israel, some 40 per cent died of cardiovascular diseases, and some 20 per cent died of cancer.

Tamir said that the survey also indicated that the plague of obesity currently afflicting the United States and other Western countries, has spread to Israel.

In 1998, 8 per cent of the men and 12 per cent of the women reported that they were overweight, while in 2002, the figure rose to 13 per cent among both men and women.

Low body weight was also on the rise. In 1998, 8 per cent of the women polled reported that they were underweight, while four years later that number had doubled. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## South Korean Samsung to close company in Britain

**LONDON, 17 Jan—**South Korean electronics giant Samsung announced Thursday it would close its sole company in Britain because of fierce competition from cheaply-run plants in Asia and Eastern Europe.

Samsung's facility in Billingham, northeast England, which produces microwave ovens and computer monitors, would close in

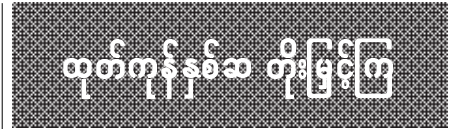
## Bush booed in visit to Martin Luther King's grave

**ATLANTA, 17 Jan—**Several hundred protesters loudly booed US President George W Bush on Thursday as he laid a wreath at the grave of Martin Luther King on the anniversary of the latter's birth.

"Bush go home" and "peace not war" the protesters shouted from behind a barrier of parked buses across the street from King's grave.

Bush was accompanied by King's widow Coretta Scott King, and sister, Christine King Farris.

*MNA/Reuters*



## Plane with Georgian Defence Minister comes under fire in Iraq

**TBILISI, 17 Jan—**A plane carrying Georgia's Defence Minister David Tevzadze was shot at as it took off from Baghdad's airport to return to the Caucasus country overnight, but no one was hurt in the attack, officials said.

"The plane made a maneuver and coalition helicopters opened return fire," Koba Kobaladze, Georgia's national guard chief travelling with the minister, told reporters upon returning to Tbilisi.

"I was sleeping at the time and didn't notice anything," Tevzadze said.

Tevzadze flew to Iraq for one day to inspect Georgian soldiers who are serving as part of the US-led peacekeeping force there. — *Internet*

## France has no plans to send troops to Iraq

**PARIS, 17 Jan—**France is interested in helping to train an Iraqi police force, but sending in a military contingent is not on the agenda now, the foreign minister said Friday.

France wants to contribute to Iraq's security by helping to train the nation's next generation of police officers — once power is transferred to a sovereign Iraqi government, Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said.

"There are a number of domains of possible cooperation," de Villepin said in his annual address to the news media. "France wants to give its contribution in the face of this Iraqi crisis."

France has offered to share expertise with Iraqi police after the US-led coalition hands power to an Iraqi transitional government on 1 July. But he said the question of sending in French troops is "not a current topic."

France will continue holding a dialogue with the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, de Villepin said.

President Jacques Chirac and de Villepin were among the leading voices against the US-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein and have called for the US occupation forces to turn power over to Iraqis themselves.

France has refused to participate in the multinational force responsible for security and did not pledge new aid at a donor's conference in Madrid in October, holding back because it says the United States is moving too slowly to restore Iraqi sovereignty.—*Internet*

## Brazil wins big cuts in prices for AIDS drugs

**BRASILIA, 17 Jan—**Brazil said on Thursday it had won the biggest price reductions in five years for drugs used in its anti-AIDS programme, which has been acclaimed as a model for the developing world.

The discounts won in talks with big drug firms will save Brazil 299 million reais (107 million US dollars) on AIDS treatment this year and allow 20,000 new patients to receive the health ministry's cocktail of free drugs in 2004, which is the main element of its programme.

Brazil negotiated deals with major makers of AIDS drugs in recent weeks and months which led to price discounts of between 10 and 76 per cent for five of the most expensive 15 drugs used in the cocktail, usually a combination of protease inhibitors and antivirals.

One coup for Brazil was a deal with Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche Holding AG, that gave it a 10-per-cent discount for nelfinavir after long and hard negotiations. Roche will also donate the drug for children who receive the cocktail.

*MNA/Reuters*



US soldiers secure the area where a bomb exploded in central Baghdad, killing a 15-year-old and wounding five other people as US soldiers and Iraqi police tried to defuse it, police and medics said.—*INTERNET*

# US lawmaker says intelligence wrong on Iraq WMD

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan— Pre-war US intelligence assessments were wrong about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and President George W Bush should offer fixes in his State of the Union speech, the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee said on Friday.

Representative Jane Harman of California said there were good reasons to support regime change in Baghdad, but better intelligence on Iraq could have allowed more time for diplomacy and to build international support for military action.

"But if 9/11 was a failure to connect the dots, it appears that the intelligence community, in the case of Iraq's WMD, connected the dots to the wrong conclusions," Harman said in a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, a copy of which was released here.

Democrats have started the election year by criticizing the Republican White House for justifying the war against Iraq on threats from chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programmes, when no solid evidence of such arms has been found.

"The President should lead the effort to improve his intelligence on weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. I urge him in his State of the Union address next Tuesday to acknowledge the problems and outline specific steps to fix them," Harman said.

If David Kay, chief US weapons hunter in Iraq, does not return to his post it will be seen by critics as a sign that the

search for banned weapons was not expected to find anything significant. Kay has told CIA Director George Tenet that he does not want to return to Iraq, a US Government source told *Reuters*.

"I doubt there would be discussions of David Kay's possible departure if the Iraq Survey Group were on the verge of uncovering large stockpiles of weapons," Harman said.

She criticized a pre-war report, the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq, as a "significantly flawed document" for its assessment that Iraq possessed chemical and biological weapons, and was reconstituting its nuclear weapons program.

"These were centrepieces of the NIE and of the case for war and it appears likely that both were wrong," Harman said.

Stuart Cohen, vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council which produced that report, has defended the estimate as "well-grounded" and based on 15 years of information. He has argued that the hunt for banned weapons should continue.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

## Iraq will not recover crude oil production without security

MADRID, 17 Jan — Iraq will not be able to reach its usual crude oil production level unless its security problem is solved by a government which is recognized internationally, says Claude Mandil, executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Mandil said investments required by the Iraqi petroleum sector would not recover until a legitimate government resumed order, and security was guaranteed. He considered security the "motor" that would energize the production of petroleum in the short term.

At a function organized by the Spanish Energy Club, Mandil pointed out that one third of the Iraqi oil came from the northern part of the country, where oil production is now paralyzed. Iraq was one of the most important oil producers in the world. However, following the occupation by United States and British troops, the Iraqi society is in chaos and is ridden with violence.

The current Iraqi oil output stands at 1.5 million barrels a day, but the amount before the war was 2.5 million barrels.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers inspect the ruins of a bus destroyed by a landmine in former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

INTERNET

## China bans pigs, wild boars from S Korea

BEIJING, 17 Jan— China began to forbid importing pigs, wild boars and any pig and wild boar produce from South Korea, which reported hog cholera cases early January.

China's State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (SAQSIQ) and the Ministry of Agriculture jointly issued the circular Thursday.

All pigs, wild boars and their produce that have been transported to China from South Korea will be returned or destroyed, the SAQSIQ source said.

The circular also forbade pigs, wild boars and their produce from South Korea to be sent by post or carried by passengers. These produce from the South Korea will be sealed up if they are found on international ships, airplanes and trains going through China, the SAQSIQ said.—MNA/Xinhua

## Thailand, Malaysia to develop border area for stability

BANGKOK, 17 Jan— Thailand and Malaysia were determined to jointly develop the two countries' border area so as to maintain the region's stability, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his visiting Malaysian counterpart Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said here on Friday.

"We certainly have to extend and deepen the bilateral relations and can do more together in order to help economic development of the two states especially development along the border," Abdullah told reporters at a joint Press conference held after his two-hour meeting with Thaksin.

He said that both sides believed that joint development in southern Thailand and northern Malaysia would improve the region's stability and bring local people more opportunities.

The two sides had agreed to set up a joint mechanism in charge of the development of the two countries' border area, Thaksin told reporters.

The initiative named Joint Strategy Development would be headed by the two

countries' foreign ministers to study how to jointly develop the economy of the border area, said Thai Government spokesman Jakrapob Penkair after the joint Press conference.

During their meeting, the two leaders also reiterated their willingness to work on intelligence and information sharing and exchange so as to fight "terrorists existing in the region", Thaksin said.

To prevent assailants with both Thai and Malaysian nationalities to flee hunt by entering Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur had ordered to tighten border check along bilateral border.

The Malaysian authorities also handed over a couple of suspected separatists to Thailand for investigation of the violence.—MNA/Xinhua

## Three Iraqis killed in mine blast near Tikrit

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan— Three Iraqis were killed and two others wounded when an anti-tank mine exploded near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit on Thursday, the US military said.

The powerful mine struck a bus carrying university students at about 6:30 pm (1530 GMT) west of Tikrit, 160 kilometres north of Baghdad, US Captain Craig Childs told reporters in the restive city.

The spokesman said the bomb blast mangled half of the bus and the casualties

were probably all students from Tikrit University.

Tikrit remained a stronghold of Saddam, who was captured by US forces in an underground hole south of the city on December 13.

MNA/Xinhua

## Geoff Hoon urged to quit over soldier's death in Iraq

LONDON, 17 Jan— The British Government on Thursday rejected calls for the resignation of Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon over the death of a soldier whose widow said he was killed in Iraq because he had to hand back his body armour.

Samantha Roberts, widow of Sergeant Steve Roberts who was shot in the chest last March, earlier on Thursday released an audio diary made by her husband in which he complained about the poor level of supplies available to British soldiers.

He had described the lack of equipment as "disgraceful".

"We know we are going to have to go to war without the correct equipment," he said just before the US-led invasion of Iraq and his own death in Basra on March 23.

The Ministry of Defence has acknowledged difficulties in ensuring front line forces received equipment supplies.

The opposition Conservative Party said body armour would have saved the 33-year-old. His widow believes that makes the ministry responsible for his death.

"Clearly the report that came out, to me suggests that they are responsible...for him not having a flak jacket being originally issued, and then withdrawn because there were not enough to go around," she told BBC television.

Conservative leader Michael Howard said Roberts' death amounted to a "grave dereliction of duty" and called on Hoon to quit.

MNA/Reuters



A peace activist holds a photograph of an Iraqi woman she believes was contaminated by depleted uranium used by US forces in the two Gulf Wars, in front of a ship run by Tokyo based NGO 'Peace Boat' during a function held by Indian and Japanese peace activists to mark the inaugural day of the World Social Forum (WSF) in Mumbai on 16 January, 2004. — INTERNET



# IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



US soldiers secure the area where a bomb exploded, killing a 15-year-old and wounding five other people as US soldiers and Iraqi police tried to defuse it.  
INTERNET



Demonstrators carry pictures of the former Iraqi President Saddam Husein during a rally in the center of Jordanian capital Amman on January 16, 2004. Several thousands protesters were shouting anti-American slogans in support of the anti-US resistance in Iraq. — INTERNET



A US soldier watches from his vehicle as Iraqi families protest from the roadside in the Arasat al-Hindia neighborhood of Baghdad on Friday 16 Jan, 2004. The family members, who have been squatting in abandoned homes in the area after being left homeless since the war in 2003, claim that American troops have given them a three-day deadline to leave because there is a US military base adjacent to them.

INTERNET



Two US soldiers react after an improvised explosive device detonated next to them in Baghdad in this image taken from TV on Friday 16 Jan, 2004. The soldiers were uninjured but two Iraqi children were hurt in the incident. — INTERNET



Iraqi families watch from the balcony of their apartment building as a US soldier stands guard after a roadside bomb exploded in the area injuring two Iraqi children on Friday 16 Jan, 2004. The explosion occurred after US soldiers approached a suspicious device to inspect it.

INTERNET



Fawziyah Khalaf, left, and her son Jassim Mohammed sit on a Baghdad street on Friday 16 Jan, 2004 where they say they have lived since losing their home to US bombing during the war. Across the city, Iraqis left homeless by US bombing, take shelter in abandoned homes and beg for food and money on the streets.

INTERNET

## Top Iraqi Shiite holds talks with tribal leaders

**NAJAF (Iraq), 17 Jan** — Thousands of people flocked to Friday prayers in Iraq's Shiite heartland as the sect's most senior cleric met tribal leaders to discuss his opposition to a US plan for transferring power to Iraqis.

Residents said attendance was higher than usual at mosques in Najaf, the holiest Shiite city in Iraq, reflecting growing support for Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and his demand for an elected government to replace the US occupation authorities.

US administrators in Iraq have said it is impossible to hold elections before a June 30 deadline to hand over power and have proposed instead that a government selected by regional caucuses take over and hold polls next year.

Sistani is one of the most revered men in Iraq, where Shiites are a majority, and his opposition to the

US blueprint is a major blow to Washington.

The top US representative in Iraq, Paul Bremer, was to meet President George W Bush in Washington on Friday to discuss options.

Sistani remained in his rooms during the day in Najaf, within 500 yards of the gold domed tomb of the sect's most revered Imam Ali. Aides said he was meeting tribal leaders from around Iraq to discuss the transfer of power.

"We are with Sistani, whatever he does," said Hasan al-Moussawi, a youth selling swatches of cloth by the side of the shrine. "We agree with all his demands."

An aide said on Thursday that Sistani could issue a fatwa, or edict, banning Shiites from cooperating with any authority installed by Washington unless direct elections are held.

The move could pit the country's majority Shiite community squarely against the coalition forces, but there was no immediate sign that Sistani was planning such a step.

On Friday, another of Sistani's aides told Reuters Television there was still time to find a compromise and that people would continue to stage peaceful demonstrations to show their opposition to the US plan.

"There is still room for dialogue and meetings to reach the solution that will allow the Iraqi people to express their will," Sheikh Abd al Mahdi al Karbalai said. — *MNA/Reuters*

## UNSC promises to help complete Afghan peace process

**UNITED NATIONS, 17 Jan** — The United Nations Security Council reaffirmed on Thursday to help complete Afghanistan's peace process in continuing cooperation with the Afghan transitional government.

The Council made the promise in a statement issued after hearing a final briefing by the outgoing UN special representative for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi.

Meanwhile, the Council stressed that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the Central Asian country resides with the Afghans themselves.

The creation of a secure environment and the provision of sufficient funding remain important conditions for national elections mandated by the Bonn peace agreement, the 15-nation Council emphasized.

"Credible countryside elections in 2004 as well as

the reconstruction and development in all parts of Afghanistan will be essential for the lasting stabilization of Afghanistan," it added.

In his opening address to the Council's open meeting, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan reiterated his call for Afghans to improve the fragile security in their country.

Currently, a multinational peacekeeping force numbering more than 5,500 is stationed in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The NATO-led force is prepared to expand its operation zone beyond Kabul to other major cities, but the process has not yet begun.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

## Uganda earns more from coffee export

**KAMPALA, 17 Jan** — Uganda earned 10 million US dollars from export of 228,407 60-kilo bags of coffee last month, representing an increase in both volume and value of 65.4 per cent and 68.2 per cent respectively over November of 2003.

The monthly report from the Uganda Coffee Development Authority issued here said that the average realized price at the export level for December stood at 72 US cents per kilo, up from 72 cents received in the previous month, local media reported Friday.

The report, however, said that as compared to the same month of the previous year, there was a drop in both volume and value by 24.6 per cent and 10.6 per cent respectively.



## US military probes reports of Iraq detainee abuse

**BAGHDAD, 17 Jan** — The US military said on Friday it was investigating reports of detainees being abused at one of its detention centres in Iraq, but gave no details of the allegations.

"An investigation has been initiated into reported incidents of detainee abuse at a Coalition Forces detention facility," the US Army's public affairs office said in a statement. "The release of specific information concerning the incidents could hinder the investigation, which is in its early stages."

"The (US-led) Coalition is committed to treating all persons under its control with dignity, respect and humanity." The Army gave no further details and it was unclear where the reports of abuse originated.

The United States is holding an estimated 9,500 detainees in Iraq on security grounds. Others have been detained and released since Saddam Hussein was ousted

last April. US-led forces are battling to stamp out guerilla attacks they blame on Saddam's supporters and foreign Islamic militants.

Relatives of some detainees have accused the US military of holding them without justification, or solely for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Human rights groups have been pressing the military to introduce a more transparent system for dealing with Iraqis detained on raids. Last week, US forces freed scores of Iraqi prisoners after announcing a planned amnesty for some 500 low-threat detainees.

One man, who declined to give his name, said he had been poorly treated by the Americans in the Abu Ghraib

jail, west of Baghdad, where Saddam's once kept his worst enemies. On 5 January, the US Army said a commander had found that three US soldiers had abused Iraqi prisoners while transporting them to a confinement facility at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq last May. It said the soldiers had been discharged.

The commander found one detainee had been kicked repeatedly in the groin, abdomen and head. The soldiers said they were acting in self-defence after being assaulted by prisoners. In another incident, the Army said an officer had agreed to leave the service after a case in which he was found to have committed aggravated assault on an Iraqi prisoner.

— *MNA/Reuters*



A US soldier from the 16th Engineer Battalion stands guard at the entrance of the Bab Muazam campus of Baghdad University recently. About 60,000 US soldiers will be flown home from Iraq via Turkey. INTERNET

## Survey shows Old City of Jerusalem most at risk if quake strikes

**JERUSALEM, 17 Jan** — The Old City would be the worst hit part of Jerusalem if a serious earthquake were to strike the holy city, a survey published by Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* on Friday said.

Initiated by city engineer Uri Sheerit at a cost of 93,023 US dollars in order to help draw up the city's future construction plans, the survey was commissioned by Jerusalem municipality and carried out by Israel Geological Institution.

According to the survey, some southeastern regions of Jerusalem, including towns of Emek Refaim, Abu Tor, Bakaa and East Talpiot, were described as high-risk areas.

Several Arab villages on

the outskirts of the holy city were also included in the dangerous zones, the survey said, adding that these areas have a highly sensitive geological location as well as problematic infrastructure that could destabilize the land during an earthquake.

"As city engineer, a seismological survey is very important to me, as well as for the planners and contractors who are building in the city," said Sheerit.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

## Indonesia to be free from leprosy by 2020

**JAKARTA, 17 Jan** — Indonesian Minister of Health Achmad Sujudi said on Friday the country will be free from leprosy by 2020. "Currently, the ratio of lepers to the country's population is still 1:10,000," the minister was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying. Sujudi said on the sidelines of the 51st world leprosy day that such a ratio was found in some 111 districts in 13 provinces. The 13 provinces are: Aceh, Jakarta, East Java, South Kalimantan, North Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, Papua, North Maluku and Gorontalo. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Culture Ministry workers remove an ancient column from the Parthenon during a renovation on the ancient Acropolis hill in Athens, on 16 Jan, 2004. Archaeologists are restoring and cleaning the 2,500-year-old Parthenon and plan to complete the project before Athens hosts the Olympic Games in August. — INTERNET



# Promising Myanma Information Technology

Article by Hay Man Ko Thu (NLM)  
Photos by Ko Ko Soe Nyunt

The prosperous future of a nation rests largely on the potential of its human resources. There were times when communication was simply one of many stand-alone sectors of a country's economy. However, those days of isolation are no more.

Inventive combinations of current technologies are being tried as ways to overcome limitations on elec-



Managing Director of MIT Pte Ltd U Tun Thura Thet.

tronic devices and send information to the right place at the right time on the right device in the right mode.

With the explosive emergence of electronic devices around the world, communication is becoming more and more wireless in this rapidly changing world.

It is therefore safe to assume that in such an Information Age of the 21st century, communication is the invisible hand that pushes every enhanced transaction forwards.

With the aim of keeping pace with the development of the information and communication technology, the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has been hammering away at developing human resources by producing well-rounded individuals in respective sectors.

In that role, the Third Annual Myanmar ICT Week 2004 will be



Managing Director of MICTDC U Aung Zaw Myint.

launched by the e-National Task Force and the Myanmar ICT Development Corporation at the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park (MICT Park) on Hline University Campus in Yangon from 21 to 27 of this month.

I was granted an opportunity to meet U Aung Zaw Myint, Managing Director of MICTDC. When asked about the purposes of holding the third ICT Week, he said it was held to make everyone know all the latest devel-



Director of MWD Co Ltd Daw Khin Aye Win.

opments of information and communication technology in Myanmar, to ensure widespread use of ICT applications in industries, and to attract the public interest to ICT.

He also said arrangements were being made to open courses on ICT, adding that invitations had been sent to foreign nations to introduce new products.

It was also a great luck of mine to have a chance of interviewing Daw Khin Aye Win, Director of Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd.

Although she holds a high position in the company structure, she is young, energetic and promising. When I sounded her out about the company's role in the IT industry of Myanmar, she expounded at great length the company's contribution towards the overall success of the IT industry in Myanmar. According to her, there are more than 500 e-learning centres all over the country. She said Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd came into existence in 1997.

Though young, the 7-year-old company has written success stories in software production field.

The company is also doing everything in its capacity to make the universities and colleges in Myanmar catch up with those in the world where IT is concerned. It is in part due to their endeavours made in cooperation with the Government to popularize the use of information and communication technology not only in educational institutions but also in industries.



General Manager of Suncat Technologies U Tin Myint.

No doubt that online education has the potential not only to change the way



Office room of MWD Co Ltd.

of learning but also to make well-rounded education more accessible to a broader spectrum of students.

In an interview with U Tun Thura Thet, Managing Director of Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd, he explained to me that his company was set up in 1997 with a total strength of 130 employees in order to help promote the ICT industry in Myanmar.

I found him to be a man of great ambition. MIT is one of a few leading software developers in Myanmar in a relatively short space of time as it is efficient and capable of providing reliable and trustworthy solutions with the ap-

plication of highly innovative state-of-the-art technology when it comes to ICT.

I also had an opportunity to meet U Tin Myint, General Manager of Suncat Technologies.

According to him, the company mainly engages in a wide range of spatial data services, specialising in Geodetic Surveying, Engineering Survey, Data Capture, Satellite Image Processing, Aerial Photo Processing, Geological Mapping, Orthophoto Mapping, Geographic Information System, and Remote Sensing technologies in respect to forestry, mining, agriculture, engineering, and environmental preservation, and other rel-

evant fields.

In providing these services, the company receives assistance from ministries concerned.

It is encouraging to see the Myanmar ICT industry reach a new height as a result of concerted efforts made by the governmental organizations and respective private companies.

Therefore, now is the time for the only chance of a lifetime to build the future of our country that will promise bright prospects to our generations to come.

The possibilities are unlimited should we strive in tandem for translating our dreams into reality in an unyielding spirit.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Cash donated for youth training schools

YANGON, 17 Jan —A ceremony to make cash donations for youth training schools of the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held in conjunction with a ceremony to honour victorious athletes at the Second ASEAN Games for Disabled at the head office of the department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here today.

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address. Towards the funds for the youth training schools, Shwe Pazun family donated K 1.5 million; U Tin Hla and Daw Aye Kyi K 3.5 million and Ruby Dragon Co K 1 million. Towards the funds for honouring the victorious disabled athletes U Mya Soe donated K 100,000; AAR of Japan K 50,000, Mandainmg diesel pump workshop K 50,000; Delta Combine Co K 50,000 Fudak Co K 50,000; Hyphens Association K 30,000; and contractor U Myint Than K 5,000. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Sein Thauang, officials and athletes were present on the occasion. — MNA

## Social Security Board celebrates golden jubilee

YANGON, 17 Jan —The Social Security Board of the Ministry of Labour celebrated its golden jubilee at its main medical store on Thakin Mya Park Road in Ahlon Township here at 9 am today.

Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, Social Security Board Chairman U Aung Ba Kyi, high ranking officials and guests were present on the occasion. Minister for Labour U Tin Winn delivered an address at the ceremony. — MNA

## Military Band Contest continues

YANGON, 17 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 Payay Road here at 7 am today.

Chairman of the Committee for Observing the Contest Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe presented cash awards to the band troupes of students. — MNA

## Sanitation works inspected

YANGON, 17 Jan —Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected the sanitation works at drainages in the city by Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, Yangon City Development Committee staff, personnel of social organizations and the local people. First, the commander and the mayor inspected the unblocking of drainages at the corner of Strand Road and 18th Street in Latha Township. Next, they proceeded to P Monin Street of Hlinethaya Township and inspected the sanitation works. Next, the commander and party went to Shwepyitha Township and inspected the sanitation works at No 5 Sethmu Road, No 4 Highway and Mahawgani Street. Later, they went to Mayangon Township and inspected the sanitation work on Mindhamma Road. Sanitation works were also carried out today in Pazundaung, South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships. — MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends...

(from page 16)

implementing them, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for all the national people to unitedly strive for the successful implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State with full sense of national solidarity spirit and Union Spirit.

Border areas development tasks, which started in 1989, met with success beyond expectation thanks to the concerted efforts of national race armed groups that had returned to the legal fold and the local people. Based on the accomplishment thus achieved, border areas development projects covering entire country including far-flung areas of the State were being implemented.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, 24 special development zones projects and projects for five rural development tasks were being implemented for the harmonious development of all the 14 states and divisions of the Union, the Prime Minister pointed out.

In addition, administrative, judicial, educational, health, transport and agricultural needs were being fulfilled in some major regions. High land reclamation project was also implemented with the aims of reducing the poverty of border area national races who had to rely on shifting cultivation method and raising their living standards.

Implementation of border areas development projects which started 14 years ago entered into the third five-year period of the master plan. Socio-economic infrastructures of border areas were witnessing the progress beyond expectation. It could clearly be seen that once villages of border areas became border towns complete with modern buildings.

Such accomplishment must be attributed to the concerted efforts of the WCDBANR, regional



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects tasks for upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Yangon Zoological Gardens. — MNA

CDBANRs, subcommittees, ministries and local national races under the correct policy guidelines of the Leading Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, the Prime Minister said.

In the transport sector, the Government constructed 2812 miles of earthen roads, 1683 miles of gravel roads and 309 miles of tarred roads and upgraded 3030 miles of roads in border areas spending K 27,248 million. In addition, a total of 43 large bridges, 661 small bridges and 16 suspension bridges were built in the border areas. The roads and bridges facilitated the transport of border areas and strengthen the friendship between the national brethren, the Prime Minister said.

In the education sector, the Government had constructed 627 primary schools, 61 middle schools and 62 high schools, spending K 3,282 million. Number of students pursuing education in border areas reached 69,204 in primary school level, 32,036 in middle school level and 7,381 in high school level. Border regions were able to enjoy the high standards of education, the Prime Minister said.

It was an important educational objective of the national education programme to enhance the morality of students. Priority was given to nurturing students imbued with the national solidarity spirit and Union spirit in the education sector of the border areas.

As regards the elimination of illiteracy, non-formal

adult education programmes and literacy campaign were launched in border areas in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. A total of 31879 persons had attended the 3-Rs courses and other courses under the programmes and the campaign. The Prime Minister stressed the need for the authority of border areas to help organize local people for the realization of the school enrolment of all the school aged children. A total of 19 border areas national races youth development training schools and 13 domestic science training schools in border areas and two nationality youth human resources development degree colleges in Yangon and Mandalay had been opened for the human resources development of border areas in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The two degree colleges had produced two batches of national race graduates, the Prime Minister said. Plans are under way to open 8 national races development training schools in Lashio, Panglong, Hpa-an, Pakokku, Falam, Tonzang, Kale and Thantlang. Similarly, four domestic science training schools would be opened in Falam, Matupi, Mindat and Tiddim.

In the health sector, the Government had a policy to give priority in providing health care services in border areas. As the Government constructed hospitals in border areas, spending K 1461 million, there were a total of 52 hospitals, 82 dispensaries, 29 rural health centres, and 40 rural health care centres (branch) in border areas.

In the public relations sector, a total of 97 TV retransmission stations had been established at a cost of over K 820 million in border areas.

In the energy sector, the Government spent a total of K 999 million for the development of energy sector in border areas. Small and medium size hydel power plants had been constructed in 8 townships in border areas. A total of 251 generators had been installed in

186 towns and villages.

In the agriculture sector, the Government was rendering assistance for cultivation of opium-substitute crops. It had set up 31 agricultural offices and 115 agricultural camps, 11 power tiller stations and constructed 40 dams in border areas, spending K 1325 million. Reclamation of fallow and virgin land and highland reclamation projects were also implemented in border areas.

As a result, local national people have boosted the business based on agriculture and abandoned the habit of poppy cultivation on which they had to rely on for their living. Mammoth projects for poppy-substitute cultivation can now be seen in Wa region, Panghsang, Mongmaw, Namti, Wanhon and Tachilek regions where poppy was grown in the past.

As regards drug elimination project, the government is implementing the 15-year plan with own resources and as a national duty to terminate the poppy cultivation which has flourished since the time of colonialists. To take measures with added momentum, the New Destiny Project was added to the plan and is being implemented since 2002-2003 fiscal year. With the active participation of local people in endeavours for drug elimination undertakings in accord with the policy of the government, the projects meet greater success than expected.

Myanmar is chosen to serve as a member of UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The UN International Drug Control Board acknowledged the resolution on narcotic drugs of the government and success in the fight against narcotic drugs. But some big powers accused Myanmar of producing drugs. Without providing any assistance and just accusing, they turned a blind eye to endeavours of Myanmar. Anyhow, the State will carry out the drug eradication tasks according to the firm resolution on elimination of drugs.

Under the 15-year narcotic drugs elimination plan,

it is aimed at becoming drug free nation by the year 2014. But with the aim of becoming drug free regions by the year 2005, local national race groups in Wa and Kokang regions are endeavouring for realizing the goals. It is necessary for the respective sub-committees to provide assistance to them coordinating with local authorities.

As regards the young women sector, he said, due to weakness in giving education to local people living in far flung areas which lagged behind in development in the past, the young women living there have been lured by human traffickers. They went to a neighbouring country to find jobs but had to face many difficulties. Therefore, 13 domestic science schools have been established in border areas with the aim of enabling the young women to earn their living in own country. Thanks to the efforts for taking care of the young women in border areas, their view and conviction have changed and they have put their trust in the State.

The Prime Minister urged the officials to pay attention to correct statistics as projects for regional development are being implemented based on correct data. He continued to say that to realize the objectives, officials at different levels are to tour right down to villages and fulfil the economic, educational, health and social needs of rural people.

As township level is the most basis for regional development, in-charge of the respective townships are to make earnest efforts for development of the townships and the regions. They are to report matters which are not in their capacity to their superior and the superior body is to take measures timely.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said that altogether K 50245 million plus 506 million US\$ had been spent on border area development projects during the period from 1989 to the end of 2003. It shows that the State

is placing emphasis on border areas development, raising the living standard of local people, strengthening national unity and eradication of narcotic drugs. The more development in border areas, the more flourishing of national unity and perpetuation of the Union and thus all are to strive for the success of border area development project and successful realization of the seven-point policy programme of the State, he said.

Afterwards, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on border area development tasks carried out beginning from 1989-90 financial year and arrangements for future tasks.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions on implementation of border areas developments by the ministries concerned.

Next, ministers, deputy ministers and officials reported to the Prime Minister on work being carried out for the border area development tasks. The Secretary-2 and officials gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister made concluding remarks.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the Baganlonkyun in Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens at 4 pm. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin welcomed the Prime Minister there. Next, the Prime Minister inspected the upgrading tasks of the gardens, construction of shops, the aquarium and the water plaza. The commander and the mayor conducted the Prime Minister round the gardens.

The Prime Minister left the garden at 5 pm.

MNA

## Commander inspects vegetable plantations

YANGON, 17 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the vegetables plantation of Lanmadaw Township Peace and Development Council in front of the Institute of Nursing in the township this morning.

The chairman of the

Township Peace and Development Council reported to the commander on cultivation of vegetables.

After hearing the report, the commander gave instructions on cultivation of vegetables in vacant land in down town Yangon and distributions of them through the tax-free markets in Yangon.

MNA





Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attend the dinner. — MNA

## Remedial measures still need ...

(from page 1)

judges, law officers and staff in the judicial sectors are to perform their duties with uprightness to realize the goals of the State; uphold the truth, fairness and sympathy for ensuring law enforcement; although the lawyers are not service personnel, they are to cooperate with the courts to expose the truth as they are to assist the court; all are to strictly abide by the law, rules and regulations and directives in their judgements in order not to go against the law; and officials are to be aware of the fact that acts of some immoral service personnel who take bribes and their misbehaviour are detrimental to the nation-building endeavours of the government.

Regarding the directives, personnel in the judicial sector are to constantly review their own performances as well as their court environment and the whole judicial sector.

The Prime Minister called on the officials to take measures for the betterment of the judicial sector to make the people to voluntarily abide by the existing laws, realize and enjoy the value and protection of laws.

The Government has prescribed necessary laws, rules and regulations and is constantly practising them so as to pass judgements by legal experts to safeguard the interest of the people in accord with the existing laws.

The judicial officials are to be aware of the fact that their endeavours for correctness in passing judgements on the cases amounts to laying the foundation for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The Prime Minister again urged them to actively discharge their duties with national awareness and outlook in line with the conviction.

There are still successes as well as weaknesses in carrying out the tasks in the judicial sector. According to the tables presented, there is no delay in delivering judgements on the cases thanks

to the implementation of the plans and combined endeavours of the departments concerned. As a consequence, there are no cases that have been delayed for two or three years pending judgement in courts across the nation.

Over 350,000 criminal cases were heard in the year 2002. Up to November 2003, over 370,000 cases were heard showing the increase in the number of cases heard. However, over 23,000 civil cases were heard in 2002 and up to the end of November 2003, over 20,000 civil cases were heard. Thus the Supreme Court is to provide supervision to prevent delays in hearing of cases. At the same time, efforts have to be made to see that there is speedy administration of justice in strict accordance with the law.

The people have to rely on courts to alleviate their sufferings. They will suffer when administration of justice is wrong and improper. To enable the people to enjoy the benefits of the rule of law, the courts are to hear cases properly within the framework of law. If so, the courts can stand prestigiously and with dignity in the eyes of the public.

In evaluating the performances of courts, it is found that there are weaknesses of some judges. For instance, some judges have relied on the examinations of the lawyers of both sides and some judges have paid serious attention to the biased statements of witnesses in passing judgements. In some gambling cases, cash and valuables which had no connection with the case were confiscated as evidences. In some cases, evidences were not recorded nor kept properly. In some cases, decisions were made without proper observation of the evidences. Some judges did not hand over evidences systematically when transferred. Such weaknesses must be remedied.

As regards courts, the accused are to be brought before the court under the instruction of the judge when

his case is ready to be heard. However, in some cases, the accused were brought before the court under the instruction of a person other than the judge. In this way, some accused persons fled. In some cases, witnesses were not examined properly as appointed at courts and those witnesses had to suffer losses. In some appeal cases and revisions, there were delays in photo-copying the court's judgement and statements of witnesses. In some courts, statements of witnesses were not read out and confirmed by signature.

Hence, it is found that in some cases, statements of witnesses recorded in courts were not the same as actual statements. Concerning the case of the accused in custody, their cases were heard later in the day and there emerged security problems involving the need to send them back to jail in time. In some cases, when the accused was to be sentenced, and as he was on bail, he absconded due to lack of coordination with the court. In some cases, although deterrent punishments were to be meted out, the court handed down minimum punishments. In some cases, although old cases were submitted, it was out of jurisdiction of the judge to give deterrent punishments. Continued efforts must thus be made to remedy such loopholes and weaknesses. Likewise, law enforcing organizations which are to cooperate with courts in administration of justice, also have weaknesses. For instance, although the ward / village tract peace and development councils are to render help in capturing suspects, the local authorities helped them to flee. In this way, summons and warrants were not enforced in time. In some cases, procedures were not made properly although these cases deserve deterrent punishments such as smuggling valuable natural resources, human trafficking, smuggling automobiles and assorted goods into the country as well as trafficking and abusing narcotic drugs. Due to lack of proper procedures, the culprits

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife attend dinner to mark MMA Conference

YANGON, 17 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Chairman of National Health Committee, and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended a dinner hosted this evening by the Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association Conference at the hall of MMA.

Also present at the dinner

were NHC Vice-Chairmen Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers,

NHC members, officials of the SPDC, departmental heads, the chairman of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) and CEC members, representatives of the 50th MMA Conference, those of social organizations, Myanmar doctors form abroad and guests.

MNA

could not be punished. He said some regional organizations used exhibits, vehicles, machinery and other property before making a decision at the court. They transferred these things to another one illegally. In connection with the appeal cases made by the Attorney-General's Office to the Supreme Court, it was found that there were pending cases because the accused could not be re-arrested, he said.

He said there are still weaknesses and he called for cooperation with local authorities. Justice and uprightness of the judges are needed in administration of justice. He spoke of the need to hold coordination and to carry out cooperation with related organizations such as local authorities and law officers and members of the Myanmar Police Force. He warned local authorities not to interfere in administration of justice. Personal interference in cases by some local authorities is against the seven principles of fair administration of justice. He said only when judges, prosecuting organizations and local authorities discharge their duties through coordination among them with correct constructive support and mutual understanding in accord with laws and procedures will upright administration of justice emerge.

Regarding the civil cases, he stressed the importance of making decision without delay by judges and lawyers at different levels of courts.

He said the lawyers who play a part in administration of justice are those who are

regarded as officers to make decision in accord with the law at the courts at different levels. It is necessary for them to discharge their duties conscientiously and to preserve their procedures and dignity, he said.

He also spoke at length on persuasion of clients in a wrong way, making false accusations to mislead the course of administration of justice, delaying the cases deliberately, making false documents, taking bribes and violation of codes of conduct.

He said the number of lawyers who broke the codes of conduct increased and action had to be taken against them by the Supreme Court. He urged the lawyers to help the tasks of administration of justice.

The main duty of judicial sector is to expose the right in accord with the law. In order to realize the objective, there are laws, rules, procedures, manuals and directives and regulations. The government assigned duties to judges, law officers, police officers, departmental officers and lawyers to practically implement the procedures as they are proficient in the field.

He said those personnel must possess ability to carry out the tasks. If they applied their skills in inappropriate way, the judicial pillar would deteriorate and bad consequences would continue to occur in the environs of the courts.

When someone committed crime there occur losses and sufferings. These are to be alleviated by law. By doing so, a society of high

standard of culture can be shaped.

He said the government is building better political, economic and social foundations needed for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation. Systematic arrangements are being made for development of judicial sector as well as other development sectors in accord with the future national objectives. Generally speaking, he said, he found the sector to be satisfactory. But there are still remedial measures to be taken for the prevalence of law and order and administration of justice. Reforms are to be made with greater momentum, he added.

He said the government is beginning to implement the seven-point future policy programme including holding of the national convention for emergence of an enduring constitution that guarantees the better foundations in judicial sector.

He urged judicial officials and law officers to take part in the efforts for prevalence of law and order, emergence of discipline-flourishing democratic nation and success of the seven-point future policy programme.

In conclusion, he urged them to make efforts to shape free and fair judicial system to enable the Union of Myanmar to emerge as a peaceful modern developed nation, to make endeavours for emergence of the judicial system on which the people can rely and take part in the efforts for success of the seven-point future policy programme.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party being welcomed by Naga ethnic leaders and members of Naga traditional dance troupe in Leshi. — MNA



Naga national race leader U Hla Pe wraps a Naga traditional blanket around Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win. — MNA

## Secretary-1 attends 2004...

(from page 16)

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and those present on the occasion saluted the State flag.

Next, Meeting Chairman U Hsan Khar Naung made an opening speech.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye made a speech. He said that various national races have been living in Myanmar in the course of history, preserving and safeguarding traditions, cultures and lineage and forging mutual trust and understanding. The fine traditions reflect the national capability able to build a society of high culture.

The new year festival was held with the aim of enabling the national races to take part in it to forge national unity, safeguarding the customs, traditions and cultural heritage, and of enabling the national races to actively take part in realization of the 12 national objectives, upholding Our Three Main National Causes. In the past, the traditional festivals were held in separate places as Naga national races live in different places. Under the guidance of the State, the Naga Traditional Cultural Committee was formed in 1989.

Starting from 15 January 1992, the festival was held at a place, attended by the representatives from various Naga regions.

The government has been making all-out efforts for national development after laying down the short-term and long-term plans. Thus, significant progress has been made with added momentum in various sectors and the states and divisions have developed. In the process, priority is being given to development of Naga regions, especially in transport, education, health and social sectors.

In the transport sector, the Thekkekyin-Homalin-Hkamti road linking Naga region with the mainland was upgraded year by year, spending a large amount of funds. Bridges large and small on the road were built. More vessels were added to ply along Chindwin river while airports were upgraded.

In addition, under the guidance of the government, the 53 miles long Hkamti (Hsinthay)-Lahe road and the 41 miles long Htamanthi-Leshi road are being tarred, spending millions of kyats. Arrangements have been made for upgrading the 53 miles long Lahe-Kyuyan road, the 78 miles long Lahe-Yankyon road, the 58 miles long Lahe-Ponnyo road, the 32 miles long Laungngauk-Kyunkhaung road, the 28 miles long Ahyikyein-Htanpankhwe road, the 8 miles long Yaungkon-Kyawan road and the 39 miles long Lashi-Pansat-Swamwara road which link different parts of the whole Naga region.

With better transport, the Naga traditional festivals that are held annually could be organized on a grand scale and the national races have been able to exchange views on economic, social and cultural sectors.

For development of Naga region, K 219.4 million have already been spent on building the bridges, K 6.2 million on health sector, K 10.6 million on education sector, K 10.3 million on energy sector, K 9.1 million on information and public relations sector, K 10.6 million on communications, K 18.7 million on housing, K 30 million on religious affairs and K 8.6 million on others totalling K 323.8 million.

To ensure regional development, the entire national races are needed to be united.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance saying that the nation lagged behind in development due to the internal conflicts which emerged together with the independence and it is an unforgettable lesson; that

significant progress has been made in the nation in the time of the State Peace and Development Council as concerted efforts were made by the Government and the people, forging the national reconsolidation; that therefore, it is needed to cease the internal conflicts perpetually.

In conclusion, the commander called on the Naga national races to strive together with the Tatmadaw for regional development and safeguard peace, unity and development that have already been achieved while efforts are being made for bringing about harmonious development across the nation.

Next, USDA CEC member (in charge of Sagaing Division USDA) Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint spoke on the occasion.

Naga national Ma Hsan Sit Shee of Leshi (second year, Monywa Government Computer College) presented facts about the festival.

Next, Naga national race leader U Hla Pe presented a Naga traditional blanket as the gift of the festival to the Secretary-1. Chairman of the Naga Traditional Culture Central Committee U Htin Kawt presented a Naga traditional blanket to Lt-Gen Ye Myint. Naga ethnic leaders also presented Naga traditional blanket to Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and the deputy ministers.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented cash donations to purchase pipes and related accessories for water supply project to Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Hla Tun.

The Secretary-1 also presented cash donations for construction of a 1,500-gallon tank in Toeche Ward, Lahe Township, and purchase of corrugated zinc sheets for nine primary schools to Commanding Officer of local regiment Lt-Col Rusan Kyu.

The Secretary-1 presented clothes, exercise books, TV sets, satellite dishes and blankets for local national people in Leshi, Lahe, Nanyun, Hkamti and Homalin to U Htin Kawt, Patron of the Central Committee for Naga Traditional Culture U Hla Pe, Township Education Officer U Htan Do Lan, Lahe Township representative U Pa Kyaung, townselder U Ar Lone, Naga national race leader U Yint Man and Naga ethnic leaders.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented blankets, 1,000 mattocks, different sorts of traditional medicines and TV sets Nanyun Township representative U Shwin Lann, U Htin Kawt, Naga national race leader U Ki Shi Mu and representa-

tives from the townships.

The commander presented rice, edible oil, salt, food-stuff and short sports short pants for holding the festival, blankets, TV sets and satellite dishes to Naga ethnic leaders and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented exercise books, sports gear and clothes to Naga ethnic leaders. The deputy ministers and Tactical Operations Commander Col Min Swe presented cash donations and gifts to Naga ethnic leaders.

Patrons of Central Committee for Naga Traditional Culture U Hla Pe and U Mi Si Mu presented cash awards to the students from Hkamti, Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun townships who passed 2002-2003 academic year matriculation examination.

The officials of tourism companies and tourists presented gifts to Naga ethnic leaders.

U Hsan Khar Naung delivered concluding remarks.

After the festival, Naga ethnic leaders and Naga nationals served the Secretary-1 and party with Naga traditional meals.

Afterwards, Naga nationals presented entertainment programmes to the guests. After the programmes, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for documentary photos together with Naga ethnic leaders, local people and tourists.

A campfire to mark the successful completion of the festival was held at the traditional sports ground in Leshi at 6 pm. Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, Naga ethnic leaders, local people, members of Naga traditional dance troupes and tourists.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye formally opened the campfire. Students from Leshi BEHS sang the song "Zati-man" (Nationalistic Spirit), followed by variety of Naga traditional dances. Those present and tourists took part in the campfire.

Before the festival, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the free clinic of the USDA, the booth of Myanmar Agriculture Service, the health booth and the booth of Information and Public Relations Department to mark the festival.

In the evening, they inspected the Naga traditional cultural museum and souvenir shop.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watched the sports events held to mark the festival on 15 January afternoon.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo together with Naga ethnic leaders at Naga Traditional New Year Festival (2004) in Leshi, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division. — MNA





Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders in Homalin Township. — MNA

## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Bhamo, Homalin and Leshi

YANGON, 17 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with SPDC member Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental officials inspected Hsinkinghan Bridge construction project in Bhamo Township on 14 January morning.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintending Engineer of Public Works U Win Kyi reported on progress in construction works and future tasks and requirements. Managing Director of Public Works U Nay Soe Naing gave a supplementary report, and Senior Engineer U Aye Naing Tun reported on construction of Tagaung-Katha road.

Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the bridge and meeting the set standard. They next inspected the bridge construction tasks. To develop the regions on the eastern bank of the Ayeyawady River, Mandalay-Tagaung-Katha-Bhamo-Myintkyina Road and Shweli Bridge along the road had been opened. Hsinkinghan Bridge lies on Mandalay-Katha-Bhamo-Myintkyina Road. The bridge across Hsinkinghan Creek is 460 feet long and 28 feet wide. It can bear 60 tons of loads and is of reinforced concrete. Next, the Secretary-1 and party met and cordially greeted officials of the project, staff, locals and students. On arrival at Shweli Bridge in Katha Township, Sagaing Division, by helicopter, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Tactical

Operation Commander of Central Command Col Thein Hlaing, Katha District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Myo Chit and officials.

At the briefing hall Deputy Director of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Thein Aung reported on construction of Kyauksi embankment near Shweli Bridge to prevent erosion and townselders on water currents of Shweli River. Departmental officials also gave a supplementary report. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe reported on supply of gravel and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Maung on building of 66-mile Ngaoh-Mabein Road. Senior Engineer of Public Works U Ko Ko reported on construction of 15-mile Katha-Ngaoh Road. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. The Secretary-1 then instructed officials to complete the construction of Kyauksi embankment by open season.

After viewing Shweli Bridge, the Secretary-1 and party inspected Ngaoh Station Hospital. Next, they looked into construction progress of the embankment. Shweli Bridge linking between Katha Township in Sagaing Division and Mabein Township in Shan State (North) was inaugurated on 9 March 2003. On their arrival at Homalin the Secretary-1 and party were welcome by Col Nyi Tun of Local Battalion and officials. At the briefing hall of Homalin Airport construction project site, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung reported on operation of passenger aircraft and matters related to the airport. Officials also reported on construction

of the airport building, apron and air traffic control tower. The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions after hearing reports by officials on facts about Homalin. He then inspected construction tasks.

Afterwards, Myanmar Education Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspected the construction of the two-storey school building with 12 classrooms, computer skill room, learning centre, audio visual media classroom, electronic centre and students' learning at Homalin Basic Education High School. They next viewed round the development of the town.

National Health Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party saw over the site in Naungpakayit Ward chosen for the construction of 100-bed Homalin Township Hospital. Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Myint conducted them round the site.

At the township hall, the Secretary-1 met with service personnel, members of USDA and social associations and townselders and fulfilled the needs for the development of the township. Then, he said the State has been implementing sector-wise projects for balanced development of the whole country and Homalin Township is also included in it. The transport of the region has now become smooth as the new airport was constructed, he said. Therefore, all the national people are unitedly to take part in the building of new modern developed nation, he added.

The Secretary-1 next gave instructions on arrangements for development of Homalin and turning out of outstanding youths in the region. The

Secretary-1 and party met with officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of Homalin Station. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Leshi by helicopter, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Sagaing Division PDC Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Sports Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials and Naga nationals.

In meeting with local authorities and townselders at the township PDC office, the Secretary-1 heard reports by Chairman U Hla Tun on conditions of motor roads linking between Leshi Township and other regions, construction of village-to-village roads, education, health, agriculture and requirements. Next, township level departmental staff submitted their requirements and the sports minister, deputy ministers and departmental heads reported on measures being taken for the development of the region. Commander Maj-Gen Tha

Aye gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. The Secretary-1 then enquired about the conditions of Leshi region, duties and responsibilities of the department-staff and construction of Leshi-Lahe-Namyon Road, and fulfilled the needs.

On 15 January morning, the Secretary-1 and party inspected Leshi Township People's Hospital and gave instructions to officials on construction of a new hospital building. After that, the Secretary-1 and party paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sudhasana and Sayadaws and members of the Sangha of Naga hill region at Leshi Monastery and presented offertories. They next inspected the electronic audio visual room, computer room, e-education learning centre and learning of students at Leshi BEHS. The headmaster reported on building of new school building and Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min gave a supplementary report. After giving

instructions, the Secretary-1 inspected the site for the construction of the school building.

Member of Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with USDA CEC member (Sagaing Division in charge) Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint at 2pm met with USDA secretaries and members of Sagaing Division, Hkamti District and Hkamti, Leshi, Lahe and Namyon Townships at Leshi Township USDA Office, and gave instructions on active participation in rural development works. Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented cash assistance to USDA members.

Then, the Secretary-1 and party looked into dining rooms and hostels where tourists will put up in Naga Traditional New Year Festival, and restaurants. Later, they also inspected the TV retransmission station and satellite telephone station in Leshi. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win holds a meeting with members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders in Leshi Township. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the Sinkhan Bridge Project in Bhamo Township. — MNA



MNA/PTI



# မညာရးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

## South Korea has new Foreign Minister

SEOUL, 17 Jan—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun on Friday named his chief foreign policy aide Ban Ki-moon as new Foreign Minister, according to official sources.

Ban Ki-moon, chief presidential aide for foreign affairs, will replace Yoon Young-kwan, who resigned Thursday after a rift over Seoul's alliance with the United States divided the South Korean Government.

"We expect Mr. Ban will smoothly deal with the pending issues for the country, based on trust with our allies," Roh's office said in a statement.

Ban's appointment came at a critical time as South Korea and the United States argue with North Korea over nuclear weapons programmes and discuss sending South Korean troops to help the US-led coalition

President Roh accepted Yoon's resignation on Thursday, saying the Foreign Ministry was not fully backing his administration's policy of "independence" from Washington.

Ban, a 60-year-old career diplomat with a reputation as a moderate, served as Vice Foreign Minister during the government of former President Kim Dae-jung, who initiated the "sunshine" policy of seeking reconciliation with North Korea. Ban became Roh's chief foreign affairs adviser when the President took office in February last year.

MNA/Xinhua

## EU floats more plans to save fish from extinction

BRUSSELS, 17 Jan— The European Union executive presented long-term plans on Thursday to prevent more overfished species disappearing from EU waters, calling for some areas to be closed and trawlermen to limit the days they spend at sea.

Fresh from his success at persuading EU ministers over a strategy to boost alarmingly low numbers of cod and hake, Fisheries Commissioner Franz Fischler has turned his gaze to three other species that are also on the verge of collapse.

For sole, hake caught in southern waters — the first plan refers just to northern hake — and a shellfish known as the Norway lobster, there would be annual 10 per cent reductions in catches and limits put on days that fisherman may go to sea.

Each plan would run from five to 10 years, or until scientists say fish stocks have returned to sustainable levels.

The method of calculating the "day limits" has proved controversial in the past and has been left open for EU ministers, who must agree to any plan before it can become law.

In the cod plan, for example, Fischler had proposed using a vessel's engine size as the basis for the days in a month that it could go to sea — but this idea was so unpopular among ministers that it was withdrawn from the final agreement.

Stocks of all three species are close to collapse after years of overfishing, say scientists, who have called for a total fishing ban for southern hake until stocks can recover.—MNA/Reuters

## Study finds Ebola may come from "bush meat"

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan—The deadly Ebola virus, which emerged mysteriously from African forests, probably attacks people who butcher and eat infected animals, researchers said on Thursday.

The virus, which most recently killed 29 people in the Congo Republic, seems to break out when people slaughter chimpanzees, gorillas and small antelopes called duikers, the scientists said.

"Humans and duikers scavenging for meat probably became infected by contact with dead apes," they wrote in their report, published in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

"Almost all human Ebola outbreaks in Gabon and the Republic of Congo have been linked to the handling of dead animals by villagers or hunters, and increased animal mortality always preceded the first human cases," added the international team of researchers, led by Eric Leroy of the Development Research Institute in Gabon.

They said health workers may be able to get a warning of Ebola outbreaks when large numbers of dead animals start appearing in forests.

Ebola first appeared in 1976 and causes a particularly frightening and deadly form of hemorrhagic fever. Patients die of shock but may bleed internally and externally.

Depending on the strain of virus, it kills between 50 and 90 per cent of patients.

Leroy and colleagues studied several outbreaks in central Africa and villagers, and they themselves, found many dead animals just around the time of an outbreak.

They also found that great apes such as chimps and gorillas could be infected, although the original source of the virus remains unknown.—MNA/Reuters



Neil Lareau sits in the sun on top of New Hampshire's Mount Washington in 31-below zero temperatures on 15 Jan, 2004. A deep freeze passing over New England Thursday night could break all cold records atop the highest peak in the Northeast. — INTERNET

## German police make record opium seizure

BERLIN, 17 Jan— German police said on Friday they had made the biggest opium haul in the country's history, securing some 600 pounds of the banned drug.

State prosecutor Alfons Grevenor told *Reuters* a total of seven men from Italy and Iran aged between 28

and 56 were arrested as a result of months of investigations. Grevenor said the stash would have had a wholesale value of around three million euros once converted into its derivate heroin, but that its street value would have been much higher after being cut for resale.

The drugs were seized in December raids in the cities of Duesseldorf, Solingen and Essen after undercover officers arranged to buy some of the opium. Searches also uncovered forged currency and faked identity cards.

Grevenor said it was not yet known where the drugs had come from and how it was transported to Germany, but that a bigger network of smugglers was behind the trafficking.

MNA/Reuters

## "The First Wives Club" author dies at age 54

NEW YORK, 17 Jan—Olivia Goldsmith, author of the humorous novel *The First Wives Club* that became a hit movie, died at age 54 after complications during cosmetic surgery, her literary agent said on Friday.

Goldsmith was under anesthesia on Wednesday for elective surgery to remove loose skin under her chin when she suffered a heart attack, her literary agent Nicholas Ellison said. She fell into a coma and died on Thursday, he said.

Goldsmith's first book, *The First Wives Club*, published in 1992 about three women who plot revenge against their ex-husbands, was made into a hit movie starring Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton.

The author of several other humorous novels, she had two new books, a satire called *Dumping Billy* and a love story called *Casting On*, coming out this year, Ellison said. — MNA/Reuters

## OPEC to maintain output at 27 million BPD

JAKARTA, 17 Jan— Oil ministers of countries grouping in the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) have agreed to maintain oil output at 27 million barrels per day until the conference on February 10, OPEC President Purnomo Yusgiantoro said Friday.

"In the meantime, we prefer to maintain output. We consider that OPEC doesn't need to increase production because the current figure already exceeds the ceiling rate," Purnomo was quoted by Detik.com online news service as saying.

OPEC in December set the ceiling output at 24.5 million BPD Purnomo said in the West Java town of Bogor that the cartel is approaching Russia, a non-OPEC oil producer whose output is the world's second largest after Saudi Arabia.

Russia reportedly welcomed OPEC's proposal to set oil price at the range of 22 to 28 US dollars a barrel, said Purnomo, who is also Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources.

He said OPEC will not make any decision until its members met in Algeria on February 10.

OPEC groups Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ten die in heavy rains in Rio de Janeiro State

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 17 Jan—Ten people were killed and 450 left homeless by landslides and flooding following heavy overnight rains in the state of Rio de Janeiro, the state's Civil Defence Department said on Friday. It said in a statement that the dead included builder Sergio Murilo da Silva, 32, and his daughters, Evelyn and Ana Carolina, aged 10 and 3, who were killed when a landslide smashed into their home in Xerem on the outskirts of Rio. In Santo Antonio de Padua, in the northeast of Rio de Janeiro state, four people drowned when their house was swept away by a flooded river. Three others were killed in the towns of Tres Rios, Cambuci and Sao Fidelis.

The Civil Defence, which coordinates rescue work, said more than 1,250 people in the state had to be rescued from their homes.—MNA/Reuters



Central Park is covered with snow in this view from the Mandarin Oriental New York hotel in the new Time Warner Center looking east along Central Park South from Columbus Circle on 15 Jan, 2004. With temperatures hovering around nine degrees, about five inches of snow had been measured in Central Park by 9 am.—INTERNET

## SPORTS

## Di Vaio puts Juventus on course for Italian Cup semis

ROME, 17 Jan—A late goal by Italy striker Marco Di Vaio gave Juventus a 2-1 away win at Perugia in their Italian Cup quarterfinal, first leg match on Thursday.

With the scores level and less than two minutes remaining Juve midfielder Mauro Camoranesi sent a deep cross into the box and Di Vaio lost his marker before heading powerfully past Perugia keeper Stefano Pardini. Juventus took the lead in the last minute of a quiet first half when striker Marcelo Zalayeta hooked a Nicola Legrottaglie cross past Perugia keeper Stefano Pardini.

The home side, however, levelled the scores in the 66th minute when midfielder Massimiliano Fusani chipped a ball across the area to Christian Manfredini who stroked it calmly through a huddle of defenders into the net. Manfredini, who transferred last week from Serie B side Fiorentina, was marking his return to Serie A having previously played for Chievo Verona and Lazio.

The return fixture is on January 20.

In the other quarterfinal matches, played earlier in the week, reigning champions AC Milan beat Serie A leaders AS Roma 2-1, Lazio defeated Parma 2-0 and Udinese drew 0-0 with Inter Milan.

MNA/Reuters

## Norway's Carew back in fold

OSLO, 17 Jan—Norwegian striker John Carew said on Thursday he had buried his differences with Norway's national team after meeting new head coach Age Hareide in Rome.

Carew, who plays for AS Roma, was dropped by Norway in September for hitting a teammate in the face during training and missed a Euro 2004 play-off in which Norway lost both matches to Spain in November.

"I'm glad to be back," Carew said on public television NRK.

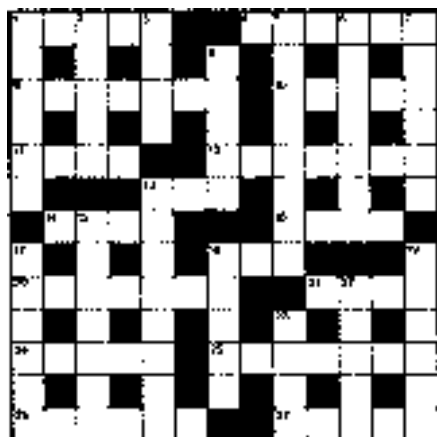
Carew had fallen out last year with former head coach Nils Johan Semb who quit after the loss to Spain.

MNA/Reuters



Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne raises her arms in victory after she won the women's final against France's Amelie Mauresmo, 6-4, 6-4, during the Adidas International in Sydney, Australia, on 17 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET

## Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- 1 Juicy gourd
- 4 Sheep-dog
- 9 Irskome
- 10 Roll of tobacco leaves
- 11 Outlook
- 12 Entwines
- 13 Equal value
- 14 Lateral branch
- 16 Mah-jongg playing piece
- 18 Take to court
- 20 Make pure
- 21 River dam
- 24 Artfully avoid
- 25 Meantime
- 26 Naturism
- 27 Lessened

## DOWN

- 1 Reason for action
- 2 Freemasons' branch
- 3 A gas
- 5 Kiss
- 6 Rightly reasoning
- 7 Way out
- 8 Doorkeeper
- 13 Royal daughter
- 15 Patchily black and white
- 17 Sift coarsely
- 18 Cuttlefish
- 19 Charged
- 22 White heron
- 23 Cigarette end

## Beijing enters second phase of Olympic preparations

BEIJING, 17 Jan — Beijing mayor Wang Qishan said on Thursday that the city has entered the "second" phase of its preparations for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Wang, also executive president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympics (BOCOG), made the remarks at the First Plenary Session of BOCOG held here on Thursday.

"From 2004 to 2006, it is the period for full-scale preparations," said Wang.

According to the Master Plan, which serves as the guidelines for Beijing's Olympic preparatory work, the seven years between 2002 and 2008 are divided into three phases.

The first period from 2002 to 2003 is the period for the venue designs and tenders, launch of the marketing programme and emblem solicitation. — MNA/Xinhua



Argentine Luis Gonzalez (C) battles for the ball with Ruben Bustos (L) and Jhonnie Montao (R) of Colombia, in the first half of their Group B match in the under-23 South American tournament in La Serena, Chile, on 16 Jan, 2004. The tournament will qualify two teams from South America for the Olympic games in Athens. — INTERNET

## Portugal's Viana still wants loan move from Newcastle

NEW CASTLE (England), 17 Jan — Portugal midfielder Hugo Viana believes his prospects of playing at Euro 2004 are receding due to his lack of opportunities with Newcastle United in the English Premier League and still wants a loan move.

"Euro 2004 is slipping away from me as I speak," Viana said in Newcastle's The Journal newspaper on Thursday.

"The national coach (Felix Scolari) has made it clear that selection depends on current form. I am not playing at all so what are my chances of playing at Euro 2004?"

"It is so important that I play there and I cannot imagine that will happen if I am denied the chance. "It is in my home country and an opportunity to play a major tournament in your own country comes around once in your career if you are lucky."

Viana was signed by Newcastle manager Bobby Robson from Sporting Lisbon for 8.5 million pounds (15.53 million US dollars) in July 2002 but his first team

chances have been limited. He is still hoping to revitalize his chances of playing at the European championship with a loan move away from St. James' Park, something his club has so far refused to allow. "I'm very proud of what I've achieved as a 20-year-old and I want to maintain those standards. I have 12 senior caps and if I want to build on that foundation I have to play at Euro 2004."

He added: "I have spoken to Felipe Scolari but what we said has to remain private. I think people can imagine what was said. As a consequence, I feel excluded."

"I hope the people of Newcastle do not feel I'm being disrespectful or disloyal by asking for a loan move but I think it would benefit everyone. I just wish the manager would reconsider his decision."

"I want to win things for Newcastle but for the next four months it is better for everyone if I go somewhere where I can play. All I want is for the club to be a bit more sensible and sensitive."

But Robson told reporters last month: "I know he would like to go on loan but I'm staying firm in keeping all the quality players here at the club for what is ahead of us this season."

"We will review the situation at the end of January but he does not have a cat in hell's chance of leaving before then."

MNA/Reuters

## China provides best condition for 13th Asian Cup

CHONGQING, 17 Jan — Host China has provided the best condition for the 13th Asian Cup finals which will run on July 17-August 7. Asian Football Confederation President Mohammed Bin Hamman said here on Thursday night.

Hamman, who attended the Asian Cup finals draw held here, said, "It is the first time for China to host Asian Cup finals, and the preparations of the four Chinese cities are outstanding, which ensure the success of the tournament." The group stage of the Asian top-level soccer tournament will be held in four Chinese cities — Beijing, Jinan, Chengdu and Chongqing.

MNA/Xinhua

## Atletico, Sevilla scrape through in King's Cup

MADRID, 16 Jan — Atletico Madrid secured a 1-1 draw at Deportivo Coruna on Thursday to edge into the King's Cup quarterfinals on the away goals rule.

After a goalless draw in the first leg in the capital Atletico went 1-0 up in their heavy-weight battle thanks to a Veljko Paunovic strike 20 minutes into the second half.

Deportivo hit back five minutes from time with a Diego Tristan chip but a 1-1 draw was enough to send Atletico through.

They were joined in the last eight by Sevilla, who also made it through by the slimmest of margins after surviving a scare against Villarreal.

Sevilla, leading 3-1 after the away leg, looked comfortable enough for the first 45 minutes of the return but an own goal from Juan Luis Fernandez Redondo just after the break brought the visitors back into the tie.

Jose Mari scored a second with a cross-shot 15 minutes from time after Roger had set up the chance with a quick free kick.

That brought the aggregate score back to 3-3 but the three goals Sevilla scored in the first leg away from home were enough to put them through. Atletico and Sevilla complete a strong quarterfinal line-up also featuring Real Madrid, Celta Vigo, Real Zaragoza, Barcelona and league leaders Valencia. — MNA/Reuters



**MRTV-3**
**18-1-2004 (Sunday)**  
**(Programme Schedule)**  
**Morning Transmission**  
**(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pan-  
orama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"
- 9:06 Folk Art of Pottery
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Saute prawn  
with Asparagus)
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Fossilized Wood Gar-  
den
- 9:25 Hman Nyaung Thinzar  
Royal group dance
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Lei Gaing Monastery  
with wooden Statuettes
- 9:40 Song "Every Child  
Counts (A Polio Free  
World)"
- 9:42 Citrus Products of  
Shwe Kyin
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Strengthening of Polio  
Free Status in  
Myanmar
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**18-1-2004 (Sunday)**  
**Regular Programmes for**  
**Viewers from Abroad**  
**Evening Transmission**  
**(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Folk Art of Pottery
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Saute prawn  
with Asparagus)
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Fossilized Wood Gar-  
den
- 15:55 Hman Nyaung Thinzar  
Royal group dance
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Lei Gaing Monastery  
with wooden Statuettes
- 16:10 Song "Every Child  
Counts (A Polio Free  
World)"



**Sunday, January 18**  
**View today:**

- 7:00 am**  
1. Recitation of Parittas by  
Missionary Sayadaw  
Oattamathara
- 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. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော် (သုတ) ပြောပုံစာ
- 8:10 am**  
6. အဆီမြင်ပုံ
- 8:20 am**  
7. စုလင်းစုလင်း: ရေလောင်းတံခံ
- 8:30 am**  
8. International news
- 8:45 am**  
9. Say It In English
- 11:00 am**  
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am**  
2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am**  
3. ပထမသင်းတံတား

- 16:12 Citrus Products of  
Shwe Kyin
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Strengthening of Polio  
Free Status in  
Myanmar
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pan-  
orama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Myanmar Green Tea
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Steamed Eggplant  
with Tomato Sauce"
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Fabulous Glassware  
Decoration
- 16:55 Wararya Dance
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Dat Taw Gyaik Water-  
fall
- 17:10 Song "The Beautiful  
Taninthayi"
- 17:12 Electronic Library  
(Myin Mu)
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Golden Plum Job of  
Central Myanmar
- 17:28 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**18-1-2004 Sunday**  
**Evening Transmission**  
**(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pan-  
orama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"
- 19:35 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctu-  
ary
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Head of River  
Catfish and Indian  
Leek Sour Soup)
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Red Panda
- 19:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Picturesque Views in  
Southern Shan State  
(Part-II)
- 20:10 Song "Mesmerize  
Your Longing Wish"
- 20:12 Tour In Myanmar  
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Macadamia (Perennial  
Cash Crop)
- 20:25 Song "The Bagan  
Wonder Land"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Travel & Description  
(Mandalay to Lashio)
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine

- 11:35 am**  
4. Round-Up of The  
Week's International  
News
- 11:45 am**  
5. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်သင်  
စက်ရုံးစာအုပ် (အပိုင်း-၈)
- 12:15 pm**  
6. Mile Success In  
Soccer
- 12:30 pm**  
7. Myanmar Video  
Feature:  
"အချစ်နဲ့စုံကြားတက်ပုံ"  
လူမင်းနီမြတ်စုနွားလူမျိုးသားနွယ်  
ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်နုနု
- 14:45 pm**  
1. International news
- 16:00 pm**  
1. Martial song
- 16:15 pm**  
2. Song to uphold  
National Spirit
- 16:30 pm**  
3. English For Every-  
day Use
- 16:40 pm**  
4. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
- 16:50 pm**  
5. အစောဆုံးတော့သိုလ်ညာရေး  
စုပေါင်းသံကြားအခန်းနဲ့စာ  
ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး)  
(ရှုထောင့်)
- 17:05 pm**  
6. Song of National  
Races

- "Potato Pudding"
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Myanmar Movie Im-  
pact "Dark Green Col-  
oured Moon"
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Let go of me"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Myanmar Traditional  
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Folk Art of Pottery
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Saute prawn  
with Asparagus)
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Fossilized Wood Gar-  
den
- 21:55 Hman Nyaung Thinzar  
Royal group dance
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Lei Gaing Monastery  
with wooden Statuettes
- 22:10 Song "Every Child  
Counts (A Polio Free  
World)"
- 22:12 Citrus Products of  
Shwe Kyin
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Strengthening of Polio  
Free Status in  
Myanmar
- 22:25 Song "The Smooth  
Way with beautiful  
White Flowers"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Myanmar Green Tea
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Steamed Eggplant  
with Tomato Sauce"
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Fabulous Glassware  
Decoration
- 22:55 Wararya Dance
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Dat Taw Gyaik Water-  
fall
- 23:10 Song "The Beautiful  
Taninthayi"
- 23:12 Electronic Library  
(Myin Mu)
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Golden Plum Job of  
Central Myanmar
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"
- 18-1-2004 (Sunday) &  
19-1-2004 (Monday)**  
**Evening & Morning**  
**Transmission**  
**(23:30 - 1:30)**
- 23:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar

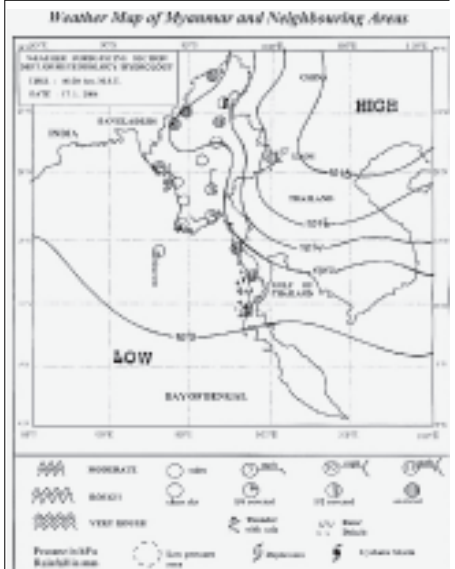
- 17:20 pm**  
7. Musical programme
- 17:30 pm**  
8. "ဘာဝန်ရင်ရင်"  
မြို့နယ်၊ သူတို့၏ ကျေးဇူးတင်  
ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန် (ဖီ.စီ.စီ)
- 17:35 pm**  
9. အမျိုးသားတက္ကသိုလ်  
တိုက်ခန်းစာအုပ်
- 17:50 pm**  
10. Song And Enjoy
- 18:30 pm**  
11. Evening news
- 19:00 pm**  
12. Weather report
- 19:05 pm**  
13. Agricultural Force  
Country's Develop-  
ment
- 19:20 pm**  
14. Musical Programme
- 19:35 pm**  
15. Myanmar ICT Week  
ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာအခန်း (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 19:45 pm**  
16. ထက်မြက်စွာနဲ့ပညာရပ်နဲ့  
(အပိုင်း-၁)
- 20:00**  
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. Calcio Serie A
- ဘောလုံးပွဲလုပ်ငန်းအခန်း
21. The next day's  
programme

- Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Folk Art of Pottery
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Saute prawn  
with Asparagus)
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Fossilized Wood Gar-  
den
- 23:55 Hman Nyaung Thinzar  
Royal group dance
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Lei Gaing Monastery  
with wooden Statuettes
- 00:10 Song "Every Child  
Counts (A Polio Free  
World)"
- 00:12 Citrus Products of  
Shwe Kyin
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Strengthening of Polio  
Free Status in  
Myanmar
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic Sights  
"Myanma Panorama &  
Myanma Sentiment"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Myanmar Green Tea
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Steamed Eggplant  
with Tomato Sauce"
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Fabulous Glassware  
Decoration
- 00:55 Wararya Dance
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Dat Taw Gyaik Water-  
fall
- 01:10 Song "The Beautiful  
Taninthayi"
- 01:12 Electronic Library  
(Myin Mu)
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Golden Plum Job of  
Central Myanmar
- 01:28 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"
- 19-1-2004 (Monday)**  
**Morning Transmission**  
**(03:30 - 07:30)**
- 03:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pan-  
orama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"
- 03:35 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctu-  
ary
- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Head of River  
Catfish and Indian  
Leek Sour Soup)
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Red Panda
- 03:55 A Dance to the Harvest

- Radio Myanmar**
- Sunday, January 18**  
**Tune in today:**
- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.55 am** National news/  
Slogan
- 9.05 am** Music
- 9.10 am** International news
- 9.15 am** Music
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Story for children  
"A friend in need is  
a friend in deed"
- 1.50 pm** Songs for children
- 9.10 pm** Weekly news  
review
- 9.10 pm** Music
- 9.15 pm** Article
- 9.25 pm** Faithfulness (Skin)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:05 Picturesque Views in  
Southern Shan State  
(Part-II)
- 04:10 Song "Mesmerize  
Your Longing Wish"
- 04:12 Tour In Myanmar  
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 Macadamia (Perennial  
Cash Crop)
- 04:25 Song "Bagan The  
Wonder Land"
- 04:30** **National News**
- 04:35 Travel & Description  
(Mandalay to Lashio)
- 04:40 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Potato Pudding"
- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 Myanmar Movie Im-  
pact "Dark Green Col-  
oured Moon"
- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 05:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Let go of me"
- 05:15** **National News**
- 05:20 Myanmar Traditional  
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 05:35** **Headline News**
- 05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Saute prawn  
with Asparagus)
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:50 Fossilized Wood Gar-  
den

- 05:55 Hman Nyaung Thinzar  
Royal group dance
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 Lei Gaing Monastery  
with wooden
- 06:10 Song "Every Child  
Counts (A Polio Free  
World)"
- 06:12 Citrus Products of  
Shwe Kyin
- 06:15** **National News**
- 06:20 Strengthening of Polio  
Free Status in  
Myanmar
- 06:25 Song "The Smooth  
Way with beautiful  
White Flowers"
- 06:30** **National News**
- 06:35 Myanmar Green Tea
- 06:40 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Steamed Eggplant  
with Tomato Sauce"
- 06:45** **National News**
- 06:50 Fabulous Glassware  
Decoration
- 06:55 Wararya Dance
- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 Dat Taw Gyaik Water-  
fall
- 07:10 Song "The Beautiful  
Taninthayi"
- 07:12 Electronic Library  
(Myin Mu)
- 07:15** **National News**
- 07:20 Golden Plum Job of  
Central Myanmar
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**WEATHER**

**Saturday, 17 January, 2004**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal upper Sagaing Division, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Kayah States, Magway, Bago, Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was (-1°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 16-1-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 17-1-2004 was 12.7°C (55°F). Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 17-1-2004 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 16-1-2004 was (8.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-1-2004 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 13 mph from North at (08:30) hours MST on 17-1-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of the 18-1-2004:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in upper Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-1-2004:** Generally fair.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-1-2004:** Generally fair.

**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends Work Coordination Meeting (1/2004) of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races

YANGON, 17 Jan — Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Work Coordination Meeting (1/2004) of the Work Committee held at the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs this afternoon.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the WCDBANR Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Maung Bo, ministers, deputy ministers, members of WCDBNR and subcommittees, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

First, the Prime Minister made a speech. He said the purpose of the meeting was to review the work done and future tasks for the development of border areas and national races. Since its assumption of the State duties, the government, with the conviction that only after national solidarity had been strengthened, would it be possible for the government to implement development tasks of the country, had been striving to strengthen the national solidarity based on mutual understanding and for-

giveness. As national race armed groups, realizing the goodwill of the State, had returned to the legal fold and was taking part in the regional development tasks, border regions of the country witnessed peace, stability and progress like cities. Moreover, there were prospects for further development of border regions, the Prime Minister added.

In order to prevent misunderstanding and disunity fostered by the instigation of aliens among the national brethren, the Government had laid down border areas and national races development projects contributing towards the national unity and was implementing them for the harmonious development of the Union.

In accord with the national policies emerged from the fine traditions in the course of Myanmar history, the Government has laid down the seven-point future policy programme of the State that ensures the strengthening of national solidarity, consolidation of the Union, perpetuation of the national independence and sovereignty of the State and emergence of a peaceful, modern and discipline flourishing democratic nation, and started

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the coordination meeting No 1/2004 of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races. —MNA



## Secretary-1 attends 2004 Naga Traditional New Year Festival

YANGON, 17 Jan—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win on 15 January attended the 2004 Naga Traditional New Year Festival held at the sports grounds in Leshi, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division and presented gifts to the heads of Naga national race.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen

Tha Aye, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, Tactical Operations Commander Col Min Swe, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, local authorities, members of

Naga Traditional Cultural Central Committee, members of the Committee for Organizing the Festival, heads of Naga national race, the representatives of Naga national race from Hkamti, Homalin, Leshi, Nanyon, Lahe and Tamu Townships and local Naga national race, guests, tourists who were there as observers and others numbering about 7500.

First, the master of ceremonies declared the opening of the new year festival.

(See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party enjoy Naga traditional dance at the Naga Traditional New Year Festival (2004) in Leshi, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division. — MNA