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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects renovation of Maha Pasana Cave. — MNA

## Prime Minister pays obeisance to Tipitakadhara Selection Ovadacariya Sayadaws

YANGON, 17 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended Vijaya Mangala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye hill here this afternoon to pay obeisance to Ovadacariya Sayadaws and members of the Sangha who took the 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination and presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by officials from the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Vijaya Mangala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye hill where the 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination was being held.

The Prime Minister was welcomed there by Minister

for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, directors-general, the deputy directors-general and officials from the ministry.

The Prime Minister paid obeisance to Tipitakadhara Selection Ovadacariya Sayadaws led by Chairman of Tipitakadhara Selection Ovadacariya Association Mawlamyine Sasana Manaung Wepyan Saththintak Pre-siding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa. The Prime Minister presented religious books and sets of robes to the Sayadaws.

The Prime Minister accepted second volumes of

Abhidhamma Pitaka Vibakka Palidaw books (Myanmar Translation) worth K 3 million donated by Chairman of World Peace IT Co U Maung Maung Hlaing-Daw Wah Wah Tun family of Myakantha 2nd Street in Kamayut Township and handed over the books to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister inspected renovation of Maha Pasana Cave. He was conducted around there by Yangon Division Superintending Engineer U Nyunt Maung San and officials.

After leaving necessary instructions, the Prime Minister left there in the afternoon. — MNA



Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Academy Htet Htet Moe Oo formally open the refectory of Alodawpyae Monastery in Dagon Myothit (East) township. — MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening of refectory of Alodawpyae Monastery

YANGON, 18 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the opening of a refectory and merit-sharing ceremony held at Dhammacariya University Alodawpyae Monastery (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon East District, this morning.

Present on the occasion were State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Bahan Township Aung Myay Bonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Panyinda Bhivamsa and member Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Selection Ovadhacariya Committee Chairman Mawlamyine Sasana Manaung Wepyan Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijaya Bhivamsa, Dhammacariya University Alodawpyae Monastery (Yangon) Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Ahriya Bhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman of Yangon

Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC office, department heads, wellwishers and guests.

At the auspicious time, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and wellwisher Academy Htet Htet Moe Oo formally opened the refectory building by cutting a ribbon.

Next, the Prime Minister formally unveiled the stone inscriptions of the building and sprayed scented water on it. Then the merit-sharing ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijaya Bhivamsa invested the congregation with the Five Precepts, and Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

The Prime Minister, the commander, the ministers and wellwishers presented offertories to the monks. U Maung Shi-Thiha Thuddhamma Theingi Thudamma Theingi Daw Ma Nyunt Sein of Sittway donated K 40

million for construction of Alodawpyae Monastery Saddhamma Vijaya Kyaungsaung (B); Daw Aye Mya Nwe of Bagan Hotel, K 20 million for construction of Dhammacariya University Sangha's Hospital; and Thiri Thuddhamma Mani Jotadhara U Kyaw Min and U Tha Aye of Nile Industries Co Ltd, K 10 million for construction of Dhammacariya University Refectory. The commander and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panyinda Bhivamsa then delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. The ceremony came to a close with the three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu*.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party and wellwishers offered *soon* to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 19 January, 2004

### Towards border areas development

The Government is implementing border area and national races development projects for harmonious development of various regions in the country and consolidating national unity.

In his address at the Work Coordination Meeting (1/2004) of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held at the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on 17 January, Chairman of the Work Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that 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, has been striving to strengthen national solidarity based on mutual understanding and forgiveness and that as national race armed groups, realizing the goodwill of the State, have returned to the legal fold and are taking part in the regional development tasks, border regions of the country are now witnessing peace, stability and progress like cities.

Border areas development projects have been implemented since 1989 for development of the regions of national race armed groups which have returned to the legal fold and raising the living standard of local people, and these projects met with success beyond expectation.

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

Moreover, administrative, judicial, educational, health, transport and agricultural needs are being fulfilled in major regions.

Altogether K 50,245 million plus 506 million US\$ had been spent on border area development projects during the period from 1989 up to 31 December 2003.

It is sure that greater development in border areas will contribute to flourishing of national unity and perpetuation of the Union.

We are now witnessing the border area development projects meeting with success thanks to the efforts of officials concerned who work under the directives of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races and active participation of national brethren in these endeavours.

### 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 pays obeisance to Sayadaws in Mandalay

YANGON, 18 Jan — State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Ye Myint, together with officials, paid obeisance to Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa of Shwewawin monastery, Mani Yadana Rama Myadaung Taik in Mandalay yesterday morning. After presenting offertories to the Sayadaw, Lt-Gen Ye Myint proceeded to Waso monastery of Maha Visuddhayon Taikthit to pay obeisance to Shwekyin Sasanabaing State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Agghia (Waso Sayadaw) and offered provisions. He also paid obeisance to Vinaja Najupadetha monastery Masoeysin Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Pañasamibhivamsa and presented offertories to the Sayadaw. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents offertories to a Sayadaw in Mandalay. MNA

### Trainees visit Hlinethaya

YANGON, 18 Jan — Forty six trainees of the Myanma Rice Marketing Course No 1 (programme 1), sponsored by the Education Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry, yesterday morning visited the OK post-harvest rice reprocessing plant in Hlinethaya industrial zone-2. Myanmar Rice Traders Association Patron U Nyein explained matters on the reprocessing plant.

Afterwards, the trainees visited the 360-ton rice reprocessing plant of the Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading in Hlinethaya Township.

MNA

### Myanmar ICT Week 2004

MICT Park, Yangon.

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

#### 21 January 2004

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

#### 22 January 2004

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

#### 23 January 2004

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

#### 24 January 2004

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

#### 25 January 2004

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

#### 26 January 2004

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

(Admission free)

### All this needs to be known

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



### Salone Festival 2004

(Sea Gypsy Festival)  
Ma Kyone Galet Village, Myeik Archipelago  
Union of Myanmar  
14 to 17 February 2004



# Three US soldiers killed in Iraq, toll reaches 500

TIKRIT, 18 Jan— Guerillas killed three US soldiers and two Iraqi officials on Saturday, taking the death toll of US soldiers in Iraq to 500 since the war to oust Saddam Hussein began last March.

The mounting toll is a problem for President Bush in the months before he seeks re-election in November but Washington insisted it would hand over power in Iraq by mid-2004.

The roadside bomb north of Baghdad appeared to be one of the most powerful used against US occupation forces to date — killing the five inside a Bradley armoured vehicle, which resembles a small tank. Previous attacks on US convoys have tended to cause casualties aboard lighter vehicles such as trucks.

In the latest attack, the roadside bomb near the town of Taji, 30 km (19 miles) north of Baghdad, set the Bradley on fire, killing five inside, said Lieutenant Colonel William Macdonald of the US Army's 4th Infantry Division.

Three US soldiers and two Iraqi civil defence officials were killed and two US soldiers were injured, he said. Troops arrested three Iraqi men in a sweep of the area shortly

after when a truck they were travelling in was found to contain bomb-making material.

Taji was at the heart of Iraq's military-industrial complex during Saddam's rule and lies in an area coalition forces call the "Sunni triangle" — dominated by members of Saddam's Sunni community where opposition to the US troops has been fiercest.

The US military also said on Saturday an American soldier died from a "non-hostile gunshot wound" on Friday.

Confirmation of the four American deaths brought the death toll to 500 since the US-led invasion of Iraq began on March 20 last year.

At least 115 soldiers were killed in the invasion itself and some 231 have been killed in hostilities since then. A further 154 have died in accidents or suicides, including the US soldier who died on Friday.

Internet



US and Iraqi troops stand guard at the spot where three US and two Iraqi soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb, near Taji, Iraq, about 30 kilometres (20 miles) north of Baghdad, on 17 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

## HKIA adds 940 flights for Chinese Lunar New Year

HONG KONG, 18 Jan— About 940 additional flights have been scheduled over the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday period from January 17 to February 2.

According to sources from the Hong Kong International Airport Authority (HKIA), the busiest day will be January 22 which is the first day of the Lunar New Year of monkey, with request for 722 total flight slots, as against about 590 for an average day.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the airport, HKIA Chief Executive Officer

David Pang said "the year ahead will see a recovery in the regional and local economy, and we are ready to capture the growth opportunities brought about by Chinese Mainland-Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and the closer integration of the Pearl River Delta Region."

He said though Hong

Kong was hit by the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in the first half last year, Hong Kong has been quick to recover from the impact of the epidemic.

Passenger traffic at HKIA has surpassed pre-SARS level in December 2003, with three million passengers recorded in the month. —MNA/Xinhua

## Samsung closes plants in Spain, Britain

MADRID/LONDON, 18 Jan— Samsung Electronics said on Thursday it was closing plants in Spain and Britain, with an expected loss of more than 800 jobs, in a European restructuring aimed at keeping it competitive.

The decisions were announced on the same day that Samsung, Asia's most valuable electronics company, reported that quarterly profit rose 24 per cent on explosive demand for flat screens and chips for digital cameras.

A plant producing personal computer monitors and microwave ovens at Wynyard, northeastern England, will be closed with the loss of 425 full-time jobs, the company said.

Some 446 jobs were expected to go at the Palau de Plegamans plant in Spain's northeastern Catalonia region, a spokeswoman for the company said.

The Spanish factory's audio-visual equipment assembly operations would be shifted to Slovakia, which would become Samsung's base for Europe, while mobile phone production would move from the Catalan plant to China, Samsung said.

MNA/Reuters

## Blast plunges Kirkuk into darkness

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan— The northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk has largely plunged into darkness after its high voltage power line was blown up.

"A bomb destroyed a high tension pylon on the grid which connects Baiji and Kirkuk and because of this attack, 80 per cent of the city is without electricity," the head of the city's power department Yalcine Muhammad said.

Friday's blast served yet another reminder as to how insecure the occupied country remains. Ferocious attacks on US-led occupation troops continue across Iraq, though their numbers have marginally come down.

### Relentless attacks

It was the eighteenth attack on the city's power supply infrastructure since US President George Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on 1 May.

In the town of Taza, 25 km away to the south, police shot dead an assailant who had attacked officers manning a checkpoint, Kirkuk police chief General Turhan Yusef said. "Jamal Hamed Abbad was wounded in the chest and legs and taken to hospital in a critical condition," he said.

Internet

## Military expert says second Bulgarian unit faces more dangers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan— The second infantry unit Bulgaria sent on a peacekeeping mission to Karbala is facing more dangers than their colleagues from the first troops. Chief of Military Information Service Major-General Plamen Studenkov said to a local radio broadcast on Saturday.

He stressed on the danger of new attacks at the time of significant religious, civil and political dates the Iraqis celebrate.

The attentats of December 27, 2003 had been thoroughly coordinated and prepared with a multiple-effect planning.

We had signals from Bulgarian and partnering foreign investigations prior to the tragic event in Karbala.

There are Bulgarian investigation servicemen working on field in Iraq at the moment, Major-General Studenkov informed.

He commented that Bulgarian military investigation has worked out the possibility that terrorist groups or individuals use Bulgaria as a starting point to Western Europe.

There were even signals about possible terrorist attacks over some embassies in Sofia, shortly after the start of 2004. —Internet

## Chinese, Dutch universities jointly foster postgraduates

SHANGHAI, 18 Jan— China's prestigious Fudan University and the Delft University of Technology of the Netherlands have jointly launched a microelectronics school to train professionals

in the field for China.

The Fudan-Delft International School of Microelectronics, launched Wednesday in Shanghai, east China, will recruit the first group of 25 postgraduate students this year.

Those who do well will be sent to the Delft University of Technology for 18 months of study and then return to Fudan to finish the remaining year.

MNA/Xinhua

## Vietnam approves construction of biggest power plant

HANOI, 18 Jan— The Vietnamese Government on Thursday approved a project to build its biggest hydroelectric plant, according to the project's investor, the Electricity of Vietnam (EVN), on Friday.

The Son La hydroelectric plant with a capacity of 2,400 mw will be built with total investment of some 37 trillion Vietnamese dong (2.37 billion US dollars) in Muong La District in northern Son La Province.

Its construction is scheduled to start in late 2005 and be completed in 2015.

EVN plans to produce a total output of more than 46.5 billion kilowatt hours this year, 5.5 billion kwh higher than last year.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier from the 1st Armoured Division takes cover after hearing a shot while another soldier shouts to ask about the status of the squad in front of them in Baghdad neighbourhood, in this file photo issued recently. —INTERNET

# Iraqi political parties denounce US plans

**BAGHDAD, 18 Jan—** Daily problems, like getting fuel, overwhelm many Iraqis. Political parties in Iraq have denounced US plans for the country's future.

Debate in Iraq about the nation's predicament tends to be dominated by the Shia majority.

In the last few days, news coverage has concentrated on threats by Shia leaders to protest against US plans to form an Iraqi government without direct elections.

However, Iraq's lesser-known parties are keen to have their say on one of the most crucial crises to face the country since its occupation.

As Iraqis poured into Basra's streets to oppose US plans, their fellow citizens took to the streets of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities to demand Iraq's unity and employment opportunities.

Undoubtedly, Iraqis have differing points of view re-

garding the holding of elections in their occupied country. "The IGC is appointed by the US, and its members are so far removed from the Iraqi people that while they are busy cancelling Iraq's Civil Status Law of 1958 ordinary Iraqis are struggling to get food and fuel."

Workers Communist Party in Iraq Abd Allah Salih, of the Workers Communist Party in Iraq, said liberation is a popular demand. Democracy is vital to Iraq, he said, but it should be at the right time.

"We don't think it is the right time for elections in Iraq, they should follow a transitional period during which Iraqi political parties would have the opportunity to introduce themselves to

the Iraqi people.

"Consequently the Iraqi voters could choose the political party that represent their individual aspirations," Salih said.

"People in Iraq still do not have a proper idea about Iraqi political parties. We and all Iraqi political parties should have access to corporate and state-owned media to promote our political message and policies."

"The IGC is appointed by the US, and its members are so far removed from the Iraqi people that while they are busy cancelling Iraq's Civil Status Law of 1958 ordinary Iraqis are struggling to get food and fuel."

And Salih believes the US came to Iraq with an agenda different to the one promoted

in the media.

"I think that the IGC is a US propaganda tool. The aim of the US in Iraq is not to establish democracy—its real aim is global domination. Elections will wipe out its appointed ally, the IGC, because they will not win them."

Internet

## Soldiers sent to Gulf ... with no bullets

**BAGHDAD, 18 Jan—**Up to nine Nottingham soldiers were sent into a battle-zone in Iraq without bullets for their rifles, a Notts MP has been told.

Members of the Bulwell-based South Notts Hussars said they were horrified when they were told to "ask around" British soldiers in Basra for bullets because there were not enough for everyone.

Newark Tory MP Patrick Mercer said he was told of the scandal by two officers.

The officers from the Territorial Army unit were drafted out to Iraq during the conflict to provide back-up for 7 Brigade.

They and many of the seven others serving as backup from the Hussars were told by a quartermaster that there was a bullet shortage because "ammunition is in woefully short supply". Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon pledged to investigate.—Internet

## China's web surfers rise to 79.5 million people

**BEIJING, 18 Jan—** The number of Internet surfers in China grew to 79.5 million people at the end of 2003, up an annual 34.5 per cent, a semi-official research centre said here.

China, which already had the world's second-largest web population after the United States, added 20.4 million new online users during the year, the China Internet Network Information Centre said on its web site.

"China's Internet market has great potential," it said in the statement.

It has already become the country's fastest-growing, most influential sector.

Total users will grow very quickly in the next five years, the centre has said in its twice-yearly report.

Explosive growth in the Web population has translated into handsome profits for China-focused Internet firms such as Sina.com, Sohu.com and NetEase.com, sending their stock prices soaring.—MNA/Reuters



US and Iraqi troops are seen in this image made from television, at the spot where three US and two Iraqi soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb, when a Bradley Fighting Vehicle struck the explosive device while patrolling a road near Taji, Iraq, about 30 kilometres (20 miles) north of Baghdad, on 17 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

## Thai jewellery exports to grow 15 per cent this year

**BANGKOK, 18 Jan—** Thailand's jewellery exports are likely to grow 15 per cent this year with a total value of 2.5 billion US dollars as a result of tax incentives and efforts to seek new markets, according to an industry executive.

Preeda Tiwuswan, chairman of Pranda Jewellery Plc., was quoted by *The Nation* newspaper as saying Saturday that the jewellery business would grow on par with the government's intention to promote Bangkok as the city of fashion.

Meanwhile, tax measures and efforts to expand existing markets and seek new ones would boost the industry growth.

He said Pranda Jewellery would focus on strengthening brand products of the group of companies this year and that the company's jewellery exports were likely to grow 12 per cent with the United States, Germany and Britain as major destinations.

He also expressed the confidence that the group would enjoy a profit growth of 12 per cent this year.—MNA/Xinhua

## French Navy team finds first Red Sea "black box"

**SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), 18 Jan—** The French Navy on Friday recovered one flight recorder from an Egyptian Boeing 737 that crashed into the Red Sea killing 148 people, a source close to the operation said.

"The robot is in the process of returning to the surface with the black box," said the source, who declined to be named. The French Navy is using a remotely controlled robot to locate the flight recorders, or "black boxes", from the wreck.

The two flight recorders could contain information to help determine why the Flash Airlines-operated plane plunged into deep sea near the Egyptian resort of Sharm

el-Sheikh almost two weeks ago, killing all, mostly French tourists and Egyptian crew on board.

Flight recorders record flight data and cockpit conversations and should explain the crash, which Egypt said was caused by a technical fault and not an explosion or an attack.

France has vowed to do all it can to find out why the plane crashed, and French Navy divers had said they

were using a robot on loan from France Telecom to search for one of the boxes at a depth of about 3,000 feet. The signal from the box had first placed it about 800 metres down.

The signal from the second box is very weak and the search teams have been unable to pinpoint the location as yet, French Navy sources said, although it is thought to lie at a depth of about 800 metres.—MNA/Reuters

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## Study says Iraq guerillas use advanced weapons

**NEW YORK, 18 Jan—** Iraqi guerillas are using increasingly sophisticated weapons and tactics to attack US aircraft, according to a classified Army study on the downing of helicopters in Iraq. *The New York Times* reported in Sunday editions.

Citing senior Army officials in Iraq and the Gulf who were familiar with the study, the newspaper reported that at least one advanced missile was used by insurgents.

Rebels have used rocket-propelled grenades and heat-seeking surface-to-air missiles, the latter which require a degree of skill, in the attacks. Scores of US servicemen have died in recent months in a rash of helicopter downings in Iraq.

The study found that no type of helicopter is more protected against, or more vulnerable to attacks.

But it recommended changes to help pilots evade ground fire, which the officials did not elaborate on.

In the past, the *Times* said, changes have included flying more missions at night, with lights turned off to avoid detection.

According to Army officials, it was concern about the recent helicopter downings that prompted Lt Gen Ricardo Sanchez, the senior commander in Iraq, to move beyond a standard review after such crashes and order in December a comprehensive study of all downings.

Army officials told the paper that one troubling finding is that on at least one occasion insurgents used an SA-16 shoulder-fired missile, which is harder to thwart than the SA-7 missiles and rocket-propelled grenades used in other attacks.

Officials did not specify which incident or incidents might have involved an SA-16.

The team that conducted the review was headed by Col. Stephen Dwyer, a brigade commander at the Army Aviation Centre at Ft Rucker, Alabama, the *Times* said.

It included about a dozen forensic and weapons experts, crash analysts and helicopter specialists, had spent about four weeks in Iraq visiting the crash sites, taking soil samples and talking to aviators.

"This is a case of our Army coming through quickly with the right expertise at the right place," the *Times* quoted Maj-Gen David Petraeus, commander of the 101st Airborne Division as saying.

Internet



Unemployed Iraqi men wait at an unemployment office seeking a job in Samawa, southern Iraq on 17 Jan, 2004. Some angered unemployed people thronged the office early this week in protest against the government's unemployment policy.—INTERNET



## US lawmakers say Halliburton pricing probe deepens

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan— US lawmakers said on Friday the Pentagon's inspector general's office was probing possible criminal violations involving fuel imports to Iraq by Halliburton Co., the oil services company once headed by Vice-President Dick Cheney.

The three Democratic lawmakers said they had been told by the inspector general's (IG) staff on Thursday that an overcharging issue involving Halliburton's Kellogg Brown and Root unit was now with the IG's Defence Criminal Investigative Service. The IG's office could not immediately be reached for comment. Halliburton has strongly denied any wrongdoing and says it has brought fuel into Iraq for the best price under very difficult, dangerous circumstances.

The information about a possible criminal probe was released in a letter to Pentagon Inspector General Joseph Schmitz by the three lawmakers, Democratic presidential contender Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Representative Henry Waxman of California and Representative John Dingell of Michigan.

On Wednesday, military auditors said they had asked the Pentagon's Inspector General to look into a "suspected irregularity" over fuel brought into Iraq by KBR, suggesting the auditors suspected wrongdoing. "Your staff informed us that after receiving this referral from DCAA, you re-

ferred this matter for criminal investigation by the Defence Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) within the inspector general's office," said the letter signed by the lawmakers, who are the ranking minority members of three congressional committees.

A draft audit by the Defence Contract Audit Agency last month found evidence KBR might have overcharged by 61 million US dollars to bring fuel into Iraq via Kuwaiti subcontractor Altanmia Commercial Marketing Co.

In a bid to reduce costs, the Army said last month it would take over Halliburton's job of bringing fuel into Iraq and gave it to the military's own fuel agency, the Defence Energy Support Centre, which is expected to have its contractors in place by April.

Bringing in fuel to Iraq, which despite being oil-rich suffers from fuel shortages, is one of the main jobs done by KBR under a no-competition contract it has with the US Army Corps of Engineers to rebuild Iraq's oil industry. That no-bid contract is set to be replaced by two new contracts which are due to be announced before Saturday after several delays. — MNA/Reuters

## Uganda earns more from coffee export

KAMPALA, 18 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.—MNA/Xinhua

## Northeast China provinces to share scientific resources

SHENYANG, 18 Jan— Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces in northeast China have vowed to band together and pool their scientific resources.

Directors of the science and technology departments of these provinces came to the consensus and signed an agreement here Thursday.

This will help breed technological innovations and promote development of these provinces, said Li Xueyong, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology.

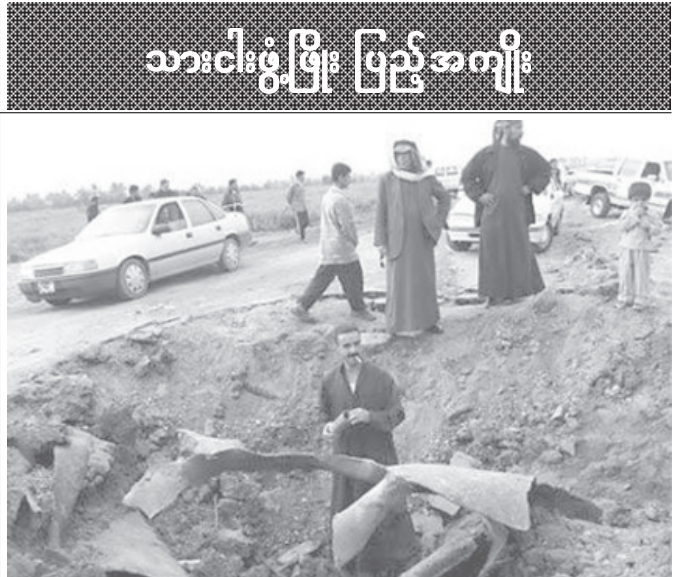
Under the new system, these provinces will jointly map scientific development strategy, share technological information and cooperate in key research projects.

Half a century ago, northeast China contributed a lot to the country's economy with the heavy industry in Liaoning, the auto industry in Jilin and natural resources in Heilongjiang.

However, these provinces have been lagging behind in recent years as the provinces in the east and south develop rapidly.

Under the country's strategy to revive the northeast, these provinces have been seeking regional cooperation in various fields.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis view a bomb crater on a rural road north of Baghdad, near the town of Taji, after a fatal blast destroyed a US Army Bradley fighting vehicle, on 17 Jan, 2004. Guerrillas killed three US soldiers and two Iraqi civil defence officials in a bomb attack as

Washington insisted it would hand over political power in Iraq in mid-2004 as scheduled.—INTERNET

## Germany now open to helping Iraq

BERLIN, 18 Jan — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder yesterday softened Germany's refusal to offer its assistance in Iraq, opening the door to a "humanitarian" engagement using military planes to evacuate the wounded.

"We will make a decision when the issue comes up. In any case, we stand by the position that we will not engage militarily in Iraq," Schroeder said on ARD television.

"That of course does not mean that if aid for the wounded is needed that we would not help."

The daily Die Welt reported this week that Schroeder had told lawmakers he was ready to provide medical evacuation planes from the Bundeswehr armed forces to Iraq.

Asked about the article, Schroeder told reporters on Wednesday evening that Germany had "no intention of changing our policy in Iraq."

But he added: "We now intend to give humanitarian aid, above all to those who are injured."

Defence Minister Peter Struck confirmed Germany could provide "helicopters and planes to provide aid" if asked by an interim Iraqi government.—Internet

## Chinese, Australian officials discuss bilateral trade

SYDNEY, 18 Jan — Senior officials from Australia and China started their first meeting on the implementation of a bilateral trade and economic framework here Friday.

The talks also include a joint feasibility study on a possible free trade agreement.

Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said in a statement that good progress has been made on the implementation of the framework signed during Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit last October.

Senior officials also discussed possible arrangements for a meeting this year of a bilateral Joint Ministerial Economic Commission and areas within the framework for further cooperation in trade facilitation.

The two-way trade totalled 13.5 billion US dollars in volume for the year 2003, or 30 per cent increase over the previous year.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bird flu spreads in Vietnam's southern region

HANOI, 18 Jan — Bird flu has spread to eight of the 12 localities in the Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam and the country has yet to find an effective way to treat human flu Type A, which is suspected to have a link with bird flu.

Meanwhile, nine cities and provinces in the country's northern region have reported flu Type A infections. The disease has killed 13 local people, including 11 children.

The virus H5N1 has been found in infected chickens and flu victims.

Bird flu spread has forced Ho Chi Minh City to announce a temporary ban on poultry from the Mekong Delta, local newspaper Viet Nam Agriculture reported

Friday. The Mekong Delta province of An Giang has also asked chicken and duck traders to stop doing business temporarily.

It plans to ban selling and buying the fowls soon, after detecting 47,000 poultry dying of flu so far.

By Thursday, Long An, one of the first two localities in the country that have bird flu epidemic, had reported 960,000 dead chickens.

It and the other province,

Tien Giang, are spending 5,000 Vietnamese dong (0.3 US dollars) to buy each sick chicken for incineration.

The delta is home to 33.7 million poultry, mostly chickens, ducks and quails. Tien Giang alone has five million fowls.

Although bird flu is spreading in both southern and northern regions, Vietnam is still unable to work out an effective guidance on treating flu Type A.

MNA/Xinhua



A protester flashes a placard of George Bush while marching with others in an anti-war rally against the dispatch of Japanese troops to Iraq outside the Japan Defence Agency in Tokyo on 17 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

## US accused of trying to sabotage fight against obesity

GENEVA, 18 Jan—Consumer groups accused the United States on Friday of trying to sabotage a global fight against obesity targeting junk food and soft drinks.

The World Health Organization (WHO) executive, which includes the United States and 31 other countries, will debate on Tuesday a plan drawn up by the UN agency after talks with member states, nutritional experts and the food industry.

The Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health says poor diets and lack of exercise are the leading cause of illnesses including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and certain cancers. These account for nearly 60 per cent of 56.5 million deaths a year deemed preventable.

As well as recommending lower intake of sugar, sodium and artery-clogging trans-fatty acids, the WHO plan urges countries to restrict food and beverage advertisements aimed at children. It also suggests that governments gear their taxation and subsidy policies to encourage healthy eating habits.

But activist groups charged that the US Administration, under pressure from the domestic food industry, aims to weaken the plan when it comes before the executive board, which meets from January 19-24.

Senior US Health Department official William Steiger, who sits on the board, has challenged some of the findings of a nutrition study carried out with the UN Food and

Agriculture Organization, which forms the basis for the strategy.

In an interview with the *Washington Post* on Friday, he said: "We have a whole series of potential changes we'd like to see... What's lacking is the notion of personal responsibility as opposed to what the government can do."

In a letter to WHO chief Lee Jong-Wook, which was leaked to activists, Steiger said the WHO-FAO report did not meet US scientific standards, including peer review criteria.

"The assertion that heavy marketing of energy-dense foods or fast food outlets increases the risk of obesity is supported by almost no data," his letter said.

"No data have yet clearly demonstrated that the advertising on children's television causes obesity."

Steiger also said the WHO/FAO Report exceeded the two UN agencies' mandates by addressing "broad areas of trade, agricultural subsidies and advertising".

"The Bush Administration is putting the interests of the junk food industry ahead of the health of people — including children — on a global scale," Commercial Alert, a non-profit group based in Portland, Oregon, said in a statement. —MNA/Reuters

## Malaysian PM's visit to Thailand successful

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Jan—Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's visit to Thailand this week was a great success, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said on Saturday.

The Malaysian and Thai Foreign Ministers would meet more often to ensure what had been agreed to by the prime ministers of both countries was implemented effectively, Syed Hamid told reporters in Kuala Terengganu, north Malaysia.

Abdullah paid a one-day visit to Thailand on Friday as part of his familiarization tour of ASEAN capitals after taking office as Prime Minister on October 31 last year.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), set up in 1967, now groups Brunei, Cambo-

dia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Foreign Minister said during the visit, Abdullah and his Thai counterpart Thaksin Shinawatra reached several agreements on setting up a joint committee for the development of strategic areas on the border, stepping up socio-economic development and solving border disputes amicably.

He said both countries had also agreed to draw up an agreement on agricultural cooperation and transport.

Thailand had also

agreed to accept Malaysian certification governing prawn exports to that country, he said, adding "we are also cooperating in deepsea fishing".

Malaysia and Thailand enjoy good relations in various fields. The bilateral trade in the first nine months of 2003 reached 5,800 million US dollars, up 23 per cent over the corresponding period in the previous year.

Abdullah has so far visited Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand. He is scheduled to pay a half-day visit to Laos on Monday followed by a two-day visit to the Philippines. —MNA/Xinhua



A cyclist stands on a flooded street along the river Rhine near Ruedesheim, western Germany, on 17 Jan, 2004. The rising level of the waters, caused by the heavy rainfalls in the past days, has flooded several lower streets and paths on the river banks. —INTERNET

မြန်မာ့အသံ၊ ၁၈ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁၈ ရက်နေ့



Iraqis celebrate while holding pieces of a destroyed US Bradley fighting vehicle in the air after three US and two Iraqi soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb blew apart their armoured vehicle near Taji, north of Baghdad on 17 Jan, 2004. A car bomb ripped through the entrance of the US-led coalition in Baghdad. —INTERNET

## Annan urges world leaders to focus on poverty

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Jan—The world's leaders must re-focus their energies on such threats as extreme poverty, hunger, endemic diseases and environmental degradation after a year in which they were distracted by other threats, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Friday.

"The events of 2003 distracted the world's leaders from dealing with other threats which, to most people, are equally immediate and real," Annan said in a speech delivered at a handover ceremony in New York for chairmanship of the Group of 77 developing nations. Qatar takes over from Morocco as chairman of the group, now a coalition of 135 countries, whose aim is to promote the developing world's collective economic interests and give it a stronger voice in international forums.

"I hope it is an auspicious sign that Qatar will be guiding the G-77 in the year when we hope to push forward the Doha 'development round' of trade negotiations," he said. —MNA/Xinhua

## Bank of China records profits of 57 billion yuan in 2003

BEIJING, 18 Jan — The Bank of China (BOC) group last year made profits of 57 billion yuan (some 6.9 billion US dollars), up 4.7 billion yuan (about 550 million US dollars) from 2002, said a BOC spokesperson here Friday.

Deducting profits from selling shares of the Bank of China (Hong Kong), the total profit of BOC reached 49.6 billion yuan (about six billion US dollars), up three billion yuan from 2002, the spokesperson said. By the end of 2003, the non-performing assets rate of the BOC was 15.92 per cent, down 6.45 percentage points year on year. —MNA/Xinhua

## International business conference opens in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 18 Jan—A high-profile international business conference begins here on Saturday afternoon, bringing together world's leading trade leaders and some political figures to contribute toward a revival of the multilateral trade talks.

The two-day conference titled "Global Economic Governance and Challenges of Multilateralism" is organized by the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B), and is going to be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to inaugurate the conference.

Some 400 delegates from more than 30 countries will attend the meeting. Among the major figures are Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, World Trade Organization (WTO) director-general Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, as well as a host of trade ministers and

business leaders from across the globe. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will deliver a video address to the Dhaka business meet.

The event comes after the multilateral trade negotiations collapsed in Cancun, and ICC-B president Mahbubur Rahman described the meeting as "an event of great significance in the context of the fast-changing global trade scenario", adding never before such a high-profile business and trade-related conference was held in Bangladesh.

The organizers said the event would be an enthusiastic one, especially after the disappointments stemming from the collapse of Cancun Ministerial Conference held in September 2003. —MNA/Xinhua

## Vietnam reports two more flu Type A suspects

HANOI, 18 Jan—Vietnam reports two more suspected flu Type A patients in the southern province of Kien Giang, raising the total to 20, according to Vietnam News Agency on Friday.

Pham Thi Kim Thuong and Tran Van Phong, both 23 years old, were hospitalized with symptoms of a high temperature, difficult breathing, low blood pressure, and decreasing numbers of white cells, the symptoms of flu Type A which has killed 13 local people so far.

The Kien Giang Hospital said the two

young patients are in need of respirators, and at risk of dying soon. It is awaiting the result of testing whether they are contracted with flu Type A or not.

If the two youths are contracted with flu Type A, they will be the first patients in southern Vietnam. Other 18 patients live in the northern region. —MNA/Xinhua



# My goodwill visit

*U Maung Maung Soe Tint*  
(Retired Ambassador)

I had occasion to travel to the northeast of Shan State on 10 December 2003 together with a goodwill delegation. It was I that led the delegation, and Moh Moh Soe, my daughter, was its member. Driven by the urge to visit Shan State, we started our journey in December of the cold season. No sooner had air tickets been bought than we set forth as we were so overwhelmed by the desire to start the trip. We flew to Lashio via Heho, and then hired a van to proceed to Muse. We went on to Shweli in the People's Republic of China, where my bosom friends live. On our trip to China, we conveyed the intimate friendship of Myanmar peoples to them. My Chinese friends returned the same thing to us. And we received their kind hospitality wherever we went. We did everything in our capacity for further cementing the existing friendship.

All along the trip we made by plane, we caught sight of grey mountain ranges, valleys, reddish ridges, fields, rivers, creeks, and lakes without feeling bored in the slightest. No doubt will there lie buried mineral resources under them. Various kinds of rice and crops grow well on these fields. Moreover, dams and hydel power stations are under construction there by making use of water from rivers and waterfalls. These natural resources are substances Nature provides for Myanmar. What is necessary is to make good use of them.

After the plane had touched down at the Lashio Airport, my friends there welcomed us heartily. Not only did they treat us to lunch, but they also arranged a van for our trip to Muse. We felt a touch of warmth in the cold season like winter.

As we continued our journey on mountain passes, I considered the ability of those who constructed those roads to be wizards. So smooth was the road that I who used to be afraid of travelling on such kind of road forgot my fear. Instead, I let myself be enchanted by scenic beauties of Shan State. When I, as a cultural attaché, served my duties in Britain, I frequented Wales and Scotland. I thought then that the mountain ranges and fields in those regions were of great beauty. Also as an ambassador to Australia, it occurred to me that the beauties of Canberra and the scenes of Brisbane could not be found in Myanmar. I thought so because at that time I had not been to Shan State yet. Now that I have visited there, I dare say that a variety of beautiful things of the rest of the world do exist in Myanmar in a way they are festooned with flowers of various colours. In addition, under the soil of Myanmar

lie buried many mineral resources. Therefore, the beauty of Myanmar is more precious.

Shan State being fertile, rice and vegetables grow well. Sunflower and buckwheat are also grown there. If only departments and private entrepreneurs place their investments on farming industry there using modern technologies, the region is likely to develop into a garden of Asia.

Israeli flowers and vegetables has made inroad into the European market on a daily basis after the desert area had been turned into a garden where various plants of flowers and fruits can be grown. Nature has created such condition for Myanmar. And the Chinese market, the world's biggest one, is also at the ready.

The geographical condition of Shan State is especially good for the livestock breeding work. Sheep, cow, horse and so on can also be bred on a commercial scale like those conducted in the United States, Australia and New Zealand. It is also possible to expand the livestock breeding industry into an export-oriented one. Besides, there can emerge industries based on agriculture and livestock breeding. The beauty of Shan State is no doubt a magnet for tourism industry, which can earn as much as billions of foreign currency. What is needed is to improve transportation and accommodation.

There are educated youths aplenty in Myanmar. The combination of their love of the country and energies can bring forth the required work force. Plans have been made to disburse loans to national people across the country and organize them into agriculture and livestock breeding businesses and other industries to conduct on a broader scale. The economic as well as social growth will then move with an astonishing velocity and be able to keep abreast of other nations. There are favourable conditions to secure success, if such measures are to be taken in all the states and divisions.

I was lost in a train of thought of the welfare of the State all along the trip till I reached Muse, where my nephew Maung Lin welcomed us heartily. My nephew was married to Mu Mu Htaik, a Shan national girl, and is earning his living in the line of border trade. They have had a son, who is now one year old. My nephew found it delightful to live in Shan State and said that he would settle in Muse. Their happiness came over me. I have now got Shan national relatives to love as blood relation. To meet them was included in the purpose of my goodwill visit.

They also gave us a VIP treat. A friend of my

nephew drove us to well-known Kyugok-Pangsang, which was once a blood-stained area owing to battles with the BCP but now a picturesque town with hills, valleys and orange farms as the BCP were driven out of the town by the Tatmadaw and locals. Also gone with them were poppy plantations. Presently, peace prevails in the region. There can be found children playing in the sunshine and girls selling goods with peace of mind. Selling oranges, a Shan national girl with reddish cheeks invited me to visit her. The economic boost as a result of regional stability is a success for the country.

My nephew took me to Shweli in the People's Republic of China. His Chinese friend himself drove us there of his own volition. A Shan national helped us as an interpreter. It was really a goodwill visit. Chinese goods from Shweli find their way to Myanmar via Muse. With the products of Myanmar, Shweli is becoming more and more prosperous. Like Singapore, Shweli with grand supermarkets on broad and clean roads is where the action is. When modified with fertilizers and hi-techs, the young plants brought from Myanmar are quick to grow big in a short time. For the same reason, sapphires, rubies and jade of Myanmar fetch high prices when decorated with their excellent artistic talent. Myanmar people should export only the finished jewellery. There are many a prospect of making profits out of the Sino-Myanmar border trade on a mutual-benefit basis. Both countries will then become bound up with close ties. It is expected that 'one stop service' centres will be opened to ensure the easy flow of commodities.

King Anawrahta paid a visit to Shweli, where he visited a pagoda and said prayers for a stronger friendship between the two countries.

On 13-12-2003, I bid adieu to my nephew, niece, grandson and friends and left Muse for Lashio. It seemed to me impossible to forget the scenic beauties of Shan State along Kutkai-Hsenwi road, and the dinner my niece's mother treated us to. The memory of their kind hospitality will live on. My thanks are due to all of them.

Our goodwill delegation has dreamed a series of visits to Chin State, Kayah State and others, if the occasion arises.

It is because I have set my sights on building a modern and developed nation in unison with the dedicated service of all national brethren.

(Translation: KTY)

Myamma Alin, Kyemon — 28-12-2003

## Blood donated to Defence Services hospitals

YANGON, 18 Jan — Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, members of Myittamon Group of the Shine Hope Co of Sangyoung Township donated blood and K 100,000 to the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) and blood and medical equipment to Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) (Mingaladon) yesterday morning.

Commandant Lt-Col Tun Tun accepted the cash donation and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. Similarly, members of the groups donated blood and medical equipment to the Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) (Mingaladon).

Deputy General Manager U Ohn Kyaing of the group explained the purpose of the donation.

Next, Col Myo Nyunt of the hospital spoke words of thanks and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. Later, members of the group donated blood and K 100,000 to Defence Services Liver Hospital (Mingaladon). — MNA



The collective blood donation at Defence Services Liver Hospital — MNA

## Myanmar Products Expo to be held

YANGON, 18 Jan — Myanmar Products Expo 2004 will be held by Dragon Exhibitions Ltd in amhaewun Garden in Lashio from 6 to 10 February 2004. At the Expo, cosmetics, clothes, plastic wares, consumer goods, electrical appliances, household items, traditional medicines, etc will be on display and Star entertainment programme will be included. Further details can be inquired through Tel: 573148. — MNA



The audience enjoy a dance number at the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Reception in London. — MNA



## Myanmar ICT Week (2004)

21-1-2004 to 27-1-2004

MICT Park, Yangon.

## Independence Day Reception held in London

YANGON, 18 Jan — A reception to mark the 56th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar took place at Chiswick Town Hall in London on 4 January under the aegis of Myanmar Association (UK).

Present on the occasion were patrons of the association, executives and members and Myanmar citizens residing in UK and foreigners totalling about 300.

Permanent Patron of the association Myanmar Ambassador to UK Dr Kyaw Win, Chairman of the association U Nay Win spoke on the occasion. Patron of the association Prof U Tony Hla Pe and executive committee member of Myanmar Britain Business Association (MBBA) Mr Keith Win explained the assistance to be rendered to Myanmar members.

Next, certificates of honour and awards were presented to four outstanding students. Myanmar students entertained those present with Myanmar traditional songs and dances.

Later, the guests enjoyed Myanmar traditional snacks, and the reception came to a close at 4 pm with the singing of National Anthem in chorus. — MNA

## Prime Minister attends 45th Founding Anniversary of Maha Visuddhayaon (Pali University) Shwekyin Kyaingtaik, presents certificates of honour to members of the Sangha

YANGON, 17 Jan — The 45th Founding Anniversary of Maha Visuddhayaon (Pali University) Shwekyin Kyaingtaik and the ceremony to honour members of the Sangha who passed the examinations was held at Manawrama Eicchasaya Kyaung of the monastery on Nandawun Road, Bahan Township, this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws Shwekyin Joint-Sasana-baing Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Rajindabhivamsa of Thirimanda San Kyaung in Bahan Township and Shwekyin Joint-Sasana-baing Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Jotipala of Kyakhatawaing Kyaungtaik in Bago, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws, Tipitaka Ovadacariya Sayadaws, Presiding Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhamma Bandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Ashin Sirinandabhivamsa of Maha Visuddhayaon (Pali University) Shwekyin Kyaingtaik (Yaw Sayadaw), and Nayaka Sayadaws, lecturer Sayadaws and members of the Sangha who passed the examinations, members of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee, invited

Sayadaws, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, religious association members, chairmen and members of township and ward PDCs, disciples and wellwishers.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the congregation received the Eight Precepts from State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Shwekyin Joint-Sasana-baing Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Rajindabhivamsa.

Sishin Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Agga Nanabhivamsa of Maha Visuddhayaon Taikthit in Mandalay read the record of founding the monastery and Chairman of Weyawutsa Association of the monastery Captain Maung Tin (Retd) spoke words of delight.

The Prime Minister presented offertories to the Shwekyin Joint-Sasana-baing Bahan Thirimanda San Kyaung Sayadaw, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers and departmental heads to the Shwekyin Joint-Sasana-baing Bago Kyakhatawaing Sayadaw, the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee

Sayadaws, the Tipitaka Ovadacariya Sayadaws, the Maha Visuddhayaon (Pali University) Shwekyin Kyaingtaik Presiding Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

The Prime Minister then presented certificates of honour and awards to Ashin Lindaka who had passed the Tipitakadhara Selection Examination 2003 of the State and won the Vinajadhara Vinajakovida title, the Digabanaka title and the Dwpitakadhara title.

The commander and the ministers presented certificates of honour and awards to Ashin Sirakitjana who won the Vinijadhara Vinajakovida title at the Tipitakadhara Selection Examination 2003 of the State and Pitakattaya Paragu title at Suwunnabonmi Pariyatti Sasanahita Examination in Thaton, Shin Veija Nanda Lankara who stood first in the whole country at Pathamalat class of Pahtamabyan examination, Shin Javana Lankara who stood third in the whole country at Pahtamange class, Shin Janeya Lankara who won first in the whole country at Engottara Nikaya Vidhu of the Nikaya Examination of the State and Samanekyaw title, and Shin Tikha Lankara who won three Samanekyaw titles at Mandalay Thakyathiha Samanekyaw examination,



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents certificates of honour and awards to Ashin Lindaka who passed the Tipitakadhara Selection Examination 2003 and won the Vinajadhara Vinajakovida title, the Digabanaka title and the Dwpitakadhara title. MNA

Bago Pariyatti Saddhamma Rakkhita Samanekyaw examination and Taunggyi Kanbawza Samanekyaw examination.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister left there.

The second session of the ceremony was then held.

Myingyan Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indobhasa (Vinajadhara Vinajakovida) read the verses written by the Mandalay Maha Visuddhayaon Taik Mingala Beikman Sayadaw and the Kantawya Pariyatti Sarithaik Sayadaw in Gangaw.

The chairman and members of Weyawutsa Association of the monastery pre-

sented certificates of honour and awards to members of the Sangha from the monastery who passed examinations. The Maha Visuddhayaon (Pali University) Shwekyin Kyaingtaik Presiding Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained for good deeds. Afterwards, the ceremony came to a close with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

The ceremony was held to honour 96 members of the Sangha from the monastery who passed the examinations of the State and other associations — six members of the Sangha who passed the 55th Tipitaka Selection Examination of the State with

credit, six members of the Sangha who passed State Dhammacariya (Lecture) examination (three treatises), one member of the Sangha who won Pitakattaya Paragu title, two members of the Sangha who passed Pahtamagy examination, 12 members of the Sangha who passed Pahtamalat examination, 14 members of the Sangha who passed the Pahtamange examination, three members of the Sangha who won Vinaja Vidhu title, four members of Sangha who won Inguttara Nikaya Vidhu title and members of the Sangha who passed other examinations of Buddhist missionary associations and departments. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally unveils the stone inscriptions of the refectory of Alowdawpyae Monastery in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. (News on Page 1) — MNA

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Leshi-Htamanthi road

YANGON, 18 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, who accompanied Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win on his tour as a member, together with officials from the SPDC Office, officers from the North-West Command, the Chief Engineer of Khamti District Public Works and officials, on 16 January morning, inspected the 4-mile long Leshi-Htamanthi Road and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and

officials left Leshi by car and arrived at mile post 32/1 on the road and inspected there. At mile post 30/1, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the site for construction of a detour and gave instructions.

He inspected the 40-ft long wooden bridges at mile posts 29/4 and 28/2. After viewing the wooden bridge at mile post 26/3, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to mile post 24/4 where the Khamti District Chief Engineer reported extension of

the road.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the 100-ft long wooden bridge at mile post 22/1. He also looked into repair of road using machinery at mile post 16/6 and laying of gravel for tarring at mile post 13/6 and gave instructions on meeting the set standards of the road.

At 9 am, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Htamanthi model village in Homalin Township where officials welcomed them.

MNA

## Gymnasium opened in Homalin

YANGON, 18 Jan — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the opening ceremony of the gymnasium in Homalin Township on 13 January.

On 14 January, the minister attended the opening of rural development base in Htamanthi Village and donated books and cash to the library of the village. The minister also met with the local people at the station hospital. — MNA

## Military Band contest continues

YANGON, 18 Jan — The 13th Military Band Contest of the Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) commemorating the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued at the People's Square this morning.

Before the contest, bands comprising school girls of Bahan Township Basic Education High School No 2 and Latha Township BEHS-1 presented skill demonstration. Bands of No 44 LID, No 22 LID, Company-1 of North-East Command, Nos 3 and 1 Training Depot and Com-

pany-2 of Western Command participated in the contest.

After today's contest, Chairman of the Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Military Band Contest Vice-Adjutant General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe presented cash awards to the bands of school girls. Present on the occasion were Chairman of the committee Brig-Gen Hla Shwe and senior officers, panel of judges, guests, families of defence services and students. — MNA



## Secretary-1 inspects Yazagyo Dam ...

(from page 16)

On arrival at Kalaywa by helicopter, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Col Nyi Tun of Kyigon Station and officials.

Next, they proceeded to Myitha Bridge (Kalaywa) construction project site. At the briefing hall, Senior Engineer U Kyaw Lin reported on progress of work in constructing the bridge and work being carried out.

The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions and looked into the project site. Myitha Bridge (Kalaywa) is to link Kalaywa, which is the end of Monywa-Ahlon-Yargyi-Myoma-Kalaywa road, with Shan Tat village. Efforts are being made for timely completion of the 1,320 feet long bridge.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the project site and proceeded to Kalaywa Township People's Hospital where they inspected the X-ray unit, dental unit, wards and operation theatre.

Next, they arrived at Kalaywa Basic Education High School and inspected the computer skills room, the computer aided instruction room and the audio lab room and viewed the skills demonstration of the students.

Next, Headmaster U Win Myint reported on construction of a two-storey school building to the Secretary-1 who attended to the needs.

On arrival at Kalay University, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by

Pro-Rector U Kyaw Ye Tun, professors and faculty members.

At the hall of the university, the Secretary-1 met with professors, associate professors, lecturers and assistant lecturers and faculty members.

The Pro-Rector reported on courses being conducted at the university, number of the students, strength of academic and administrative staff and requirements.

In response to the report, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win gave instructions. He said that they were there to meet with fellow education staff of the university and to fulfil the requirements, that includes buses for the students and upgrading of the entrance to the university.

He said he felt pleased to learn that students from Chin State and Sagaing Division are pursuing education at the university happily. It can be attributed to the goodwill and efforts of faculty members led by the Pro-Rector.

The Tatmadaw, since its assumption of the State duties, has been making efforts for national development after laying down plans and progress has been made in political, economic, education, health and communication sectors. The government will continue to make efforts for national development whatever hindrances and obstacles are.

A modern and developed

nation will have to be built with intellectuals and intelligentsia. Thus, universities, colleges and institutes were opened across the nation for the emergence of highly qualified human resources. In the process, faculty members are to train and teach the students to become outstanding ones capable of serving the interests of the State and the people.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Kalay Industrial Zone.

At the briefing hall, the chairman of Kalay District Peace and Development Council and the chairman of the Industries Supervisory Committee reported on establishment of the industrial zone, production of light trucks, farm equipment and machines for small-scale Hydrel power.

In response to the report, Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win gave instructions. He said that the Kalay Industrial Zone being established is assumed to be keeping abreast with other industrial zones with the exception of Yangon, Mandalay, Ayethayar and Monywa industrial zones.

Kalay Industrial Zone was set up with the aim of enhancing the standard of private industries and of enabling the industrialists to become prosperous.

The government has already established the basic infrastructures including

economic, education and health sectors. Therefore, priority will have to be given to development of the industrial sector. The government will make strenuous efforts for development of industrial sector with added momentum starting from the year 2004.

To ensure availability of electricity in rural regions, the industrial zones including Kalay Industrial Zone are needed to produce small-scale and medium-scale machines for hydrel power and efforts are to be made for producing quality machines for hydrel power.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected machines for hydrel power, turbines and spare parts for turbines and small-scale machines for hydrel power. Next, they looked into farm equipment, harvesters, machines for general purpose and others. Next, they inspected various kinds of Myanmar Super Jeeps and light trucks and the site for extension of the industrial zone.

In the evening, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Kalay Government Technical College where they met with the principals and faculty members of the Government Technical College and Government Computer College.

At the meeting, Principal of GTC U Than Win and Principal of GCC Daw Aye Aye Thein reported on courses being conducted, number of the students, strength of faculty members and staff and work being carried

out for greening the environs of the colleges.

Next, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein reported on fulfilment of teaching and learning aids and new buildings to be constructed for the colleges.

Next, the Secretary-1 gave instructions, saying that the faculty members are to try their utmost to keep pace with changes and developments through innovation. As they are well-versed and highly qualified ones, they are to teach and train their students to become the outstanding ones. Next, the Secretary-1 presented gifts to the principals, on behalf of the faculty members.

Yesterday morning, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the 10-kilo-watt hydrel power plant constructed at the regional battalion in Kalay and gave necessary instructions.

Next, they paid homage to ancient Buddha images kept at Dhammayon Kyaungtaik in Kalay and presented offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of the Kyaungtaik Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotika adhaja Bhaddanta Dhammapala.

Next, they proceeded to Kalay BEHS No 1 and inspected construction of the two-storey new school building.

Later, the Secretary-1 met with Headmaster U Sein Lwin and teachers and gave instructions on academic matters.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party paid homage to

Yokpwa Tahtaung Yehsan Kynmyat at Htako Parti Phaya Kyaung in Kalay and the Secretary-1 signed in the visitors' book.

On arrival at Kalay District General Hospital, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by the medical superintendent, specialists, nurses and hospital staff.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected children ward, medical ward, the OG ward and intensive care unit, delivery room and operation theatre.

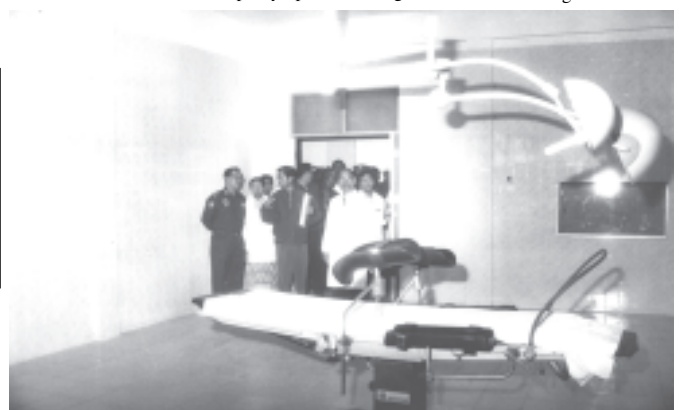
At the briefing hall, the medical superintendent reported on the strength of specialists, doctors, nurses, hospital staff, fulfilment of medicines, medical equipment, laboratory equipment, common diseases of the region and treatment, mobile medical treatment of specialists and raising of trust funds for the hospital. Next, Director-General of Health Department Dr Wan Maung gave a supplementary report.

After giving necessary instructions, the Secretary-1 greeted specialists and doctors. Next, member of Panel of Patrons of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win met with secretaries of Kalay and Kalaywa Township Union Solidarity and Development Associations and executives at the hall of Kalay Station and gave instructions.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party left for Yangon by Myanma Airways and arrived back here in the evening.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win visits a patient at Htamanthi Station Hospital in Homalin. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win views round the Kalay District People's Hospital. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects cars assembled at Kalay Industrial Zone — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the construction of the two-storey school building of BEHS No 1 in Kalay — MNA

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



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win views round in Homalin People's Hospital on 17-1-2004.  
(News reported)—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Leshi People's Hospital on 17-1-2004.  
(News reported)—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets departmental staff and townselders at Leshi Township Peace and Development Council Office on 17-1-2004. (News reported)—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Homalin Airport construction project on 17-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects arrangements for preventing Shweli Bridge from erosion on 17-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA







Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents gifts to local nationals at Naga Traditional New Year Festival in Leshi on 17-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents gifts to Naga national race leaders at Naga Traditional New Year Festival in Leshi on 17-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA



Chairman U Hsankha Naung addresses the opening of Naga Traditional New Year Festival in Leshi, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division, on 17-1-2004. (News reported)—MNA



Naga Traditional New Year Festival in progress in Leshi, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division, on 17-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA



Tourists seen at Naga Traditional New Year Festival in Leshi, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division, on 17-1-2004. (News reported)— MNA

### ဆောင်းရာသီတွင်ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သောကူးစက်ရောဂါများ ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်ရေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

၁။ ဆောင်းရာသီတွင် အအေးမိနွှေးချောင်းဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ဦးနှောက်အမြှေးရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ၊ ဆွဲဆိုးနာရောဂါ၊ ကြက်ညှာချောင်းဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ရေကျောက်ရောဂါ၊ နမိုးနီးယား အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါနှင့်မျက်စိနာရောဂါစသည့်ကူးစက်ရောဂါများအဖြစ်များတတ်ပါသည်။

၂။ ၎င်းရောဂါများကိုကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက်

- \* ပွဲလမ်းသဘင်လှူထုထပ်သောနေရာနှင့် ဖုထုထပ်သောနေရာများကို တတ်နိုင်သမျှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- \* နှာစေးချောင်းဆိုးလျှင် ရောဂါမြေပွားစေရန် လက်ကိုယ်ဝါးကို အသုံးပြုပါ။
- \* တစ်ဦးအသုံးပြုထားသော အသုံးအဆောင်နှင့်အဝတ်အထည်များကို အခြားတစ်ဦးမှအသုံးပြုခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- \* ၅-နှစ်အောက် ကလေးများအား ပုံမှန်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး၍ ကာကွယ်၍ရသောရောဂါများဖြစ်သည့် ဆွဲဆိုးနာ ကြက်ညှာချောင်းဆိုး ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ဆေးများထိုးနှံပါ။
- \* တစ်ကိုယ်ရေ သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို အလေးထားဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- \* အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- \* လုံလောက်စွာအနားယူပါ။

၃။ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများရှိလျှင် အသက်ဆုံးရှုံးမှုနှင့် ရောဂါပြန့်ပွားမှုများကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန် နီးရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် ဆေးလျှင်စွာ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

### Myanmar reaches finals in U-14 Asia Zone (2) Tennis Tournament

YANGON, 18 Jan — The semi-finals of the second round matches of the U-14 Asia Zone (2) Tennis Tournament organized by International Tennis Federation and Tennis Federation of Myanmar took place at Theinbyu Tennis court here this morning. At the men's single event, Phyo Min Tha of Myanmar team and Munkhbaatar of Mongolia reached finals, beating Baber of Pakistan and Win Htet Paing of Myanmar.

At the women's single event, Malaysia and Sri Lanka reached finals. Myanmar double Phyo Min Tha and Win Htet Paing and Pakistan double Babar and Nazir reached finals in the men's double event.

At the women's doubles event, Sri Lanka

team and Sri Lanka-Malaysia team reached finals after beating their rivals.

Final matches will take place tomorrow morning. — MNA



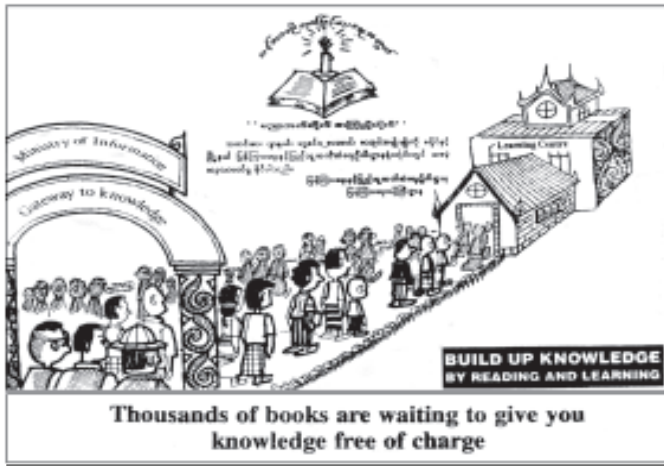
Phyo Min Tha in action. — NLM

### Ensuring smooth and secure transport coordinated

YANGON, 17 Jan — Work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Command yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. It was also attended by Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, military region commanders, members of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, members of the supervisory committee, chairman of district and township Peace and Development Councils, registrars of universities and colleges in Yangon, chairman of bus lines and guests.

Officials reported to the commander on measures taken for ensuring smooth and secure transport. After hearing the reports, the commander explained the arrangements for facilitation of transport in Yangon and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း တစ်တောင် တစ်တောင်တက် ပြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။



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U Kyi Win, B.Com., B.L., for Alcatel, by its Attorneys REMFREY & SAGAR INDIA Dated: 19th January 2004

### Airbus to deliver over 30 planes to China in 2004

BEIJING, 18 Jan—France-based aircraft manufacturer, Airbus will deliver more than 30 civilian aircraft to China in 2004, Airbus China president Laurence Barron announced here Friday.

The aircraft will be operated by major Chinese airlines, including China Southern Airlines, Air China, China Eastern Airlines, Hainan Airlines and Sichuan Airlines, Barron said.

Airbus had delivered 36 civilian aircraft to the Chinese Mainland, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region last year. Airbus has been steadily expanding its China business since entering the country in 1985.—MNA/Xinhua

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### Exploration activities boost Indonesia's oil, gas reserves

JAKARTA, 18 Jan—The Indonesian Government said that various oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities in 2003 had added one billion barrels of oil and 20 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of natural gas to the country's current oil and gas reserves.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said on Friday that the boost in the oil and gas reserves marked a successful year for investment in the sector.

Some 70 per cent of the additional reserves was contributed by state-owned oil and gas firm PT Pertamina's new oil and gas finds, Purnomo was quoted Friday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying. Director of Exploration and Exploitation Indrayana Chaidir said that with the additional reserves, the country's total potential and proven oil and gas reserves now stand at 10.7 billion barrels and 190 TCF of gas, respectively.—MNA/Xinhua

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### Geologists warn of great earthquake in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 18 Jan—Geologists said that Nepal might experience an earthquake with an intensity of more than 8 on the Richter Scale in the next 10 years, *The Himalayan Times* newspaper reported Saturday.

"The earthquake is expected to be more catastrophic than the one in 1934, going by the geological condition of the country," the independent English daily quoted Manoj Ghimire, a local geological expert, as saying.

The earthquake in 1934 was of intensity 8.4 on the Richter Scale and claimed more than 90,000 lives, besides demolishing around 80,000 houses in Nepal.

Earthquakes result in more casualties and damage because of faulty construction of infrastructure in Nepal, Ghimire said, adding that 90 per cent of the buildings constructed in the country are not based on earthquake-resistant theory.

"The main cause of concern is the big buildings in urban areas," he added.

He also stressed the need for awareness about earthquakes among the Nepali people.—MNA/Xinhua

## မြန်မာ့ပြန်လည်အသံ

### Thailand-Singapore to sign open-sky deal

BANGKOK, 18 Jan—Thailand and Singapore are moving closer to sign an open-sky deal for cargo flights, which is likely to come into effect in February, according to the Thai Ministry of Commerce.

Charin Hansuebsai, spokesman of the ministry, was quoted Saturday by the *Thai News Agency* as saying that the deal looked set to be signed during the unofficial meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers' meeting (AEM) on Saturday in Indonesia, which will be attended by a Thai delegation headed by Commerce Minister Watana Muangsook.

Under the deal, cargo flights between Thailand and Singapore will be operated on an open sky basis from February 2004, with other ASEAN members joining in the scheme when they are ready.

The AEM, hosted by the Indonesian city of Jogjakarta, will be followed by a two-day ASEAN-European Union Meeting of Economic Ministers (AEM-EU).

Also up for discussions in the meeting

will be the acceleration of measures to ensure greater ASEAN cooperation in terms of the free movement of goods, capital and skilled labour by 2010, with the eventual aim of establishing an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2020.

The Thai Government has expressed interest in facilitating the free movement of goods and services within the region, particularly for goods of agriculture and fishery, automobiles and health care.

During the AEM-EU meeting, the ASEAN ministers will meet EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, and discussions will be centred round a treaty proposed by the EU last April to boost inter-regional trade cooperation, the report said. It is hoped that the treaty will bring about the granting of special trade privileges between the two regions, it added.—MNA/Xinhua

### Mars rover stretches arm, snaps micro-pictures

PASADENA, (California), 18 Jan—The Mars rover *Spirit* stretched out its robotic arm for the first time on Friday, snapping microscopic pictures of the red planet's soil, and relieved scientists also looked back at the six-wheeler's tyre tracks, concluding it was safe to start driving.

Scientists said they were getting "up close and personal with Mars" as they searched for clues that would explain wind patterns and the geological history of the Red Planet, including the main question of whether water ever flowed on the surface.

"Today *Spirit* began its mission," Mission Manager Mark Adler told a briefing.

"About seven hours ago, we made our first use of the arm. We put the arm out in front of the rover, down hovering over the soil with the microscopic imager, and we took the first microscopic images of the surface of another planet."

*Spirit* had tested its arm after landing but waited until after its Thursday exit from its landing pad to put it to use.

The first 3-centimetre

diameter pictures showed a fine-grained flat surface and dust particles that appeared to be cemented together, said camera science lead Ken Herkenhoff. Some of the grains were too small for the camera, which can focus on a grain of salt, to see.

The image suggested there could be a fine crust of soil on the surface, he said. Scientists are eager to confirm that and test why the grains hold together, since one explanation could be that water once flowed over the sand and evaporated, creating a crust like that on a beach.

The mission directors appeared to get as much satisfaction or more from studying the tracks the rover made in its trek about 2-1/2 feet from the lander that brought it to the planet 13 days ago.

The tracks were sharp outlines of the tyres, rather than crumbly debris, and thus more indication of fine particles of soil and good news for driving.

"The bottom line is we don't anticipate any problems if the terrain continues to hold up like this," science team member Rob Sullivan told a briefing after the rover finished its 13th day on the planet. "It looks like there is a lot of support there."

MNA/Xinhua

### Norway to provide aid for Nepal's hydropower projects

KATHMANDU, 18 Jan—The Norwegian Government has agreed to provide a grant assistance of 1.5 million US dollars to conduct feasibility studies of constructing small and medium size hydropower projects in Nepal, the Nepali Finance Ministry said Saturday.

The grant assistance will be utilized to conduct feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments for 10 small and medium size hydropower projects of 5 to 10 megawatt capacity, the ministry said in a Press release. The main objective of the assistance is to encourage investors to invest in small and medium size hydropower projects in western Nepal.

An agreement on the grant was signed here Friday evening by Madhav Prasad Ghimire, joint-secretary of the Nepali Finance Ministry and Norwegian Ambassador to Nepal Ingrid Ofstad on behalf of their governments.

MNA/Xinhua

### Russia hails SCO as tool for solving world problems

MOSCOW, 18 Jan—Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said on Friday that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an effective tool of multilateral interaction for solving world problems.

Russia "is convinced that SCO will cope with its tasks and will assert itself as an effective instrument of multilateral interaction of our states in solving problems of both the regional and international scales", Yakovenko said in Russia's Siberian city of Novosibirsk, where Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov made a stop on his way back to Moscow from Beijing.

SCO, which groups China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, was formally established in June 2001 and

grew out of efforts in the 1990s to strengthen confidence-building measures in the Central Asian border regions and fight regional terrorism, religious extremism and separatism.

"SCO will become one of the bulwarks for forming a safe, fair and democratic world order," Yakovenko said in an interview with *ITAR-TASS* news agency. "This opinion is shared in the whole world," he noted, adding that the solemn ceremony of opening the SCO Secretariat in Beijing was "a testimony to that".

MNA/Xinhua



# မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

## UNSG meets special regional envoys in fight on AIDS

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Jan — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan held his first annual consultations on Friday with his special envoys dealing with HIV/AIDS on a regional basis as well as with Peter Piot, executive director of the Joint UN Programme on AIDS.

Annan saw the meeting as an opportunity for the four envoys — who deal with AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa — to assess the situation in their respective regions, including the performance of the UN and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a UN spokesman said.

The UN chief told the envoys at the closed-door meeting that AIDS is a priority issue for the UN system, and for him personally, and stressed the envoys' value in reaching out to countries as they respond to the AIDS epidemic.

The meeting came a day after Annan hosted a summit of executives from the worldwide media at UN Headquarters in New York, where the media leaders made major commitments towards expanding public knowledge and understanding about HIV/AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua

## NASA decrees early demise for "Hubble" telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 18 Jan — NASA announced on Friday it would cancel a space shuttle mission to service the *Hubble* Space Telescope, a decision that dictates an early demise for the most storied science programme in the space agency's history.

The *Hubble*, the most famous of all telescopes, has sent a steady diet of spectacular space images back to Earth since it was launched in 1990 has been invaluable in helping astronomers and astrophysicists understand how the universe was formed and how stars are born and die.

The *Hubble* could malfunction at any time, but NASA predicts a failure between early 2006 and 2008. At some point after that, a robotic ship will be used to push the satellite out of orbit and it will burn in the Earth's atmosphere.

A shuttle mission targeted for mid-2005 would have repaired broken gyroscopes used to aim the *Hubble* and astronauts would have replaced batteries that are work-

ing on borrowed time.

That mission, now cancelled, would also have new instruments, including the Wide Field Camera 3, powerful enough to see back in time to the period when the first lights in the universe turned on.

Because of the time it takes light to reach Earth, telescopes as powerful as the *Hubble* actually act like time machines, allowing scientists to peer at the universe as it was billions of years ago. "Its early termination and the failure to deploy the sort of last generation of instruments, which were even more fully able to exploit its capabilities, is tragic. The loss is immeasurable," said astronomer Donald Hall of the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii.

The space agency's decision, announced by NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe to scientists and engineers at the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Maryland, where *Hubble*'s mission is managed, was a direct result of safety concerns after the loss last February of the space shuttle *Columbia*.—MNA/Reuters

## Chinese insurance giant reports 45.32 per cent profit hike

BEIJING, 18 Jan — China Pacific Insurance (Group) Co. Ltd., a leading insurance company in China, reported a profit of 1.03 billion yuan (124.55 million US dollars) in 2003, a year-on-year rise of 45.32 per cent.

The company has maintained high profit growth for six consecutive years.

It collected total premiums of 49.04 billion yuan (5.93 billion US dollars) last year, up 37.55 per cent over 2002, a company source said Friday.

The company planned to expand business cooperation with foreign counterparts

this year, said Wang Guoliang, board chairman of the company.

It would also speed up the creation of a unified data bank and customer service centre while promoting its online services, Wang said.

A Standard and Poor report released in December said the Chinese insurance market was the third largest market in Asia with great potential, though the total premiums remained small.

Premiums in China amounted to 296.8 billion yuan (35.89 billion US dollars) in the first three quarters of 2003, a year-on-year rise of 31 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

## 55 Filipinos die of lung cancer every day

MANILA, 18 Jan — The Philippine Government has said about 55 Filipinos die of lung cancer and other tobacco-related diseases every day, which entails 46 billion pesos (836.36 million US dollars) in economic and medical costs annually.

Philippine Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit urged the government to get serious about implementing the anti-smoking law passed by Congress last year, saying Filipinos were starting to smoke earlier in life.

Advertisements linking smoking with beauty, sophistication, power and success are a major factor in the increase in number of young Filipinos learning to smoke before they reach 17 years

old, the Philippine Daily Inquirer on-line news Saturday quoted Dayrit as saying in a statement.

Corazon Ngelan-gel, an oncologist at the Philippine General Hospital and a consultant at the Philippine Cancer Society, said male Filipino smokers consumed around 26 sticks of cigarettes a day and women smokers consumed an average of seven sticks.

A stick of cigarette contains 2,000 different chemicals, the ones that can be found in exhaust pipes, including tar, which causes addiction and nicotine, which causes darkening of the lips, the Philippine Cancer Society said.

MNA/Xinhua



Members of the Jana Natya Manch, an Indian nongovernmental organization, dressed as US President George Bush and his security guards march in protest against imperialism at the World Social Forum conference in Bombay, India, on 17 Jan, 2004.

Unequal trade and foreign debt were the focus Saturday at the forum, where some 100,000 activists have gathered to oppose globalization, saying

it hurts the world's poor. — INTERNET

## Bank Indonesia's interest rate may go below 8 per cent

JAKARTA, 18 Jan — The deputy governor of the Indonesian central bank said Friday that the central bank's benchmark interest rate may go below 8 per cent this year if the government maintains the sound economic situation.

Deputy governor of Bank Indonesia (BI) Anwar Nasution made the remarks while commenting on the central bank's move to lower its interest rate to 8.06 per cent during the weekly auction of its promissory notes on Wednesday.

He said Indonesia posted good economic performance last year, during which the exchange rate between the national currency rupiah and the US dollar was stable and the inflation remained low, enabling BI to continuously lower its interest rate.

MNA/Xinhua

## Khamenei makes second visit to Bam

TEHRAN, 18 Jan — Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday made his second visit to the earthquake-stricken city of Bam in the southeast, the official IRNA news agency reported. According to the report, Khamenei would hold talks with local officials regarding the work done so far and future plans.

He would be briefed on the latest situation in the city and also visit the survivors and the damaged areas, IRNA added.

Khamenei visited Bam on December 29, three days after a massive tremor there killed some 30,000 to 40,000 people.

Meanwhile, a senior official was quoted as saying that the death toll in the Bam earthquake has now risen to 41,000.

In the December 26 earthquake, "up until

now 41,000 of the people of (southeastern city of) Bam have been killed", said Mohammad Mohammadi-Gholpayghani, head of the office of the supreme leader.

"There is a possibility that this could increase to 45,000," he said, adding it is a great catastrophe.

Previously, official estimates had put the quake death toll in the southeastern city of some 100,000 residents at between 30,000 and 35,000.

Mohammadi-Gholpayghani pledged that reconstruction work would be accelerated, adding "all officials have to give their full attention to Bam. ... The leader says Bam must be rebuilt, so his orders must materialize." — MNA/Xinhua

## WHO raises Vietnam deaths from bird flu by 1 to 4

HANOI, 18 Jan — The World Health Organization has raised the number of Vietnam's confirmed bird flu deaths by one to four, saying a five-year-old boy who died this month was found to have

been carrying the virus.

The UN health agency, which is helping Vietnam battle the fast-spreading disease, said the boy, from Nam Dinh Province, died on January 8. Nam Dinh is about 60 miles south of the capital

Hanoi.

"WHO now counts four confirmed cases of H5N1 in Vietnam," the agency said in a statement issued late on Friday, referring to the bird flu virus.

MNA/Reuters



A Royal Bengal Tiger yawns at a zoo in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta on 16 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET

## SPORTS

## Parma accused for tax evasion

ROME, 18 Jan—Italy's Parma soccer club has been accused for tax evasion on player transfers, and it amounted to some 640 billion old lire, or about 330 million euros, judicial sources said Friday.

The Italian top Serie A outfit was once one of the symbols of Parmalat's success, but now faces possible sale as the insolvent group sheds non-strategic assets.

The cash-strapped club is also facing a probe into the sale of TV rights, which stems from the 1990s.

Earlier this week Parmalat's court-appointed administrator Enrico Bondi took over the running of the club Parma after last week's forced resignation of Stefano Tanzi, son of disgraced Parmalat chief Calisto Tanzi. Bondi took over the chairmanship of the club himself as it prepares to shed players in order to stay afloat ahead of a possible sale.

Luca Baraldi, a former Parma director who put together a rescue package for its cash-strapped rival Lazio earlier this year, was named new CEO of the club, which currently lies fifth in Serie A.

The news came before a Parma shareholders' meeting which approved the sale of three players including Brazilian star Adriano to repay a 70-million-euro debt to its insolvent parent group.

MNA/Xinhua



Wolverhampton Wanderers celebrate after Kenny Miller's goal makes it 1-0 during their Premiership match against Manchester United at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton on 17 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

## Arsenal's Volz, Shabaan on the move, McBride eyed

LONDON, 18 Jan—Fulham completed the permanent signing of German defender Moritz Volz on Friday from London Premier League rivals Arsenal for an undisclosed fee.

Volz, who has been playing on loan at Fulham this season, has signed a contract taking him to the end of the 2006-07 season, Fulham said on their official website.

Volz joined Arsenal from Schalke 04 in 2000 but struggled to break into the first team. The defender, who turns 21 on Wednesday, was loaned out to Wimbledon and then Fulham, for whom he has played 16

times this season.

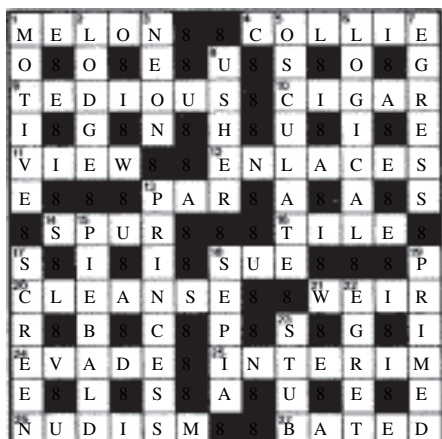
Arsenal also released Swedish reserve goalkeeper Rami Shaaban on a one-month loan to First Division West Ham United. West Ham need goalkeeping cover after selling England international David James to Manchester City this week.

Blackburn Rovers, meanwhile, said they had agreed a deal to sign Columbus Crew's United States striker Brian McBride, although

media reports suggested Fulham might try to snatch him from under their noses.

McBride, who played for Everton on loan last season, could be a replacement for Fulham striker Louis Saha who is being linked with a move to Manchester United. But Blackburn manager Graeme Souness told his club's web site: "A deal has been agreed to bring him (McBride) in.—MNA/Reuters

## Answer for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



## Fernandes extends Southampton contract

LONDON, 18 Jan—Southampton's French winger Fabrice Fernandes has signed a two-year contract extension that ties him to the club until the end of the 2005-06 season.

"I like the shirt and the club and the fans and I am very happy here," Fernandes said on Southampton's official web site on Friday.

The 24-year-old, whose contract was due to expire at the end of the season, joined Southampton in December 2001 and helped them to reach the FA Cup final last May.—MNA/Reuters

## Butt move unavoidable, says Ferguson

MANCHESTER, (England), 18 Jan—The impending departure from Old Trafford of England international Nicky Butt is an unavoidable situation, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

Manchester-born Butt has had a transfer request accepted by United and looks certain to end his long association with his only club before the closing of the transfer window at the end of January.

"There has been plenty of interest, although I won't say who from. It's not my job to say which clubs have phoned us up. That's their department. But there have been enquiries," Ferguson told a news conference. The 28-year-old Butt has made over 250 league appearances since making his debut in 1992-93.

However, despite being an England regular, the tenacious central midfielder has been unable to hold down a starting role with the Premier League champions this season.

"It's frustrating from both sides of the fence, simply because I know what a servant he has been to me and the club. He has been fantastic," added Ferguson.

"He was the first to break into the squad from that youth squad. That clearly has been an issue with Nicky coming to the decision because it's something he probably didn't

want to do.

"But he is very frustrated because he is not getting his regular game. Phil Neville has come in (to the midfield) this season and played fantastically.

"It's just a situation you can do nothing about." Of the United side that won the Youth Cup in 1992, dubbed Fergie's Fledglings, David Beckham became the first key player to leave the club last year when he moved to Real Madrid, and Butt's expected departure represents another chapter in the evolution of Ferguson's side.

Despite the changes in personnel, United remain the team to catch and will be looking to build on their one-point lead at the top of the table by winning at bottom club Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday.

With the exception of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who is due to resume training next week following a slight setback in his return from knee surgery, Ferguson has a full squad to select from with Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville shaking off minor injuries and Cristiano Ronaldo back following a three-week break. —MNA/Reuters

## Houllier rebuffs Middlesbrough approach for Heskey

LIVERPOOL (England), 18 Jan—Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier vowed to keep Emile Heskey at the club on Friday despite interest in the England striker from Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren said his club had held talks with Liverpool over a possible transfer but Houllier told reporters: "The situation as it is, is that Emile will travel as normal with the rest of the squad to Spurs (on Saturday).

"There has been interest in Emile but at the moment I'm not ready to let him go and I don't think Emile wants to go."

The Frenchman added: "I have said it before and I will happily repeat it again -- there will be no players leaving the club and no players coming to the club during this transfer window."

Former England assistant coach McClaren sees the burly Liverpool frontman as the solution to his team's goalscoring problems. He told reporters on Friday: "I know Emile very well from working with him with England."

"He is a very good player and he would interest us. We are speaking to Liverpool and talks are ongoing."

"We have made an inquiry with Liverpool but I would not like to disclose what

that has led to. How much I want him is not something I will go into but if something does happen you will be the second to know."

MNA/Reuters

## Leeds United still in creditor talks

LONDON, 18 Jan—Leeds United said on Friday they were still in talks with their creditors about extending a repayment deadline and had no evidence that an Arab Sheikh had raised money to bid for the club.

Leeds, second-bottom of the Premier League table and saddled with massive debts, had earlier seen their shares soar more than 40 per cent on a newspaper report that Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa would buy the club, enabling them to stave off the threat of administration.

Creditors have given Leeds until January 19 to raise fresh funds. If they fail, the club best known for their trophy-winning team of the 1970s, could become the first Premier League team to be forced into administration, a form of creditor protection.

MNA/Reuters



Modena's Ayodele Makinwa of Nigeria, foreground, tries to cross the ball as Lazio's Jaap Stam of The Netherlands, defends during their Italian Serie A first division soccer match at Braglia Stadium, in Modena, central Italy, on 17 Jan, 2004. Makinwa was making his debut for Modena. The match ended 1-1.—INTERNET



**MRTV-3**
**19-1-2004 (Monday)  
(Programme Schedule)  
Morning Transmission  
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pano-  
rama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"
- 9:06 Thabotseik Village on  
Seaside
- 9:10 Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Stripped fish  
Curry in Oil)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Bagan Our Pride and  
Glory of the Past
- 9:25 Tu Hna Thwe
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Greening of Inlay Lake  
Project
- 9:40 Song "Greetings From  
Chin Hills"
- 9:42 e-Education in  
Myanmar
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 No Pain! No Gain!
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

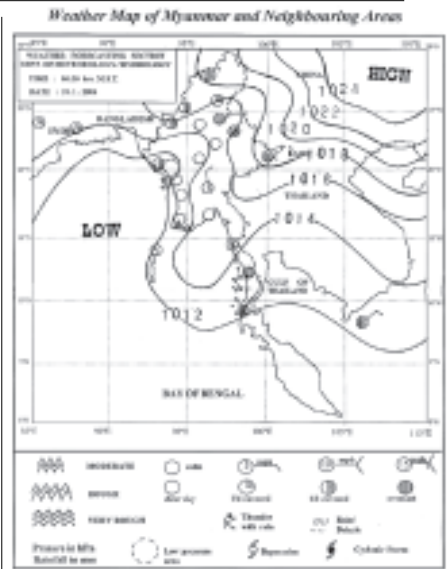
**19-1-2004 (Monday)  
Regular Programmes for  
Viewers from Abroad  
Evening Transmission  
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Thabotseik Village on  
Seaside
- 15:40 Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Stripped fish  
Curry in Oil)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Bagan Our Pride and  
Glory of the Past
- 15:55 Tu Hna Thwe
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Greening of Inlay Lake  
Project

- 16:10 Song "Greetings From  
Chin Hills"
- 16:12 e-Education in  
Myanmar
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 No Pain! No Gain!
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pano-  
rama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Pickled Herbal Tea  
Leaves of Myanmar
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Peppery Monhinga"
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Art of Carving on  
Fruits
- 16:55 Traditional PaO Dance
- 16:58 Tour in Myanmar  
"Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Dawei Traditional  
Longyi Weaving Art
- 17:10 Song on Screen  
"The Brightly Shining  
Moon"
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Conservation of Sea-  
turtles
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"
- Evening Transmission  
(19:30 - 23:30)**
- 19:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pano-  
rama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"
- 19:36 Folk Art of Pottery
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Saute prawn  
with Asparagus)
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Fossilized Wood Gar-  
den
- 19:55 Hman Nyaung Thinzar  
Royal group dance
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Lei Gaing Monastery  
with wooden Statuettes
- 20:10 Song "Every Child  
Counts (A Polio Free  
World)"
- 20:12 Citrus Products of  
Shwe Kyin
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Strengthening of Polio

- Free Status in  
Myanmar
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Naughty Girl"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Myanmar Green Tea
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Steamed Eggplant  
with Tomato Sauce"
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Fabulous Glassware  
Decoration
- 20:55 Wararya' Dance
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Dat Taw Gyaik Water-  
fall
- 21:10 Song "The Beautiful  
Taninthayi"
- 21:12 Electronic Library  
(Myin Mu)
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Golden Plum Job of  
Central Myanmar
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Thabotseik Village on  
Seaside
- 21:40 Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Stripped fish  
Curry in Oil)
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Bagan Our Pride and  
Glory of the Past
- 21:55 Tu Hna Thwe
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Greening of Inlay Lake  
Project
- 22:10 Song "Greetings From  
Chin Hills"
- 22:12 e-Education in  
Myanmar
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 No Pain! No Gain!
- 22:25 Song on Screen  
"Musical Maze"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Pickled Herbal Tea  
Leaves of Myanmar
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Peppery Monhinga"
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Art of Carving on  
Fruits
- 22:55 Traditional PaO Dance
- 22:58 Tour in Myanmar  
"Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Dawei Traditional  
Longyi Weaving Art
- 23:10 Song on Screen  
"The Brightly Shining  
Moon"

- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Conservation of Sea-  
turtles
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"
- 19-1-2004 (Monday) &  
20-1-2004 (Tuesday)  
Evening & Morning  
Transmission  
(23:30 - 1:30)**
- 23:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Thabotseik Village on  
Seaside
- 23:40 Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Stripped fish  
Curry in Oil)
- 23:45 National News**
- 23:50 Bagan Our Pride and  
Glory of the Past
- 23:55 Tu Hna Thwe
- 24:00 National News**
- 00:05 Greening of Inlay Lake  
Project
- 00:10 Song "Greetings From  
Chin Hills"
- 00:12 e-Education in  
Myanmar
- 00:15 National News**
- 00:20 No Pain! No Gain!
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- 01:00 National News**
- 01:05 Dawei Traditional  
Longyi Weaving Art
- 01:10 Song on Screen  
"The Brightly Shining  
Moon"
- 01:15 National News**
- 01:20 Conservation of Sea-  
turtles
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**WEATHER**

Sunday, 18 January, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rains have been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Rakhine, Kayin States, Ayeyawady Division, (5°C) below normal in Shan State, Yangon Division, (4°C) above normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 17-1-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 18-1-2004 was 12.5°C (55°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-1-2004 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 17-1-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 18-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Northwest at (11:30) hours MST on 17-1-2004.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 19-1-2004:** Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of decrease of night temperatures are likely in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-1-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.

**Asleep in Jesus  
Dr Charles Pang  
Skin Specialist, Yangon General  
Hospital (Retired)  
Age (68) Years**

Son of (U Pang and Gha Ida) of No. 234, A/4th Street, A/B Ward, Myothit, Insein Township, Yangon, son-in-law of (Mahn Aung Myaing) and Gha Tin May, brother of Daw Khin Thet Mu (DSY) + U Soe Win Tun, Mahn Lin Shwe + Gha Ohn Kyaing, Gha Rose Marry + Mahn Tun Pae, husband of Gha Shirley Myaing (Singapore), father of S'Aung Thet Soe + Ma Myat Win Kyi, Nant Sabai Thynn + Saw Johnathan (PC Myanmar), Nant Zarni Aye (YIEC) + Ko Aung Hpone Shain, S' Zaw Thet Naing, Nant May Hnin Thet (Singapore), S' Aung Thet Wai (B.E), grandfa-ther of six. Asleep in Jesus on 16th January 2004 at Singapore (NUH). The funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday (20-1-2004) at Immanuel Baptist Church in Mahabandoola Pangyan Road and thence to Yeway Christian Cemetery for burial.

**Friends and Relatives accept only intimation.  
Bereaved Family**



Monday, January 19

**View today:**

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by  
Missionary Sayardaw  
U 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. Song of national races
- 8:05 am**
6. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am**
7. သုဇ္ဈာန်တေး
- 8:30 am**
8. International news

- 8:45 am**
9. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold  
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Practice in Reading
- 4:40 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 4:50 pm**
5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့ဝေပညာရေး  
ရရှိသောကြားသံခန်းစာ  
ဒုတိယပိုဒ် (ခါတွဲအေးထူးမြ)  
(ခါတွဲအေး)
- 5:05 pm**
6. Dance variety
- 5:20 pm**
7. ကျွန်ုပ်တို့အတွက်တစ်  
နေ့
- 5:35 pm**
8. Songs and dances of  
national races
- 5:45 pm**
9. မြန်မာစာ ဖတ်ခန်းစာ
- 6:00 pm**
10. Musical programme

- (The Radio Myanmar  
Modern Music Troupe)
- 6:15 pm**
11. Discovery
- 6:30 pm**
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
14. Milo success in  
soccer
- 7:10 pm**
15. ဝင်ရောက်နေမှု၊ စာတမ်းဖတ်  
သုံးနိုင်စွမ်း
- 7:25 pm**
16. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm**
17. Industrial achievement
- 8:00 pm**
18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်း  
"တုံ့မလှလို့"  
(ဆုခံခံ-ဝေ)
22. The next day's  
programme

Monday, January 19  
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music
- 8:50 am** National news/  
Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music
- 9:15 am** News/Slogan
- 9:20 am** Lunch time music  
- Moonlight Shadow  
(Missing Heart)  
- Do I have to say  
the words - (Bryan  
Adams)
- 9:00 pm** Spotlight on the star
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9:25 pm** Drugs Elimination  
- To harmoniously  
drive at the danger  
of narcotics drugs  
Vocal Gems/Golden  
Land's Melody  
- The end of the world  
(Ally Mcbeal)  
- Walking my way to  
you (Pauline Wilson)
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

**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 visits Cooperative Product Exhibition and Market Festival

YANGON, 18 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visited the Cooperative Product Exhibition and Market Festival-2004 organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives at the Cooperative Trade Centre (Saya San Plaza) at the corner of New University Avenue and Saya San Road in Bahan Township this evening.

First, the Prime Minister, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the exhibition at 3 pm. The Prime Minister was welcomed there by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo and ministers, the Mayor of Yangon and departmental heads.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed the booths of consumer products, foodstuff, regional products, weaving traditional costumes of national races, the spinning of thread from water lily stems, the weaving of water lily thread into robes and weaving Zinmei longyi of Shan State at the first floor of the plaza.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the booths of the Ministry of Industry-1 and the Ministry of Industry-2, cooperative societies and private industries.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party viewed the jewellery shops, souvenir shops, gem mosaic paintings, biomass gas engines of Myanmar Inventors Cooperative Ltd, demonstration of running engines with the power of bio-gas, marine products of Mon and Rakhine States, import substitute items, foodstuff, textile and furniture of state/division cooperative societies and private industries.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the vehicles and generators manufactured by industrial zones, cooperatives societies and private industries in the compound of the plaza.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party viewed the booths of rice marketing and red coral groupers culturing of Annawa Devi Fisheries Cooperative Society on the ground



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt view the Cooperative Product Exhibition and Market Festival-2004. — MNA

floor and vehicles assembled in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and officials conducted the Prime Minister and party round the exhibition.

At the request of the visitors, the exhibition and festival was extended to 21 January from 9 am to 9 pm.

Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the site of cleaning and beautifying Inya Lake on Gaba Aye Pagoda Road. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials wel-

comed the Prime Minister and party.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the dredging of the lake and maintenance tasks of the embankment. The mayor conducted the Prime Minister round the work site. The Prime Minister gave instructions on taking measures for cleanliness of the lake and conservation of natural environs. The Prime Minister left the work site at 5 pm.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win looks into Yazagyo Dam project in Kalay Township. — MNA

## Secretary-1 inspects Yazagyo Dam construction project, Myittha Bridge (Kalay) construction project

YANGON, 18 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by 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 ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, on 16 January morning, left Leshi by helicopter and arrived at Htamanthi Model Village in Homalin Township.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint who had already arrived at the village and officials, proceeded to Htamanthi Station Hospital where they inspected the operation theatre and X-ray unit.

At the hall of the hospital, the Secretary-1 met with departmental officials of Hkamti and Homalin Townships and officials of Htamanthi Model Village.

At the meeting, Station Hospital Medical Officer Dr

Thit Lwin reported on requirement of medical equipment and Headmaster of Htamanthi Basic Education High School (Branch) U Aung Zan, on requirement of a new school building.

Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min and Director-General of Health Department Dr Wan Maung give supplementary reports. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on work to be carried out for regional development to the Secretary-1 who gave necessary instructions.

After that, the Secretary-

1 presented cash for the trust fund of the hospital to Dr Thit Lwin. Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected Htamanthi BEHS (Branch) and gave instructions.

On arrival at Yazagyo Dam project in Kalay Township, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station and officials of Irrigation Department. At the briefing hall, the director of ID Construction Group-4 reported on progress of work and future tasks and arrangements being made for implementing

Myaung Chaung (Kyaw Ywa) Dam project.

In response to the report, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions and inspected construction of the retaining wall there.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party looked into the site chosen for construction of the main embankment and work being carried out for the project. The aim of the project is to irrigate 6500 acres of farmland for development of Myittha Valley region and to generate 5 mega-watt of electricity.

(See page 9)

### INSIDE

#### Perspectives

**Towards border areas development**  
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**My goodwill visit**  
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Page 2

### Circulation

23,585