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Thursday, 22 January, 2004

Foreign Head of State sends felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 21 Jan — The following is the message of felicitations from foreign Head of State to State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Emperor Akihito of Japan:

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in sending to Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of your country. — MNA

ICT promises great future in advancement of mankind In recognition of Myanmar's efforts for ICT development, ASOCIO has awarded ASOCIO ICT AWARD 2003 to Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004

YANGON, 21 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004, jointly organized by the e-National Task Force and the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation, was launched this morning at the MICTDC building in Hline Township here.

Chairman of the Myanmar Computer Science Development Council

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and delivered an address.

Present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, the chief justice, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, members of the e-National Task Force, members of the committee for

MICT Week 2004, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, foreign ambassadors to Myanmar, diplomats of foreign missions, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials of UMFCCL, members of the board of directors of MICTDC, the chairmen and officials of the Myanmar Computer Federation, the Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, the Myanmar Computer Industry Association, the Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association, officials of Mandalay ICT Park, IT experts, IT companies in Myanmar, Multimedia Development Corporation of Malaysia, Software Park of Thailand, Shin Satellite, iP Tel of Malaysia, Sin Tel, Immarsat Company, and others.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt opened the Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 with the use of Bio Matric system.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said: It is a great pleasure for me to

give the opening address at the ceremony celebrating the 3rd Myanmar ICT Week. Allow me first of all to extend a most cordial welcome to all our friends from abroad who are participating in the activities.

Two years ago in 2002, I had the pleasure of inaugurating the Myanmar ICT Park and Myanmar ICT Week. It is most heartening to note the rapid progress of MICT Park. If I may recall, the MICT Park was established as part of the ICT Master Plan of Myanmar to stimulate the development of Myanmar ICT industry by attracting local and international partners to form a cluster of ICT-related business supported by world class infrastructure and technologies. It is our aim that MICT Park will facilitate ICT infrastructure and operational space, serve to promote ICT business at local and global levels, develop ICT development in the country while upgrading the skills of local ICT professionals and act as an incubation of the new start-up ICT entrepreneurs.

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



Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the opening ceremony of the Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004. — MNA

The success of the endeavour can be seen not only in expansion and upgrading of ICT infrastructure and facilities at the MICT Park in Yangon but also the establishment of an ICT Park in Mandalay last year. I wish to congratulate the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation (MICTDC) as well as all the people involved for furthering the development of ICT in Myanmar.

I am fully confident that the present ICT Week will also be able to fulfil its

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 22 January, 2004

Welcome to Myanmar ICT Week

Nowadays, information and communication technologies are making rapid progress day after day and its progress speeds up the development of other sciences and technologies. Due to the rapid development of information and communication technologies, data and information can be sent from one end of the world to the other in a matter of seconds. Therefore, the Government has been taking systematic measures so that the Union of Myanmar will be able to keep abreast with the latest developments of information and communication technologies.

The Third Myanmar ICT Week was opened at the MICT Park on 21 January to let the people know about the development of information and communication technologies in Myanmar, innovations of Myanmar information and communication technicians and entrepreneurs including new generation youths, where information and communication technologies are being applied and what is happening in the world at the very moment.

For the development of information and communication technologies, computer science is being taught at the basic education level today. Almost all the high schools, majority of the middle schools and some of the primary schools in the country have been facilitated with multimedia classrooms.

At universities, institutes, degree colleges and colleges in the higher education sector, ICT-based learning centres, resource centres and e-libraries have been opened extensively.

Indeed, the ICT field is very broad and wide and so it can serve the interests of public effectively. Internet and websites enable entrepreneurs to obtain access to the world market. Various information data are easily accessible from millions of websites. Nowadays, most of the business firms keep information data in websites rather than in printed forms. For, websites are able to store latest information data at the minimum cost.

Hence, it is believed that the Myanmar ICT Week being held in Yangon is of much benefit to the people. The point is to enable the people to apply information and communication technologies skilfully and extensively.

Today's younger generation is fully interested in the information and communication technologies and the State is providing all possible support and encouragement to the youths as regards ICT development.

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

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.

Chinese gifts for MOFA

YANGON, 21 Jan — The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Yangon presented 10 sets of computers and printers and a copier to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today.

At the ceremony, held at the Shin Ditha Pamaukha Hall of the MOFA, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun explained the purpose of making the donation.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win thanked the Ambassador, and presented him a certificate of honour.

Also present were directors-general and officials of the MOFA, and the embassy staff. — MNA



The PRC Ambassador hands over documents on the gift of the computer and copiers to Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win. — 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)



Myanmar ICT Week (2004)

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

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Blood donation at Liver Specialist Hospital

YANGON, 21 Jan — Fifty members of the Metta Mon Association of Shine Hope Co Ltd donated blood collectively to the Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital in Mingaladon Township here at 9 am on 17 January 2004.

The Metta Mon Association also donated K 100,000 for in-patients of the hospital. Lt-Col Kyaw Zin Han of the hospital accepted the cash donation.

MNA

Donate blood

Annan guardedly OKs UN team in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Jan—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan cautiously supported an American and Iraqi request that a UN team study whether Iraq could have quick, direct elections for a transitional government.

But Annan said he first needed assurance the team will be safe, especially after Sunday's truck bombing outside the US-led coalition's headquarters compound. Thirty-one people, mostly Iraqis, were killed and more than 120 were wounded, the Iraqi Health Ministry said.

American and Iraqi officials asked Annan on Monday to send a team to study

the possibility of elections, and Security Council diplomats universally supported the idea in later meetings with Annan.

The secretary-general said he wanted more details on the mission, but he acknowledged the issue was urgent and said he hoped for a speedy decision.

"If we get it wrong at this stage, it'll be even more

difficult and we may not even get to the next stage," he said. "So I think it is extremely important that we do whatever we can to assist."

He indicated Monday he would approve sending the election experts but stressed that security would be paramount for any staff deployed there.

"Obviously, the scope for

operational UN activities inside Iraq will continue to be constrained by the security situation for some time to come," Annan said.

Sunday's suicide bombing was "not reassuring," he said. The secretary-general ordered all international staff to leave Iraq in October following two bombings at UN headquarters — including one on 19 August that killed top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 others. Since then, the Bush administration has repeatedly said the United Nations should return immediately, but had not specified what role it would play.—Internet

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Two Florida soldiers killed in Iraq blast

MIAMI, 21 Jan—Two Florida natives were among the three US soldiers killed when a powerful bomb exploded under their armoured vehicle Saturday in Iraq, the Department of Defence said Tuesday.

Army Pfc Cody J Orr, 21, of the Tampa suburb of Ruskin, and Sgt Edmond Lee Randle, 26, of the Carol City neighbourhood northwest of Miami were killed when their Bradley Fighting Vehicle struck a bomb and overturned in the cane fields north of Baghdad, the Department of Defence said.

Also killed was Spc Larry E Polley Jr of Centre, Texas. All three soldiers were attached to the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas. As of Monday, 501 US service members have died since the beginning of operations in Iraq, according to the military.—Internet

Annan wishes China more successes in reforms

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Jan—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Monday China had made many successes in reducing poverty and creating new opportunities for its people, and he hoped that China would make more achievements on the path of reforms.

In a video-taped message on the Chinese Lunar New Year, obtained by Xinhua, Annan said China had played a "vital role" in promoting world peace and development.

Besides China's role in those causes, he said, "China can take pride in its successes, in reducing poverty and opening up new opportunities for its people."

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq's ex-UN envoy says US sowing chaos

AJMAN (United Arab Emirates), 21 Jan—Saddam Hussein former UN envoy accused the United States of deliberately sowing chaos in Iraq to prevent democracy from taking hold.

In interviews with The Associated Press on Saturday and Monday, former Iraqi UN envoy Mohammed al-Douri denounced a US plan to create an appointed legislative body in Iraq and demanded free, direct elections instead.

He accused the United States of creating chaos in occupied Iraq as an excuse to avoid direct elections of a new government because that vote could lead to the United States losing control of Iraq's oil wealth and strategic location.

Al-Douri said democratic elections would be preferable to an appointed body no matter who wins — even if his Sunni Muslim minority, which held favor during Saddam's rule, is defeated by Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority.

"For me what is important is Iraq, not the majority or minority. I'll accept anyone who is elected — a Shiite or even a Kurd, if that is the people's choice," al-Douri said.

"The important thing is that the (Iraqi) people elect, and not have individuals appointed by foreign entities like the United States."

Internet



An Iraqi girl holds her brother's arm tight while soldiers with the 82nd Airborne and 1st Infantry Divisions pass through their yard while out searching for weapons caches, on 20 Jan, 2004, near Fallujah, Iraq.—INTERNET

No new SARS cases reported in Chinese Mainland

BEIJING, 21 Jan — China's Ministry of Health said here Tuesday that no new SARS cases were reported in the 24 hours from 10.00 am Monday to 10.00 Tuesday on the Chinese Mainland.

The SARS patient in Guangdong, a 35-year-old private businessman, was still hospitalized but had normal temperature for 14 consecutive days, according to the ministry.

"None of the people in contact with him has developed fever or shown other abnormal symptoms," said the ministry in its daily monitoring report on severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

The ministry said China reported three diagnosed SARS cases this year, all from Guangdong.

The other two cases, a 32-year-old TV producer and a 20-year-old waitress, had been discharged from hospital earlier this month.

MNA/Xinhua

World's leading rubber makers to meet in Thailand

BANGKOK, 21 Jan—Representatives from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, the world's three leading natural rubber producers, would hold an official meeting in Songkhla Province of Thailand to discuss ways to stabilize rubber prices on the world market, the Businessday web site reported Monday.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra revealed that high-ranking officials from the three countries would meet in February to come up with a frame work to maintain natural rubber prices at no less than one US dollar a kilogramme in the long-run.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi had pledged during his visit to Thailand last week that his government would provide full support on measures to stabilize the rubber price at no less than one dollar per kilogramme in the long-run, Thaksin said.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia to punish Vietnamese egg smugglers

PHNOM PENH, 21 Jan— Cambodia confiscated seven vehicles and their cargoes of 159,000 duck eggs Sunday morning which were illegally imported from Vietnam against the orders of the ministries of Commerce and Agriculture.

"They fought against the ministries' announcement to stop importing all kinds of foods or products made from bird meat," the Cambodia Daily on Tuesday quoted an official as saying. "We are preparing a report to send to Commerce Ministry in order to take legal action against the egg owners."

Cambodia has banned the importation of birds and bird products from Vietnam, where the bird flu has ravaged fowl farms, said

Suon Sothoeun, an official of Ministry of Agriculture.

Cambodia's Ministry of Health issued a joint statement with the World Health Organization Wednesday affirming that Cambodia has had no reports of bird flu, but the health officials around the country are required to closely keep watching the possible avian influenza cases.

MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand provides \$3.25m for reconstruction of Niue

WELLINGTON, 21 Jan—The New Zealand Government will soon provide about 3.25 million US dollars to Niue to help reconstruction of the island, which was devastated by Cyclone Heta earlier this month.

The New Zealand Cabinet made the decision Tuesday and agreed to the figure recommended by Foreign Affairs Minister Phil Goff, reported the New Zealand Press Association Tuesday.

Goff said the money would come from the official development aid fund, possibly using some resources from the trust fund for future development which was set up by the two governments.

"We hope the announcement of such a substantial initial contribution to reconstruction will send a strong signal of support to Niue, and to other donors," Goff was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



Tens of thousands of activists march on the streets of Mumbai, India, on Wednesday, 21 Jan, 2004. After six days of colourful protests and intense discussions opposing economic liberalization and the Iraq war the World Social Forum was closed with a massive rally. —INTERNET

Many Iraqis want United Nations back

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan— Across from the bomb-hit UN headquarters in Baghdad, opinion is unanimous. Ordinary Iraqis want the United Nations back and supervising the transfer of power from US-led occupation forces this year.

Some said on Tuesday that only the world body could ensure fair transfer, a day after American and Iraqi officials asked UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to get involved in the controversial process to hand back sovereignty by June 30.

But elsewhere in Baghdad, a few accused the United Nations of abandoning Iraq and questioned how much clout it would have.

"We need its experience. It has helped with elections in many countries," said Mohi Abdul-Rasool, 50, a retired printing house worker shopping at a market opposite the three-storey UN building, parts of it still gouged from a car bombing in August that

killed 22 people.

That and another attack led Annan to pull all international UN staff out of Iraq last year. Other Iraqis said they wanted the United Nations back to add momentum to rebuilding the country.

After scorning the United Nations for the 15-member Security Council's refusal to approve the invasion of Iraq, the United States now hopes Annan and his team can rescue the process leading to a provisional Iraqi Government by June 30.

At issue is a demand from Iraq's most revered Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, for direct elections immediately for a provisional government.

The United Nations is likely to send a mission to help resolve those demands, although no decision has been reached on when UN staff would return to Iraq.

"They should return to organize the transfer of power," said Usama Al-Kaissi, a civil engineer, looking across the road where the UN's blue flag still flies. Kaissi, a Sunni, said he agreed with Sistani that direct elections should be held to pick the provisional government. "I'm Sunni, but I support his opinion," he said.

Some analysts have said the Sunni minority which dominated government until Saddam Hussein's downfall last April would see its interests suffer in direct elections.

Shi'ite Muslims make up more than 60 per cent of Iraq's people. Tens of thousands of Shi'ites marched in Baghdad on Monday in support of Sistani's call for direct elections.

The US-led occupiers have called for a new national assembly to be established in Iraq through a caucus procedure before a temporary government can take office on June 30.

After that Iraqis are to write a Constitution and plan elections for a permanent government by the end of 2005.

Annan has already indicated he did not believe there would be enough time to hold direct elections before June.

MNA/Reuters



Lebanon asks UN to extend peacekeeping mission

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Jan — The Lebanese Government has asked the United Nations Security Council to extend the mandate of a UN peacekeeping mission deployed along Lebanon's border with Israel.

In a letter released here on Tuesday, the Lebanese Government urged UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to recommend the 15-nation Council to renew the mandate of the UN Interim Force UNIFIL for another six months.

The request "is particularly urgent in the light of the serious violations and provocations committed by land, sea and air on a daily basis by Israel" across the Blue Line, the Lebanese-Israeli border monitored by the UN force, the letter said.

The renewal of the UNIFIL's mandate "will be a reaffirmation of the international community's commitment to the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty over its entire territory", it added.

MNA/Xinhua

Large numbers of infected cows enter Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan— Large numbers of cows suspected to be infected by different kinds of diseases entered Iraq without veterinarian examination, local newspaper *Al Sabah* reported Tuesday.

Due to the prevailing state of chaos, these cows entered through the Trebeel point, west of Iraq, on the Iraq-Jordanian borders, Dr Sawzan Ali Majid, under-secretary of state in the Ministry of Agriculture, told *Al Sabah*, the newspaper of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

"When Iraqi veterinarians refused to let the cows into Iraq, they were threatened by gunmen to force them open the way,"

Sawzan said.

The official pointed out that according to the information she has, some of these cows were smuggled to Turkey, some moved to the north of Iraq, and the rest sent to the Iraqi capital and the southern areas.

She added that the ministry is planning to build more veterinary quarantines to control such incidences.

The Iraqi borders with the neighbouring countries have witnessed a state of chaos, which resulted in a number of security, health and economy problems for Iraqis.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to build nuclear power plant in 2011

JAKARTA, 21 Jan— Indonesia's state-run electricity company plans to build a nuclear power plant in central Java in 2011, *The Jakarta Post* online news reported Monday.

The power plant will have a capacity of 6,000 megawatts and is estimated to cost nine billion US dollars.

The construction is expected to complete within five years to meet the rapid growing demand for electricity, said Yoga Pratomo, a senior official at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.— MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi women holding pictures of their leaders take part in a protest against US plans for Iraq.—INTERNET

Philippine Senate passes bill protecting women, children

MANILA, 21 Jan — The Philippine Senate has passed a bill seeking an end to violence against women and children and penalizing perpetrators, said the Senate in a Press release Tuesday.

Under the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children's Bill passed late Monday night, violence against women and children refers to any act or series of acts, committed by any person against a woman who is his wife, former wife or with whom the said person has or had dating relationship or against a child, whether legitimate or not.

Specially, violence refers to that which "results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering or economic abuse, including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty," said the Press release.

MNA/Xinhua

China invites experts to verify its official statistics

BEIJING, 21 Jan— For the first time ever, the Chinese Government has invited experts to appraise the official statistics before releasing the gross domestic product (GDP) figures for 2003 Tuesday.

Li Deshui, head of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), said the NBS would continue to solicit opinions from various sections of society on official GDP figures to be released so as to enhance the transparency and accuracy of the statistics.

NBS figures released Tuesday show China's GDP grew by 9.1 per cent year-on-year in 2003, much higher than the estimates of interna-

tional analysts at around 8 per cent.

On 17 January, the NBS invited officials from the macro-economic departments of the government and scholars from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing University and People's University to assess the 2003 GDP figures. The officials and scholars reviewed the calculating methods of the NBS and gave unanimous approval of the official figures, Li said.

However, the experts

also pointed out aspects that need to be improved in the statistical system and put forward suggestions on addressing the problems.

This was the first time that the NBS had released figures in this way and follows a reform of the GDP statistics composing and release system at the beginning of this year.

MNA/Xinhua

One-third of Chinese rural labourers work in non-agri fields

BEIJING, 21 Jan— More than one-third of China's rural labourers now work in non-agricultural fields, following the country's speedy urbanization progress and industrial shift in rural areas, according to official sources.

The latest statistics show that 52.6 per cent of workers in the country's catering industry and retail industry are from rural areas, while 68.2 per cent of workers in manufacturing industries and 79.8 per cent of the country's construction workers are also from rural areas.

Previously, farmers sought temporary jobs in the city, leaving their family

in their hometown, but today many workers from rural areas, or migrant workers, bring their whole family to urban areas after finding a stable job there.

Training courses in various forms have also been launched across the country to help migrant workers improve labour skills.—MNA/Xinhua



Snow covered trees surround holiday homes in Paraul Rece, a resort close to Rasnov, Romania, south eastern Transylvania, on 8 Jan, 2004, the place chosen by the producers of 'Cold Mountain' to film the biggest Hollywood movie ever made in Romania. —INTERNET

British Iraq "war crimes" dossier to be sent to The Hague

LONDON, 21 Jan — British use of cluster bombs in the Iraq war could count as a war crime and justifies further investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor in the Hague, a group of international lawyers said on Tuesday.

Seven academics from Britain, Ireland, France and Canada interviewed eyewitnesses and examined evidence to see if there was a case for referring British conduct to the court, said the pressure group Peacerights, which organized the review.

"There is a considerable amount of evidence of disproportionate use of force causing civilian casualties," one of the lawyers, Professor Bill Bowring of London Metropolitan University, told a news conference.

"The US cannot be tried before the Court because it refuses to sign up to it. The Britain did."

Cluster munitions are small bomblets scattered on a target area by larger bombs, rockets or artillery shells,

designed to destroy infantry or soft skinned vehicles.

Use of bunker-busting munitions had also killed civilians, Peacerights said.

ICC officials were unavailable to comment, but Bowring said senior politicians, possibly including Prime Minister Tony Blair, could have something to worry about.

"Heads of state are not immune in principle," the law professor said. "This one goes right to the top."

US-based Human Rights Watch said last month more than 1,000 civilians were killed or wounded by some 13,000 US and British cluster bombs in the Iraq war last year.

Bowring said British aircraft had

dropped 70 cluster bombs and British artillery fired 2,000 cluster shells.

A spokesman for Britain's Ministry of Defence said cluster munitions were lawful weapons that had been used in line with international law during the war to oust Saddam Hussein.

British forces had "of course" not been involved in war crimes, he added.

Bowring said the report would be sent to both the British Attorney General Lord Goldsmith and the ICC.

Experts were dubious the case would proceed.

"Instinctively, it seems probable that political pressure will be bought to bear to prevent this going to the ICC," barrister Hugo Charlton told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

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Guerillas fire on main coalition compound in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan — Guerillas fired a projectile believed to be a rocket at the compound housing the US-led administration in Baghdad on Tuesday and there were unconfirmed reports that one person was wounded, the US Army said.

A military spokesman said the missile landed close to the Rasheed Hotel, a building inside the "Green Zone" where the civilian and military administration in Iraq is based.

"At approximately 9.40 pm (1840 GMT) a projectile believed to be a rocket impacted in the vicinity of the al-Rasheed Hotel," the spokesman said. "We have unconfirmed reports that one person was injured."

The attack caused no major damage to buildings in the Green Zone, the spokesman said. Guerillas have mounted repeated mortar and rocket attacks in recent months on the coalition compound on the banks of the Tigris River in Baghdad. The compound was previously one of Saddam Hussein's palace complexes. — MNA/Reuters



A child of one of the three Arab fighters who were killed by US troops stands in front of a wall stained with blood in Al-Moalemeen District near Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET

Iraq and weak dollar loom over snowy Davos forum

DAVOS, 21 Jan — Hundreds of the world's most powerful people begin five days of public and private talks here Wednesday on Iraq, the weak dollar and other global questions, with the spotlight on US Vice President Dick Cheney.

Cheney is scheduled to speak on Saturday, the penultimate day of the 33rd annual World Economic Forum (WEF), which officially opens with a ceremony Wednesday on this year's theme: security and prosperity equals peace.

Snow drifts and snow ploughs will greet more than 2,000 high-status participants from 94 countries as they gather at this Alpine village.

By Tuesday afternoon, over 60 centimetres of snow had fallen and more was forecast for the coming days, locals said. Security will be tight outside the forum and a hot topic inside, especially security in Iraq, with the US overseer in the country, Paul Bremer, due to make an appearance, accompanied by half a dozen Iraqi ministers. Libyan Prime Minister

Shukri Ghanem is due to attend too, in what will be Libya's first appearance at the forum in more than two decades in recognition of recent diplomatic steps taken by Tripoli.

Libya vowed in December to abandon all programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Participants will be kept busy at working breakfasts, lunches and dinners slotted around seminars, brainstorming sessions and workshops from 7:30 am to 10:30 pm. Internet

Miami boy, three, shoots self with father's gun

MIAMI, 21 Jan — A 3-year-old Miami boy was in critical condition on Tuesday after apparently shooting himself in the head with his father's gun, police said.

Travis Jenkins Sr told police he left Travis Jenkins Jr. alone in a van on Monday when he stopped at a friend's house. The boy found the gun in the vehicle's centre console and shot himself, the father told police. The bullet passed through the skull of the boy, who underwent surgery at a Miami hospital, police said. Florida law requires gun owners to keep weapons away from children.

"The father has a concealed weapons permit which allows him to have a gun," said Herminia Salas-Jacobson, a Miami police spokeswoman. "But you have a responsibility to keep it away from a child. You have to keep it locked. You have to keep it safe."

No charges have been filed against the child's father.

MNA/Reuters

Egypt keen to establish good ties with Iran

CAIRO, 21 Jan — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stressed on Tuesday that his country was keen to establish good ties with Iran.

"Contacts between the two countries were going on to achieve progress in relations, as Egypt was keen on estab-

lishing good ties with all Islamic nations, including Iran," Mubarak told a group of intellectuals, quoted by the official MENA news agency. He said that his meeting with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami in Geneva, Switzerland, last December achieved mutual understanding and represented a step toward ushering in a new stage of bilateral ties.

On 6 January, Iranian Vice-President Mohammad

Ali Abtahi said that Iran and Egypt have agreed to restore full diplomatic relations following a 25-year-old hiatus.

"The two countries have decided to restore ties. It's a definite move and right now they are making the preparations," Abtahi said. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher, however, said that no decision has been made on restoring diplomatic ties with Iran. — MNA/Xinhua

Over 80 cars collide on Beijing-Zhuhai Expressway

GUANGZHOU, 21 Jan — More than 80 cars were involved in 21 pile-ups at almost the same time on the Beijing-Zhuhai Expressway on Monday, leaving several people injured.

It was raining and foggy at around midday on the five-kilometre Shaoguan City section in northern Guangdong

Province when the near-simultaneous collisions occurred. The road was immediately closed by police after the accidents, said Chen Shouxian, a police chief with the Shaoguan City Public Security Bureau.

Most of the motorists were returning home for family reunions at the traditional

Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday. Some badly damaged cars were removed by rescue vehicles. All the collisions were caused by overspeed, noted Chen. The expressway was cleared and reopened at 6.30 pm, but was later closed again because of heavy fog.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil orders hospitals to obey Indian birth rites

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 21 Jan — The Brazilian state of Sao Paulo on Tuesday ordered public hospitals near Indian villages to abide by ancient tribal customs when delivering babies for Guarani Indian women.

The resolution, aimed at increasing the Guarani's trust in the modern health care system, obliges hospitals to allow midwives from the tribe to assist in childbirth and respect the Indians' traditional diet. That means removing

foods like beef, pork, fish, beans, eggs, milk, salt, sugar and fruit from meals for 40 days after labour. Instead, Guarani mothers will be served chicken, rice, corn and a porridge made from the cassava root. — MNA/Reuters



A skier is pulled by a dog down one of the snow covered trails in the 495,000-acre Chugach State Park near Flat Top Mountain in Anchorage, Alaska, on 7 Jan, 2004.

INTERNET

Official stresses tech transfer in China France eco relations

BEIJING, 21 Jan— A senior Chinese trade official said here Tuesday that China hopes the French Government would encourage its businessmen to increase technological transfer to China.

Vice-Minister of Commerce Yu Guangzhou told *Xinhua* in an exclusive interview prior to Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to France that technological cooperation will greatly boost trade and economic cooperation between China and France.

Hu is scheduled to leave Beijing for a four-nation state visit next Monday. France is the first leg of his visit.

President Hu's visit to France will "inject new vigour" to bilateral trade and economic cooperation, said Yu, who will accompany Hu on the trip.

"China is ready to strengthen cooperation with France in areas where France is advanced in the world," Yu said. "We hope the French Government would encourage its enterprises to have technological cooperation with Chinese partners, and transfer more technology to China."

Transfer of technology has been an important part in the cooperation between the two countries. By the end of 2003, China had imported a total of 2,009 technological

items from France, involving 10.93 billion US dollars, making France China's second largest source of technology imports among members of the European Union.

Yu said he is confident of the future technological cooperation between China and France.

The products and technology where France is advanced in the world, like nuclear energy, transportation, telecommunications, aviation, agriculture, petrochemical industry and environmental protection, are also the priority areas for development set by the Chinese Government, according to the vice-minister.

"China needs French technology while France needs the Chinese market," Yu said. "China and France are highly complementary in economic areas and have huge potentials in cooperation."

France has taken the place of Italy as the fourth largest trading partner of China among EU members. Bilateral trade hit a record 13.39 billion US dollars in 2003, up 60.9 per cent over 2002.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Garuda Indonesia Airlines resumes Beijing flights

BEIJING, 21 Jan — The Indonesian national carrier Garuda resumed its flights Monday from Beijing to Jakarta after seven years of suspension.

China's aviation industry grew significantly in recent years and still has a promising future. The resumption will further satisfy the needs of business and tourism exchanges between the two nations as well as provide easy access for the seven million Chinese descents living in Indonesia.

The passenger volume of Garuda Indonesia to China is expected to surpass 3.4 million by the end of 2004, said N. S. Wandy Hadi, general manager of Garuda China.

China granted Indonesia as the approved destination status in 2002, allowing Chinese tourists to visit the nation. *Flight GA890*

will take off from Jakarta at 23:55 hours local time every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday and arrive at Beijing at 7:45 a.m. the next morning. *Flight GA891* will take off at

Beijing at 9:35 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and arrive at Jakarta at 15:35 local time. *Airbus A330* will be operated on the route, with 293 seats offered.—*MNA/Xinhua*

South Korea to launch high-speed train on 1 April

SEOUL, 21 Jan— South Korea will slash rail journey times between major cities when it launches high-speed services on 1 April, the Transportation Ministry said on Monday.

The Korea High Speed Rail will race at a maximum speed of 186 mile-per-hour and cut the Seoul-Pusan journey to two hours and 40 minutes from four hours and

10 minutes on the traditional train, the ministry said.

The launch will involve two lines linking the capital Seoul to the southeastern port city of Pusan and to the southwestern port of Mokpo.

The train uses the same technology as France's bullet train network and was built by French engineering group Alstom.—*MNA/Reuters*

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Iraqi police officers guard the entrance of Alwiyah club in Baghdad, Iraq, on 20 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

China sets up daily reporting system to monitor bird flu

BEIJING, 21 Jan— China's Ministry of Agriculture issued emergency directives Monday requiring veterinary and quarantine units at grassroots to report bird flu situation to higher departments every day.

It was the second emergency notice from the ministry following the outbreak of bird flu in Vietnam, South Korea and Japan.

The notice asked local governments step up the quarantine of poultry and the monitoring of the H5N1 strain of potentially lethal bird flu.

"If cases of bird flu are spotted, all poultry within three kilometres of the site will have to be slaughtered and all poultry within five kilometres of the polluted region will have to be vaccinated immediately," said the notice.

The notice also asked local governments to set up emergency teams and store materials for emergency use.

"Everything should be taken care of to ensure immediate and effective actions to

eradicate the virus if cases of bird flu are found," said the notice.

The notice also required veterinary and quarantine units at local levels to coordinate with other departments involving health, transport, and industrial and commercial sectors in daily supervision. An around-the-clock monitoring mechanism will be adopted during the coming seven-day holiday of Spring Festival.

The Chinese Mainland has so far reported no cases of the disease. The Ministry of Agriculture and State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine have jointly issued a ban on importing live poultry and products from the regions hit by the H5N1 strain of bird flu. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Life expectancy of Beijingers close to 80 years old

BEIJING, 21 Jan— The life expectancy of residents of the Chinese capital Beijing has reached an average 79.62 years, according to statistics from the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau on Tuesday.

Deng Xiaohong, deputy head of the health bureau, said the average life expectancy last year for local men was 78.1 years old and for women 81.14.

Beijing reported 59,342 cases of various infectious diseases last year, 42.8 per cent less than the previous year. Diarrhoea, hepatitis and tuberculosis were the top three, while SARS (severe

acute respiratory syndrome), which hit many Chinese provinces and cities early last year, ranked fifth.

Beijing intensified its efforts to carry out hygiene and immunity work last year. Planned immunity covered 98 per cent of local children and all newly-born babies in the city were given free inoculations against Hepatitis B.

The city reported no cases

of poliomyelitis, diphtheria or rabies last year.

The city handled 55 poisoning cases involving 979 people in 2003. Only one person died. A city of 13 million, Beijing reported a death rate of 4.68 per thousand last year, with heart disease, cancer, respiratory system diseases, trauma and poisoning being the top five causes of death. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Japan confirms first blood-transfusion HIV infection case

Tokyo, 21 Jan— Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare on Tuesday confirmed that a patient contracted the AIDS virus after receiving a transfusion of HIV-tainted blood that had cleared the Japanese Red Cross Society's virus-detection test.

This was Japan's first confirmed HIV infection through a transfusion of donated blood since the Red Cross introduced the current donated-blood testing system in 1999, the ministry said.

A public testing organization has found that the HIV

gene sequences detected in the donated blood in question were identical to those in the blood of the patient who received the transfusion, it said. The blood in question tested HIV-negative in May last year and was used in the transfusion.

But the blood donor tested

HIV-positive when he attempted to give blood again in November, and a stored sample of the blood was found infected with the AIDS virus when retested with a more advanced method, according to the ministry.

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese Macaque monkeys groom each other, sitting in a hot spring in the snow at Jigokudani Wild Monkey Park in Yamanouchi, Nagano prefecture, central Japan, on 19 Jan, 2004. Some 250 monkeys in two groups, inhabit the nearby mountain and are fed in the park. The Chinese New Year falls on 22 Jan, and this year is the year of monkey.—INTERNET

A visit to Bahtoo and Yaksawk for giving literary talks

Chit Naing (Psychology)

Some scholars said that civilization began 6,000 years ago. But the human history can be said very young if compared with the age of the world, which is estimated at billion years. Likewise, the history of literature in the world can be also said very young. Archaeologists said that they found evidence of cuneiform writing invented by Sumarians in about BC 3600 in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Regions such as Egypt, India and China were using the hieroglyphic writing in BC 3000. Thus, we can say that the art of writing emerged in the world 6,000 years ago.

In Myanmar, there are round a bout 6,000 members of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association. Thus, we can say that of the 53 million people of Myanmar 6,000 are men of letters. In other words, one in every 8,400 people is a literati. In addition to their literary duty, the literati have the duty to get in touch with the readers, widen the knowledge horizons through local and foreign trips, and organize the people to love reading.

Every literati first learns writing as a reader. He has the duty to increase the number of readers. With the aim of increasing the number of readers, a team of literati including myself went to Bahtoo in Yaksawk on 8 January 2004. We left Yangon by coach on 7 January. The next morning we arrived at Ayethaya in Taunggyi and from there we continued the 36-mile journey to Yaksawk by van via Shwenyaung. Our team comprised Ledwintha Saw Chit, a two-time National Literary Award winner, Myinmu Maung Naing Moe a four-time NLA winner and myself, Chit Naing (Psychology), a one-time NLA winner. We all were executives of the MWJA who were going to Organize

literary talks commemorating the Sarsadow Day. The people of Yaksawk made preparations three or four months ahead of our journey to the town. They contacted us and made arrangement for us to give talks in the town. Yaksawk was preparing to organize the literary talks, publish the Yaksawk magazine and help people raise the reading power.

Talks were given at the Aung San Hall. A lot of people including members of the Bahtoo Station and families attended the talks. The education level and knowledge of the audience was high. Station Commander Brig-Gen Zaw Win gave the introductory speech. The first speaker was Myinmu Maung Naing Moe. He spoke for about an hour. He was an eloquent speaker.

When my turn arrived, I explained the nine useful facts for life. As I explained the subject lightly and added some humour to my talks, the audience found my 50-minute talk lively and interesting. I also recounted my experience as a soldier for about 27 years.

The last speaker was Ledwintha Saw Chit. He was so good at giving talks on literature and life. He could make the audience roared with laughter. As our talks included knowledge, facts and lessons for life, humour and interesting subjects, it would be an unforgettable evening for the audience.

The next day, we visited pagodas and paid homage to Buddha images in Bahtoo and Yaksawk. We also visited the monasteries and presented offertories to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, we went round the Yaksawk. The town was developing with improved roads, and water and power supply systems. In the past it was just a small and lazy town.

At noon, we held literary talks at the Yathwady Hall with about 600 people from all wards, departmental personnel and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association in attendance. Although the other two men of letters gave their Literary talks with slight changes in the presentation, I changed my topic. My new topic was the aim of human beings.

The majority of the audience were young persons. And I believed that the talks were useful for them. Our talks continued for four hours. People from places in and around the town came and attended the talks. A woman living at a village eight miles from the town also attended the talks. When I met her in the market, I asked her, "Why do you come to the talks?" She answered, "I haven't seen any literati in my life. So I attended it."

"What do you think of the talks?" I inquired.

"Good, and useful."

"How does the talks benefit you?"

"I am an illiterate."

"Oh my God!"

"I cannot read. So I came here to listen to the talks of the men of letters. Its worth listening to the talks. I have gained knowledge."

And I also felt that it was worth visiting the town as a farm woman living eight miles from the town even attended the talks. All in all, I always feel satisfied with the talks we gave in Yaksawk on 9 January 2004.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 21 January 2004.

Japan to again deploy Aegis warship to Arabian Sea

TOKYO, 21 Jan — Japan's Aegis destroyer *Myoukou* will depart on Friday from Maizuru base in Kyoto Prefecture to replace the destroyer *Hiei* as part of the government's anti-terrorism campaign in the Arabian Sea, the Defence Agency's Maritime Staff Office said Tuesday.

The dispatch of the 7,250-ton *Myoukou* will be the third involving an Aegis warship since the 2001 enactment of the special measures law enabling Japan to provide logistical support for the United States-led war on terrorism in and near Afghanistan.

There are three Japanese warships currently operating in the Arabian Sea, according to the office. The dispatch was ordered "in line with a rotation", said Koichi Furusho, Chief of Staff of the Maritime Self-Defence Force.

The *Myoukou* will be accompanied by the fuel supply ship *Hamana*, which is to leave Sasebo base in west Japan's Nagasaki Prefecture and replace the *Tokiwa* in February or March.

It will be the fourth such mission for the 8,150-ton *Hamana*, Furusho said. *MNA/Xinhua*

Japan's convenience store sales down in 2003

TOKYO, 21 Jan — Sales at convenience stores in Japan fell 2.1 per cent in 2003 from the previous year on a same-store basis, down for the fourth straight year, the Japan Franchise Association said Tuesday.

The drop was the largest since 1999 when the association began to compile the data, it said.

The industry group attributed the fall partly to poor sales of such summer items as ice cream and soft drinks due to an unusually cool summer.

The number of customers fell 1.0 per cent, while sales per customer dropped 1.2 per cent, it said.

In December alone, convenience store sales dropped 1.8 per cent from a year earlier on a same-store basis for the 10th straight monthly decline.

MNA/Xinhua

Slovenian police seize 20 kilos of heroin

BELGRADE, 21 Jan — Slovenian police seized 20 kilos of heroin at Obreze border crossing in the eastern city of Bregana, police announced Tuesday.

Police found the drugs hidden in a car driven by a 33-year-old Serbia-Montenegro national at the crossing, the *Beta* news agency quoted Slovenian

police as saying.

Slovenian police said that the driver was detained, and the seized drugs have an estimated value of about 400,000 euros.

The Balkan region has become a favourite transit route for smuggling heroin and other drugs to west European countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysians urged to preserve mutual understanding

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Jan — Multi-racial Malaysians should preserve goodwill and mutual understanding as they form the linchpin of the nation's strength and people's well-being, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Tuesday.

"Therefore, in this Chinese New Year, let us in unison resolve, regardless of race and religion, to bring Malaysia to greater excellence," Abdullah said in his Chinese New Year message. "After we welcomed 2004 happily and in harmony, we will usher in the Chinese New Year celebrations in goodwill and mutual respect."

"This is the uniqueness of our country Malaysia. The coming year must be

more successful than the last," he said. With a firm determination and commitment, we must create changes that will be a catalyst for progress not only for us as individuals but for this beloved nation of ours," he said.

Quoting a Chinese proverb "Like sailing against the tide, we will retreat if we don't go forward," he added, "We should not at all be complacent with our achievements and prosperity enjoyed today."

Abdullah said the people cannot afford to be contented with the progress achieved thus far but instead strive for higher success and progress.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand asks for greater role in FAO

BANGKOK, 21 Jan — Thailand is angling to get more of its nationals on the administration of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), arguing that Thailand's agriculture potential warrants more than one representative.

Speaking Tuesday after meeting FAO Asia-Pacific representative He Changchui, Veerachai Veeramethikun, assistant to the Minister for Thai Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, said that he had asked the FAO to consider granting Thailand more representation

within the organization, according to the *Thai News Agency*.

Stressing Thailand's important role in both food and agriculture, he said that Thailand had several agricultural experts, and that there should therefore be more than one Thai representative among the organization's executives. The FAO is due to hold a seminar in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture on the elimination of poverty and the creation of food security next month.

MNA/Xinhua

Uzbeks ground Soviet "Yak-40" jets after fatal crash

TASHKENT, 21 Jan — Uzbekistan has grounded its fleet of six remaining Soviet-built *Yak-40* passenger jets ahead of the results of an official investigation into a crash last week that killed 37 people. "We received an order to suspend flights of all *Yak-40*s until further notice, and at least until the government commission (on the crash) publishes its findings," a spokesman for national carrier Uzbekistan Airways said on Tuesday.

A *Yak-40*, arriving on a domestic flight from Termez at the Afghan

border, crashed in thick fog at Tashkent Airport last Tuesday, killing all 32 passengers and five crew on board.

A spokesman for the prosecutor's office said the order to ground the remaining planes had come into effect on Sunday.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov has ordered the government commission to report its preliminary findings by January 25.

MNA/Reuters

Donate blood



Chairman of Myanmar Computer Development Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opens the MICT Week 2004. — MNA

ICT promises a great future...

(from page 1)

objectives to transfer technology, increase public awareness as well as demonstrate the achievements of Myanmar ICT sector.

Today, Myanmar is striving to become a modern and developed State. Politically, we are already taking measures for the implementation of the seven-step Roadmap that would ensure the emergence of a peaceful, stable, prosperous and democratic society. In

munication Technology. It is generally accepted that ICT promises a great future in the advancement of mankind. Today, ICT touches upon every aspect of our daily lives. Our Government is fully committed to ICT development and I am proud to note that through the cooperation and coordinated efforts of the Government, the private sector, computer scientists, entrepreneurs and enthusiasts as well as the assist-

hope that we will have a clean text in not too distant future.

We have identified five important focus areas namely, implementation of e-ASEAN Information Infrastructure; facilitation of e-Commerce growth; liberalization of ICT goods and services, capacity building and emergence of e-Society and development of e-Government. It is gratifying to note that significant progress is being achieved in all these sectors. To cite an example, Myanmar was able to introduce e-passports last year, placing it in the forefront of the world in this regard.

Moreover, e-visa for visitors to Myanmar is being launched today. Likewise, the use of the Smart Card is gaining more prevalence and our Smart Schools have won praise from international visitors.

Training of young people at various courses held in MICT Park as well as abroad is serving to build up our capacity. I would like to thank the Myanmar Computer Federation and its affiliated Associations for working energetically in capacity-building and human resource development. Moreover, the opening of Computer Universities and Colleges in various parts of the country also mean that the nation will have capable reservoir of human resource. Computer-based modern teaching method has been introduced in basic education and now, there are multimedia teaching

I am greatly delighted to see significant milestones in Myanmar ICT development. The drafting of the Cyber Law is proceeding quite smoothly and it is our

ance from our friends from abroad, Information and Communication Technology has made rapid and significant progress in the last two years. I wish also to reiterate that the Government will continue to provide full support for the development of this sector.

the field of economy, vigorous efforts for economic development have resulted in a steady and sustained economic growth. In the social sector, significant strides have been achieved, particularly in health, education and human resource development.

In our endeavours for modernization, we are particularly aware of the role of technology. This is especially true in the case of Information and Com-



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects booths of the MICT Week 2004. — MNA

centres in almost all basic education high schools, the majority of middle schools and some primary schools. Higher education sector learning centres, resource centres and e-library were installed in colleges and universities and computer network system linking the universities and colleges was also established.

I am also glad to learn that various seminars and workshops will be held during the current ICT Week reinforcing the theme "Software Industry Development". The deliberations will surely be of great benefit and serve to promote ICT knowledge in the country.

In 2003, we were able to dispatch an IT caravan to various cities and towns in order to increase public awareness and to instill ICT-related knowledge. It is our plan to further expand the programme during 2004.

As for MICT Park itself, the completion of the 2nd phase of development had resulted in expanded facilities. I am also glad to see the construction work of Cyber Tower and Cyber Mall is proceeding smoothly.

In recognition of Myanmar's efforts for ICT development, ASOCIO has awarded ASOCIO ICT AWARD 2003 to Myanmar. However, we should not be complacent with our achievements. Much more needs to be done and I would like to urge all our computer scientists, technicians, industrialists and enthusiasts to work together and harder to turn Myanmar into a major ICT powerhouse.

In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by our international partners. Today, Myanmar is cooperating actively with Japan, India, Malaysia, Singapore,

Korea, Thailand and China. It is our hope that we will be able to expand our international relations in ICT field during the present year. It is also gratifying to note that at both four-nation Economic Cooperation Strategy Bagan Summit as well as the recent ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, capacity-building was accorded as a priority area.

In conclusion, I again would like to express my sincere appreciation to MICTDC, Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists' Association, Myanmar Computer Industry Association, Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts' Association, Bagan Cybertech, MICT Park as well as the various government departments for their contribution to the development of the ICT Sector in Myanmar. May the 3rd ICT week enjoy every success.

(See page 9)



Brig-Gen Thein Swe speaks at the opening of the MICT Week 2004. — MNA



Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and Dr Xlongluck Phinamlisar sign the agreement on Cooperation in International Roaming Services. — MNA



Dr Ye Naing Win and Mr Ronstan Liang sign the MoU on Inmarsat D Plus Satellite Terminal Service Provision for Vessel Tracking. — MNA



Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and Chairman Dr Mohd Yusof bin Ismail sign the deal on International Roaming Services. — MNA

MICT Week 2004 holds workshop

YANGON, 21 Jan — A workshop was held on the first day of the MICT Week 2004, with an expert of a Thai company as the main speaker.

Mr Sutee Satanasathaporn of Software Park, Thailand, gave talks on the subject — Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) — the main theme of the workshop at the MICTDC building here today. Software engineers of the computer companies were the participants.

At the Conference Hall was the presentation of the certificates of the professional level courses — the JITEC Exam, the MCSA Certification Exam, and the Multimedia System Development Course (On-site Training).

After an introductory speech by U Aung Myint, member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, officials concerned explained the salient points of the three courses. Volunteers who rendered assistance to the courses were also honoured. — MNA

Myanmar ICT Week-2004 opens...

(from page 16)

can be used everywhere and i-Theatre with the use of iPStar.

Bagan Cybertech is selling dial-up Internet connection A/C users at a cost of annual fee K 49,000 instead of K 60,000 during ICT Week and presents gifts to those who participate in the Bagan Cybertech's presentation Q and A programme.

At the booth of Advanced Technologies & Solutions Co Ltd, arrangements have been made for the Internet Premier Course for beginners, the Certified Web Master Course that is popular in the world and the Certified Java Master Course.

At the SSI Computer Centre, the Network Administrator Course, Java @ SSI/ E2 Com Course, the dotnext and C# Courses, the MS Office 2000 Course, Smart Star Course, Oracle & VB Course are opened.

At KMD Sales and Service Centre, computer sets are available at reasonable prizes with one-year guarantee.

The DCD Computer Company Limited is selling computers and related items in Yangon and Mandalay.

Maintenance and Rental Services (MRS) is providing services and selling computers at reasonable prices.

At the Myanmar ICT Week, organized by Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation (MICTDC) from 21 to 24 January, network game centres in Yangon — the net zone, the i-net, the Red Application, the MSM, the Gooms, the Cyber City, Ice-Knight, X gainer Z, the Lan Wizard, Sky Star, the Plant Internet Cafe and the Black Rock Clan — will help organize the Myanmar National Counter-Strike Championship-2004 which will be held tomorrow. At the professional level, K 1 million will be presented for the first prize, K 500,000 for the second and K 300,000 for the third. At amateur level, the first prize is K 500,000, the second, K 300,000 and the third, K 200,000.

In addition, Bagan Cybertech will present a bonus of Internet Individual Dial-up Accounts worth K 2.52 million to winning groups. The performances at the championship will be presented on HLTV and detailed information is available at www.csmyanmar.com. Altogether over 100 groups will take part in the championship. The final match will be held at the Conference Hall at 1 pm on 26 January.

The dinner to mark the opening of the Myanmar ICT Week-2004 was held on the lawns in the MICT Park at 7 pm today, attended by members of leading committee for holding the week, the work committee members of e-National Task Force, the MICTDC President and members of board of directors, officials from the Myanmar Computer Federation, the Myanmar Computer Industry Association, the Myanmar Computer Scientists Association and the Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association and invited guests.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Chairperson of Support Fund Myanmar Ms Yve Callebaut.

(News on page 16) — MNA

ICT promises a great future...

(from page 8)

Afterwards, MICTDC Chairman Brig-Gen Thein Swe reported to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on progress of IT projects; projects initiated at the Third MICT Week such as Certification Authority (CA), e-Visa, Budget PC, and e-Procurement; and arrangements for Seafarer's Smart ID and Trade EDI.

Bagan Cybertech Co Ltd Chief Executive Officer Dr Ye Naing Win and Prognostic Services Pte Ltd Chief Executive Officer Mr Ranstan Liang signed a memorandum of understanding with respect to the Inmarsat D Plus Satellite Terminal Service Provision for Vessel Tracking.

Next, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd of Thailand President Dr Nongluck Phinaitisart signed a memorandum of understanding concerning the Cooperation in International Roaming Services.

An agreement on International Roaming Services was also signed by MPT Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and iP Tel Sdn Bhd of Malaysia Chairman Dr Mohd Yusof bin Ismail.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected items displayed at the MICT Week.

As part of the effort to implement Myanmar e-Government tasks, e-Government portal, which was innovated by Myanmar Computer Co Ltd (MCC) aimed at sending information and submitting reports between the Prime Minister's Office and ministries, was installed at the Prime Minister's Office to be used as of today.

The Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 will be kept open daily free of charge to enthusiasts and general public from 9 am to 5 pm till 27 of this month as of today. — MNA

Russia plans to import palm oil from Indonesia

JAKARTA, 21 Jan — Russia is planning to import

crude palm oil from Indonesia's North Sumatra Province this year, a local official said.

"Some Russian businessmen have expressed interest in buying 200,000 to 300,000 tons of palm oil every six months," spokesman of the Information and Promotions Body, Gandi Diapari, was quoted by state news agency Antara as saying.

Gandi made the statement after a meeting among a 30-member business delegation from central and Eastern Europe, the local industry and trade office, and local officials. The plan will be discussed in detail in Russia this June, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Red Sea flight recorders show plane not attacked

CAIRO, 21 Jan — Flight recorders recovered from an Egyptian airliner which crashed into the Red Sea this month showed that the plane was not attacked, the head of the investigation said on Tuesday.

But the cockpit voice recorder, which contains 30 minutes of conversation, was noisy and it was not clear from the initial analysis what went wrong with the Boeing 737, which was carrying 148 people including 133 French tourists. All were killed.

"The first thing we looked at was there any possibility of any explosion and we have a total negative possibility and that's why we can say, we can definitely confirm, there is no terrorist act," investigator Shaker Qilada told Reuters.

"What I can tell you is that we don't have an indication from the voice recorder of any defect yet," he added.

Qilada told a news conference that the crash was definitely the result of "a technical fault", a term which he said could include mechanical problems and pilot error.

"So this is what I call a classic accident. It is not an accident out of the normal. We will investigate the machine and the human being," he added.

The plane crashed into the sea off the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in the early hours of January 3.

The Swiss authorities said later they had banned the operator, Egypt's Flash Airlines, from Swiss airspace because of safety violations on its planes.

The Egyptian authorities say they were not informed of any ban or violations and the company says the ban was the result of a financial dispute.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan denies it has invited Israeli minister

ISLAMABAD, 21 Jan — Pakistan denied on Tuesday it had invited an Israeli Cabinet minister to visit the country and said the UN meeting he said he planned to attend had been postponed.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz told Israeli Radio on Tuesday that he received an invitation through an official of the UN

food agency and would visit Pakistan with a small group of United Nations officials in March.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said it had already told the Food and Agriculture Organization that it could not host the delegation in March for "certain reasons".

MNA/Reuters

China's auto sales expected to top 5 million units in 2004

BEIJING, 21 Jan — China's automobile production and sales figures are both expected to exceed five million units, up about 20 per cent year-on-year, in 2004, experts say.

Sedan production alone is expected to top 2.6 million units.

In the past year, China produced 4.44 million autos

and sold 4.39 million, a yearly rise of 35.2 per cent and 34.21 per cent respectively.

Statistics show that in 2003, sedan production registered a record high of 2.02 million units, up 83.25 per cent year-on-year. Meanwhile, sedan sales reached 1.97 million, up 75.28 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua



CSSTB Member U Aung Myint presents completion certificate to a trainee at MICT Park on 21 January. — MNA



The seminar on economic cooperation and coordination between Myanmar and Korea being held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road on 21-1-2004. — MNA

Germany says coal needs protection in EU emissions scheme

BERLIN, 21 Jan — Germany's Economics Minister said on Tuesday a European Union emissions trading scheme to reduce levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere should not threaten coal's ability to replace nuclear power. Coal accounts for over half of Germany's power generation, but 50 per cent of this is home-produced brown coal, a big emitter of CO2, which many scientists believe is a major contributor to global warming.

The coal industry argues that without the fuel, Germany will not be able to meet its target to phase out nuclear power by the 2020s.

"I don't want any structural changes from the emissions trade scheme. I think Germany's present energy mix (for power generation) is reasonable," Wolfgang Clement told reporters during the annual Handelsblatt energy conference. "We

must safeguard coal's role as an alternative source to replace nuclear energy."

The EU scheme sets limits on CO2 pollution for thousands of companies across the continent but allows them to trade the right to produce the pollutant to help meet their targets.

National governments have until the end of March to set their company limits under National Allocation Plans (NAPs) ahead of introduction of an initial trading phase in 2005-2007.

Britain said on Monday its NAP would cut its CO2 emissions in excess of its international obligations under the Kyoto treaty and would particularly target coal-fired plants.

Germany's Green Party-led Environment Ministry openly favours energy sources which are lower in emissions, such as gas or renewables.

But Clement said Ger-

many's dependence on its huge brown coal reserves would not allow it to follow the Britain's lead.

We won't do more than meet Kyoto obligations. (Emissions trading) must be manageable in line with German conditions," he said.

He said the country's brown coal will limit its dependence on imported oil and gas for power production, especially with nuclear currently supplying another third of power.

Clement said he would ensure that the allocation and administration of the EU scheme would be "in line with producers' requirements and not too bureaucratic, using all the leeway we have under EU law."

New German clean-coal technology was well advanced and might help create virtually emissions-free coal plants by 2020-25 with top efficiency rates, he said. — MNA/Reuters

Sale of Korea-made goods in Myanmar discussed

YANGON, 21 Jan — A seminar on economic cooperation and coordination between Myanmar and Korea was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

Present were Commercial Attache of Embassy of the Republic of Korea Mr Choi Yong-Tae, businessmen of six companies led by Vice-President Mr Hyo Sung Kim of Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and entrepreneurs of 30 companies in Myanmar.

They discussed sale of washing machines that need no detergent powder, machines used in waste water treatment, low-heat devices, chemicals used in roads and factories, digital satellite receivers, digital cameras, MP3 players, CD players, various kinds of bags for laptop computers, circuit breakers, pylons, steel frames and technological devices in Myanmar. — MNA

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

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

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုစွမ်းအင်ရရှိသည့် သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့် လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင်တန်းများသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ဝမ်းဗမ်း နှစ်နားမှုကိုပြောကွယ်ရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရယ်မှကာကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့ငှက်ခြေအိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသဘောထားရှိပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝဝတ်စုံကျင့်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု အသက်မွေးဝတ်စုံကျင့်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Microsoft lightens up on teen's mikerowesoft site

TORONTO, 21 Jan — Microsoft Corp indicated on Tuesday it might have overreacted to the web site of Canadian teenager Mike Rowe who had added the word "soft" to his name and registered the address mikerowesoft.com.

"We take our trademark seriously, but in this case maybe a little too seriously," Microsoft spokesman Jim Desler said.

"We appreciate that Mike Rowe is a young entrepreneur who came up

with a creative domain name, so we're currently in the process of resolving this matter in a way that will be fair to him and satisfy our obligations under trademark law," Desler said.

In November, Microsoft's Canadian lawyers demanded that Rowe, 17, change the name of his Internet site, claiming copyright infringement. They said they would pay Rowe, who lives in Victoria, British Columbia, 10 US dollars for his trouble. But the high school student decided to fight back and his story got media attention to the extent that he was forced to

shut down his web site on Monday morning after getting about 250,000 hits. He managed to get the site back up after moving to a service provider with greater capacity.

"I never expected this type of feedback. I have put up a defence fund so that I can hire a lawyer to guide me through the process of talking to Microsoft.... I could never think this could happen, even in my wildest dreams," Rowe wrote on his site.

Rowe is demanding \$10,000 from Microsoft to change the site's name.

MNA/Reuters

Second border gate between Turkey, Iraq to open

ANKARA, 21 Jan — The meeting about opening of a second border gate between Turkey and Iraq has started in Cizre Town of Sirnak Province in southeastern Turkey, Anatolia news agency reported Tuesday.

Turkish and Iraqi delegations came together on Monday in order to discuss the opening of a second border gate in Ovakoy, 14 kilometres south of Silopi Town of Sirnak, to reduce burden of the Habur Border Gate, the report said.

Three US military officials are attending the four-day meeting as ob-

servers, said the report.

The second border gate is planned to have a direct connection with Mosul and Kirkuk in northern Iraq.

If the two sides reach an agreement, a 300-metre bridge will be constructed over Hezil Stream for the second border gate to be named as "Ali Riza Efendi Border Gate", according to the report.

Turkey will construct a 15-kilometre road and Iraq will construct a 35-kilometre road for the new border gate, the report added.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil bans imports of chickens from countries reporting bird flu

BRASILIA, 21 Jan — The Brazilian Agriculture Ministry banned on Tuesday the imports of poultry products and byproducts from countries that have reported bird flu cases in recent days.

The authorities also issued instructions to raise the vigilance against luggage arriving in Brazilian ports and airports from Asian and European countries that have reported bird flu.

The World Health Organization has warned that the bird flu virus could be even worse than the severe acute respiratory syndrome

(SARS), as the former could be passed from fowl to humans.

An outbreak of bird flu in Vietnam in recent weeks has claimed several human lives. Tests are also being done to determine whether the virus caused the death of nine Vietnamese children last October.

Authorities have ordered the slaughter of one or two million chickens.

The most immediate cases of the disease were those reported in Belgium, the Netherlands and Hong Kong in 2003. In Hong Kong, bird flu killed six people in 1997.

Brazil is the world's largest exporter of chickens and has never reported bird flu before.

MNA/Xinhua

ဆောင်းရာသီတွင်ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ကူးစက်ရောဂါများ ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်အရေးကြီးဆောင်ရွက်

၁။ ဆောင်းရာသီတွင် အအေးမိနာစေး ချောင်းဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ဦးနှောက်အမြှေးရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ၊ ဆုဆိုးနာရောဂါ၊ ကြက်ညှာချောင်းဆိုးရောဂါ၊ ရေကျောက်ရောဂါ၊ နမိုးနီးယား အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါနှင့် မျက်စိနာရောဂါ စသည့် ကူးစက် ရောဂါများ အဖြစ်များတတ်ပါသည်။

- ၂။ ၎င်းရောဂါများကိုကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက်
 - * ဂွေလမ်းသဘင်လူထုထပ်သောနေရာနှင့် ဖုလူထပ်သော နေရာများကို တတ်နိုင်သမျှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - * နာစေးချောင်းဆိုးလျှင် ရောဂါမပြန့်ပွားစေရန် လက်ကိုဆေးသုံးပါ။
 - * တစ်ဦးအသုံးပြုထားသော အသုံးအဆောင် နှင့်အဝတ်အထည်များကို အခြားတစ်ဦးမှအသုံးပြုခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - * ဂွေနှစ်အောက် ကလေးများအား ပုံမှန်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး၍ ကာကွယ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်သည့် ဆုဆိုးနာ ကြက်ညှာချောင်းဆိုး ဝက်သက်ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ဆေးများထိုးနှံပါ။
 - * တစ်ကိုယ်ရေ သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို အလေးထားဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
 - * အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကိုစားသုံးပါ။
 - * လုံလောက်စွာအနားယူပါ။

၃။ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများရှိလျှင် အသက်ဆုံးရှုံးမှုနှင့် ရောဂါပြန့်ပွားမှုများမှကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန် နီးရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် ဆေးလျှင်စွာဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

France Telecom to cut 14,500 positions worldwide

PARIS, 21 Jan — France Telecom said on Monday it will cut about 14,500 positions through early retirement or reassignment to other public companies in 2004 as the former monopoly pushes ahead with its massive restructuring.

A France Telecom spokesman said the cuts were in line with forecasts made in late 2002, when the company announced a restructuring plan to repair its balance sheet after a rapid expansion spree nearly crushed it with debt.

At the time it said it would cut about 20,000 positions in France through early retirement and reassignment over the next three years.

"These are not redundancy plans," a France Telecom spokesman said of the job cuts, which were announced to the company's unions earlier on Monday.

The company's shares reacted only slightly, ending largely flat at 23.23 euros in Paris.

The headcount reduction comes as the company is in the throes of its restructuring and making a change to its legal status that should pave the way for further privatization.

The government late last month passed a law that will allow France Telecom's civil servants to retain their status — they can not be fired — even when the company is no longer majority owned by the state.

The restructuring has

included a 15-billion-euro capital increase, the refinancing of 15 billion euros of debt and calls for the generation of 15 billion euros in free cash flow to be used for debt reduction from 2002 to 2005.

In 2004, the company will cut 8,800 net jobs in France, including 8,000 early retirements, 2,200 reassignments and 1,400 new hires, the spokesman said.

The reassignments are taking place under an ongoing programme that should allow civil servants at France Telecom to find positions at other public companies or parts of the

administration.

Internationally, France Telecom will eliminate 5,700 jobs, the company said. In 2003 the company cut 7,700 positions in France and 5,400 internationally through similar measures.

France Telecom, which had 217,000 employees at the end of 2003, said it expected to have about 202,500 by the end of this year.

The new hires will be in research, technology and sales and marketing positions, the spokesman said. The hiring planned for 2004 is twice the approximately 700 new positions created in 2003.

MNA/Reuters

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

Indian farmer finds diamonds in the rough

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan — It is not quite the goose that laid the golden egg, but an Indian diamond merchant's prize cow is producing bejewelled dung. Dilubhai Rajput had stashed a bag of more than 1,700 small diamonds, worth almost \$900, in a pile of hay at his home in Gujarat State, famous both for its dairy and diamond-cutting industries, but had not reckoned on the risk of a hungry cow, the *Economic Times* newspaper reported on Monday.

Now he is feeding the animal a diet of grass, grain, fruit and laxatives and has so far recovered 300 diamonds in three days. "I am sure within a week I will retrieve all my diamonds," the paper quoted Rajput as saying. It was unclear why he chose to hide the stones in the hay.

MNA/Reuters

At least 20 killed as bus plunges into river in northern India

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan — At least 20 people were feared killed Monday when a private bus they were onboard plunged into River Ravi near Garola of northern India's Himachal Pradesh.

The *Press Trust of India* (PTI) cited sources as saying that the "ill-fated" bus was on its way from Holi to Bharmour when the incident happened.

The exact number of passengers aboard the bus is yet to be established, PTI said. Rescuers have rushed to the scene and the cause of the incident is under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

Yangon Trade Fair to be held



YANGON, 21 Jan — Permitted by the Ministry of Commerce, Yangon Trade Fair 2004 will be held by Quartz International Co Ltd on a grand scale at Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Road from 30 January to 2 February.

On display at the trade fair will be local and

foreign cosmetics, consumers' goods, clothes, utensils, plastic wares, foodstuff, electric and electronic appliances, construction materials, household goods, stationery, packaging machines, small machinery and installation machines, and western and traditional medicines. Entertainment programmes will also include at the trade fair. — MNA

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 21 Jan — Nursery Market Festival is kept open daily at Myepadetha Garden here to enable the general public to easily buy fresh vegetables and fruits, agricultural techniques and equipment, and seeds of various crops at a single place.

Vegetables, saplings of flowering plants, herbal plants and grafted fruit plants are on sale at the market. Orders from growers are also accepted.

Farm implements, fertilizers, booklets and books on pesticide sprays are also available at the shop selling farm produces at the entrance of the garden. — MNA



ကျွန်ုပ်တို့သည် မြန်မာ့နိုင်ငံတော်၏ နယ်လေးကို ဖွဲ့စည်းခဲ့သော နေ့ဖြစ်ကြောင်း အမှတ်တံဆိပ်တို့ဖြင့် ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။
(မြန်မာ့နိုင်ငံတော်၏ နယ်လေးကို ဖွဲ့စည်းခဲ့သော နေ့ဖြစ်ကြောင်း အမှတ်တံဆိပ်တို့ဖြင့် ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။)
၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၂ ရက်နေ့မှ ၂၄ ရက်နေ့
[မြန်မာ့နိုင်ငံတော်၏ နယ်လေးကို ဖွဲ့စည်းခဲ့သော နေ့ဖြစ်ကြောင်း အမှတ်တံဆိပ်တို့ဖြင့် ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။]

စောကုရင်ပြည်သူများခင်ဗျား

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသော ကျေးလက်ဒေသများတွင် သန့်ရှင်းသော ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်း ရရှိရေးကို ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ရေလျှော့ချခြင်းဖြင့် မတောင်းဘဲနှင့် ပြည့်စုံနိုင်သော အကျိုးဆယ်ပါးကို ရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါးမှာ—

- (၁) လျင်မြန်ခြင်း၊
- (၂) သန့်ရှင်းစင်ကြယ်ခြင်း၊
- (၃) ကျော်ကြားလူသိများခြင်း၊
- (၄) ဆာလောင်မွတ်သိပ်မှုကင်းခြင်း၊
- (၅) အခြေအရံများခြင်း၊
- (၆) အသက်ရှည်ခြင်း၊
- (၇) အဆင်းလှခြင်း၊
- (၈) ချမ်းသာကြီးခြင်း၊
- (၉) ခွန်အားဗလကြီးမားခြင်း၊
- (၁၀) ဉာဏ်ပညာကြီးမားခြင်းတို့ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသော ဒေသများမှာ သန့်ရှင်းသော ရေ ဖူလုံစွာရရှိရန် စီမံချက်များချမှတ်ပြီး အင်တိုက်အားတိုက် ဆောင်ရွက်နေပါသည်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါးရရှိစေရန် ရေရှားပါးသည့် ကျေးလက်ဒေသများသို့ စက်ရေတွင်းများ လှူဒါန်းလိုပါက အောက်ပါနှုန်းထားအတိုင်း လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်—

- * ၂လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ) ကျပ် ၂၅သိန်း
- * ၂လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၄၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ) ကျပ် ၅၀သိန်းနှင့်
- * ၄လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ)ကျပ်၅၀သိန်း ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

မည်သည့်မြို့နယ်တွင်မဆို စောကုရင်များအနေနှင့် ပါဝင်လှူဒါန်းလိုပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြောင်း အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (၁) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၅၄၂၀၊ ၂၄၅၀၀၈။
- (၂) ဒုတိယညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၀၁၀၈။
- (၃) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (အင်ဂျင်နီယာ)၊ ၀၁-၂၄၀၆၇၇။
- (၄) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၇၁-၂၀၀၁၂။
- (၅) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မကွေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၆၃-၂၃၁၆၄။
- (၆) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မန္တလေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၂-၅၄၆၅၇။

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 117/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 24-1-04 and will be berthing on about 25-1-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

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TIN OHN MAR TUN,
B.A (Law) L.L.B,
LL.M(UK) P.O Box 109,
Ph:248108/723043
(For Domnarn Songiat &
Boonma Attorneys at Law,
Thailand)
Dated: 22 January 2004

Don't smoke

ပိုဆောင်းရေဝန်ကြီးဌာန မြန်မာလေကြောင်း ကြော်ငြာချက်အမှတ် (၂/၂၀၀၄)

လေယာဉ်မောင်းလေယာဉ်မယ် လူတွေစစ်ဆေးရန်ကိစ္စ

ပိုဆောင်းရေဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာလေကြောင်းမှပေါ်လွင်လာသော လေယာဉ်မောင်း လေယာဉ်မယ်များလျှောက်ထားသည့်အမှတ် ၂၀၀၄/၂၀၀၄။ လူတွေ စစ်ဆေးမှု အောင်မြင်သူများ၏ အမည်စာရင်းနှင့် အပြီးသတ်စစ်ဆေးမှု ဖြေဆိုရမည့်နေ့ရက်၊ အချိန်၊နေရာ၊ အစီအစဉ်များအား ၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ(၂၀) ရက်နေ့ (၁၀:၀၀)နာရီအချိန်တွင် မြန်မာလေကြောင်း(ရုံးချုပ်)၊ အမှတ်(၁၀၄) ကမ်းနားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့တွင် ကြေငြာပါမည်။

အပြီးသတ်စစ်ဆေးမှု ဖြေဆိုကြမည့်သူများသည် မိမိတို့ ဖြေဆိုရမည့်နေ့ရက်တွင် မြန်မာလေကြောင်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ အမှတ်(၁၀၄)ကမ်းနားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့သို့ နံနက်(၈:၀၀)နာရီအချိန်တွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ မပျက်မကွက် (မပျက်မကွက်) ယူဆောင်လာ၍ သတင်းပို့ရပါမည်-

- (က) မှတ်ပုံတင်/နိုင်ငံသားစိစစ်ရေးကတ်ဒ်မှရင်း
- (ခ) အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းစာမေးပွဲ(က)အဆင့်ဖြင့် အောင်လက်မှတ်မှရင်း
- (ဂ) အိမ်ထောင်စုစာရင်းမိတ္တူ
- (ဃ) အလုပ်သမားမှတ်ပုံတင်ကတ်ဒ်မှရင်း
- (င) အိမ်ထောင်စုရုံး (လူမျိုး/အမျိုးအနွယ်ကြောင်း)

သက်ဆိုင်ရာ(ရယက)၏ ထောက်ခံချက်မှရင်း

မြန်မာလေကြောင်း

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လှည့်အားပေးပါ

UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS.

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following HF Transceiver which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Qty:
1.	14(T) 10/MR (S&T) 2003-2004	HF Transceiver Broad band high gain Antenna and Down lead cable 100 meters, coupler & connectors and accessories	7 - Nos

Closing Date: 30-1-2004 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

Opening Date: 30-1-2004 (Friday) (14:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 22-1-2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605, 612.

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

TRADE MARK CAUTION 7-ELEVEN, INC., a

Company incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas, United States of America, of 2711 N. Haskell, Dallas County, Texas, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 695/1999

Reg. No. 288/2004

in respect of "the operation of retail store services; convenient store services and other related services and the goods sold therein, as well as the advertising media, papers, pens, pencils, playing cards, stationery, cardboard and goods made from these materials, such as books, magazines, diaries and coaster"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for 7-ELEVEN, INC.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 22 January 2004

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that LAFARGE, a Joint Stock company organized under the laws of France of 61, rue des Belles Feuilles, 75116 PARIS, France, are the Owners and Sole proprietors of the following Trade Mark in Myanmar.



The said mark is used in respect of "industrial chemical products, mineral additives, calcium aluminates, chemical additives for concrete and cement, mold parting compounds, products for preserving and making impervious concrete and cement, binding agents for concretes, anti-moisture masonry products, fire-resistant products, chemical reagents (other than for medical or veterinary use), glues (primers or sizing agents); Coatings (paints), binders, non-insulating paints and lacquers or varnishes, primer or sizing agent dyes, binding agents for dyes, binders, diluents and thickeners for dyes, lacquers/varnishes and paints, flame-resistant paints, road-surface paints, oil putties, glazing putties, lacquers/varnishes (paints), rust preservatives and wood preserving agents, products protecting metals in laminar and powder form used by painters and decorators; Non-metallic construction materials, materials and products for construction, maintenance, restoration and renovation of buildings, permanent structures, of roadways and other pathways and rolling surfaces and traffic-ways and

all public works; non-metallic transportable construction; cements, limes and other hydraulic binders, mortars, plasters, concretes, granulates and all cement-based and concrete based products, special cements, fumed silica cements, white cements drilling cements, aluminous cements, ready-to-use concrete, refractory concrete, special concrete, ready-to-use mortar and dry mortar, granulates, alluvial materials, limestones or volcanic materials, sands, grits, gravel, sand-gravel mixtures, rock fill, synthetic granulates, coatings, facade coatings, ground-smoothing coatings, bituminous binders and coatings for road construction, tars, non-metallic wall cladding, walls, non-metallic panels and beams for construction; plasterboards for walls, overlays, linings, ceilings, flat coatings and wear resisting layers; construction plasters for interior coatings; plaster tiles or squares, special plasters, cement or sandstone pipes; insulating glasses."

The said trade mark is the subject of Declaration of Ownership recorded with the Registra of Deeds and Assurances, Yangon, Myanmar, in Book under No. 1048 dated 20th March, 1996.

Any infringement or colourable imitation thereof or other infringement of the rights of the said Corporation will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win, B.Com., B.L.,
for LAFARGE,
by its Attorneys
REMFREY & SAGAR
NEW DELHI-MUMBAI
Dated: 22nd January 2004

ပြည်ကောင်းချီးအတွက်
"ရွှေမောင်းသံ"
ရာနယ်

အတွဲ (၆) အမှတ် (၁၀) ထွက်ပြီ

ရွှေမောင်းသံ ရာနယ်

- * ကော်ဖီစိုက်ပျိုး ဝင်ငွေတိုး
 - * ကော်ဖီစိုက်လျှင် အရိပ်ပင်
 - * ယှဉ်တွဲစိုက်ပျိုး ဒေသဖွံ့ဖြိုး
- လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာအက္ခရာနှင့်စာတည်း လုပ်ငန်း ကြိုကြမ်းမှုအောက်ရှိ စက်ရုံအတွက် အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းအား အမေရိကန်ဒေါ်လာ/မြန်မာကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း ကြေငြာအပ်ပါသည်။

အကြောင်းအရာ	အရေအတွက်
Old Newspaper	2000 MT

၂။ တင်ဒါပိတ်စည်းရက်/အချိန် ၃၀-၁-၂၀၀၄ နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀နာရီ

၃။ သိရှိလိုသည့်အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၄ရက်နေ့တွင် ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာအက္ခရာနှင့်စာတည်းလုပ်ငန်း

မညာရေးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Study finds melatonin may help blood pressure

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan— Melatonin, a hormone known for helping to regulate the body's internal clock, may help lower high blood pressure, Dutch and US researchers reported on Monday.

Supplements of the hormone, often used to help battle jet lag, reduced blood pressure in a small group of men who took them regularly, the researchers said.

"This finding might open the door for a new approach for treating hypertension," said Frank Scheer, a neuroscientist at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

"It has been reported that people with high blood pressure often have suppressed night time melatonin levels," Scheer added in a statement. "We have recently found that people with high blood pressure have actual anatomical disturbances of their biological clocks."

Scheer's team, working with researchers at the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research in Amsterdam, gave melatonin supplements or placebos to 16 men with untreated high blood pressure an hour before they went to bed.

The men who got nightly melatonin supplements for three weeks lowered their night time systolic blood pressure — the top

number — by about six millimetres of mercury on average and their diastolic reading — the bottom number — by four millimetres of mercury.

There was no change from taking a single dose of melatonin, the researchers report in the February issue of *Hypertension*, a journal published by the American Heart Association.

High blood pressure is common, affecting 50 million Americans. It is a leading cause of heart attack, stroke and heart failure.

Many different drugs, from diuretics to medications that relax the arteries, are used to treat it. But they have side effects ranging from a frequent need to urinate to impotence.

Melatonin could offer a gentler approach, Scheer said. As a side benefit, he said the men reported sleeping better when they took melatonin.

It could be that sleeping better helps improve blood pressure, Scheer said, although he stressed much more study is needed. He said no one with high blood pressure should start taking melatonin on his or her own.

MNA/Reuters

France warns consumers against counterfeit goods

PARIS, 21 Jan— Counterfeit CDs, mobile phones and toys cost the French economy about six billion euros a year and fund networks of organized crime, France said on Tuesday, launching a campaign to warn consumers.

France is particularly vulnerable to industrial piracy given its high concentration of consumer brands. It says counterfeits also cost jobs and carry safety risks.

On Monday the country's National Anti-Counterfeiting Committee (CNAC), the Union of Manufacturers and the government will launch a 400,000 euro week-long campaign to warn consumers against buying illicit goods.

Email addresses will be bombarded with messages and French cities plastered with posters reading: "Organized crime is counting on you". The campaign argues that counterfeiters exploit people, launder money, and finance terrorism and crime.

France treats buying fake objects as the crime of receiv-

ing stolen goods, and is toughening penalties for counterfeit gangs as part of a bill that goes to a second reading in Parliament this week.

"Collusion between counterfeit networks and mafia or even terrorist milieus is proven," French Industry Minister Nicole Fontaine told a news conference to announce the campaign on Tuesday. "Counterfeiting is a social and economic offence at the heart of international crime."

CNAC Chairman Francois d'Aubert said consumers pleased to have acquired a motorbike, an electrical appliance or a toy at a fraction of the normal price may be putting themselves at risk. "Counterfeiters are peddlers of illusions: they

sell timebombs without a thought for the explosion date," he said.

That is because counterfeit toys may be inflammable, fake car parts are unlikely to meet safety norms, medicines will lack quality controls, and CDs will have a short life-span.

Counterfeit goods account for 5 per cent of global trade, and may reach 9 per cent this year, Fontaine said. She estimated their total worth at 200-300 billion euros per year.

French fashion brands like Hermes, Louis Vuitton and Lacoste, Moulinex in home appliances, car parts manufacturer Valeo and industrial gas maker Air Liquide are all concerned by the traffic of fakes. — MNA/Reuters

World's mountain gorilla population up in census

KIGALI, 21 Jan— The number of mountain gorillas roaming forests shared by Rwanda, Uganda and Congo has risen in recent years in a sign of hope for one of the world's most endangered species, a census showed on Monday.

Trackers prevented from conducting their research for years by war said the population of the majestic apes in the Virunga Volcano chain had risen to 380 from 324 when the last census was completed 15 years ago. "The census was conducted by six teams traversing the entire gorilla habitat range, searching for fresh signs of gorilla groups," said a joint statement from Rwanda, Uganda and Congo issued by Rwanda's tourism promotion office

on Monday.

"Each gorilla makes a fresh nest to sleep in each night, and these are used to establish the number of gorillas in each group," the statement said. Rwanda is hoping to expand its small tourism industry by attracting more visitors to view the gorillas, brought to worldwide attention by late American primatologist Diane Fossey whose work was featured in the film "Gorillas in the Mist". Conservationists say mountain gorillas are

only found on the borders of Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they are confined to two forest blocks some 28 miles apart.

The census published on Monday covered the habitat shared by the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda, the Volcano National Park in Rwanda and the Virunga National Park in Congo. — MNA/Reuters

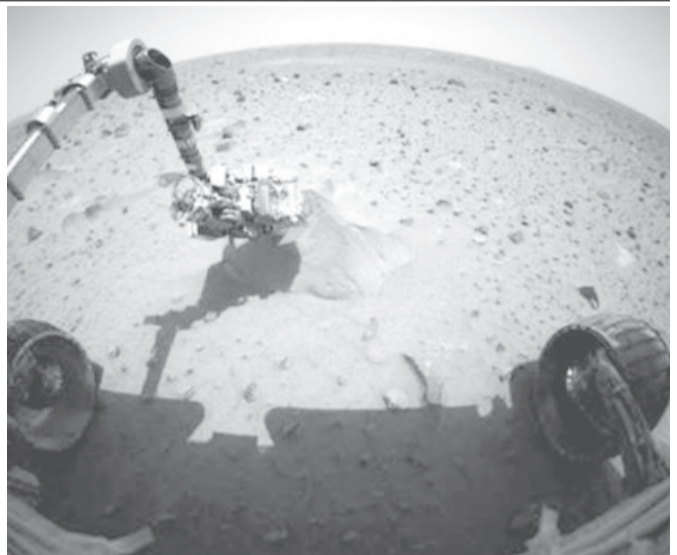
Germany, Kenya sign cooperation agreement

NAIROBI, 21 Jan— Kenya and Germany signed a cooperation agreement Tuesday, marking that the bilateral cooperation of the two countries have been further enhanced.

Under the agreement, amounting 50 million euros for development projects in the east African country for the years 2004 and 2005, the two governments agreed to use 24 million euros for the water sector, 11.5 million euros for a programme for private sector development in agriculture, 11.5 million euros for a programme for the health sector development and 3 million euros for the promotion of good governance.

Visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki were present at the signing ceremony.

MNA/Xinhua



This image, released on 20 Jan, 2004, shows the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit probing its first target rock, Adirondack. At the time this picture was snapped, the rover had begun analyzing the rock with the alpha particle X-ray spectrometer located on its robotic arm. This instrument uses alpha particles and X-rays to determine the elemental composition of martian rocks and soil. Detailed analysis of martian soil samples taken by the Spirit rover has confirmed much that scientists already knew but has posed other puzzles about the geologic history of the red planet, mission scientists said on Tuesday. — INTERNET

Indian farmer finds diamonds in the rough

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan— It is not quite the goose that laid the golden egg, but an Indian diamond merchant's prize cow is producing bejewelled dung.

Dilubhai Rajput had stashed a bag of more than 1,700 small diamonds, worth almost \$900, in a pile of hay at his home in Gujarat State, famous both for its dairy and diamond-cutting industries, but had not reckoned on the risk of a hungry cow, the *Economic Times* newspaper reported on Monday.

Now he is feeding the animal a diet of grass, grain, fruit and laxatives and has so far recovered 300 diamonds in three days.

"I am sure within a week I will retrieve all my diamonds," the paper quoted Rajput as saying. It was unclear why he chose to hide the stones in the hay. — MNA/Reuters

France urges G-8 to put development on top agenda

PARIS, 21 Jan— French President Jacques Chirac on Monday reiterated the necessity that world's most industrialized nations (the Group of 8) put issues concerning Africa and the development on its agenda at their summit in June in the United States.

Chirac stressed that participants should discuss Africa and the challenge posed by the issue of development during the coming G-8 Summit in Sea Island, the United States, according to the President's Office in a news brief.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker prepares a float with a garish face representing a monkey in Hong Kong on 20 Jan, 2004. The float will take part in Chinese New Year parade on Wednesday.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Fulham agree to sell Saha to United

LONDON, 21 Jan— Louis Saha's move to Manchester United moved a step closer on Sunday when Fulham said they had agreed in principle to sell the French striker to the champions.

"Fulham Football Club can confirm that it has reached an agreement in principle with Manchester United for the transfer of the registration of Louis Saha, subject to a number of conditions," the London club said on its web site.

"We expect these conditions to be resolved within the next week and will make a further announcement on completion."

United have not scored in their past two Premier League matches and were beaten 1-0 on Saturday by lowly Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Fulham have been reluctant to part with Saha, who has scored 13 league goals this season, and turned down a bid, reported to be eight million pounds (14.5 million US dollars), from United last month.

That refusal prompted a public falling out between the player and the club, with Saha quoted as saying he was "disgusted" at Fulham's stance.

Fulham manager Chris Coleman even accused United of trying to "bully" him into selling Saha, a 2.1-million-pound signing from Metz three years ago. —MNA/Reuters



Lazio defender Giuseppe Favalli, left, challenges for the ball with Parma Brazilian forward Adriano during their Italian cup soccer match at the Tardini Stadium in Parma, Italy, on 20 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

Ronaldo confident of honouring 35-goal promise

MADRID, 21 Jan— Ronaldo believes he is well on course to honour his pre-season promise to score 35 goals this term after grabbing the equalizer in Real Madrid's 1-1 draw at Real Betis on Saturday.

The goal, complete with his trademark stepover, brought his tally for the season to 20 in all competitions and his total since joining Real Madrid two years ago to 50.

"I hope to reach my promised total of 35 goals," the 27-year-old Brazilian said. "I've now scored 50 goals since joining Real Madrid and that's an important figure, but I now hope to go on and score another 50."

But the former World Player of the Year said that he had not been happy with

his team's performance against a dominant Betis, who took the lead in the first half with a well taken volley from live-wire winger Joaquin.

"We didn't start the first half with the attitude you need to have in such a big game," he said. "We improved after the break, though, and I thought we could have gone home with a victory, but it just wasn't to be."

"We have to make the most of home advantage in the first leg," said the Real Madrid striker. "It will be very tough when we visit Valencia, but there is no favourite to win the tie because we are two very powerful teams."

MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo rescues Real, Deportivo close in

MADRID, 21 Jan— Ronaldo saved Real Madrid from a second successive Primera Liga defeat when he grabbed his 15th goal of the season to earn his side a 1-1 draw away to a dominant Real Betis on Sunday.

The Brazilian striker took full advantage of one of the few occasions when he received the ball in space to shimmy his way past Betis keeper Pedro Contreras and clip in from a tight angle to cancel out Joaquin's first-half volley.

Valencia, who drew 0-0 at Valladolid on Saturday, retain their one-point advantage over Real at the top of the table, but Deportivo Coruna move to within four points of the leaders after their 4-1 win over Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Despite fielding a full-strength line-up, including a recovered David Beckham, Real never looked comfortable against Betis.

The Andalucians, who struggled to find their form in the first half of the season, made an explosive start as they pinned Real back in their own area.

Winger Joaquin created all sorts of problems for the Real defence and had two strong penalty appeals turned down in the opening 20 minutes when he was brought

down by Roberto Carlos and Raul Bravo.

But the Spanish international was rewarded when he cracked in on the volley from eight metres out when Real keeper Iker Casillas had parried a Fernando shot into his path on 33 minutes.

Real managed to create just one clear chance in the first half when Ronaldo jinked past his markers and fired straight at Contreras in the final minute.

But the Brazilian needed just one more chance to level the game.

Racing on to a pin-point through ball from Zinedine Zidane, he left a bemused Contreras rooted to the spot with a dizzying series of stepovers and guided in with his left from a tight angle 15 minutes into the second half.

Betis continued to dominate but were unable to put the finishing touch to some promising attacks and it was Real who nearly stole a late win when midfielder Ivan Helguera had a header cleared off the line two minutes from time. —MNA/Reuters

United confirm Saha transfer from Fulham

LONDON, 21 Jan— Manchester United confirmed on Monday they had agreed in principle to buy Fulham's French striker Louis Saha for an undisclosed fee.

Fulham had announced the deal to sell Saha to the English champions in a statement on their web site on Sunday.

United said the transfer, which comes after Fulham had rejected earlier approaches by the club, was "subject to a number of conditions". "Manchester United expects these conditions to be resolved within the next week and will make a further announcement on completion," United said in a statement to the stock exchange. —MNA/Reuters

Newcastle boost Europe challenge with 3-1 win over Fulham

LONDON, 21 Jan— Newcastle United boosted their chances of a coveted Champions League spot on Monday when they beat Fulham 3-1 at home to leapfrog both the London side and Liverpool in the Premier League standings.

First half goals from defender Andy O'Brien and midfielder Gary Speed plus an extraordinary acrobatic effort from Laurent Robert in the second half earned the victory over a rather aimless Fulham side.

Fulham, missing the sparkle of striker Louis Saha who was lured to Manchester United this week, scored through Sean Davis in the 74th minute.

The result sent Newcastle from seventh place to fifth on 33 points, four points adrift of Charlton who hold the fourth Champions League place behind runaway trio Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea.

Fulham remain on 31 and Liverpool on 32. Fulham were on the back foot from the fourth minute. O'Brien got hold of a loose ball after Alan Shearer's strike had been blocked by a massed Fulham defence and hooked it home from two metres.

Newcastle had the best of the half but did not add to their score until the 41st minute when Speed nodded in at the near post from a corner.

Bobby Robson's side made it three in the 53rd minute after Kieron Dyer and Nolberto Solano combined and sent the ball into the box. Robert turned a somersault and knocked hit home with the heel of his boot.

MNA/Reuters

Reluctant Collina set to retire in 2005

ROME, 21 Jan — Football will bid "arrivederci" to top referee Pierluigi Collina next year when he will be forced to retire under Italian regulations.

"Next June, when I turn 45, I will retire, as the rules oblige me to do," Collina, known for his distinctive bald head and intense gaze, was quoted as saying by news agency ANSA on Monday. "Of course, deciding this on the basis of your identity papers is a bit arbitrary."

"But I will comply. Referees are men of rules," Collina, praised for his handling of the 2002 World Cup final between Brazil and Germany after a tournament plagued by refereeing controversy, is set for his international swansong at Euro 2004. —MNA/Reuters

Penalty posers as Denmark draw 1-1 with US

CARSON (California), 21 Jan— A largely second-string Denmark team hung on for a 1-1 draw with the United States on Sunday in a game marked by two highly disputed penalties.

A first-half penalty for Denmark was cancelled out by second-half spot kick for the Americans but the decisions by Mexican referee Antonio Rodriguez Mendoza left both coaches scratching their heads.

"I would think that probably there wasn't a deserved penalty in this game," US coach Bruce Arena told reporters. Danish counterpart Morten Olsen said he was not sure why they were given.

Denmark was awarded the first in the 27th minute when US captain Eddie Pope was adjudged to have fouled his Danish counterpart Morten Wieghorst following a corner.

Thomas Roll-Larsen comfortably beat US goalkeeper Jonny Walker with the spot kick to put the Danes ahead.

MNA/Reuters



Belgium's Kim Clijsters plays during her first round match against Germany's Marlene Weingartner at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, on 20 Jan, 2004. Clijsters won in straight sets 6-3, 6-2. —INTERNET



Spain's Alex Corretja prepares to make a backhand return to Martin Verkerk of the Netherlands in her first round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, on 20 Jan, 2004. Corretja won in four sets 6-4 1-6 6-3 6-4. —INTERNET

MRTV-3
**22-1-2004 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Mandalay, The Golden City
- 9:10 Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-water Prawn
Soup)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Myanmar Musical Instruments (Brass gong)
(Maung Saing)
- 9:25 Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 9:40 Song "To the new Inscription"
- 9:42 Pa-O Nationals' Traditional Long Drum
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Mokens (Sea Rovers)
Begin To Enjoy Development
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**22-1-2004 (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

- 15:36 Mandalay, The Golden City
- 15:40 Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-water Prawn
Soup)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Myanmar Musical Instruments (Brass gong)
(Maung Saing)
- 15:55 Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 16:10 Song "To the new Inscription"
- 16:12 Pa-O Nationals' Traditional Long Drum
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Mokens (Sea Rovers)
Begin To Enjoy Development
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 How To Make
Chinlone
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Cucumber Salad"
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Kanbawza Thardi Museum
- 16:55 Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Highland Farmland
Reclamation in Kaung
Kha Region
- 17:10 Song "Love Slave"
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Myanmar's Pride & Glory
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
- Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**
- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:35 Bridging The Than-lwin River Bridge
(Mawlamyine)
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Braised
Snakehead fish with
Mango)
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Village of "EN"
- 19:55 Auspicious Glory
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Usefulness of the
Whole Toddy Palm
- 20:10 Song "New Mile
Stone"
- 20:12 The Salome in Myeik
Archipelago
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 ASEAN Food Festival
- 20:25 Song "Myanmar"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Myanma Crocodiles
- 20:40 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Fresh Prawn
Salad)
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 20:55 Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance Hon-
ouring Buddha
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Myanmar Traditional
Art Silversmith
- 21:10 Song on Screen
"Predestination"

- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Special Teak Plantation Programme in Myanmar
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 21:35 Mandalay, The Golden City
- 21:40 Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-water Prawn
Soup)
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Myanmar Musical Instruments (Brass gong)
(Maung Saing)
- 21:55 Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Water Hyacinth Furniture
- 22:10 Song "To the new Inscription"
- 22:12 Pa-O Nationals' Traditional Long Drum
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Mokens (Sea Rovers)
Begin To Enjoy Development
- 22:25 Song "City of Bagan"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 How To Make
Chinlone
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Cucumber Salad"
- 22:45 National News**

- 22:50 Kanbawza Thardi Museum
- 22:55 Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Highland Farmland
Reclamation in Kaung
Kha Region

- 23:10 Song "Love Slave"
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Myanmar's Pride & Glory
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**REST IN PEACE
Mr Juergen D Voss
64 Years**

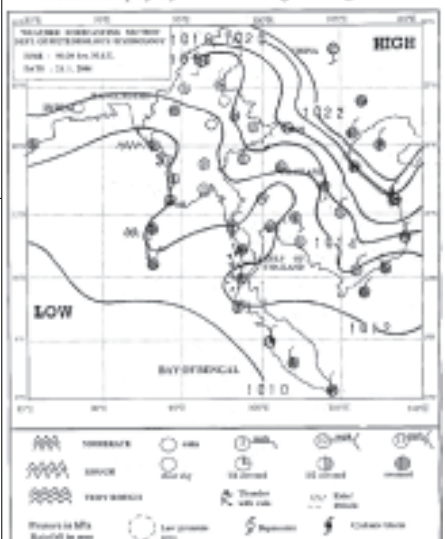
Brother of twin sister Mrs Marlis and husband Mr Walter Menegalli; brother-in-law of Mr Thomas Klein; uncle of Steffano Menegalli, Mrs Sandra Renna and Mr Thomas Klein passed away at 20:00 hrs on 18 January 2004 at Bagan Hotel—Old Bagan, The Union of Myanmar. The funeral service will be held at 9.45 am on 23 January 2004 at St Augustine Church, Inya Road and thence to Yeway Cemetery for cremation.

Bereaved family
CONDOLENCE

With most sad feelings, but keeping in mind, that Juergen wanted us all, and always to be happy only, to and for each other. Listening now to all the small bells which Juergen placed in so many trees in Myanmar and other places in this world.

U Myint Han (Chairman), U Myint Maung, U Tin Nyunt
Bagan Hotel Family (Old Bagan)

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas


WEATHER

Wednesday, 21 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rains have been isolated in Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State, Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan, Kayin States, Mandalay, Yangon Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin State, (7°C) below normal in lower Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was (-1°C) at Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 20-1-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 21-1-2004 was 14.0°C (57°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-1-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 20-1-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 21-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northerly at (10:30) hours MST on 20-1-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 22-1-2004:** 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:** Weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-1-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.



Thursday, January 22

View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw
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
- 8:00 am**
6. အရေးကြီးပုံ
- 8:10 am**
7. အကပဒေသာ
- 8:20 am**
8. ဘိုးဘေးတော်(ပဲခူးတိုင်း)
- 8:30 am**
9. International news

- 8:45 am**
10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for Everyday
Use
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အစေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုများ)
(ခါးတံခွန်)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Cute little dancers
- 5:30 pm**
7. မြန်မာ့ပြန်မာတေး
- 5:45 pm**
8. "အရှုရာသီဆိုတာလက်တစ်ကမ်းမှာ"
နိုးသူ၊ နန်းကလေးတို့၊
ကျွန်းပင်၊ နေထိုင်၊ ကောင်းရာသီခန့်၊
ယင်းစာ
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောဇွန်အောင်)
- 5:55 pm**
9. နိုင်ငံအဝန်းသစ်တော့ခွမ်းဖြင့်

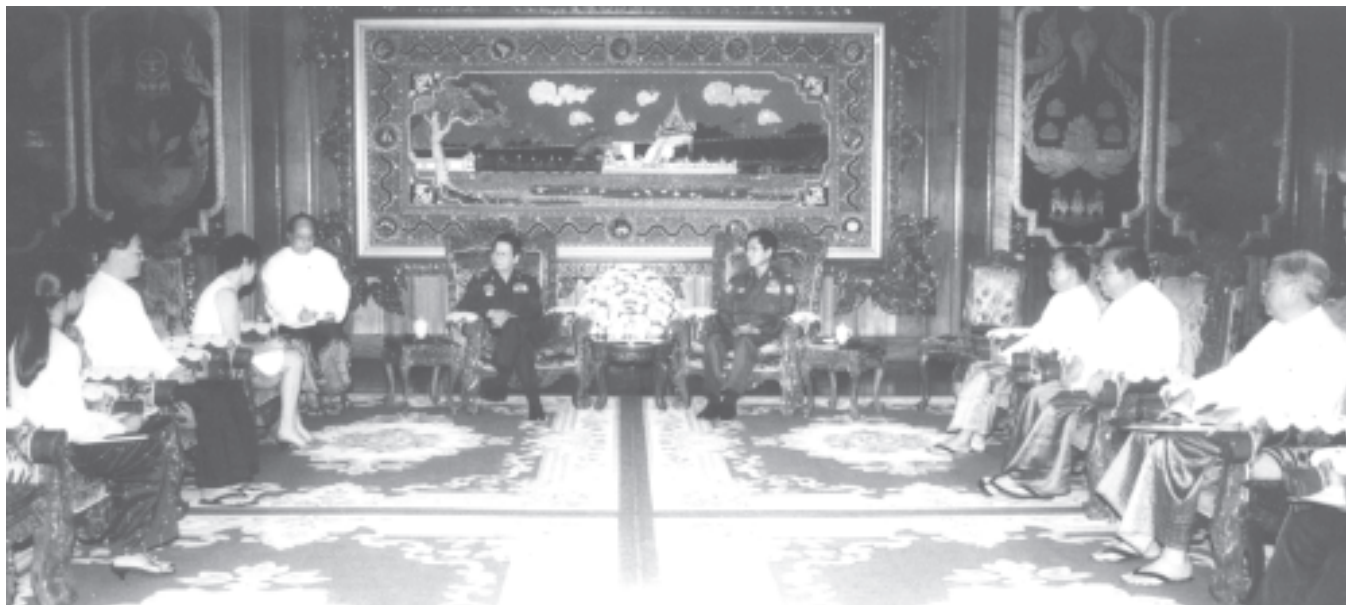
- မိန်းလမ်းစရာပွဲ**
- 6:10 pm**
10. (ဌာ)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်စောင်နေ့
အထိမ်းအမှတ် ပန်းရီ၊ ပန်းပု
မြိုင်ပွဲ ပြန်အကြောင်း
သိကောင်းစရာများ)
- 6:30 pm**
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
13. Milo success in
soccer
- 7:10 pm**
14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတစ်လမ်းတွဲ
"မိုးမြေဆုံစောကွယ်"
(အပိုင်း-၇)
- 7:45 pm**
15. နိုင်ငံ့မြို့ပြအကျိုး
(တရုတ်ပြည်နယ်)(အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. (ဌာ)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့
တိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာပဒေသာကွဲ
(အပိုင်း-၁)
20. The next day's
programme



Thursday, January 22

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
-Love (Kenny
Rogers)
-You light up my
life (Johnny Mathis)
- 9.00 pm** Aspects of Myanmar
-Myanma traditional
football : Cane ball
Article/Music
- 9.10 pm** Topics potpourri
- 9.20 pm** -Who issues alert
against SARS after
Chinese (Taipei) test
positive
- 9.30 pm** Favourite songs
- More than a friend
(MLTR)
-You're still the one
(Shania)
-Can't you feel the
love tonight (Elton
John)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairperson of Support Fund Myanmar of Belgium Ms Yve Callebaut. — MNA

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Contest ends

YANGON, 21 Jan — The closing ceremony of the 13th Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Contest to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at the People's Square on Pyay Road here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Chairman of the Committee for Organizing the military band contest Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Director of Resettlement Maj-Gen Aung Thein, senior military officers, departmental heads, members of the management committee, work committee and subcommittees, panel of judges, officers and other ranks and their families, teachers and students.

The bands marched past Lt-Gen Kyaw Win. They saluted the State Flag and fallen heroes and took the four oaths.

The chairman of the Leading Committee presented the first, second and third prizes to the leader of the bands representing Central Command, No 2 Training Depot and Eastern Command in Class (C); North-East Command,

Eastern Command and Yangon Command in Class (B), and the best band leader award for Class (A) to the leader of the band representing Commander-in-Chief (Navy)'s Office.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented first, second and third prizes to the bands representing Southern Command, No 4 Training Depot and Northern Command in Class (C); Yangon Command, North-East Command and Eastern Command in Class (B); and the best band award to the band representing Commander-in-Chief (Navy)'s Office.

Brig-Gen Hla Shwe presented consolation prizes in Class (C) to bands representing No 101 LID, No 66 LID, Northern Command, Defence Services Technological Academy, No 2 Training Depot, No 1 Band Company of Northern-West Command and South-West Command; consolation prizes in Class (B) to bands representing Coastal Region Command, Northern Command, No 33 LID, Central Command, Defence Serv-

ices Officer Training School, North-West Command and No 11 LID in Class (B) and consolation prize in Class (A) to Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Office.

The bands representing No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township and No 2 BEHS in Sangyoung Township, first prize in Class (C) winner Southern Command band, first prize in Class (B) winner Yangon Command band, best prize in Class (A) winner Commander-in-Chief (Navy)'s Office band and Defence Services Guard of Honour band presented skill demonstration.

Secretary of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the Committee for Organizing the military band contest Deputy Adjutant-General Col Khin Soe presented cash awards to the bands representing Latha Township No 2 BEHS and Sangyoung Township No 2 BEHS and band conductors.

MNA



Visitors at a booth of the MICT Week 2004. — MNA

Prime Minister receives Chairperson of Support Fund Myanmar of Belgium

YANGON, 21 Jan — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Chairperson of the Support Fund Myanmar of Belgium Ms Yve Callebaut at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on

Konmyinthar here at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U

Khin Maung Win and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. Ms Callebaut was accompanied by Chairman of the Woodland Group of Companies U Win Aung. — MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents prize to the leader of a winning band. — MNA

Myanmar ICT Week-2004 opens at MICT Park

YANGON, 21 Jan — The Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Week-2004 was held at MICT Park in Hline University Campus in Hline Town-

ship today. Businessmen, departmental staff, teachers, students and the public visited the Myanmar ICT Week.

At the booth of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, there are value-added services such as CLI, Call Forwarding, Call Waiting and 3-Way Calling. Visitors are allowed to use E-mail, fax, Internet (ISDN internet access) free of charge. Besides, local-made auto-exchanges, card phones, video phones, mobile phones single, 3G phone

system, cordless phone for rural areas, the system that can draw bill instantly with the use of computer for PCO phone, iPStar (i-Theatre) that can provide clear international movies everywhere with the use of satellites.

At Bagan Cybertech booth, ADSL communication system in which Internet, e-mail and telephone can be used quickly by using telephones in Yangon and Mandalay where there are exchanges, iPStar services that

(See page 9)

Shuttle buses to run free of charge to MICT Park

YANGON, 21 Jan — For the convenience of visitors shuttle buses will run free of charge from the junctions of Insein and Parami Roads and Pyay and Parami Roads during the Third Myanmar ICT Week to be held in MICT Park in Hline University Campus up to 27 January. — MNA