

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## National unity key to achieving Myanmar's vision of prosperous democratic nation

Democratic change never easy and cannot be imposed from outside

### PM addresses Seminar on Understanding Myanmar

YANGON, 27 Jan — Seminar on Understanding Myanmar, organized by Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, was opened at MICT Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township here this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

The seminar was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, senior military officers, deputy ministers, ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon, diplomats, UN resident representatives, officials of the SPDC office, departmental heads, Myanmar ambassadors, retired Myanmar ambassadors, Myanmar historians, economists, rectors and professors of universities, chairmen and officials of social organizations, researchers of foreign countries such as Brunei, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy,

Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam, resource persons, departmental officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and special guests.

Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said: I am very pleased and happy to welcome you to the Seminar on Understanding Myanmar organized by Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies. Your present today is doubly gratifying to me. It not only bears witness to the importance you attach to international affairs but also demonstrates your interest in our country, Myanmar.

I am particularly pleased to note that academics and researchers from many countries are present here. Your vast experiences will stand the seminar in good stead. I am confident that you will be able to contribute to the overall objective of promoting better understanding of Myanmar in the international community.

We live in an area of change. Everywhere around the world transformations are taking place due to the rapid progress of science and technology and the aspirations of peoples for economic advancement and better living standards. Myanmar too has been swept forward by the tide of change. As peace and stability has been restored, we are taking steps to transform the country into a peaceful,

prosperous and modern state that would take its rightful place in the world.

On 30th August last year, I announced a roadmap for transition to a disciplined and modern democratic state. The seven-step programme includes reconvening of the national convention to draft a new constitution which would culminate in free and fair elections and election of State leaders and formation of the Government that would lead the nation into a bright future.

Already the National Convention Convening Commission and its subsidiary bodies have commenced work. Once the groundwork is complete, the process will go forward. To ensure the success of the important undertaking, I have received to date thirteen national groups out of 17 that have returned to the legal fold. I plan to meet the remaining groups. In addition, we are holding talks with Karen National Union (KNU), the last major group remaining out of the legal fold. As Myanmar is home to over 100 national races, national unity is key to achieving our vision of a prosperous democratic nation. Our Government has therefore placed the highest priority on achieving national reconsolidation. We have therefore vigorously endeavoured to strengthen ties among all our national races and to promote economic and social development of the regions inhabited by them. To date, the

Government has spent more than 50 billion kyats and 500 million US dollars in improving infrastructure development, raising standard of living and quality of life as well as education and health conditions.

In this connection, I would like to stress that democracy can only be established in an environment of peace and stability. It must take into account the historical background and objective conditions of the country. Democratic change is never easy and cannot be imposed from the outside. What works for one country may not work for another. If the transition to democracy is not built on firm foundations and is not accompanied by steps to establish credible institutions, it will result in disintegration of national unity. Like a toddler taking its first faltering steps, we must proceed step by step before larger strides can be taken.

(See page 8)

#### 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

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23,514



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the opening of the Seminar on Understanding Myanmar. — MNA



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

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 28 January, 2004

### Towards success of the policy programme of the State

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visited Hpa-an, Myainggying region and Kawkaik in Kayin State and Mawlamyine, Ye, Thanbyuzayat and Mudon townships in Mon State on 24 and 25 January and fulfilled the requirements for the development of those regions.

During his trip to those regions, the Prime Minister gave instructions to local authorities and attended to the requirements of their respective regions so that they would be able to take necessary measures for opening primary schools where necessary and upgrading primary schools to middle schools and middle schools to high schools. Moreover, to promote health care services for rural people, steps for opening rural health care centres and upgrading hospitals could be taken during the Prime Minister's tour. Not only that, he fulfilled the needs for good transport and for the success of agricultural and livestock breeding work of the local people.

In his meeting with members of state, district and township peace and development councils, departmental personnel and social organizations, the Prime Minister said that national unity and strong Union Spirit were very important to the Union of Myanmar, home to various national races. The Head of State now and then instructed that all the requirements for the development of national people and their respective regions had to be fulfilled, he added. Therefore, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, responsible personnel of the State often tour states and divisions, districts, townships and even villages.

As is known to all, the seven-point policy programme for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy was made public on 30 August, 2003. Preparatory work is being done to implement the policy programme. Needless to say, successful realization of the policy programme calls for the concerted efforts and cooperation of the national people from all walks of life. It should be borne in mind that community peace, prevalence of law and order, fulfilment of the basic needs of the people and development of human resources are the sine qua non for successfully implementing the policy programme.

We firmly believe that the entire people of the Union will lend themselves to our national task of translating the seven-point policy programme of the State into a reality.

### Ambassador Dr Aung Naing presents Credentials to Cambodian King

YANGON, 28 Jan — Credentials to His Majesty Dr Aung Naing, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia, presented his

Credentials to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia, on 18 January 2004, in Phnom Penh.

MNA



**Myanmar ICT Week (2004)**  
has been extended up to 31 January 2004  
MICT Park Yangon

### Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 27 Jan — The following are the messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State to State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic:**

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in extending, on behalf of the Syrian Arab people and on my own behalf, our sincere congratulations to Your Excellency and to your people.

I also express my best wishes for your good health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the people of the Union of Myanmar. With my highest consideration.  
**From Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait:**

On the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency in the name of the people of Kuwait and on my own behalf most sincere wishes for Your Excellency's personal health and happiness with continued progress and prosperity to your friendly people.

MNA

### UN Secretary-General sends felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 27 Jan — The following is the message of felicitations from United Nations Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan 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.

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you and to the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day. Ours is the first generation with the knowledge technology and resources that can defeat poverty. We have a template for action: the Millennium Declaration. We also

have institutions — such as the United Nations — that are well placed to contribute. So let us not think of our era only as an age of threats, but also as one that offers new and exciting opportunities to achieve the goals for which we have long yearned. But let us, equally, put our mind to the task, and summon the political will and resources needed for this vital endeavour. In that hopeful spirit, I very much look forward to continuing to work closely with the Government and people of Myanmar in our common, global mission of development and peace. Please accept my best wishes on this important national observance. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. — MNA

### Myanmar donates disposable syringes and plywood to Iranian earthquake victims

YANGON, 27 Jan — In view of the friendship and solidarity between Myanmar and Iran, the Government of Myanmar has donated 41,200 pieces of disposable syringes and 10,000 sheets of plywood to Iran for the relief of the victims of the devastating earthquake which hit the ancient city of Bam on 26 December 2003 causing heavy loss of life and property. — MNA

### Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 28 Jan — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Bogdan Goralczyk as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Jerzy Surdykowski.

Born in 1954, Mr Bogdan Goralczyk obtained Master of Arts in Political Science, Master of Arts in Sinology and Doctor of Political Science from the Warsaw University. He joined the Polish Academy of Science as a trainee in 1983 and became Associate Professor at the Polish Institute of International Affairs from 1984 to 1991. From 1987 to 1991, he was a columnist in "Polityka" weekly magazine. From 1991 to 1998, he served as Counsellor at the Embassy of Poland in Budapest, Hungary. In 1998, he was appointed as Researcher and Lecturer at the European Center of the Warsaw University then he became the columnist of the "New Economic Life" weekly magazine and "Union and Poland" magazine in 2000. Since 2001, he has been serving as Chief of the Political Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. Mr Bogdan Goralczyk is concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok. He is married with one daughter. — MNA

### Fire destroys some shops at Kyaikhtyoe Hill

YANGON, 27 Jan — A fire broke out at the shops located between the Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda platform and Mokhsae Taung Mountain at about 2 am today.

Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda is situated in Kyaikto Township, Mon State. The cause of fire was due to negligence of some shopkeepers at the place. Fire brigades of Kyaikto Township and Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda Board of Trustees and auxiliary fire brigades were able to put the fire under control at 4.45 am. The fire totally died down at 6 am. The fire claimed some lives and injuries. Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials arrived at the pagoda in the afternoon, and are carrying out relief work. — MNA

### Bakari Idd on 2 February

YANGON, 27 Jan — With Notification No 4/2004, the Government of the Union of Myanmar today announced that 2 February 2004, Monday, is a public holiday as it is Bakari Idd Day, under section 25 of Negotiable Instruments Act. — MNA

### 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

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

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

### Golf Tournament opens



YANGON, 27 Jan — Gold Uni Golf Classic golf tournament, organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, was opened at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon here this morning. Among the spectators were President of Myanmar PGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing and executives, guests and fans.

Maj-Gen Win Hlaing, Executive Director Mr Pitax Chairpratt of Gold Uni Co, Managing Director of Xie Family Co U Tin Maung and YGC executive U Maung Maung Myint opened the tournament teeing off the ball. Then the first day 18-hole round of the tournament was held. See



Mr Pitax Chairpratt tees off the ball. — MGF

Win Htet today led the tournament with 70 strokes followed by Nanda Kyaw with 71, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) with 72, and Win Htwe Hlaing (Srixon), Thant Zin (Mandalay), Aung Win (YCDC) Htein Win (KM Golf Centre, Kyaw Swa Lin (Ping) and Min Naing (Srixon) with 73 each. Gold Uni Jewellery Co, Xie Family and Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water sponsored the tournament. The second day 18-hole round will be held on 28 January. — MNA



# Suicides among US soldiers in Iraq on rise

LONDON, 27 Jan—In a rate considered abnormally high, the overall suicide rate among U.S. soldiers in occupied Iraq is running at an average of 13.5 per 100,000 troops, while one in every five soldiers will suffer from chronic distress in the future, US military psychiatrists said.

The real rate might never be known as the US Defence Department imposes a news blackout on suicides in the chaos-mired country and refuses to say which of its "non-combat" fatalities have been self-inflicted, *The Guardian* reported on Sunday, 25 January.

In terms of figures, at least 22 soldiers have killed themselves so far in Iraq, which accounts for about 7 percent of all service deaths in Iraq, said the British daily.

One of the suicide cases was Army Specialist Joseph Suell, who wrote a last letter home to his mother before he killed himself by an overdose of a painkiller last June.

In the letter, Suell complained how he missed his wife and daughters during a year-long posting to South Korea, Kuwait and finally to Iraq.

The *Guardian* said that just two suicides were reported among US personnel during the entire Gulf war in the 1990s.

Psychiatrists noted that the majority of the so-called "psychiatric evacuations" have taken place after 1 May, when US President George W Bush declared "major combat" effectively over.

Colonel Theodore Nam, chief of in-patient psychiatry services at the Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington, said no psychiatric cases at all were evacuated during the major combat, expecting high levels of psychiatric casualties.

Last month, reports confirmed that more than 600 US servicemen and women had been evacuated from Iraq for psychological problems.

## Chronic stress

The chairman of psychiatric services at the Naval Medical Centre in San Diego, Captain Jennifer Berg, said the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is expected to afflict 20 percent of the servicemen and women in Iraq.

"There is a feeling among troops there that they have fallen off the public screen. And the longer people are there, the more we are seeing people come forward with stress reactions," she stressed.

Berg said US soldiers are now suffering from "chronic stress" due to "a combination of danger, boredom and sleep deprivation, and the knowledge that they are a long way from home".—*Internet*

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## US troops face Iraq abuse charges

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan—Four US marine reservists were due in a military court on Monday to face charges of abusing Iraqi prisoners.

The incidents are alleged to have happened last year at a detention facility in southern Iraq.

Two of them face charges of negligent homicide, arising from the death of a Baath Party official.

Lance Corporal Christian Hernandez and the camp's commander, Major Clark Paulus, are also accused of cruelty, assault and dereliction of duty.

Fifty-two-year-old Baath Party official Nagem Sadoon Hatab died in June in Camp Whitehorse, a makeshift

prison set up to receive Iraqis captured during raids.

Lance Corporal Hernandez is alleged to have grabbed him by the neck and accidentally snapped a bone in his throat, according to the Marine Corps.

Prosecutors are expected to begin presenting evidence in a California court against Lance Corporal Hernandez, Major Paulus and two others.

The proceedings are part of an Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a grand jury. The hearing will help commanders determine whether the four will go on to be court-martialed.

It comes days after the US military launched an investigation into alleged cases of abuse of prisoners at detention centres. Three soldiers were discharged from the US army for mistreating Iraqi prisoners of war at the Camp Bucca detention camp in southern Iraq last May. — *Internet*



US Army troops are surrounded by a flock of sheep while keeping watch over a rural area on the outskirts of the northern Iraq city of Mosul on 26 January, 2004.

INTERNET

## Indiana State's Iraq death toll hits 20

EDINBURGH, 27 Jan—An Edinburgh High School graduate killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq was remembered.

Chief Warrant Officer Brian D Hazelgrove, 29, died Friday when an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed while returning from a combat mission near Mosul in northern Iraq. He is the 20th Indiana soldier or Marine to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Hazelgrove -- a pilot with the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry Regiment from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY -- lived in Edinburgh and graduated from high school there before joining the Army in 1994.

In Iraq since November, Hazelgrove worked in military intelligence before becoming a helicopter pilot and served two tours of duty in South Korea.

"The guy was amazing," said Hazelgrove's half-brother, Brad Lemon, 40, Edinburgh.

"He thrived in the military and was making it a career." Lemon recalled Hazelgrove, who was 11 years his junior, as "an ornery little cuss" as a kid, but said he grew into a man "who was just a joy" to his family and friends.

He leaves behind a wife, Kimmi, and four children, Taylor, 11, Zachary, 10, Brandon, 3, and Katelyn, 7 months.

Internet

## India's Customs duties on industrial goods reduced to 10-15%

NEW DELHI, 27 Jan—The federal government has cut Customs duties on a number of raw material goods used in Information Technology, Telecom, Automobiles and manufacturing sectors to 10-15 per cent.

According to a notification issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), the Customs duties on various categories of steel items have been brought down to 15 per cent. According to the notification, duties have been cut on a whole range of products to either 15 per cent or 10 per cent.

Official sources said the duty cut is part of the commitment under the framework Free Trade Area Agreement with Thailand.

Goods on which the slash is to 10 per cent include "spring steel quality" and "free cutting steel" used in fuel injection parts; "valve steel alloy steel bars" and "alloy steel of various grades" used to manufacture engine valves and "Bisphenol A" used in all the goods. Customs duty on Silico-manganese steel used in fuel injection parts has also been cut to 10 per cent.

MNA/PTI

## Mekong becomes crucial trade channel for neighbouring Asian countries

KUNMING, 27 Jan—The Mekong River, linking China and five neighbouring Asian nations, has turned out to be an important transport channel as the booming international shipping resulted in a cargo volume of 235,000 tons in 2003.

The figure was 168,600 tons in 2001, when shipping between China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand started.

The implementation of China-Thailand zero tax agreement on vegetables and fruits, beginning 1 October last year, was the major contributor to the rapid growth in shipping on the river, with shipment rising sharply by 58 per cent from the previous year, according to sources from the Navigation Administration of Yunnan, southwest China.

Statistics show the Mekong has become a significant trade passageway for nations in that area, said Qiao Xinmin, director of the administration. Yunnan has more than 80 cargo ships

sailing on the river and plans to use first-class passenger ships to tap the potential tourism industry. Originating in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in western China, the Mekong is called Lancang in the Chinese territory and runs through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before entering the South China Sea. It is the only river in Asia that flows through six nations.

The Chinese Government regards the river as an important trade link with neighbouring countries and started to dredge the 260-kilometre section of river in Yunnan in the 1990s, said Yang Guangcheng, director of the provincial transport department.—*MNA/Xinhua*

## Korean crew member killed in accident at Kakinada Port

HYDERABAD, 27 Jan — A crew member of a Korean ship Hyang Robong was killed in an accident at Kakinada Port in East Godavari District of southern Indian state Andhra Pradesh.

Jo Jong Nam, one of 39 crew on board, was injured critically and died when a derrick used in loading materials at the port fell on him, Kakinada Port police sub-inspector S Ramababu told *PTI* over phone.

The ship, on its journey to Vietnam from Colombo, arrived at Kakinada Port on January 22 and was scheduled to leave port on January 26, Ramababu said. — *MNA/PTI*



A Kiowa Warrior helicopter on patrol in Iraq. Hopes were fading of recovering alive three US soldiers lost when a boat capsized and a helicopter crashed in northern Iraq.—*INTERNET*

## Seven Iraqi police killed in attacks; search continues for Americans missing in Mosul

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan— Guerillas fired a rocket at the headquarters of the US-led coalition Monday night after gunmen killed seven Iraqi policemen in a pair of attacks west of Baghdad. A senior Iraqi official blamed al-Qaida for many of the suicide bombings around the country in recent weeks.

In the north, military divers searched the muddy waters of the Tigris River for three missing US soldiers, including two pilots of an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter that crashed Sunday in Mosul during rescue operations after a patrol boat capsized. It was the fifth US helicopter lost in Iraq this month three from hostile fire.

Strong explosions reverberated through the heart of this troubled capital about 10:35 pm, followed by sirens and a recorded message warning those in the coalition headquarters compound known as the green zone to "take cover."

A coalition official said at least one rocket, apparently fired from across the Tigris, exploded in a parking lot near the Republican Palace, used by America's top civilian administrator in Iraq, L Paul Bremer, and senior coalition staff, but it caused no damage or casualties.

The attack occurred three days after a UN security assessment team arrived in Baghdad to determine whether it is safe for the United Nations to return its international staff to Iraq.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan withdrew international staff last year following two vehicle bombings against the UN headquarters here, including the Aug 19 attack that killed 22 people, among them the top UN envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The attack on the green zone took place a day after the seven policemen were slain in two separate attacks at checkpoints around the city of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle, a centre of resistance to the US-run occupation. Iraqi police who reported the attacks made no mention of any insurgent casualties. —Internet

### Rocket lands in US Iraq compound

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan—A rocket landed Monday night near coalition headquarters in the US-controlled area of Baghdad known as the "green zone" but caused no injuries or damage, the US military said.

The rocket fell in an open parking lot near the Republican Palace used by top US officials in Iraq, a coalition official said on condition of anonymity. The US command said there were no casualties or damage to equipment.

That explosion was preceded by the sounds of two smaller blasts, but their origin was unclear.

After the blasts, sirens went off in the green zone and a recorded message broadcast over loud speakers urged people to "take cover." The rocket exploded near the helicopter landing zone for the palace used by America's top civilian official in Iraq, L Paul Bremer, and senior coalition staff, the official said.

The attack occurred three days after a UN security assessment team arrived in Baghdad to determine whether it is safe for the United Nations to return its international staff to Iraq. —Internet



Fires flare off the gas from crude oil at Iraq's oldest oil processing plant in the northern Iraqi town of Baba Gurgur, outside of Kirkuk, on 24 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

### Chinese Premier visits centenarian economists

BEIJING, 27 Jan— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited two hospitalized centenarian economists, Xue Muqiao and Chen Hansheng, respectively in Beijing Sunday.

At the Beijing Hospital, Wen extended greetings for the Chinese Lunar New Year to 100-year-old Xue Muqiao and his family. The Premier spoke highly of Xue's contribution in boosting China's economic reform and development, and the far-reaching effect of his academic thoughts on China's economic research and policy-making.

Wen later visited Chen Hansheng, 108, at the Beijing Union Medical College Hospital. The Premier praised Chen as a pioneer in China's economic research and a devoted educationist with creative thinking.

MNA/Xinhua

### Mysterious disease kills 12 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 27 Jan— A mysterious disease has killed at least 12 people in Bangladesh and made many more sick and health experts said on Sunday they were sending samples to the United States for analysis.

Health authorities declined to comment on whether the sickness could be the bird flu that has broken out in several other parts of Asia, but a livestock official said there had been no reports of sick chickens.

"It is too early to comment on whether it is bird flu while the matter is still under investigation," said Abdul Faiz, a professor of medicine at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The disease has affected people in villages in Faridpur District, 94 miles north of the capital, Dhaka.

Patients, most of them young boys, suffer from high fever, headache and vomiting before becoming unconscious. Some also suffered from diarrhoea, doctors said.

Three out of five patients admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with the symptoms had died in the past three days, doctors said.

Health officials and newspapers said nine others had died of the disease since January 17, most of them in Faridpur District.

"We are worried by the sudden spread of the mysterious disease and so far have not been able to identify it," said another Dhaka Medical College Hospital doctor who declined to be identified.

The government was taking steps to track the disease down, said Health Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain.

MNA/Reuters

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### US troops face language barrier in Iraq

TIKRIT, 27 Jan—US troops warned Iraqi guards they should leave the area because it was "risky." The Iraqis thought the soldiers threatened them unless they brought "whiskey."

Nine months after the collapse of Saddam Hussein regime, the language barrier remains a major hurdle in day-to-day contact between American soldiers and the Iraqis they are supposed to be helping.

US military planners have started training several hundred Marines destined for deployment in Iraq in Arabic language and local customs. For the most part, however, American forces must rely heavily on civilian interpreters and the relatively few Arabic-speaking soldiers to talk with Iraqis to calm potentially volatile situations, or to communicate with community leaders who want to know how coalition forces are going to provide jobs or fix bridges and roads.

Most US military operations, in particular daily foot patrols in Iraqi neighbourhoods conducted by American soldiers, are conducted without fluent Arabic language speakers. In the Tikrit-based 4th Infantry Division's area of operations in north-central Iraq, the Army has up to 20 Arabic speaking soldiers. It also employs some local translators and uses those contracted by an American company that has attracted Arabs from other countries to work in Iraq during the US-led occupation.

Lebanon-born Sgt. Hussein Ibrahim says that having Arabic-trained soldiers working closely with Iraqis is crucial because many people remain skeptical about the occupation. "When the soldiers are without translators, it is obviously harder for them and it makes problems with the Iraqis more prone to happen," he said. "These people are scared to hell when soldiers come into their homes because of the unknown and all the rumours that circulate about American soldiers in these towns."

Without a common language, confusion abounds. In one incident, a soldier fired warning shots at several Iraqis near an off-limits area in Tikrit. Some Iraqi guards nearby heard the shots and approached the soldier to see what was happening. —Internet

### "Newsweek" national poll puts Kerry over Bush

NEW YORK, 27 Jan—A new national poll by Newsweek magazine showed on Sunday the surging Democratic Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts topping US President George W Bush in an election matchup.

The poll, conducted January 22-23, showed Kerry commanding 30 per cent of support from registered Democrats, up from 11 per cent two weeks ago. And for first time in the poll's history a Democrat enjoyed a marginal advantage over Bush, with Kerry garnering a three-point lead over the President, Newsweek said. Forty-nine per cent of registered voters chose Kerry, compared to 46 per cent favouring Bush.

Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, the Democratic front-runner until his dismal third-place showing in last week's Iowa caucuses, saw his support among registered and likely Democratic voters cut in half, to 12 per cent. Bush saw his approval rating drop among registered voters to 50 per cent versus 44 per cent who disapprove, despite his having delivered a State of the Union address last Tuesday. —MNA/Reuters



Malaysians shop at a fresh market in Kota Bharu in the northeastern state of Kelantan, 300 miles north of Kuala Lumpur. Kelantan and Terengganu are the two of Malaysia's 13 states. File photo taken on 24 November, 2003. — INTERNET



## Syria scoffs at US claim it has Iraqi weapons

DAMASCUS, 27 Jan— Syria brushed aside on Sunday US accusations that it has Iraqi weapons of mass destruction as a cover story for what it called US failure in Iraq.

"This (allegation) is meant to mislead (the public opinion). So long as there were no weapons of mass destruction (found) in Iraq itself how can they be in Syria?" Information Minister Ahmad al-Hassan told reporters.

US Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts said on Wednesday there was some concern Iraqi weapons of mass destruction had gone to Syria.

David Kay, the leader of the US team in charge of

the search for banned weapons in Iraq who resigned on Friday, told Britain's *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper that he had uncovered evidence that unspecified materials had been moved to Syria shortly before the war to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

"We are not talking about a large stockpile of weapons," he told the newspaper.

"But we know from some of the interrogations of former Iraqi officials that a lot of material went to Syria before

the war, including some components of Saddam's WMD programme. Precisely what went to Syria, and what has happened to it, is a major issue that needs to be resolved," Kay said.

Syria, which vehemently opposed the US-led war in neighbouring Iraq, has repeatedly denied US charges it has its own weapons of mass destruction programmes.

"They are seeking to cover their failure," Hassan said after a meeting with a delegation of Iraqi journalists and artists in

Damascus.

However, Kay said when he resigned on Friday he had concluded there were no Iraqi stockpiles to be found.

Hassan urged a swift end for the occupation of Iraq and a role for the United Nations to allow fellow Arab Iraqis to elect a national government.

He urged Iraqis to safeguard their country's unity and said all Arab nations oppose the division of the occupied Arab state.

MNA/Reuters

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## Medical source warns of epidemic spread in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan— A medical source warned of a serious increase of typhoid fever infections and deaths resulting from liver disease cirrhosis, said local newspaper *Al Nahdha* Sunday.

Nima Saed, general manager of health monitoring circle, was quoted as saying that more than 183 cases of typhoid infection were reported near Jissr Diyala southeast of Baghdad, and 100 more in a village in Majar District of Missan Governorate, 365 kilometres south of Baghdad.

The reason behind the spread of the disease in those areas is the drinking water there, spread of wastes and swamps and the lack of awareness among the citizens, Nima said.

Meanwhile, a source in the health preventive division told the newspaper that more than 70 deaths resulting from cirrhosis infection had also been reported.

He called on officials to find quick and proper solutions for the sewage problem and the increase of stagnant water pools, and asked people to pay more attention to cleanliness and food type. — MNA/Xinhua

## Iran shows off new home-grown "Rad" naval missile

TEHERAN, 27 Jan— Iran, under international pressure to prove its nuclear programme is for peaceful means, unveiled a new type of naval missile on Sunday, designed to be fired from ships or coastal batteries, state television reported.

Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani, shown looking at the light blue rockets, played down any suggestion that Iran was engaging in military gamesmanship.

"It contravenes Iran's defence policy to start a war, but we must boost our ability to defend the country's territorial integrity and independence," he said.

Shamkhani told the students *ISNA* news agency that the new *Rad* missile's range would be three times longer than that of its predecessor, the *Nur* missile which he said could fly 75 miles. *Rad* is Persian for thunder.

Iran's burgeoning missile programme has rung alarm bells in Washington which suspects Iran of seeking to build an atom bomb under cover of its domestic nuclear programme, a charge Teheran denies.

Most fears about Iran's missile programme have focussed on the *Shahab-3* that analysts say can hit Israel and US bases in the Gulf. Iran said last month it had upgraded the medium-range missile.

"Despite attempts by some countries to prevent us from developing new defence technology, Iran has taken important steps towards self-sufficiency in producing different missiles," Shamkhani told television reporters.

A radar guidance system for homing the old *Nur* rockets into their targets was also unveiled by Shamkhani at the ceremony.

MNA/Reuters

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he may decide as early as Monday on sending a mission to help a US handover of power to Iraqis, while US forces search for three missing military personnel. Annan is pictured speaking during the World Economic Forum in Davos on Friday.—INTERNET



## Hu, Chirac agree to enhance Sino-French cooperation

PARIS, 27 Jan— Chinese President Hu Jintao and French President Jacques Chirac on Monday discussed bilateral relations and major international issues of common concern and reached broad consensus.

In their first meeting after Hu's arrival in Paris, the two presidents spoke highly of 40 years of relations between China and France since the two countries established full diplomatic ties.

Hu said the relationship between China and France, which has been enriched and broadened constantly thanks to efforts by both sides, has developed rapidly and with marked achievements, especially after President Jiang Zemin and President Chirac declared the establishment of a comprehensive partnership between the two countries in 1997.

Chirac said the two countries have made tremendous progress in their relations in the past four decades.

France is willing to continue to improve, consolidate and advance French-Chinese cooperation, Chirac added.

The two presidents also exchanged views on strengthening bilateral economic and trade cooperation. Chirac said Paris is willing to work with China in such areas as nuclear energy, aviation and railway transport, and stands ready to transfer key technologies to China to advance localized production so as to achieve new leaps forward in economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Hu, speaking positively of the results already achieved in such cooperation, said China is willing to work with France to consolidate the good momentum and further broaden the areas of bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

On the current international situation, Hu said there still exist unknown elements in Iraq and other Middle East hot spots and non-traditional security problems, terrorism being one of them, are increasingly threatening peace and security of mankind. "We believe it necessary to engage in dialogue and cooperation and bring into play the UN's role in solving global problems and meeting the challenges and difficulties mankind faces," the Chinese President said.— MNA/Xinhua

## China's catering industry sees high growth

BEIJING, 27 Jan— The Chinese people spent more than 600 billion yuan (73 billion US dollars) dining out in 2003, an 11.5-per-cent increase over 2002, despite the severe impact of the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak.

The annual turnover of China's restaurants has maintained a double-digit growth for 13 consecutive years, sources with the catering industry said, predicting a still higher turnover of more than 700 billion yuan (85 billion US dollars), or a 15-per-cent growth, for 2004.

Analysts say that the success of the country's catering industry could mainly be attributed to their restructuring efforts and innovative steps.

Statistics show that among China's top 100 restaurant groups, 79 have adopted franchising management and opened chain stores. One of the most successful examples was the Beijing-based Quanjude Group, which specializes in making the world famous Beijing Roast Duck.

In the top 100 restaurant groups, 43 are engaged in fast food, while 42 others try to woo customers with special regional or ethnic cuisine. — MNA/Xinhua



A fisherman crosses the ice of a water channel near the Danube's Chilia arm. At least seven people have died in blizzards which have raged for almost a week in northeastern Romania, according to a toll compiled by AFP.—INTERNET

## Iraq north pipeline to stay closed for months

**BAGHDAD, 27 Jan** — Iraq's northern oil export line to Turkey, vital to Baghdad to maximize revenues and rebuild the country, will take months to restart as repairs are carried out and security is tightened, the US Army said on Monday.

"It will take months before the Iraq-Turkey pipeline can start working again because several factors have to be coordinated such as repairs and security," said Richard Dowling, a spokesman for the Restore Iraqi Oil directorate of the US Army Corps of Engineers, which works with the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

"You can't just have partial security to the pipeline and you can't just have partial repairs," he said.

Iraqi officials had hoped security along the pipeline would improve enough to allow shipments from the giant Kirkuk oilfields to restart this spring. But sabotage has

not abated. The pipeline opened for a few days last year but was closed by another sabotage attack.

Oil industry officials said on Sunday that there had been 40 attacks on the pipeline in the last three to four months, steady with previous levels of sabotage that has hit the oil industry since the US-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in April.

Since the war ended in April, Iraq has been restricted to crude exports from its southern oilfields as saboteurs repeatedly sent segments of the northern field up in flames by planting crude bombs underneath it.

MNA/Reuters

## Arab League Chief welcomes Chinese President's upcoming visit

**CAIRO, 27 Jan** — Arab League (AL) chief Amr Moussa on Monday welcomed Chinese President Hu Jintao's upcoming visit to the 22-member pan-Arab forum, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported.

Moussa lauded China's role in the international arena, while highlighting its good relations with the Arab world, the report said.

President Hu is due to arrive here on 29 January for a four-day state visit to Egypt, the second leg of his four-nation tour which is taking him to France and will later take him to Gabon and Algeria.

During his stay here, Hu will meet Moussa over issues of mutual concern at the AL headquarters located in downtown Cairo. According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, a Sino-Arab cooperation forum is likely to be set up during Hu's visit to the Arab League.

"The two sides will probably announce the establishment of the forum after a consensus on the founding declaration is reached," Zhai Jun, director of the ministry's Department of West Asian and North African Affairs, said earlier.

MNA/Xinhua

## Minister says Iraq not secure enough for elections

**BAGHDAD, 27 Jan** — Iraq's Interim Interior Minister said on Monday the country was not secure enough to hold early direct elections.

"We ask for this matter to be postponed, even if it is for a short time, until all the political and security preparations can ensure that elections can run in a free and stable manner," Nouri Badran told a news conference.

Iraq's postwar political arena has heated up since the top Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, called for direct elections, challenging an American plan for transferring power by July. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is currently deciding whether to send a mission to Iraq to decide on the feasibility of holding early elections.

The country's volatile sects are vying for power against the background of a bloody insurgency against US troops and their allies.

US-trained Iraqi police have been frequently targeted by suicide bombings, raising questions over how they will take over security when they are struggling to protect themselves.

Badran, who made no further comments about the elections, said 300 Iraqi families of Iraqi policemen had "lost their fathers" in the violence, listed the challenges facing the Interior Ministry — armed gangs, terror groups and drug dealers.

He also blamed poor border patrolling following the fall of Saddam Hussein in April and a decision by the US-led administration to disband the Iraqi Army for security problems gripping Iraq.

"We lost a lot of experienced people," he said.

Badran said Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda movement had left its fingerprints in Iraq, especially on massive suicide bombings.

Washington believes elections would be difficult to organize before July because of a lack of electoral registers and laws.

Its plan envisages regional caucuses selecting an assembly to choose a transitional government.

MNA/Reuters

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## Blasts in Baghdad, sirens wail at coalition HQs

**BAGHDAD, 27 Jan** — Loud explosions echoed across central Baghdad on Monday evening, followed by warning sirens from the "green zone" where the US-led coalition in Iraq is based, witnesses said.

"Take cover, take cover," said a warning message played over the "green zone" loudspeakers after the blasts.

The compound on the west bank of the Tigris River has come under rocket and mortar attack several times in recent months.

A US military spokeswoman had no immediate comment on the blasts.

Just over a week ago a suicide bomber detonated half a ton of explosives outside the US seat of power in Iraq, killing at least 20 people in the deadliest attack

since the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Two United Nations security experts are in Iraq assessing whether the country is safe enough for UN staff to return to assist in transferring sovereignty back to Iraqis. — MNA/Reuters



Loud explosions echoed across central Baghdad on Monday evening, followed by warning sirens from the "green zone" where the US-led coalition in Iraq is based, witnesses said. — INTERNET

## Cambodia, Malaysia agree to strengthen bilateral relations

**PHNOM PENH, 27 Jan** — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen Monday afternoon met with visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and the two leaders held talks on cooperation between the two countries in a number of fields.

The two prime ministers discussed, among other issues, Malaysia's financial assistance to Cambodia, including the construction of part of a railway in northwestern Banteay Meanchey Province.

Badawi expressed his admiration for Cambodia's achievements in the past years in economic development, social stability and democratic process.

During the meeting, Badawi said the Malaysian Government will continue encouraging Malaysian businessmen to invest in Cambodia to further enhance trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the crackdown on human trafficking.

Hun Sen said he hopes Malaysia to

open air links between Kuala Lumpur and Cambodia's Siem Reap Province and support Cambodia's non-permanent membership of the Security Council of the United Nations.

Badawi arrived here Monday afternoon for a one-day visit. He was welcomed by Hun Sen at the Phnom Penh International Airport. This is Badawi's first official visit to Phnom Penh since he succeeded Mahathir Mohamad in October last year.

Badawi also met with Malaysia's business community in Cambodia.

Malaysia is one of Cambodia's major investors. Its bilateral trade with Cambodia totalled 74.3 million US dollars in 2002. So far, there are more than 40 Malaysian companies in Cambodia with a total registered capital of more than 1.79 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore's Deputy Premier meets Indonesian President

**JAKARTA, 27 Jan** — Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met with Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri here Monday to discuss bilateral issues, but the bird flu outbreak was not among the agenda.

"The bird flu doesn't represent Singapore-Indonesia bilateral issue. It is a regional issue that will be discussed with several other countries because it affects several countries of the ASEAN," Lee said after meeting Megawati, referring to the ten-member Association of South-East Asian Nations. He said a regional meeting concerning the issue will be held in Bangkok in the near future.

Commenting on his conversation with Megawati, Lee said the President briefed him about the Indonesia's general election this year. He said Singapore wishes the elections go well to allow a strong government to emerge in the neighbour. Lee, the heir apparent to Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, also said Singapore would respond to Indonesia's call for transparency in bilateral trade statistics. Indonesian Trade Minister Rini Soewandi and Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda have earlier criticized Singapore for refusing to reveal its data on bilateral trade with Indonesia.

But Singapore has recently revealed its trade balance with Indonesia for 2003, admitting that its neighbour was among its top 10 trading partners. — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi woman prepares a fish dinner for her family outside a home where they are squatting in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday 26 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET





Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe speaks at the meeting. — MNA

## Management Committee for Observance of 57th Anniversary Union Day 2004 meets

YANGON, 26 Jan — The Management Committee for Observance of 57th Anniversary Union Day 2004 held its second meeting at Upasa Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Chairman of the Management Committee, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe spoke on the occasion. In his speech, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said the coordination meeting of the Observance

of 57th Anniversary Union Day 2004 was held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the State. Among Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty — national solidarity is of vital importance for non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty. As long as the national solidarity exists, the Union will be safe and the sovereignty secured.

This being so, the Union Day that reflects national unity

is one of the significant days for the State. Later, the commander called upon the members of the management committee and those present at the meeting to lend themselves to the drive for the successful and grand holding of the ceremony. Next, chairmen and officials of respective subcommittees reported progress of the tasks being implemented by their subcommittees. In response to the reports, the commander gave instructions and attended to the requirements. The meeting ended in the evening. MNA

## Bird flu prevention: a priority task

Interviewer: Htay Kyi. Photos by Htay Aung (Kyemon)

There are news reports about the avian flu that is spreading from one country to another in Asia and the Pacific region, infecting chicken at the farms and then contact the human beings living close to the chicken, and claiming human lives. Kyemon interviewed Director Dr Than Tun of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

**Q:** We would like to know the impact of the avian flu in the Asia and the Pacific Region and the measures being taken in the countries where the infection of the disease has been found.

**Ans:** The infection of the flu was found in the second week of December previous year in the Republic of Korea, where over 130,000 chicken were slaughtered. Over 35,000 chicken were culled in a prefecture in Japan for the outbreak of flu in January this year. The flu also breaks out in Vietnam, where six persons have died of infection. Thailand confirmed the outbreak of the flu in the country on 23 January. The disease or diseases that have not been confirmed as the flu yet are occurring in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Thailand has already destroyed about seven million chicken; ROK, about two million; Vietnam, 2.5 million; and Japan, 35,000. About 12 million chicken have been killed recently. Because of the epidemic, Japan and EU countries have stopped importing Thai chicken. Thailand lost US \$ 1.2 billion in export earnings.

**Q:** What is our country's response to the breakout of the disease in the region?

**Ans:** As soon as we had heard the news of the flu in Vietnam, we closed all our border entry points of the nation. We have distributed

pamphlets on the flu to all the staff of the LBVD.

**Q:** What's your action to inform and organize the farm entrepreneurs?

**Ans:** Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Federation instructed all executives to halt all chicken egg and



Director of the LBVD  
Dr Than Tun.

chick import. All the MLFF members have been informed about the disease and given instructions. Our nation also has the Myanmar Chicken Breeding Federation. We have already instructed all the members to stop export and import of eggs and chicks as the flu is a deadly disease which can contact human beings and will cause economic losses.

**Q:** Any cooperation between the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and other ministries?

**Ans:** Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt has already instructed the Ministry of L&F and the Health Ministry to make cooperative efforts in taking preventive measures against the disease and to keep human beings safe from it.

The two ministries have been jointly launching operations since 24 January.

There are three steps in launching the operations. The first step is to close all border gates with Thailand to stop all chicken import. The second step — There are about 2.3 million chicken at the farms in 14 townships at the Myanmar-Thai border. Staff of the LBVD are checking the health of the chicken at the farms, and if they find any trace of the disease, they will immediately report the matter to the head office. The Health Ministry is also making contacts with the chicken breeders and sending back their finds at the farms to the respective head offices. In the step three, the representatives of the local authorities, the Health Ministry and the LBVD are inspecting the farms to check the health of the chicken and to inform their head quarters if any symptoms of the disease is found. The LBVD has to report the situation to the Prime Minister's Office. We have already collected a certain degree of information about the situation. According to the report, our country has nothing to worry about the disease.

**Q:** What's your prevention methods?

**Ans:** We have given directives to the staff of the chicken farms to avoid entering other farms and letting outsiders enter their farms; to feed the chicken

with fresh and hygienic food, to keep the farms and all related equipment clean and safe, to avoid eating chicken meat and to eat only the well-cooked meat, to spray

antiseptic at all entrances to the farms. There are vaccines for the flu, but the biosecurity method is the best way to control it, as the virus is of different types.

**Q:** Does Myanmar have to worry about the bird flu?

**Ans:** The nation does not need to worry about the disease. The launching of the project to raise local strains of poultry has reached the third five-year plan in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Of the 62 million chicken in Myanmar 83 per cent or about 50 million are of the local strains. The food given to the chicken at all breeding farms are mixed with ingredients that prevent the disease. The possibility of the outbreak of the disease is so low in Myanmar.

Our commercial poultry farming is not so large if compared with other countries. We do not export chicken, and import only some eggs and chicks for the farms. And the import has already been halted. The possibility to infect human beings is so low. Only the farm workers are exposed to the disease. The disease can infect human beings only through the birds. The country has been giving special attention to the disease prevention. We do not need to worry about the disease.

Kyemon then interviewed Dr Tin Aye Kyi of the LBVD.

**Q:** Please explain about the cause of the disease.

**Ans:** The disease was caused by Othomyxovirus of the Othomyxoviridae Family. The virus includes two types of Glycoprotein. The virus is divided into three types depending on the type of protein it contains. They are Type A, B and C. Type A mostly affects chicken, pig, horse and man; Type B mostly man; and Type C mostly human beings and

pigs. The two kinds of protein that include in the Type A are Haemagglutinin which is also called H Antigen and Neuraminidase that is also called N Antigen. H Antigen has one to different 15 groups and N Antigen has one to nine different groups. The flu varies depending on the type of groups. Of them, H5 and H7 can affect human beings. The types of virus that breakout in Hong Kong and Korea are of the H5 and



Dr Tin Aye Kyi, Deputy  
Director of the LBVD.

N 1.

**Q:** What about the symptoms of the infected chicken?

**Ans:** An infected chicken becomes inactive and suddenly dies. A chicken suffering from the flu drinks water very often. It loses appetite, has running nose, coughs and faces respiratory problems. Its droppings are usually white or green. Its face becomes swollen and its comb and neck turn blue. Its head, face, neck and joints also become swollen. Egg-laying rate declines in the layers. The postmortem of an infected chicken shows blood leaking from the

gizzard, esophagus and trachea; white spots on the liver and spleen; and a shrink intestine. Significant sign is the leaking of blood in the innerpart of the chest, a symptom that cannot be found in the chicken that dies of Newcastle disease. This sign shows that the death is caused by the flu.

**Q:** What about the economic losses?

**Ans:** The outbreak can wipe out from 40 to 100 per cent of the chicken in a farm.

**Q:** Please explain about the infection.

**Ans:** The disease can spread through air, equipment or water. Coughing is another way of spreading the flu. It can be infected from chicken droppings.

**Q:** What kind of animals can be infected?

**Ans:** Any avian species including chicken, turkey, quail and common moorhen, that also serve as the disease carriers.

**Q:** What are the methods to check the infection?

**Ans:** We can check the liquid that comes from throat and anus and the droppings. We can also check the liver, heart, spleen of a dead chicken. We can know whether there is infection at a farm or not by inspecting the serum. But the type of the disease can be found at the advanced laboratories.

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(Translation: TMT)  
(Kyemon: 27-1-2004)



Blood leaking from the gizzard.



A group of chicken with symptoms of the flu.

## National unity key to achieving ...

(from page 1)

As a developing nation faced with daunting challenges, Myanmar needs to set its priorities. In the final analysis, it is for us to determine what model to follow and what pace of transformation to adopt.

In the economic sphere, Myanmar has been able to maintain a steady course in its effort to promote a market-oriented system in spite of the unilateral sanctions instituted by some Western countries. The economy led by the agriculture sector continues to grow. The prospects for growth in tourism and energy sectors also look promising. Tourism is likely to increase dramatically with the introduction of e-visa last week.

In the energy sector, the discovery of world-class commercial gas deposits off the coast of Rakhine, coupled with the completion of large hydro-electric power projects in the country will contribute to the development of the industry sector of the country. At present, Myanmar's economy is primarily based on agriculture. Our aim is to transform Myanmar into an industrialized and modern state. In the efforts for modernization, the private sector must be the driving engine. In this regard, we are happy to note that private industries are growing steadily and are producing a wide range of goods, from foodstuff to agricultural machinery and motor vehicles.

Noteworthy advances have also been made in the health and education sectors. In the past year alone, 22 new hospitals were commissioned and six existing facilities upgraded. In the education sector, new universities and colleges have been opened and postgraduate courses have been established. The number of institutes of higher learning in the country has increased from 32 in 1988 to 154. Greater educational opportunities have been created and as a result the number of students studying at institutes of higher learning has increased from 130,000 to 890,000 at present. Likewise the number of professors and instructors have grown.

The number today totals 16,600. The Yangon University, the Mandalay University and the Yangon Institute of Education presently offer

doctorate courses in 31 different fields; the medical universities seen PhD courses and 30 Dr MedSc courses; the technological universities five doctorate courses in engineering and 16 architecture and engineering doctorate courses; and one IT doctorate courses.

With regard to foreign affairs, Myanmar plays an active role in the maintenance of an environment of peace and stability in our region and the world. We consider that it is vitally important to establish external conditions which guarantee security needed for development of our country. Myanmar will continue to support the search for peaceful solutions to the problems that the world faces based on the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. Accordingly, we support efforts to strengthen the United Nations. At the same time Myanmar seeks to maintain friendly relations with all countries, particularly with our neighbours.

We are very pleased that our relations with the countries of the region have made significant progress in recent years. I would like to express our sincere thanks for all the assistance and solidarity shown towards Myanmar by our friends from the region. Myanmar has also been able to contribute actively to regional forums from ASEAN to BIMST-EC. Myanmar had the privilege and honour of hosting the First Summit on Economic Cooperation among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in Bagan last November.

The 4 nation economic cooperation strategy adopted by the Summit is aimed at increasing competitiveness, generating economic growth in border areas, creating jobs and reducing income disparity. We are confident that this sub-regional initiative will yield fruitful results that would benefit the peoples of all the nations concerned.

Myanmar has come a long way in the past 15 years. Never in its history has the country seen so much improvement in its basic infrastructure as well as in health and education standards in such a short time.

The peace and stability that now reigns in the country is unprecedented and augers well for the future of the country. It is an undeniable

fact that the country has not only been able to overcome the unilateral economic sanctions imposed by some Western countries but has been able to improve the economic well-being of its peoples. It has accomplished this task relying on its own resources and the cooperation of neighbours. Notwithstanding the positive changes in the country, Western countries continue to demonize Myanmar and accuse the Myanmar Government of carrying out atrocities ranging from gross violations of human rights to employment of child soldiers.

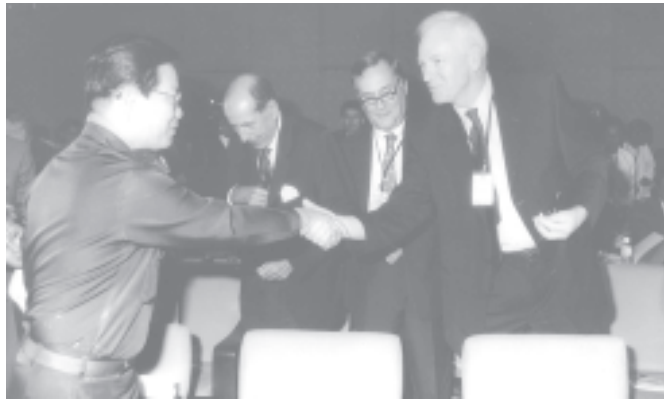
The false perception that Myanmar is crumbling and that its people are down-trodden has been created by those who wish us ill. It is time to correct the misperceptions.

I believe that academics and researchers like you can play a positive role by speaking out objectively so that the world will have a better appreciation of the complex situation in the country and the tremendous efforts we have made to bring about a smooth transition to a modern and disciplined-flourishing democratic country. I am happy to learn that following the seminar you will have an opportunity to see first hand the vast transformations in the country, particularly in the remote border areas. In accordance with the dictum seeing is believing, I am confident that you will be able to witness that Myanmar is a country at peace, that it is a dynamic country and that is a country in rapid transformation to a modern and discipline-flourishing democratic State.

I wish you all success in your deliberations.

After the opening of the seminar, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the diplomats, researchers from foreign nations and guests.

At the seminar resource persons will submit nine papers — future political programme of the State, endeavours for peace and stability of the State, drugs elimination, all-round development undertakings, foreign policy of Myanmar, cooperation with the United Nations, Myanmar women's rights, Myanmar history and culture and Myanmar's human rights. Besides, researchers of foreign countries will take part in the discussions. The seminar continues tomorrow. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets diplomats, foreign researchers and guests after the opening of the Seminar on Understanding Myanmar. — MNA

## Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and wife visit Shwedagon Pagoda, Third MICT Week-2004

YANGON, 27 Jan— The goodwill delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisolith and wife Madame Naly Sisolith, currently here, at the invitation of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda and the Third Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Week-2004 this morning.

The goodwill delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and wife, accompanied by Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and wife and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived at the Shwedagon pagoda at 9 am.

They were welcomed by members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The goodwill delegation

members visited the pagoda and they were conducted round there by the members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The guests paid obeisance to the jade Buddha image at the pagoda and visited documentary photo showroom of the pagoda.

The Deputy Prime Minister offered flowers, lights and incense sticks to the Buddha images at the Tazaung in eastern archway and signed in the visitors' book.

He donated cash and members of the pagoda board of trustees accepted the cash and presented a picture of the Shwedagon Pagoda to him.

The Deputy Prime Minister and goodwill delegation members went to the Third MICT Week-2004 at the MICT Park in Hline University Campus.

They were welcomed by Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint and officials.

Chairman of Myanmar Information Technology Development Corporation Brig-Gen Thein Swe extended the greetings.

Joint-Secretary of e-National Task Force U Pyone Maung Maung reported on information and technology development in Myanmar.

Officials replied to the queries of the delegation members.

The Deputy Prime Minister presented souvenirs to Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint.

The members of the goodwill delegation visited booths at the Third MICT Week-2004 and Bagan CyberTech.

The Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force presented gifts to the visiting Deputy Prime Minister.

The members of the goodwill delegation left the MICT Park at 11 am.

MNA

## Matters relating to putting programme illegally into VCDs that can destroy computers clarified

YANGON, 27 Jan— A clarification on putting programme illegally into VCDs that can destroy the computers was held at Room 205 at MICT Park in Hline University Campus in Hline Township this evening.

Present were members of e-National Task Force, officials of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists Association and Myanmar Computer Industry Association and delegates of computer companies.

Secretary of e-Application

Committee Col Tin Oo said it was found that programmes that could destroy computer systems was inserted in VCDs in order to prevent piracy of VCD. In connection with this, officials concerned warned VCD producer, distributor and programmers for the first and last time. He told officials of computer companies that such was against the law and it was also the act of hindering computer development of the State. Severe actions will be taken against those who committed similar acts.

Chairman of Myanmar Computer Federation U Thein Oo said in the prescribed law and rules those who commit such act will be fined and seven years' imprisonment for putting programmes that can destroy computers into VCDs. He said a warning was made for protection of computer companies. Such wrongdoing concerns with moral conduct, he added.

Chairman of Myanmar Computer Industry Association U Aung Zaw Myint said computer associations at different levels opposed the act of putting programme into VCDs that can destroy computers. He said the act was against the law according to the notification 3/2002 of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs issued on 10 July 2002. Actions can be taken against those with the fine or both cash and imprisonment. The programme was not created by the use of high technology and it was just the collection of commands that can destroy OS programmes, he added. — MNA



Secretary of e-Application Committee Col Tin Oo clarifies on putting programmes illegally into VCDs that destroy computers. — MNA



## Secretary-1 and wife host dinner in honour of Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and wife

YANGON, 27 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe hosted dinner in honour of Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisolith and wife Madame Naly Sosolith and goodwill delegation members at Karaweik Palace in Kandawgyi at 7 pm today.

The dinner was attended

by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and their wives, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and wife and officials.

At the dinner, artistes of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture entertained the guests with Myanmar traditional songs and dances.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Planning and Cooperation Committee of the LPDR Dr Thongloun Sisolith. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Planning and Cooperation Committee of the LPDR Dr Thongloun Sisolith and party. — MNA



## Secretary-1 meets Deputy Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic

YANGON, 27 Jan — Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisolith and party called on Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zayyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein,

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung and Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet. The visiting Deputy minister was accompanied by Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane. — MNA

## Myanmar ICT Week 2004 extended to 31 January

YANGON, 27 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week- 2004 continued for the seventh day at the

MICT Park in Hline Township today.

The exhibition was teeming with students, service

personnel, organizations, members of the Sangha and the people.

The exhibition is still

drawing a large number of visitors. It will be kept open until 31 January.

MNA

## Relay system on GSM, TDMA and CDMA briefed

YANGON, 27 Jan — A briefing on the relay system used in the buildings on GSM, TDMA and CDMA took place at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by Min-

ister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Hotels

and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, officials and guests.

The minister delivered a speech on the occasion.

Managing Director of LGP Allgon (Singapore) Mr Terry Wan presented Re-

peater System on TDMA, CDMA and Cellular Telephone, In-Building Solution, and communication equipment produced by LGP Allgon, and replied to the queries raised by those present. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivers a speech at the briefing on system used in buildings on GSM, TDMA and CDMA. — HOTELS AND TOURISM

## National Seminar on Prevention and Management of Substance Abuse commences

YANGON, 27 Jan — The opening of the National Seminar on Prevention and Management of Substance Abuse organized by the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health and the WHO took place at the Myanmar Medical Association this morning. It was attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads, officials from respective ministries, Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, officials of the ministries, WHO and social organizations and guests.

On the occasion, the minister delivered a speech. In his speech, he said that the Ministry of Health has organized national level seminar on prevention and management of substance abuse for two times in 1979 and 1988. The objectives of the third seminar are: to exchange views and experiences of the physicians discharging duties in rehabilitation centres for drug addicts and township hospitals; to seek ways and means for grappling with the difficulties physicians are experiencing in giving medical treatments to the patients; to enable the medical staff to be familiar with modern prevention and control methods in the medical field; and to achieve success in implementing the project on elimination of drug addicts, which is the goal of the 15-year drug elimination plan. In its drive to head for the goal of emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation that is completely free from narcotic drugs, Myanmar is systematically implementing the 15-year plan for elimination of poppy cultivation and drug abuse.

Regarding the drug addicts rehabilitation sector, a total of 20 new drug addicts rehabilitation centres and 22 branches could be estab-

lished, increasing the number to 26 rehabilitation centres and 40 branches and two youths rehabilitation centres (Shwepyitha and Shwe-pyiaye) in the States and Divisions. The heads of respective township health departments take responsibilities for rehabilitation of drug addicts in the townships where rehabilitation centres have not been founded, and in 43 hospitals in border areas. In the nation, there is a fall in heroin abuse, but an increase in the abuse of stimulant tablets called ATS. The Ministry of Health is taking systematic measures for drug abuse control after laying down the plan. Myanmar is also co-operating with international organizations in tasks for rehabilitation of drug addicts. Now, the 15-year plan has entered the fifth of the first five-year term, previous tasks are under review for more effectiveness of the plan. The drug addicted patients in Wa Region in Shan State (East) are receiving medical treatments under the community based treatment programme.

In the first five-year term of the 15-year plan, tasks are being carried out to accomplish the medical team of the Ministry of Health — control and giving educative talks on drugs abuse to the public. And, after adopting an aim, research work is being done, which is necessary for making cumulative progress in drugs control tasks. With a view to ensuring more effectiveness and smooth implementation of the plan, the Ministry of Health is carrying out the tasks in cooperation with related projects and ministries.

In conclusion, the minister expressed his belief that the seminar will contribute much towards harmonious implementation of anti-narcotic tasks, and tasks for prevention and control of narcotic drugs and rehabilitation of drugs addicts. The seminar continues tomorrow. — MNA

## Ministers, ambassadors and UN resident representatives tour Shan State (North), Mandalay Division, Magway Division

YANGON, 27 Jan — Chairman of Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Vice-Chairmen Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, members Minister for Labour U Tin Winn and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, together with ambassadors of foreign missions in Yangon, diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies, CCDAC Secretary MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yee and officials, visited Shan State (East), Shan State (North), Mandalay Division and Magway Division starting from 23 January to observe regional development and drugs elimination tasks.

On 25 January morning, they visited poppy-substitute coffee plantation of North-East Command in Lashio where officials briefed them on growing of coffee plants and raising of 13,600 poultry. The visitors looked around the summer paddy fields and crop plantations, the natural fertilizer plant, power station and brick factory. Responsible officials conducted them around the factory and replied to their queries.

The ministers, the ambassadors, diplomats and resident representatives of UN agencies left Lashio for Laukkai and arrived there at 11 am. At the briefing hall of Laukkai Drugs Elimination Museum, national race leader U Phon Kya Shin briefed on regional development tasks, drugs elimination tasks and poppy-substitute agriculture tasks for Kokang region. He said poppy-growing which was started over 100 years ago has been rooted out since 2002. It is a good deed



An official reports matters on Mone Creek multi-purpose dam project to Minister Col Tin Hlaing, diplomats and UN officials. — MNA

not only for Kokang region but also for the country and the international community. Local people have encountered many difficulties as they had grown poppy for over 100 years and the soil is infertile and there is no sufficient water for agricultural use. So, there is little possibility for growing poppy-substitute crops. Local national race leaders have made arrangements for growing of rubber and other crops which are suitable to the region. Local people are to rely on the Laukkai Hospital constructed by the government. Over 10,000 students are pursuing education at 125 schools. To eliminate drugs, regional development tasks have been carried out. Handsome amount of cash has been spent on road transportation, education, rehabilitation tasks, availability of water and electricity, development affairs and growing of poppy-substitute crops, he said.

A 1000-acre farm has been established at the place six miles from Laukkai. Similar farms have been set up in other places. In addition, an area of 2,500 acres was put under sugarcane in 2003. China, Japan and the UN rendered assistance to the region. In 2003, the government presented 5,000 bags of rice to local people and the North-East Command

provided them with summer/monsoon paddy and other crops. With the help of Japanese government, a power station that can supply electricity to three villages has been constructed. The 10-mile long road section on Laukkai-Tarshwehtan road was tarred. Two poultry farms have raised 120,000 poultry, 2,000 pigs and 10 cattle. Kokang region needs assistance from international community and there is total elimination of drugs in the region, he explained.

CCDAC Chairman Minister Col Tin Hlaing briefed on drugs elimination tasks carried out in Kokang region in cooperation with the government, Minister Col Thein Nyunt on efforts for improving living standard of national races and development of border areas including Kokang region made by the government and Minister U Win Aung on the need of international community to render assistance to people in the region.

The visitors viewed poppy-substitute plantations and border areas development tasks near Laukkai. They left there for Lashio by helicopter and arrived there at 2 pm. Afterwards, they visited Yeywa hydel power project at 3.30 pm. At the briefing hall, Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Department of

Electric Power briefed on location, area and historical background of the project, its objectives and tasks being carried out, data and budget in detail. Queries of the ambassadors, diplomats and UN resident representatives were then replied. The visitors looked around there and arrived at PyinOoLwin at 4.45 pm.

At the briefing hall of National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin, Wood Land Co Chairman U Win Aung explained reconstruction and renovation tasks for the park. At 7.30 pm, CCDAC officials hosted a dinner in honour of the visitors at Nanmyaing Hotel.

On 26 January morning, the group visited Tanyaung river-water pumping project in Salin

Township, Magway Division. At the briefing hall there, Deputy Director-General U Hla Myint Maung of Water Resources Utilization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reported to them on facts on the project.

Afterwards, the group arrived at Mon Creek multi-purpose dam project at noon. Director-General U Win Kyaw of the Ministry of Electric Power explained that the project is located in Sedoktara Township, Minbu District in Magway Division. Its main purposes are to supply enough water for growing of monsoon paddy, summer paddy and other crops, to prevent flooding of Mon Creek and to generate 330 million kilowatt hours of electricity per annum. The project

started in October 1995 and will finish in March 2004. The catchment area of the dam is 1,468 sq miles. The dam is 4,320 feet long and 200 feet high. The earthen dam, that can supply water to 108,000 acres of land, will cost K 33,800 million including US \$ 32 million.

Director of Irrigation Department Project Director U Myint Than briefed on tasks for the projects. Officials replied to the queries of the ambassadors, diplomats and UN resident representatives who later looked around the project site. They arrived at Minbu oil field at 2.45 pm and viewed Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway). They arrived back here at 5 pm via Magway airport.

MNA



An official reports matters on opium-substitute coffee farm to Minister Col Tin Hlaing, diplomats and UN resident representatives. — MNA



An official reports matters on Mone Creek multi-purpose dam project to Minister Col Tin Hlaing, diplomats and UN resident representatives. — MNA

### Cash donations for NyaungU Township MCWA annexe

YANGON, 27 Jan — A ceremony to hand over cash donations for building annexe of the NyaungU Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held on 20 January.

It was attended by NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Teza and wife, departmental personnel, officials of social organizations.

The building was donated by Dr Win Maung of the Friends of Rain Forest in Myanmar and Daw Khin Ohnmar Win of the Balloons

over Bagan Co.Daw Khin Ohnmar Win also donated K 1.5 million to NyaungU District Home for the Aged and K 200,000 for the

NyaungU district/ township Organization for Women's Affairs. Officials concerned spoke words of thanks.—(H)



Wellwisher Daw Khin Ohnmar Win hands over cash donation to an official. — (H)



## Farmers now can grow paddy not only for own Consumption but also for local rice sufficiency

### Chaungmanet Dam inaugurated in TadaU Township

YANGON, 27 Jan—The inauguration of the Chaungmanet Dam built by Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held at Kyauktan Village in TadaU Township, Mandalay Division this morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, local authorities, social organizations, students and local people totalling 7,000.

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said Chaungmanet Dam was built in Kyauktan Village in TadaU Township. It is a support dam to irrigate 1,000 acres of land and to supply water to about 3,800 acres of irrigated areas.

He said the dam could supply drinking water to local people and cattle and it would contribute towards the greening of the environs.

TadaU Township gets only about 20 inches of rainfall and there are shortages of rainwater and droughts almost every year.

acreage also increased and living standard of local farmers improved, he said.

Farmlands have emerged in Anya regions due to the government's efforts. Those who have never cultivated paddy before can now grow it not only for themselves but also for local sufficiency, he said.

He said the government is implementing the tasks for long-term interest of local people, convenience of agricultural activities, raising of living standard of rural people and greening of the region without laying emphasis on gaining of profits economically. The community welfare services will continue to exist as better foundations for posterity.

He said in Mandalay Division 40 dams including the present one were built and they irrigated over 350,000 acres of land. Nine dams are being built and three of them can be used to generate electric power. There are eight dams to be built, he added.

The greening projects have achieved success as the government undertakes the measures on conservation of forest, extended planting of trees, establishment of firewood plantations and use of firewood substitute fuel in cooperation with local people. Due to the greening projects, climate in the region has become better and better

year after year, he said.

He said Mandalay Division is the region where ten main crops can grow successfully. Moreover, it can produce kitchen crops and is the division on which the State relies economically. Economic development of Mandalay Division can reflect the economy of the State, he said.

The local farmers should make effective use of the favorable conditions created by the State to raise the crop per acre yield. They will have to make collective efforts for their land to firmly stand as a region contributing more to the national economic development.

success to a certain degree to lay a foundation in implementing the task.

The future of the nation is brighter due to the leadership of the State, the participation of the people and the efforts of the service personal.

The seven-point future policy has already been laid down for the nation to stand tall forever with her own sovereignty and for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation.

The seven-point future policy is laid down in the interest of the nation and the people. As the policy is in conformity with the 12



*Lt-Gen Ye Myint presses the button to unveil the stone plaque of Chaungmanet Dam. — MNA*

The Government has been laying down and implementing plans for harmonious development of all the regions of the nation. The people have also made earnest efforts to achieve

objectives of the State, the entire people have unanimously supported and approved it.

Community peace and the rule of law are essential needs for the success of the

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint tours Myingyan district

YANGON, 27 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and departmental officials, inspected paving of road section of the TadaU-Myingyan road at mile post 496/7 on yesterday morning. They also inspected laying of gravel for tarring road at mile post 495/7 near Gwegan village.

They next went to Myotha station hospital in Ngazun Township and inspected it. Officials concerned reported matters on the hospital. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the project site of the TadaU-Myotha-Myingyan road. At the briefing hall of the site, officials concerned reported the work progress and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. The TadaU-Myingyan road is 52 miles 6 furlongs long and so far 31 miles 7 furlongs have been already completed.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Nyaungwun village of Myingyan Township and inspected the village primary school. Next, they inspected the Government Technical Institute in Myingyan and the Myingyan Degree College. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left Myingyan and arrived in Mandalay in the evening. — MNA



*Lt-Gen Ye Myint addressing the inauguration of newly-constructed Chaungmanet Dam. — MNA*

In some townships local people had to fetch drinking water from far areas with much difficulty. Therefore, under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe arid zone greening projects were laid down and water resources were explored.

Based on water resources in Anya region, dams, river-water pumping projects and underground water pumping projects are being built one after another spending a large sum of money. The regions have become green as there is water there. Cultivation



*The Chaungmanet Dam opened in TadaU Township, Mandalay Division, on 27 January 2004. — MNA*

policy. So also, the sound economic foundations are the essential requirement for the convenience of the food, clothing and shelter of the people. The local people and the departmental personnel will have to collectively maintain the dam, to use the water effectively and to conserve the watershed area.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin said it is the 156th dam of the nation and the 40th dam in Mandalay Division. Emergence of one more irrigation facility in the agricultural region will help develop the crop cultivation. The ministry has been reclaiming more land, extending irrigation facilities, applying advanced techniques and equipment, distributing quality strains and conducting research

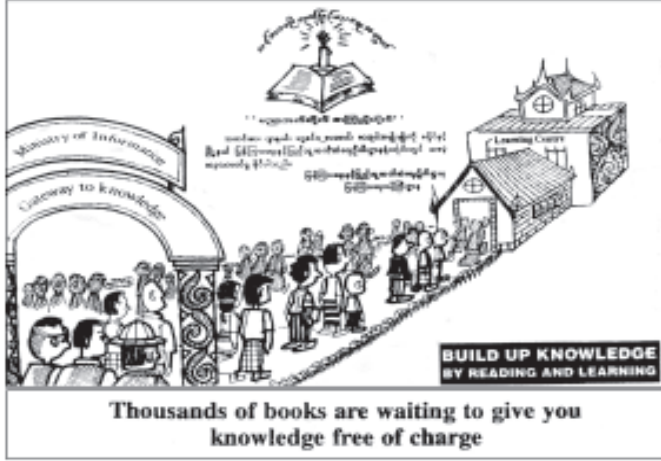
work. Farmers will have to strive to become the ones using modern techniques and machines. The dam was built to ease the hardships of the local farmers.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint also gave a speech.

A local people thanked the Government for building the dam.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone plaque of the dam. The commander and the minister formally opened the dam. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the dam.

The earth dam is 6,000 feet long and 50 feet high. The maximum storage capacity is 8,040 acre-feet. It can irrigate up to 3,900 acres of land. — MNA



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## Nigerian Customs seeks protection for local industries

LAGOS, 27 Jan — The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) on Saturday expressed commitment to protect local industries from unfavourable competition with imported goods, according to a high-ranking NCS official.

Akimtayo Ogungbamile, acting comptroller-general of the NCS, told newsmen in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos that the NCS has streamlined its operations to track down smugglers and check dumping to protect the businesses of the indigenous private sector.

He said the NCS would continue to explore new avenues and fresh strategies to check smugglers and their new antics especially now that new items have been put on the imports prohibition list.

The comptroller-general pointed out that the recent increase in the number of banned items was part of the

efforts of the government to boost local production of some of the items put on the prohibition list.

In the last few years the NCS has intercepted huge consignment of banned and fake products worth millions of naira. Some of the importers of the goods were prosecuted while their wares which included textiles, leather products, dairy, fruit drinks and food items were confiscated.

The Nigerian federal government while announcing the prohibited items at the beginning of 2004 urged the Customs service to ensure 100-per-cent enforcement.

MNA/Xinhua

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Ph:248108/723043

(For. Domnren Songiat & Boonma

Attorneys at Law, Thailand),

Dated: 28th January, 2004

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### Small plane crashes in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 27 Jan — A microflight aeroplane crashed in Kimberley on Saturday, about 500 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg, killing the two men on board, the *South African Press Association* reported.

Police spokesman Inspector Chantel Manuel said the aircraft experienced mechanical failure before it crashed at the John Weston Air Field at 7:30 am (0530 GMT).

She said Pieter Becker, 47, and Gideon Janecke (known as Leon) died in the accident.

The civil aviation authority was expected to visit the accident site for investigations, said Manuel.

MNA/Xinhua

## ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကုန်အားလေးပါ

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E-mail: mtpip@gmail.com  
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U KYI WIN, B.Com., B.L., for W.R. GRACE & CO.-CONN., by its Attorneys REMFRY & SAGAR INDIA Dated: 28th January, 2004

## Hu Jintao leaves Beijing for 4-nation visit

BEIJING, 27 Jan — Chinese President Hu Jintao left Beijing Monday morning to begin a state visit to France, Egypt, Gabon and Algeria.

Hu's entourage included his wife Liu Yongqing, State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan, Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, Director of the Policy Research Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Wang Huning, Deputy Director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee Ling Jihua, Vice-Minister in charge of the State Development and Reform Commission Li Shenglin and Vice-Minister of Commerce Yu Guangzhou.

Hu was invited by French President Jacques Chirac, Egyptian President Muhammed Hosni Mubarak, Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba, and Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The visit will last until February 4.

MNA/Xinhua

## Number of Cubans working abroad doubles in 2003

HAVANA, 27 Jan — The number of Cubans working overseas soared to 16,770 in 2003, twice as many as the previous year, Marta Lomas, Minister of Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation, said Friday.

These Cubans worked in 101 countries, some of them for the Integral Health Programme in American and African countries, Lomas said at the ministry's annual meeting which concluded late Friday.

Lomas said Cuba held cooperative relations with 154 countries in 2003 and developed 86 cooperation projects covering about 20 social-economic sectors in 31 African countries.

The minister also said there were 313 cooperative production agreements in 2003, a 15.9-per-cent increase on the previous year.

At the same time, there were 342 international economic associations operating in the Caribbean nation and the major business partners were Spain, Canada and Italy. These associations mostly centre on the steel production, tourism, construction, agriculture, food, information and communications sectors.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bodies of three crewmen found in eastern Mediterranean

VELLETTA, 27 Jan — Rescue teams recovered three bodies in rough seas in the eastern Mediterranean on Saturday while searching for crew missing after their freighter sank in gale-force winds, officials said.

The Malta Rescue Coordination Centre, overseeing the effort, said no survivors had been found during the latest searching, and there was no word on the identities of the bodies.

One of the ship's crew was rescued on Friday morning soon after the Greek-owned *Kephi*, sailing under a Comoros flag with a crew of 17, sank about 120 miles west of the Greek island of Crete.

US and British-flagged ships responding to a distress signal from the *Kephi* spotted only one lifeboat with two crew members aboard, but bad weather hampered

the rescue.

The Malta Rescue Coordination Centre said earlier it could not confirm that both men had been rescued, as announced by Maltese authorities on Friday. Greece has said only one person was saved.

A spokesman for the rescue centre, run by the Maltese military, said two merchant ships, units of the Greek Navy and an Italian Air Force aircraft had been helping in the search.

The *Kephi*, with a mostly Egyptian crew and carrying cement, was sailing from Istanbul to West Africa.

MNA/Reuters



# ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Overseas Indians celebrate 55th Republic Day

ISLAMABAD, 27 Jan— Overseas Indians on Monday celebrated the 55th Republic Day with patriotic fervour, hoisting the tricolour, singing national songs and holding cultural functions.

In Islamabad, High Commissioner Shivshankar Menon hoisted the tricolour and read out President APJ Kalam's speech at a function organized at the Indian Embassy to mark the occasion.

After the flag hoisting the children sang national songs.

Indian community in China celebrated the Republic Day at three separate functions held in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

At a well-attended function held in Beijing at the Indian Embassy, Charge d'Affaires, Debnath Shaw hoisted the national tricolour and read out a message from President APJ Abdul Kalam.

In Shanghai, China's largest city and commercial and industrial hub, the Consul General of India, Sujan R Chinoy, hoisted the national flag at a function held at his residence.

Across the former Soviet Union, flag hoisting ceremonies were held in Moscow, Almaty, Baku, Dushanbe, Kiev, Minsk and Tashkent.

Felicitating the Moscow-based Indian community on the Republic Day in impeccable Hindi, Ambassador K Raghunath urged

them to work towards achieving the goals identified by President Kalam in his address.

In Mandalay in Myanmar, a colourful ceremony was organized to celebrate India's 55th Republic Day.

Consul General PK Bhutiani unfurled the tricolour and read out President Kalam's address to an enthusiastic audience of about 300 Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin.

Indians in the Gulf from all walks of life celebrated the 55th Republic Day hoisting national flag, organizing cultural programmes and singing patriotic songs.

In Abu Dhabi, the Ambassador Sudhir Vyas hoisted the tricolour followed by the rendering of the national anthem by children from Indian school.

He asked the children take a ten-point-oath enunciated in President Kalam's speech expressing among other things commitment to removal of corruption, pursuit of excellence in education, spreading of literacy and eradication of religious discrimination.

The Consul General in Dubai Yash Sinha also unfurled the tricolour in the presence of a large number of Indians. — MNA/PTI

## Indian President says peace key to economic growth

NEW DELHI, 27 Jan— Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam said on Sunday sustained growth in Asia's third largest economy and peace in South East Asia were necessary to help lift millions out of poverty.

The economy has expanded a robust 8.4 per cent in the second quarter of the fiscal year to March, 2004, following the best monsoon rains in a decade that have boosted demand and consumer spending across the nation with a billion-plus population.

"The time has come for

these economic benefits to reach speedily the rural population through development programmes," he said in an address on the eve of India's 55th Republic Day.

Kalam said India needed heavy investments in the power and agriculture sectors to become a developed

nation by 2020.

In an oblique reference to Pakistan, Kalam said peace was in the offing after most nations had realized low intensity wars and conflicts were too expensive for the region where millions still remain untouched by development.

MNA/Reuters

## Keaton, Murray, Zellweger win Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS (California), 27 Jan— Diane Keaton and Bill Murray won major film awards at the Golden Globes on Sunday as Hollywood's annual awards season kicked into high gear on a night many predict will see the finale of "The Lord of the Rings" named as the year's best drama.

With a who's who of the film industry in attendance, decked out in bright, exuberant fashion, at the annual awards given out by the 90-member Hollywood Foreign Press Association, Murray won best actor in a comedy or musical for his work as the culturally confused actor in "Lost in Translation".

Keaton was named best actress in a comedy for her work with Jack Nicholson in "Something's Gotta Give".

Tim Robbins won best supporting actor for his role as a victim of child abuse suspected of murder in Clint Eastwood's mystery drama "Mystic River".

Renee Zellweger was named best supporting actress in a drama, winning for her

role as a tough-minded farm girl in "Cold Mountain," the film with the most nominations.

"Angels in America," the two-part Pulitzer-prize winning play, won three of the top television awards. It was named best mini-series or motion picture made for television, Meryl Streep was named best actress in that category and Jeffrey Wright, who played a male nurse in the drama, was named best supporting actor.

The 61st annual Globes are often a barometer of what's hot and what's not-so-hot in the run-up to the Oscars, a sort of New Hampshire primary for the stars.

What's hot this year is "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," the final installment of an epic trilogy that has grossed more than one billion US dollars worldwide.

"Return of the King" is up for four awards, best drama, best director (Peter Jackson), best score and best song. But none of its leading actors are in contention for the acting awards.

Competition is strong epics "Cold Mountain" and "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," mystery drama "Mystic River" and the heartwarming story of a racehorse beating the odds, "Seabiscuit," are vying to beat "Return of the Kings."

Sarah Jessica Parker was named best actress in a television comedy or musical series for her work in "Sex And The City" and Anthony LaPaglia was named best actor in a TV dramatic series for his work as the FBI agent in "Without A Trace."

MNA/Reuters

## Britain gives giant military plane contract to Airbus

LONDON, 27 Jan— Britain has given a giant military plane contract to the European consortium led by EADS, the parent company of Airbus Industrie, British Ministry of Defence (MoD) said Monday.

The contract to supply refueling aircraft to Britain's Royal Air Force is worth 13 billion pounds or 23.8 billion US dollars.

The MoD said it believed the European consortium would offer the most value for money, snubbing a rival bid to provide a tanker fleet from a group involving US-based Boeing Corp. and Britain's BAE Systems.

The ministry said it expected talks with the European group, which includes Rolls Royce, Cobham and Thales, to "take a number of months" before it made a final decision.

The MoD contract is Europe's largest order for air-to-air refueling aircraft.

Annalists here believe it is a big win for Airbus, which would supply civilian plane

to be converted into air tankers and it could also crack open a sector where Boeing has long held a near-monopoly.

EADS has offered a tanker based on its A-330 commercial jet, while Boeing, together with Serco and Spectrum Capital, had planned to sell a military version of its 767 jetliner.

MNA/Xinhua

## WTO sends US sanctions row to arbitration

GENEVA, 27 Jan— The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Monday called for arbitration in a row pitting the United States against the European Union and others over a request for hundreds of millions of dollars in trade sanctions.

The EU and seven other members, including Japan, Canada and Brazil, want to retaliate against Washington for not lifting a trade law — the so-called "Byrd" amendment — already ruled illegal by the WTO.

They sought sanctions on US exports for the equivalent of the more than 700 million US dollars that Washington has raised and distributed to US firms under the controversial law over the three years since it came into force. But, as expected, the United States opposed the level of sanctions, which meant that under WTO rules it was automatically put to arbitration.

The panel of judges, which will act as referee, officially has around a month from now to reach a decision, but such rulings have in the past often taken longer.

The law at the centre of the dispute obliges the government to distribute revenues from anti-dumping duties to US companies bringing the dumping complaint. The beneficiaries have been US ball-bearing, steel, candle, pasta and seafood companies, along with other businesses.

The spat is the latest in a series of disputes involving the government of US President George W. Bush, an avowed free trader who critics accuse of being reluctant to bow to WTO rules when they go against the United States.

"This is the first time in WTO history that so many members have acted

(together)...in a single case," said Canada's trade envoy Sergio Marchi. "It is the clearest possible signal of the depth and breadth of concern," he added.

The Administration, which missed a December 27 WTO-set deadline to lift the amendment, has promised to try again early this year, although it rejects the notion that the measure does direct harm to foreign companies. — MNA/Reuters

## Blizzards kill six, strand hundreds in Romania

BUCHAREST, 27 Jan— Freezing temperatures and snow storms in Romania have killed six people and left hundreds of villages without power, the local media reported on Monday.

The blizzards and frost since Friday have hampered road and rail traffic, and stranded hundreds of people in their cars.

In Galati county, soldiers found a man dead in his car after waiting for more than 10 hours for an ambulance that was unable to reach him.

Neighbours also found four men and a woman dead under piles of snow in Neamt and Vaslui counties.

Romania's north-eastern and eastern counties were worst hit, with wind blowing at more than 62 miles per hour.

MNA/Reuters

## Poland bans poultry imports from Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan

WARSAW, 27 Jan— The Polish agricultural ministry decided Monday to suspend poultry imports from Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan because of the outbreak of bird flu there.

The ban, to take effect immediately, is on all poultry and poultry products, including domestic and wild birds, eggs, and different bird meats. It also prohibits transit of these products in Polish territory.

An outbreak of bird flu in Vietnam in recent weeks has claimed several human lives. Cases of the virus have also been reported in Thailand, Indonesia and some other regions in Asia.

MNA/Xinhua

Actor Bill Murray (L) and his wife Jennifer arrive for the 61st Golden Globe Awards, in Beverly Hills, on 25 January, 2004. Murray won for Best Musical or Comedy for his work in *Lost in Translation*.

INTERNET



## SPORTS

## Valencia slip leaves Real Madrid top in Spain

MADRID, 27 Jan— Valencia suffered a 1-0 defeat at home to Osasuna on Sunday to leave title favourites Real Madrid two points clear at the top of the table.

Valencia, needing to win to reclaim top spot after Real's 2-1 victory over Villarreal on Saturday, had only themselves to blame as centre-back Mauricio Pellegrino scored a ridiculous own-goal to gift Osasuna the lead at the end of the first half.

Mista and Xisco had good chances after the break but Valencia, who had Amedeo Carboni sent off four minutes from time, were unable to find an equalizer.

The result completed a miserable week's work for Valencia, who went down 3-0 to Real Madrid in the opening leg of their King's Cup quarterfinal tie at the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

With 21 games played, Real lead the standings with 46 points, followed by Valencia on 44.

Deportivo, in third place on 40 points, have the chance to climb within three points of the leaders in a game away to Athletic Bilbao later on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters



Valencia's Miguel Angel Mista (R) fights for the ball with Osasuna's players Cesar Cruchaga (C) and goalkeeper Ricardo Sanzol during their Premier league match in Mestalla Stadium in Valencia.—INTERNET

## Monaco survive French Cup fright

PARIS, 27 Jan— Ligue 1 leaders Monaco needed a penalty shoot-out to overcome Third Division Valenciennes in the second round of the French Cup on Sunday.

Unable to score during

120 minutes of play, the Champions League side finally overcame their defiant opponents 4-1 in the decider.

The five times winners of the French Cup had a huge fright when Valenciennes' Orlando Silvestri appeared

to have scored in the 82nd minute only for the striker to be called back for handling the ball. Toulouse were also forced to go to penalties, winning 5-4, after a goalless encounter against Ligue 1 rivals Nice.

Stade Rennes dispatched Fourth-Division and amateur side Croix Savoie 2-0, Alexander Frei scoring their second goal two minutes into the second half.

Romania striker Viorel Moldovan scored twice as Nantes overpowered 3-0 another fourth-tier team, Fontenay-le-Comte.

The 16-match round was played over three days and the main surprise came on Friday as amateur club Bayonne, who had already shocked Ligue 1 team En Avant Guingamp 5-3 on penalties in the first round, beat Girondins Bordeaux 1-0 after extra time.

RC Lens, who have lost six regulars to the African Nations Cup, were the only other top-flight team ousted by a lower division side when they lost 2-1 to Third Division Dijon on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

## Sporting rally to beat Belenenses, Porto win

LISBON, 27 Jan— Sporting Lisbon battled from a goal down to win 3-1 at nine-man Belenenses and maintain their chase of Premier League leaders Porto, who eased past Estrela Amadora on Saturday.

Unbeaten in the League, defending champions Porto have 51 points from 19 games, five more than Sporting who they meet in Lisbon next weekend.

Belenenses opened the scoring in the 30th minute when defender Marco Paulo scored from close range to give the home side a short-lived advantage.

Three minutes later, winger Sa Pinto equalized with a header to send the teams into the break all square.

Belenenses suffered their first dismissal in the 65th minute when Marco Paulo was sent off for a second bookable offence and Sporting capitalized almost immediately with Joao Pinto heading his side ahead just two minutes later. In the 83rd minute, home defender Wilson Estrela was the next to be given his marching orders following a second booking.

Sporting's Brazilian striker Liedson Muniz added the side's final goal in injury time. A pair of first-half goals from South African striker Benni McCarthy earned Porto a deserved home win. The champions dominated the match and McCarthy broke free in the 30th minute to convert a powerful left foot shot after being put through by playmaker Deco Sousa.—MNA/Reuters

## Wenger tips young gun Bentley as potential new Bergkamp

LONDON 27 Jan— David Bentley has the qualities to become the new Dennis Bergkamp, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said after the forward scored with a delicate chip in their 4-1 win over Middlesbrough in the FA Cup fourth round on Saturday.

"I believe he has a bit of the characteristics of Bergkamp, who is certainly his idol," a delighted Wenger told reporters.

Arsenal were already leading 3-1 at Highbury with a goal from Bergkamp and a double by Fredrik Ljungberg when substitute Bentley, set up by Robert Pires, chipped the ball past 'Boro goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer to wrap up the victory.

Former England Under-18 captain Bentley, who joined Arsenal as a schoolboy in the summer of 2000, had only made three first team appearances this season. "He is a very talented player," said Wenger. "A young player coming from the bench who scores after five minutes and chips the ball past the keeper does not lack confidence, especially with his left foot, as he is right-footed."

The Frenchman, though, does not think 19-year-old Bentley is a centre forward. "He is more of a supportive striker. He has

to become more mature," he said.

Arsenal were without Thierry Henry, who is being rested by Wenger, and have also lost Kanu to the African Nations Cup so they had to rely on their midfield players for goals.

"In the short term you can compensate for the absence of Thierry. We created as lot of movement today and (Robert) Pires came in, Ljungberg came in, Bergkamp came in and they created a lot of danger."

Wenger said he did not know if Henry, who will be back from his short holiday on Sunday, would play against Middlesbrough when Arsenal try to overturn a 1-0 deficit in their League Cup semifinal, second leg clash at the Riverside on Wednesday.

Middlesbrough's second 4-1 defeat at Highbury this season left manager Steve McClaren disappointed but he is looking forward to their fourth encounter with Arsenal in 19 days.—MNA/Reuters

## Rui Costa ends goal drought as Milan haul in Roma

ROME, 27 Jan— Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa ended a three-year goal drought as AC Milan thrashed bottom club Ancona 5-0 on Sunday to close in on Serie A leaders AS Roma.

Milan's win lifted them to second place on 42 points, one behind Roma, who were held 1-1 at home by Udinese.

Reigning champions Juventus, currently third on 39 points, play Empoli in a late match on Sunday.

The San Siro scoreline was hard on Ancona, who held out for more than an hour before crumbling spectacularly.

The game turned in the 64th minute when a handball by defender Roberto Maltagliati allowed Andriy Shevchenko to put Milan ahead from the penalty spot.

Seven minutes later Rui Costa scored his first ever goal for the European champions, firing past keeper Sergio Marcon from the edge of the area. He last scored in a Serie A match between Fiorentina and Vicenza in March 2001.

Shevchenko's replacement, Jon Dahl Tomasson, added a third from the penalty spot in the 78th minute and two late strikes by Brazilian midfielder Kaka completed the rout. Defender Christian Panucci gave Roma the lead at the Olympic Stadium in the 15th minute, when he hooked a Mancini cross in off the crossbar.

Udinese had taken just two points from their last three matches, but as the game

wore on they began to reproduce the giantkilling form they showed before Christmas when beating Milan.

Midfielder Giampiero Pinzi hit the post just after the half hour and Roma needed a series of fine saves by keeper Carlo Zotti to preserve their lead in a frenetic finale to the first half.—MNA/Reuters

## Paradorn still smiling after defeat

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan— Of all the ailments that hamper tennis players these days, overgrown toenails do not rank highly in the list.

But that is precisely why Thai 13th seed Paradorn Srichaphan needed attention in his Australian Open defeat by Andre Agassi on Sunday. "I've been away from home quite a long time and the nails are getting long," he smiled, after the 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat.

"One of my nails just hit with the string (racket) or something so it just cracked...I had to ask for a nail clipper to just cut it."

Such was Agassi's form, the nail incident had no effect one way or the other but Paradorn was still pleased with his performance.

"I'm not disappointed," he said. "It was a great match and he was playing really well."

"This is my best result in the Australian Open — reaching the fourth round. I was very happy to be out there and trying my best."—MNA/Reuters



AC Milan's Portuguese player Rui Costa (R) and Ancona's Roberto Maltagliati fight for the ball during their Serie A soccer match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, on January, 25, 2004. —INTERNET



**MRTV-3**

**28-1-2004 (Wednesday)**  
**Morning Transmission**

- (9:00 - 10:00)**
- 9:00 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar Pano-  
rama & Myanmar Sen-  
timent"
- 9:06 Prospering and Devel-  
oping Mon State
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Fried Sweet  
curry of tail of  
hamilton's carp)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Ayeawady Dolphin  
Expedition (Part-III)  
An Exulting Male  
Dance
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Myanmar Traditional  
Cultural Performing  
Arts Competitions  
(Drum)
- 9:40 Song "Fetch me in a  
horse-cart"
- 9:42 Pagodas in Yangon,  
The Shwedagon Pa-  
goda
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Mokens (Sea Rovers)  
Begin to Enjoy Devel-  
opment
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**28-1-2004 (Wednesday)**  
**Regular Programmes for  
Viewers from Abroad**

- Evening Transmission**  
**(15:30 - 17:30)**
- 15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Prospering and Devel-  
oping Mon State
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Fried Sweet  
curry of tail of  
hamilton's carp)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Ayeawady Dolphin  
Expedition (Part-III)  
Exulting Male Dance
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Myanmar Traditional  
Cultural Performing  
Arts Competitions  
(Drum)
- 16:10 Song "Fetch me in a  
horse-cart"
- 16:12 Pagodas in Yangon,  
Shwedagon Pagoda
- 16:15 National News**

- 16:20 Mokens (Sea Rovers)  
Begin to Enjoy Devel-  
opment
- 16:25 Song: Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Community Based  
Drug Control Pro-  
gramme
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Ba-  
nana Pudding"
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Traditional  
Gold Leaf Works
- 16:55 The Unforgettable  
Bonfire Dance
- 16:58 Interview on Marque-  
try Painting
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Mogok, The Ruby  
Land
- 17:10 Song "Missing you so  
much"
- 17:12 Myanmar Seafood
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Lifestyles along the  
Ayeawady (Manda-  
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 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 "Myanmar Pano-  
rama & Myanmar Sen-  
timent"
- 19:36 Illustrious handiwork  
in Kyeethe
- 19:40 National News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Ayeawady Dolphin  
Expedition (Part-II)
- 19:55 The Rakshine Dance,  
The Pride of Yoma
- 19:58 Inlay Blacksmith  
Craftsmanship
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Clothes decorated with  
Sequin-like Colourful  
Plastics
- 20:10 Song "Love that didn't  
bring us together"
- 20:12 National News**
- 20:15 Fishery in Kayin State
- 20:20 Archaeological Mu-  
seum, Pakhangyi (II)
- 20:25 Song "Come Visit  
Myanmar"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Excursion in Yangon  
River
- 20:40 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Sour Soup of  
tender tamarind leaves  
with head of fish)
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Conservation of Forest  
Resources in Myanmar
- 20:55 A Song of the "Nat"  
Spirits
- 21:00 National News**

- 21:05 Road to Mungun
- 21:10 Song "Ngwe Hsaung  
Beach Resort"
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Discussion Points on  
Lacquerware College
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Prospering and Devel-  
oping Mon State
- 21:40 National News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes (Fried Sweet  
curry of tail of  
hamilton's carp)
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Ayeawady Dolphin  
Expedition (Part-III)
- 21:55 An Exulting Male  
Dance
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Traditional Cultural  
Performing Arts Com-  
petitions (Drum)
- 22:10 Song "Fetch me in a  
horse-cart"
- 22:12 Pagodas in Yangon,  
The Shwedagon Pa-  
goda
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Mokens (Sea Rovers)  
Begin to Enjoy Devel-  
opment
- 22:25 Songs on Screen "Our  
Cherryland"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Community Based  
Drug Control Pro-  
gramme
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Ba-  
nana Pudding"
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Traditional  
Gold Leaf Works
- 22:55 The Unforgettable  
Bonfire Dance
- 22:58 Interview on Marque-  
try Painting
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Mogok, Ruby Land
- 23:10 Song "Missing you so  
much"
- 23:12 Myanmar Seafood
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Lifestyles along the  
Ayeawady (Manda-  
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

## Summer English courses to be opened

YANGON, 27 Jan — Under the training of Dr Myint Hlaing, intermediate level English grammar and reading, writing and spoken English courses, General English, Medical English, TOFEL, English in Business Studies and Going-abroad English courses are being conducted at MRA (Myanmar Royal Academy). In the first week of February Post-intermediate English, English in Basic Buddhism, English in Myanmar Language, Culture and Literature courses and Chinese courses will be opened. Those wishing to attend the courses may contact No 57, ground floor, 9th Street, Lanmadaw Township, (Tel: 222121). — MNA



Minister U Win Aung hosts a dinner in honour of those who attended the seminar. MNA

## Seminar on Understanding Myanmar opened

YANGON, 27 Jan — The Seminar on Understanding Myanmar, organized by Myanmar Institute of Strategies and International Studies, was opened at MICT Park in Hline Township here this morning.

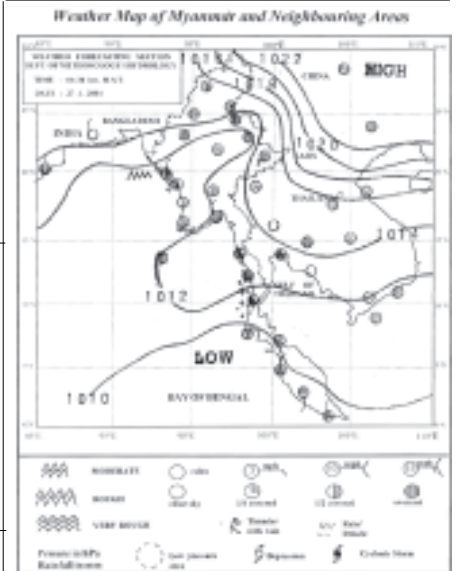
Present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, ambassadors from foreign missions in Yangon, diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies, Myanmar ambassadors, retired Myanmar ambassadors, Myanmar historians, businessmen, rectors from universities, professors, researchers from Brunei, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of

Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA and Vietnam, resource persons, officials and invited guests.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win presented the paper on 'Future political programme of the State', Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein of the Ministry of Defence on 'Endeavours for stability and tranquility of the State', Police Col Kham Aung of

MPF on 'Drugs elimination', and Rector Dr Kan Zaw of Institute of Economics on 'All-round development'. Queries of those present were replied and the seminar came to a close in the evening.

In the evening, Minister U Win Aung hosted a dinner in honour of those who attended the seminar at Zizawa Yeiktha of the ministry. The seminar continues tomorrow.—MNA



## WEATHER

**Tuesday, 27 January, 2004**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, light rains have been isolated in Shan State, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (6°C) to (7°C) above normal in Shan State, (3°C) below normal in Chin State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 26-1-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 27-1-2004 was 18.2°C (65°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-1-2004 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 26-1-2004 was (6.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 14 mph from Southeast at (10:30) hours MST on 26-1-2004.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 28-1-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated rain in upper Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-1-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-1-2004:** Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**TV Myanmar**

**Wednesday, January 28**

**View today:**

**7:00 am**

- ကျေးဇူးတင် စမ်းကွန်ဆာရတော်ဘုရား  
အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ  
ရတနာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရတနာသံဃ  
ဓမ္မာတိ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မဗျာက  
ဂါရိ၊ ဆရာတော် ဘုရားရှင်  
သာဓကဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

**7:25 am**

- To be healthy exercise

**7:30 am**

- Morning news

**7:40 am**

- Nice and sweet song

**7:50 am**

- မြန်မာ့အသံအကျဉ်းချုပ်

**8:05 am**

- အထိမ်းအမှတ်

**8:20 am**

- မင်္ဂလာသီချင်းတော်

**8:30 am**

- International news

**8:45 am**

- Learning English the easy  
and happy way for  
children and beginners

**4:00 pm**

- Martial song

**4:15 pm**

- Songs to uphold  
National Spirit

**4:30 pm**

- Practice in reading

**4:45 pm**

- Musical programme

**5:00 pm**

- အလင်းတက္ကသိုလ်သံဃာရေး

**ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသံဃာရေး**

**—တတိယနံ (ရတနာအသံ)**

**(ရတနာအသံ)**

**5:15 pm**

- (၅၀)မိနစ်ကြိုပြောဆိုသောသံဃာရေး

**ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား**

**5:30 pm**

- Strong and healthy

**Myanmar**

**5:40 pm**

- Songs of national races

**5:50 pm**

- Classical song

**6:05 pm**

- ရွှေတိဂုံလှူဒါန်းအခမ်းအနား

**6:15 pm**

- Discovery

**6:30 pm**

- Evening news

**7:00 pm**

- Weather report

**7:05 pm**

- Milo success in soccer

**7:15 pm**

- Musical programme

**7:30 pm**

- တော် (အပိုင်း-၂)

**8:00 pm**

- News

**8:05 pm**

- International news

**8:10 pm**

- Weather report

**8:15 pm**

- နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်းအကျဉ်းချုပ်

**"တုံ့ပြန်ချက်" (အပိုင်း-၂)**

**21. The next day's**

**programme**

**Radio Myanmar**

**Wednesday, January 28**

**Tune in today:**

**8.30 am**

- Brief news

**8.35 am**

- Perspectives

**8.40 am**

- Music

**8.45 am**

- National news/Slogan

**8.50 am**

- Music

**9.00 am**

- International news

**9.05 am**

- Music

**9.10 am**

- News/Slogan

**1.30 pm**

- Lunch time music

**1.40 pm**

- Baby don't you hurt me (Atomic Kitten)

**9.00 pm**

- Eternal flame (Human Nature)

**9.05 pm**

- Variations on a turn: The end of the world

**9.15 pm**

- Letter man Bobby Darin

**9.25 pm**

- Article/Music

**Music at your request**

**-I love Rock and Roll (Britney Spears)**

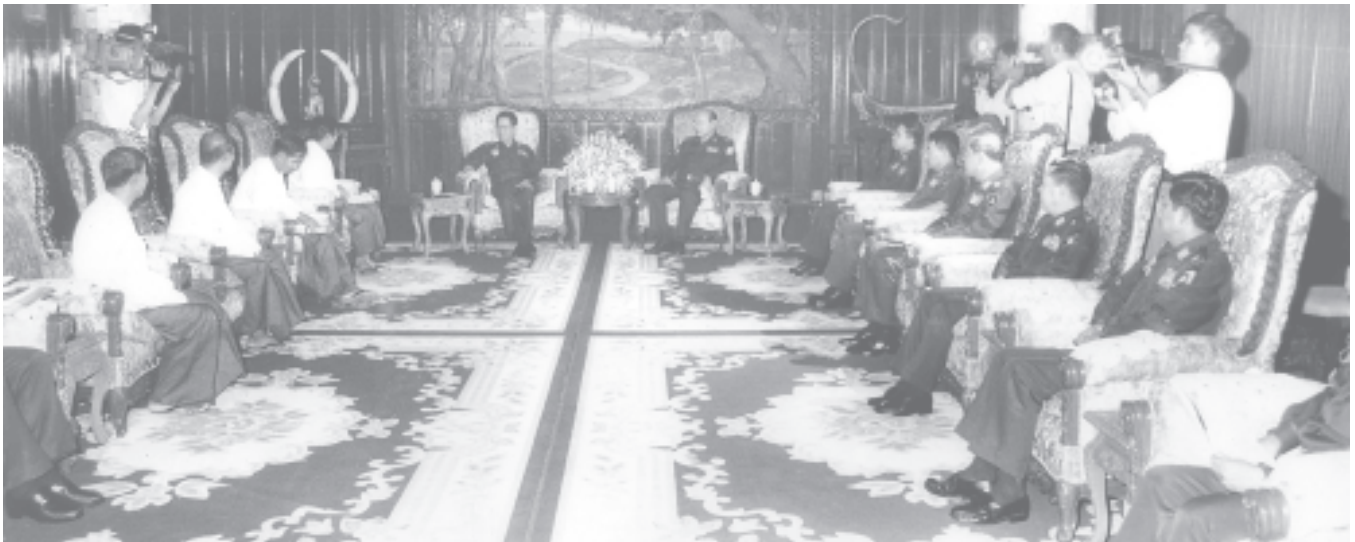
**Paradise (Natural)**

**9.45 pm**

**News/Slogan**

**10.00 pm**

**PEL**



## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Rakhine national group

YANGON, 27 Jan — Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Rakhine national group led by U Saw Tun Oo from Aung Zeya Nyeinchay Village, who had returned to the legal fold, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall, Kon-myintha, here at 5.15 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung

Maung Thein, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Director-General of the Office of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Government

Office U Soe Tint and officials.

On the occasion, the national race leaders said that they welcome and support the State's seven-point Roadmap and pledged that they will collectively and unitedly participate in the tasks for accomplishment of the State's future policy programme under the leadership of the Government.

They held talks on assistance to be rendered by the State for education, health, agri-cultural and economic sectors and for regional development.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives U Saw Tun Oo and party. — MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 27 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received President and CEO of the China Huanqiu Contracting & Engineering Corp Mr Wang Shihang and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall, Konmyinttha, here at 4 pm today.

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

General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mr Tang Hai and members and Managing Director of the Asia World Co Ltd U Tun Myint Naing. — MNA

## Marching toward the Golden Land in unity and amity



The Union Day, which falls on 12 February every year, is commemorated to further strengthen existing ties of friendship and amity among the national brethren. In honour of the 57th Anniversary Union Day, 2004, *The New Light of Myanmar* will present articles, documentary photos, poems and cartoons plus data and charts highlighting the historical facts on forging Union Spirit and sustained efforts of the State Peace and Development Council for perpetual existence of the Union and for bringing peace and prosperity to all regions including the border areas. The NLM will feature the programme "Marching toward the Golden Land in unity and amity" as from 29 January 2004.

The New Light of Myanmar



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Wang Shihang and party. — MNA