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Preserve fine traditions of unity



It is the most important and noble duty of every citizen of the Union to preserve the fine traditions of unity forged among the national brethren with mutual understanding during the anti-colonialist and anti-fascist movements and the independence struggle.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 46th Anniversary Union Day)

'State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe greets Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao PDR Dr Thongloun Sisolith. — MNA

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Senior General Than Shwe receives Laotian Deputy PM

YANGON, 28 Jan —State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe received the visiting 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 at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, at 10:30 am today.

Present at the call with Senior General Than Shwe were State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, State Peace and Develop-

ment Council Office Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and together with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister were Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane.

MNA



'State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe receives Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao PDR Dr Thongloun Sisolith and party. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 29 January, 2004

Let's make earnest and concerted efforts for success of national roadmap

The Seminar on Understanding Myanmar, organized by Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies was opened at the MICT Park on the Hline University campus on the morning of 27 January and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the opening ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, high-ranking civil and military officials, ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon, diplomats, UN resident representatives, officials of the SPDC office, departmental heads, retired Myanmar ambassadors, historians, economists, rectors and professors, chairmen of social organizations as well as researchers from foreign countries, resource persons and specially-invited guests.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said, "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 Kayin National Union, the last major group remaining out of the legal fold."

Now that peace and stability is prevailing all over the nation, special attention can be given to the emergence of a peaceful, prosperous and modern state that can take its rightful place in the world. Systematic measures are being taken for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing and modern democratic state in accordance with the roadmap or the seven-point policy programme. The seven-point policy programme includes the reconvening of the national convention to draft a new constitution, the holding of free and fair elections in accordance with the new constitution, the formation of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Government and the central organs of power.

As the Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races, the national unity is the sine qua non for the emergence of a peaceful democratic state. And we would like to call on the entire national people to make earnest and concerted efforts for the successful realization of the national roadmap.

Yangon Trade Fair to be held

YANGON, 28 Jan — With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, Yangon Trade Fair 2004 will be held by Quartz International Co Ltd on a grand scale at Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Road from 30 January to 2 February. On display at the trade fair will be local and foreign cosmetics, consumers' goods, clothes, utensils, plastic wares, foodstuff, electric and electronic appliances, construction materials, household goods, stationery, packaging materials, small machinery and installation machines, and western and traditional medicines. Entertainment programmes will also include at the trade fair. — MNA



Myanmar ICT Week (2004)

has been extended up to 31 January 2004
MICT Park Yangon

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

MWAF holds talks on culture

YANGON, 28 Jan — The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (Culture Group) organized talks on culture at the University of Culture (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (South) here this morning.

It was attended by Vice-President of the MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe and members, Rector of the university U Tin Soe, the pro-rector, professors, faculty members, students and guests.

The vice-president made an address on the occasion.

Doyen writer Daw



MWAF Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe delivers an address on the occasion. MNA

Saw Mon Nyin presented tasks on "Preserve traditional culture by wearing modest costumes". Next, the vice-president and members viewed variety of dances, and demonstration of painting skills. — MNA



Presentation of virus diagnostic in shrimp in progress. — MNA

Virus diagnostic in shrimp presented

YANGON, 28 Jan — The presentation of virus diagnostic in shrimp "Focus on SBBU PCR and Rapid Test Methods" was held under the joint sponsorship of the Euro Continents Myanmar and the Shrimp Biotechnology Business Unit (SBBU) at the meeting hall of the Cold Storage Compound of the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock &

Fisheries on Hsinmin Road, Ahlon Township here at 10 am today.

Dr Philippe Tacon, business manager of SBBU presented the virus diagnosis in shrimps.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Livestock & Fisheries U Aung Thein, directors-general, heads of department, invited guests and enthusiasts. — 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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Gold Uni Golf Classic Golf Tournament continues



YANGON, 28 Jan — The Gold Uni Golf Classic Golf Tournament, organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, continued at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon here this morning.

After the second round, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) was leading the

tournament with 140 (72+68) strokes. Runners-up were Min Naing (Srixon) with 144 (73+71), Nanda Kyaw (YCDC) with 147 (71+76), Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) with 148 (76+72) and Aung Win (YCDC) with 149 (73+76).

Gold Uni Jewellery Co Ltd and Xie family together with Imperial Jade purified drinking water also co-sponsored the tournament that continues tomorrow. — MNA



Soe Kyaw Naing takes part in the tournament. — MGF

Iraq bombings kill six US soldiers

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan— The United Nations agreed Tuesday to send a team to Iraq to help break the impasse over electing a new government, as the deaths of six more American soldiers in roadside bombings underscored concerns about security in the volatile nation.

A bomb that exploded south of Baghdad killed three US soldiers and wounded three others Tuesday night, hours after another bombing west of the capital killed three US paratroopers and wounded one, the military said. In addition, two employees of Cable News Network died in a shooting south of Baghdad. Elsewhere, US troops killed three suspected members of a guerilla cell during raids Tuesday in the central Iraqi town of Beiji, the Army said. And a suspected car bomb was discovered near coalition and Iraqi Governing Council offices.

The United States has cited the ongoing violence in arguing against demands by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani for the direct election of a provisional legislature, which in turn will select a government to take power by July 1.

Instead, Washington wants the lawmakers chosen in 18 regional caucuses. The Americans and the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council asked UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to send a team to determine whether an early election would be feasible.

In Paris, Annan said he believes the United Nations can play "a constructive role" in helping to break the impasse, and would send such a team to Iraq "once I am satisfied that the (coalition) will provide adequate security arrangements. Annan said the mission will solicit the views of Iraqis to find alternative ways to choose a provisional government. Shiite Muslim leaders have said al-Sistani wants to hear alternatives to the caucus plan if the UN team says it's not feasible to hold elections by the end of June.

Tuesday's killings brought to 519

the number of Americans who have died since the Iraq war began. Most occurred after President Bush declared an end to active combat May 1.

The last serious attack in Khaldiyyah took place Saturday when a car bomb killed three US soldiers and wounded six. Two American soldiers were killed in Fallujah the same day.

In Baghdad's southern outskirts, a driver and a translator-producer working for CNN were shot and killed Tuesday by unidentified assailants, the network said. They were returning from an assignment in a two-car convoy, CNN said. It identified the men as translator-producer Duraid Isa Mohammed and driver Yasser Khatab. CNN said cameraman Scott McWhinnie, in the second car, was grazed in the head by a bullet. Correspondent Michael Holmes and several other people in that car were unhurt. —Internet

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Guerillas attack Polish forces in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan— Guerillas attacked the headquarters of Polish forces in a southern city, triggering a gunbattle that killed one Iraqi policeman. In Baghdad, guerillas fired a rocket into the US compound but caused no casualties.

As attacks continued, Iraq's interim interior minister blamed Osama bin Laden's terror network al-Qaida for many of the suicide car bombings in the country in recent weeks. Late Monday, gunmen fired at a hotel housing Polish troops in the holy city of Karbala, but were repulsed by Iraqi police, said Karbala police spokesman Rahman Mashawi. He said the police and the attackers fought a pitched gunbattle that left one policeman dead. Police arrested two of the gunmen and there were no Polish casualties, he said.

Poland heads a multinational force in south-central Iraq to which it has contributed 2,400 troops based in Karbala, 75 miles south of Baghdad. So far, two Polish soldiers have been killed in Iraq. —Internet



A crowd of Iraqis gather to watch US troops secure the scene of an explosion near Khaldiyyah, Iraq, on Tuesday 27 Jan, 2004 —INTERNET

US casualties feared in Iraq blasts

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan— A roadside bomb exploded next to a passing US military convoy west of the Iraqi capital on Tuesday, and a second bomb went off when reinforcements arrived, damaging vehicles and inflicting several casualties, witnesses said.

The US military confirmed a "large explosion" and said there were possibly US and Iraqi civilian casualties. The attack occurred in Khaldiyyah, 50 miles west of Baghdad. The town is near Fallujah, a hotspot of guerilla activity where several attacks have taken place against US-led coalition forces.

"One of our units was ambushed near Fallujah... involving two coalition vehicles. There might be coalition and civilian casualties," said a military spokesman, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

Another spokeswoman earlier described the attack as a "large explosion." Nameer Mohammed, who said he was standing about 500 yards away when the attack occurred, described seeing a US military vehicle on fire after the first blast.

As more American forces came to the scene, another bomb went off, setting fire to a second vehicle, he said.

In the confusion, the Americans fired randomly, he said, and claimed that many Iraqis were killed. This could not be immediately confirmed. Mohammed said he carried several injured people to the hospital.

The last serious attack in Khaldiyyah took place on Saturday when a car bomb killed three American soldiers at a checkpoint and injured six in addition to several Iraqi civilians. Two other American soldiers were killed in Fallujah the same day. Khaldiyyah and Fallujah are part of the Sunni Triangle, the area in central Iraq where most of the anti-US attacks by die-hard Saddam Hussein loyalists have taken place. —Internet

Tourism boom, neglect devouring China's Great Wall

BEIJING, 28 Jan— Booming tourism, neglect and inadequate funds for protection is nibbling away China's Great Wall and just one-third of it remains, a report says.

Only one-third of the 6,350 kilometres of the world-famous Great Wall now exists and the length is still shortening, it says. The Great Wall, one of the seven wonders of the world, was first built in the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) as a major defensive project and rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Surviving the times, the Great Wall was listed as a world cultural heritage site in 1987 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The most recent case of damage happened last December in Hebei Province, North China, Xinhua news agency reported. A survey team found that a 14-metre-long breach had occurred at the 600-year-old Hongyukou section of the Great Wall. The blocks removed from the Great Wall rampart had been set aside and on both sides of the breach, two sections of 1,000-metre new cement wall replaced the original wall.

Investigation showed that the project was part of the planned Hongyu villa project, which was unauthorized by any cultural relic department.

After being fined 100,000 yuan (12,000 US dollars) for the damage to the Great Wall, the investor Zhou Wen felt he had been wronged.

Many farmers along the Great Wall do not even know that the structure is under state protection. Wall bricks become their courtyard walls and even pig pens in some remote areas. Booming tourism, in itself, has increased the burden on the Great Wall. The Wall has offered popular scenic spots and brought huge profits in recent years.

Statistics show that it receives about 10 million visitors every year all over the country. —MNA/PTI

Vietnam, Malaysia agree to boost multi-faceted ties

HANOI, 28 Jan— Vietnam and Malaysia have agreed to further enhance their friendly relations and multi-faceted cooperation ties, especially economic ones.

The consensus was reached when Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai held talks with his visiting Malaysian counterpart Abdulah Ahmad Badawi on Monday, according to the Vietnam News Agency on Monday.

Khai said Malaysia is

experienced in apparatus organization, industrial development and international integration, the three fields Vietnam can learn from.

The two countries should build a coordination mechanism to deal with issues of mutual concern to strengthen bilateral coopera-

tion ties, he said.

Khai also agreed with Badawi's suggestion that Vietnam and Malaysia will revise the aviation agreement the two countries have already signed to facilitate travel of tourists between the two countries.

Badawi said Malaysia

would like to expand economic cooperation with and continue investing in Vietnam, especially in construction of roads, bridges and wharves, exploitation of oil and gas, and manpower training. —MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabweans urge coordinated approach to export market in Africa

HARARE, 28 Jan— Zimbabwe's trade promotion body, Zimtrade, on here Monday called for a coordinated and integrated approach towards export market in Africa.

Zimtrade chief executive Freddy Chawasarira said that a national thrust and appeal was required if Zimbabwe was to strongly compete with other players and make a mark in the export market. "The South African manufactures, for example, work together to make sure that a distribution channel is established in a market," he said. —MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers ride past Iraqi women during a patrol on Baghdad's Shuad square on 27 January. Two CNN employees were killed when their two-car convoy was attacked. —INTERNET

Female US soldiers under fire in Iraq

TIKRIT, 28 Jan— The roadside bomb near the main American military base here killed one woman soldier, and turned attention to the new role American women are playing in the war in Iraq.

The nature of the conflict, with US soldiers facing guerillas, not conventional troops, has blurred military traditions, and put usually rear echelon troops such as the military police — with their large contingent of women — under direct enemy fire, along with the infantry, special forces and other front line troops.

Although women are barred from front line units, more than 10 American women soldiers have died in Iraq since US-led troops invaded in March. Many others have been wounded.

On 1 Oct, the dangers to women soldiers in Iraq struck home for the US Army's 4th Infantry Division when Pfc. Analaura Esparza

Gutierrez, 21, of Houston, was killed as a roadside bomb struck her Humvee near Tikrit, former leader Saddam Hussein's hometown and a centre of resistance to US forces.

She was the first woman from the division to die in Iraq. At the same time, the quick thinking and bravery shown by Gutierrez' friend and fellow support soldier, Spc Karen Guckert, saved two troops injured in the blast and won her a US Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

"We were deeply moved when we lost Analaura Esparza," Lt Col Steve Russell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infan-

try Division, said. "This is not to say we are not moved when we lose a male soldier, but her loss deeply affected us in additional ways."

But Guckert and some other women serving in Iraq have different feelings about the dangers facing women soldiers.

"Infantrymen say to me they couldn't handle seeing a female getting hurt because it would remind them of their sister, aunt or wife," said Guckert, 24, of Yakima, Wash. "I understand their point, but at the same time we are all soldiers and we can all die for our country. So we can't we fight for our country?"

Many female soldiers like Guckert acknowledge

that the physical stresses of combat, which include carrying packs close to their own weight for long distances or lifting men wounded in action, might prove too tough for some women.

But most women, particularly military police soldiers who have been trudging Iraqi streets and conducting house raids for months, say this conflict has provided them with the same tasks as any infantryman.

"Any soldier out here is at risk, whether they are male or female or infantry, military police or anything else," said Lt Amanda Lee Dorsey, a 25-year-old military police officer from Hickory Hills, Ill.

Internet



Annan sees multinational, not UN, Iraq force

PARIS, 28 Jan— UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Tuesday he did not foresee a UN 'blue helmet' peacekeeping force being sent to Iraq for now, but said the dispatch of a UN-approved multinational force was possible.

Speaking in Paris after talks with French President Jacques Chirac, Annan told a news conference sending a UN force would be a huge task.

"I don't think that for the moment that the question of sending blue helmets has been raised. One could foresee a multinational force authorized by the Security Council," he said. —Internet

Two CNN employees killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan— Two men working for CNN were shot and killed Tuesday by unidentified assailants outside Baghdad, the network said.

CNN said in a broadcast that the pair was returning from an assignment in a two-car convoy that came under attack. It identified the two men as translator-producer Duraid Isa Mohammed and driver Yasser Khatab, both Iraqi citizens.

A CNN cameraman in the second car was grazed in the head by a bullet but was safe, the network said. It said correspondent Michael Holmes was also in the car along with three other people but none of them were hurt.

The vehicles were travelling toward the Baghdad suburb of Mahmoudiya when a rust-coloured Opel came up behind one car. A gunman, standing through the sunroof, opened fire at the convoy with an AK-47, the network said.

The car with Holmes and wounded cameraman Scott McWhinnie escaped as an armed security adviser who was with them returned fire.

Iraqi police later found the car with the bodies of Mohammed and Khatab. "This is very, very disturbing," said Chris Cramer, managing director of CNN International. "This was a premeditated terrorist attack."

There were no markings on the vehicles to indicate they were carrying members of the Press, and CNN had no indication that the gunmen knew them, Cramer said.

Internet

Car bomb found near Iraq Governing Office

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan— American forces discovered a car bomb Tuesday in a parking lot near the offices of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, the US command said.

The car rigged with explosives was found at Gate 2, a high-security checkpoint manned by US troops, the command said. US troops sealed off the area as bomb disposal experts tried to defuse it.

Internet



US Army soldiers seal off an area as a truck, and two Humvee vehicles obscured behind it, are afire following an attack on a convoy in the central Iraq town of Khaldiya, on 27 January, 2004. —INTERNET

China, France vow to work for solution of global issues

PARIS, 28 Jan — China and France have agreed to work for the solution of global issues in a joint declaration signed Tuesday by visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao and his French counterpart, Jacques Chirac.

On promotion of sustainable development, the two countries pledge to make concerted efforts to fulfil the millennium development targets set by the United Nations in September 2000, and strive to eliminate poverty, hunger, diseases, environment degradation, illiteracy and discrimination against women.

On environment protection, China and France reaffirm their support for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, recalling that both have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. In a bid to draw more international attention to environmental issues, the two countries support the strengthening of the role of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and broad discussions on the reform of the UNEP.

In the joint declaration, the two countries voice their support to balanced international trade and globalization based on mutual benefit. They also reiterate their emphasis on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the multilateral trade system.

The two countries agree that the WTO is the only legitimate body to make trade rules.

The two countries are committed to establishing a fair, just and open international trade order within the framework of the WTO, strengthening consultations and cooperation in relevant fields, and helping developing countries, particular the least developed countries, genuinely integrate into the multilateral trade system and the world economy.

In view of the fact that globalization often brings about negative socio-economic consequences, the two countries reiterate their support to the concern of social problems and globalization based on mutual benefit and fair trade, to ultimately meet the target of eliminating poverty and ensuring sustainable development. — MNA/Xinhua

EU, Canada back world trade talks, bilateral deal

BRUSSELS, 28 Jan — The European Union still believes world trade talks can be wrapped up this year, despite the collapse in negotiations in 2003, European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said recently.

After a meeting with his new Canadian counterpart James Peterson, the two men also said they hoped officially to launch talks on a trade and investment agreement at a summit in March.

"What I believe is that for sure completing the round this year is much more diffi-

cult now than it was before Cancun," Lamy told a news conference, referring to the meeting in the Mexican resort where the global trade talks collapsed.

"This being said, it is not impossible," he added, noting that all members of the World Trade Organiza-

tion believed that getting a deal, which aims to further liberalize global commerce, was a good idea.

He said the EU was in a "real hurry" to get the talks going again and wanted the time lost after Cancun to be made up by March or April.

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers drive over Baghdad's Shuhada bridge during a routine patrol of the Iraqi capital on 27 January. —INTERNET

Oil prices fall as US freeze eases

LONDON, 28 Jan— Oil prices eased further from recent 10-month highs on Monday after forecasters predicted a deep chill in the United States, the world's thirstiest oil consumer, would loosen its grip and lower demand for heating fuel.

London Brent crude was down 46 cents at 30.50 US dollars a barrel, while US light crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell 37 cents to 34.57 US dollars a barrel.

Freezing weather in the US Northeast, a huge consumer of heating oil, last week pushed US crude above 36, its highest since the Iraq war.

By next week, some of the extreme cold should abate with temperatures seen rising later this week to just 0-3 degrees Fahrenheit below normal for the time of year versus 6-12 degrees below normal on Monday, forecaster Meteorlogix said.

MNA/Reuters

"Reuters" urges US army to address safety in Iraq

LONDON, 28 Jan — *Reuters* expressed "growing frustration" on Tuesday that the US military had failed to address serious concerns about journalists' safety in Iraq, which it said had put all media in the country at greater risk.

Global Managing Editor David Schlesinger said *Reuters* was still awaiting an adequate response to a formal protest against the arrest and mistreatment of three Iraqis working with *Reuters* who were detained near Falluja on January 2 and held for 72 hours.

On the day the *Reuters* team was detained, the US military issued a statement saying "enemy personnel posing as media" had fired on US troops in the area. But after the release of the team three days later, the US Army said there was no credible evidence that they had been involved in any kind of attack.

"The safety of journalists in Iraq is not improving. The detention and mistreatment of our staff combined with the military's highly charged statements have only served to raise the risks for all journalists working in Iraq," Schlesinger said.

"We think it absolutely necessary that this be addressed. We would welcome the opportunity to have a constructive discussion with the US military on how we can work together to reverse this disturbing trend," he said in a statement.

"To achieve this we need a genuine commitment from the military to engage in constructive dialogue and quickly

resolve outstanding issues."

Reuters said Schlesinger sent a letter to the US Department of Defence on Tuesday expressing *Reuters* "growing frustration at the US military's failure to address its concerns about the safety of journalists in Iraq, and to answer its requests for more information regarding incidents which have cost or endangered their lives."

Two *Reuters* cameramen have been killed in Iraq by US troops.

The US Army has said it is investigating the arrest and treatment of the *Reuters* team near Falluja on January 2.

The detained *Reuters* staff were Baghdad-based cameraman Salem Ureibi, Falluja-based freelance television journalist Ahmad Mohammad Hussein al-Badrani and driver Sattar Jabar al-Badrani. A freelance cameraman with the US network NBC was also detained.

The *Reuters* crew said US troops fired in their direction as they were covering the aftermath of a helicopter crash, and later detained them. — MNA/Reuters

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Three US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan — Three US soldiers were killed on Tuesday by a roadside bomb attack on a convoy south of Baghdad, the US military said, bringing the day's death toll for the US occupying forces to six.

Three other soldiers were wounded in the attack at approximately 8.00 pm (1700 GMT) near Iskandariya, about 30 miles south of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. In an earlier attack on Tuesday, three US soldiers had been killed by a roadside bomb west of Baghdad.

At least 520 American soldiers have died since the US-led invasion of Iraq last March, 361 in combat.

UN chief Kofi Annan said on Tuesday that security permitting he planned to send a team to Iraq to study the feasibility of holding early elections. US security experts are already in Iraq assessing the situation.

Two CNN staff were also killed in an ambush south of Baghdad on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

US to offer second wave of Iraq contracts to all

PARIS, 28 Jan — The United States on Tuesday opened the door to French companies to bid for a second wave of US-funded reconstruction contracts in Iraq.

US Commerce Undersecretary for International Trade Grant Aldonas, in Paris to improve US trade relations with France, said he had discussed opening up the bidding with French Trade Minister Francois Loos.

"There will be a second tranche of contracts, which I expect will be opened more broadly to all comers," Aldonas told the French-American Press club in Paris.

Opening up bidding for future contracts was important to helping relations between Paris and Washington, Aldonas said.

"This is another one of those issues where, if we are going to encourage a continuing dialogue between the United States and France, these are exactly the sorts of issues that have to come on the table," he said. — MNA/Reuters

Guatemalan police seize over 900 kilos of cocaine

MEXICO CITY, 28 Jan — Guatemalan police recently seized more than 900 kilos of cocaine that were being transported in a motorboat across the Usumacinta River on the border with Mexico, reports reaching here said recently.

The shipment was the biggest one that has been seized since the beginning of the year, retired General Otto Perez, the Guatemalan Defence and Security Commissioner, told the Press in Guatemala City. — MNA/Xinhua

UN envoy warns against premature polls in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan — UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi said on Tuesday premature elections in Iraq could do more harm than good and signalled he would not play the kind of leadership role there that Washington wanted him to play.

"If you get your priorities wrong, elections are a very divisive process," said Brahimi, speaking at a luncheon sponsored by UN groups before talks with senior White House officials later in the day.

"They create tensions. They create competition. And in a country that is not stable enough to take that ... one has to be certain it will not do more harm than good."

Brahimi also said that he would be working on Iraq in his current role as an adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, but he said: "To take responsibility for Iraq, no, that's not in the cards." The United States has been pressuring Brahimi, who just finished a two-year stint as chief UN envoy in Afghanistan, to assume a central role in organizing a political transition to Iraqi self-rule, due in June.

Washington opposes direct elections in postwar Iraq, citing what it says are insurmountable organizational and political obstacles, but Iraq's leading Shiite religious authority has rejected that and called for UN mediation in the dispute. — MNA/Reuters

Study finds cholesterol drug may prevent bone fractures

CHICAGO, 28 Jan — Statins, a class of drugs used to treat high cholesterol, reduced the risk of bone fractures in elderly women in some studies, though proof of the benefit requires further research, a report published on Monday said.



The risk of hip fractures was reduced by between 38 per cent and 81 per cent while the risk of non-spinal fractures was cut by between 5 per cent and 51 per cent in four large studies reviewed.

Such fractures are often blamed on osteoporosis-weakened aging bones.

A re-examination of eight other studies was consistent with the finding that statin users suffered fewer fractures, but two other clinical trials did not support it.

MNA/Reuters

US and Iraqi soldiers guard the 'Assassins' Gate entrance to the US-led coalition's headquarters in Baghdad on 27 Jan.

INTERNET

Parmalat debt eight times more than managers said

MILAN/LONDON, 28 Jan — Parmalat on Monday said its net debt was 14.3 billion euros (17.6 billion US dollars) before it collapsed last month — almost eight times the amount claimed by its former managers, many of whom are now under arrest.

Parmalat's battered bonds took another hit following the news. Traders and analysts said the numbers

suggested that debt holders may recover less than 10 per cent of face value. The food company also said auditors PriceWaterhouseCoopers found that its earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization in the nine months to September 30 were 121 million euros, a fifth of the result reported officially.

Prosecutors leading a fraud investigation have said Parmalat's top management routinely misled markets, faked bank documents and inflated revenue for over a decade. They estimated debts could total as much as 13 billion euros.

Parmalat's euro-denominated bond due in 2010 was bid six percentage points lower at 12 per cent of face value on Monday. Its bonds in dollars lost nearly half their remaining value in New York and were quoted at 11 cents to 12 cents on the dollar. Parmalat shares have been suspended indefinitely.

"I estimate bondholder recovery to be under 7 per cent," said an analyst of dis-

tressed debt in London.

By comparison, the analyst said, some bondholders of bankrupt US energy trading company Enron recovered 10 cents on the dollar after taking legal action.

Using Parmalat's figures on Monday and making various assumptions, he calculated the group's value at 3.3 billion euros, leaving 800 million euros to be split by holders of 11.8 billion euros in bonds after 2.5 billion euros are paid to creditor banks. Previous estimates of recovery rates for Parmalat debt assumed net debt of 10 billion euros and ranged from 30 per cent to 50 per cent.

Parmalat founder Calisto Tanzi, two former finance directors and two outside auditors are among 11 people arrested so far in the case. No one has yet been charged.

Tanzi, 65, returned to jail late on Sunday after three days under observation in hospital for suspected heart problems and was due to undergo another round of questioning on Monday.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Weapons of American terrorism: cluster bomb



The danger of cluster bombs

According to an AFP report, the British forces were responsible for the use of over 2,000 cluster bombs during the Iraq conflict last year. Cluster bombs are weapons comprising a container which breaks apart to drop a shower of bomblets. Released from high altitudes, they can wander off their target. Some also do not explode immediately, but litter the ground with bomblets with the potential to go off years later.

An unexploded portion of a cluster bomb lies in the Seybiran area, some 40km south from northern Iraq's town of Arbil, on 8 May, 2003.

Razzaq Kazem al-Khafaj grieves over the bodies of his children in Hilla in the southern province of Babylon. Khafaj lost 15 members (including six children) of his family as his car was bombed by coalition helicopters while fleeing al-Haidariyeh towards Babylon.



Five year-old Iraqi boy Ali Mustafa is comforted by his mother Mona Hassan, 37, at Baghdad's Saddam hospital, Thursday April 17, 2003. Ali and his four brothers were wounded by an unexploded cluster bomb they found in the garden of their home. The others suffered facial and hand injuries.

Iraqi deaths resulting from cluster bombs ;

Date	Location	Death Toll
23-3-2003	Nassiriya	10
28-3-2003	Najaf	26
6-4-2003	Karbala	35
7-4-2003	Baghdad	4
9-4-2003	Baghdad	26
10-4-2003	Dibs District and Kalar	29
10-4-2003	Nassiriya	3
11-4-2003	Baghdad	2
12-4-2003	Baghdad	3
18-4-2003	Baghdad	1
19-4-2003	Baghdad	3
up-to 20-4-2003	Kirkuk	83
21-4-2003	Kirkuk	52
26-4-2003	Baghdad	2
Total		279



Hana Mustafa (R) clings to her neighbor Um Mohammad at the Qaddamiyyah Hospital, while waiting for her eight-year-old son Munthadar Ali to have his hand amputated, in Baghdad April 19, 2003. Munthadar picked up a cluster bomb in his schoolyard in the Khadmiya area of Baghdad and took it home, where it exploded.



Jaudet Abdul Katham, 22, who lost his left leg when he stepped on a cluster bomb while walking with friends in Khadmiya, western Baghdad, recuperates with numerous others at Qaddamiyyah Hospital in the wing for victims of cluster bombs, April 19, 2003.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day

Development images of Shan State (South) in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



The Department of Electric Power under the Ministry of Electric Power is implementing the hydel- power project using water of Kengtawng Waterfalls on Nanttain Creek in Mongnai Township, Loilem District, Shan State (South). On completion, it will be able to generate 472 million kwh per year.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Sown acreage (paddy)	-	over 400,000 acres
Highland cultivation	-	323.25 acres
Irrigation facilities	42	57
Communication		
Auto-exchange	1	8
Rural post office	-	28
Microwave station	2	15
Transport		
Railroad (under construction)	-	4
Railroad (constructed)	1	2
Road (constructed)	1686 miles	1953 miles
Bridge (above 180 feet)	5	8
Education		
Basic education school	1930	2331
College	1	6
University	-	2
Health		
Hospital (16 to 200-bed)	39	49
Station hospital	13	26
Rural health care centre	45	49
Information		
Myanma Alin/Kyemon		
Sub-printing house, Taunggyi)	-	1
TV retransmission station	-	5
Electric power		
Diesel-fired power station	22	45
Hydropower station	1	4
Industrial zone	-	1



Panglong University which was opened on 11 February 2003.



Langkho Bridge, 290 feet long and 24 feet wide, in Daseik, Langkho Township, Shan State (South).



Heho Airport in Shan State (South) which was up graded on 12 October 2003.

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



In Myanmar history, the main reason why foreign nations invaded Myanmar was to possess Myanmar's rich natural resources. The imperialists employed various means to invade Myanmar. Particularly the British and the French imperialists tried in competition to occupy Myanmar soil until the Konbaung period.

It was Nicolo di Conti, an Italian merchant, who first observed the richness of Myanmar's natural resources and sincerity of the national people of the country.

He arrived in Bago, a part of lower Myanmar, about 1420 AD and studied Myanmar natural resources and prospects for trading. In 1496, Stephano, a merchant from Italy, reached Bago. However, it was Ngazinkar (a) Philip de Britto, a Portuguese, who was the first to settle in Myanmar as a colonialist.

He named himself as a king and ruled Thanlyin. He also occupied Patheingyi and

Dalla, the port towns. He had a scheme to annex the whole Myanmar. First, he was to occupy Pyaw and then Ava.

After the annexation of Toungoo, he took Natshinnaw away to Thanlyin. It was De Britto's blatant act of imperialism targeting Myanmar.

In 1627 AD, the Dutch, the British and the Frenchmen entered Myanmar.

On learning the profits of the Dutch East India Co, the British East India Co decided to open a trade centre in Myanmar. From that time on, they set foot on Myanmar soil.

Under the name of trading, the British East India Co made continued efforts to be able to enjoy the privileges. The British East India Co at Madras Fort St George made attempt to establish a military and economic base in Patheingyi Island near Patheingyi in 1686 AD.

The warship under the command of by Captain Anthony Welden occupied

Imperialists' instigations and interferences in Myanmar during Konbaung period

Haingyi Island in June 1687. At that time the French, like the British, tried to settle on Myanmar soil under the pretext of trade. During U Aung Zeya (Alaungmintaya) period, the attempts of the British and the French grew bigger and bigger. In those days ocean-going ships were built of wood. They found that if a ship was built of teak, it would be more durable. Cutting of teak started in order to build the ships with the use of Myanmar teak. Later, the British and French trading companies took hold of cutch, sealing wax and other forest products and precious stones.

In April 1753, the British East India Co settled on

in Patheingyi and Yangon. He tried to request audience with Alaungmintaya many times in Myanaung, Hinthada and Patheingyi during Alaungmintaya's tour of the Delta. He also tried to establish an official base of the British East India Co on Myanmar soil. Meanwhile, the company stockpiled Myanmar teak logs at Haingyi Island.

Soon, in response to the excessive economic and military acts of the East India Co, Alaungmintaya ordered Myanmar troops to seize Haingyi Island. During the attack, many employees of the East India Co were killed. Head of the company Captain Southaby

Soe Thein (Myanma Alin)

thorities sent three ships. But Alaungmintaya captured the ships and seized arms and ammunition from them. Myanmar troops executed imperialist French officials. The French scheme to occupy Myanmar ended thus for the time being.

After the end of the first Anglo-Myanmar war which started in 1824, some parts of Myanmar were lost. The national races raged against it. It was a disgrace for the first time because of the imbalance in the fire power. It was a blow to

not able to avoid the tide of capitalism. Therefore, King Mindon, Prince Kanaung and some ministers began to make capitalist-like reforms.

At the end of 1854, King Mindon sent a Myanmar diplomatic mission led by Mingyi Maha Minkhaung Raza to governor-general Lord Dalhousie in Calcutta and demanded that all towns and villages occupied by the British be returned to Myanmar.

Lord Dalhousie flatly turned down the request of Myanmar diplomatic



A British military officer salutes Alaungmintayagyi, King of Myanmar, on 23 July 1775 at Hinthada port.

Haingyi Island while the French regularly extracted Myanmar teak opening a trade centre in Thanlyin.

In 1756, the British sent Ensign Robert Laster to take care of economic and military affairs not only in Haingyi Island but also

was also killed. In 1756, Alaungmintaya made preparations to attacking Thanlyin. The French did not want to relinquish Thanlyin.

Therefore, they asked their governor for reinforcements. The French au-

national pride and there was burning anti-imperialist spirit among the people. All patriotic national races fought the British. In 1852, the imperialists gave various excuses to create the second Anglo-Myanmar War (1852-1853).

Mottama fell into the hands of the British on 5 April, Yangon on 14 April, Patheingyi on 19 May and Pyaw in October.

In November and December, the British troops occupied Thayet and Myede. After the end of the second Anglo-Myanmar War (1852-1853), all seaports fell. Myanmar could make contact with the outside world only with the permission of the British. The fall of the lower Myanmar into the hands of the British marked the change from feudalism to capitalism. Myanmar was

mission saying that the towns and villages had to be occupied for the sake of their security and interest. In his reply, Lord Dalhousie said that as long as the sun shines in the world, the regions demanded by Myanmar would never be returned to the Myanmar king.

The statement was too haughty. At that time on 7 August 1853, French lieutenant Dor Gormi sent by the French Government arrived in Mandalay.

He said his government would carry out the tasks according to the wishes of Myanmar king.

He left and arrived in Amarapura on 4 June 1855 for the second time.

King Mindon sent a diplomatic mission including Myanmar ministers accompanying Dor Gormi to France.



Myanmar heroes bravely attacked the fortress of Ngazinka, the Portuguese, who encroached upon the sovereignty of Myanmar.

Imperialists' instigations and interferences in Myanmar during Konbaung period

The purpose of the mission was to secure support of the French Emperor Napoleon III in King Mindon's demand for the return of the occupied regions from the British.

The mission also carried out military and economic affairs. Later, it purchased materials for construction of a gun powder factory and a saw mill.

King Mindon began to make a long-term plan to fight the British. He introduced the economy based on industry.

In response to the sending of Myanmar diplomatic mission to Calcutta in the mid-1855, Lord Dalhousie made preparations for the establishment of a Myanmar market by sending a diplomatic mission led by Arthur Phayre to Myanmar.

The British wanted to seize the opportunity to

reached an agreement (draft) in January 1873.

Later, Prince Kanaung was assassinated in Myinkun and Myinkhondaing affair. Some thought that the prince's assassination was due to the instigation of the colonialists.

Realizing the ability of Prince Kanaung, the intruders assassinated the prince in conformity with their policy that anyone capable of hindering them from their invasion was to be exterminated in one way or another. The invaders called Prince Kanaung "War Prince".

The Myanmar-France ties established during the time of King Mindon was forged further in the time of King Thibaw. Later, the French got permission to freely do businesses in Myanmar.

The area around

about the signing of the agreement between Myanmar and France, the British became restless. The British saw nothing to protest against the French in connection with the treaty. But they suspected that there would be another treaty signed secretly between them. The British government thus assigned duties to British Ambassador Lord Lyons to hold talks with French Foreign Affairs Minister Jules Ferry. The talks took place in summer and in autumn in 1883.

The British ambassador said that his government wanted France to sign commercial treaty only and that France should not sell arms and ammunition to Myanmar.

According to the geographical position of Myanmar, the British gov-

ernment took great interest in Myanmar affairs. The French interest could be just nominal, he said. In May 1884, the British government informed French Foreign Affairs Minister Jules Ferry that it would strongly protest the French government if France signed a treaty on political understanding and formation of a special alliance with Upper Myanmar.

On 1 June 1855, French Consul Mr Monsieur Hass arrived in Mandalay. The friendly ties between the two countries resulted in bilateral cooperation covering construction of a railroad between Mandalay and Toungoo, establishment of banks and a military agreement.

On 15 January 1885, French and Myanmar officials signed another commercial treaty. On that

Poem

For our garden to be ever pleasant

* South-East Asia

Throughout this region,

With beauty of over hundred flowers

Nature has all unified

One and only Myanmar garden.

* All flowers in bud and bloom

Fresh and fragrant they are

To make it this pleasant garden

This garden with soil and fertilizer

With a suitable mix

Of the seven fertilizers

Look for suitable time

And let's feed them all.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day

day Mr Jules Ferry handed a secret letter dated 15-1-1885 sent by French Prime Minister to Myanmar foreign minister. The letter said that appropriate arrangements on transport of materials, rounds of ammunition and arms would be made between the two governments.

The British could not bear to see the role of French. They were worried that France could expand its domination in Asia, especially in Myanmar. Therefore, they sought excuses to occupy Myanmar as soon as possible.

Then they concentrated their efforts on termination of the relations between Myanmar and France. They set an ultimate target to solely make domination and manipulation on Myanmar's economic and political affairs.

Under the pretext of the conflict between

Myanmar Forestry Department and Bombay Burma Company, the British waged the Third Anglo-Myanmar War and completely occupied the entire Myanmar in 1885. The colonialists had already plotted to capture the Upper Myanmar sooner or later whether the conflict took place or not.

Fully equipped with Union Spirit and patriotism, the entire national people launched anti-colonialists struggles at the risk of their lives.

Taking these never-to-be-forgotten lessons, it is incumbent upon all the national brethren who have lived together on the same land and partaking water from the same source to defend and safeguard the nation against possible invasion of the colonialists. It is the bounden duty of the national brethren.

(Translation: NY + MS)



A united force of Myanmar national races gallantly fought against the British imperialists.

trade freely in upper Myanmar. They had strong desire to trade with China by land through Myanmar.

Arthur Phayre's mission arrived in Mandalay for talks to conclude a commercial treaty for the second time.

King Mindon had to agree to sign the commercial treaty. The treaty was signed on 10 November 1862. The British thus got the opportunity to manipulate political and economic affairs in upper Myanmar at will.

Kinwun Mingyi dropped in France and met the authorities and held discussions with them on his way to and back from England in 1872. At the meetings, the Frenchmen proposed to sign a commercial treaty with Myanmar. Kinwun Mingyi accepted the proposal, and their meeting

Indochina had been under their domination and so the Frenchmen paid more attention to Myanmar. In reality, they intended to exploit Myanmar's natural resources in competition with the British or to manipulate Myanmar's economic sector. From that time on, the Frenchmen frequented the Myanmar's royal palace.

In 1883, King Thibaw sent a Myanmar diplomatic mission led by Myosa of Myothit Mingyi Min Hla Maha Zeya Thingyan to Europe. They visited Portugal, Spain, Italy and France. At that time, the British were following all the news about the visits of Myanmar delegation. In France, the Myanmar delegation leader met French Foreign Minister Mr Jules Ferry and signed a commercial treaty.

On hearing the news



All district hospitals have...

(from page 16)

The Government is giving priority to the development of human resources of the dental field, to enable the dental surgeons pursue further studies, and advancement of the dental medicine and therapies in conformity with the international developments in the medical and science sectors. The Government's endeavours are for the harmonious progress of the dental medicine.

Hospitals installed with world-class medical equipment have been extended in all states and divisions till the public health care services cover the whole nation including border areas and remote regions. At present all the district hospitals have

the dental wards equipped with dental surgeons and installed with advanced equipment.

There are now two institutes of dental medicine in the nation. In the past there is only one. Thus, the nation can now produce twice the number of dental surgeon when compared with that of the past. The number of dental surgeons is 1,500 at present, up from 800 in 1987. The number of dental surgeons in the government service is 500 at present, up from 300 in the past. As the nation's population stands at over 52 million, more dental surgeons are still needed to develop the human resources of the field. The Government is making sys-

tematic arrangements to develop the field and increase the number of qualified human resources of the sector.

A teaching hospital is under construction at present. Thus, an international level teaching hospital will emerge in the near future. Like all other teaching hospitals of the world, it will perform treatment for tooth, facial and also jaw, oral and cleft lips and palate surgical operations.

MDS courses and diploma courses have been extended to continuously produce qualified doctors of the field. Up to now 85 MDS degree holders and 49 diploma certificate holders have emerged in the nation. A dental surgeon is among the candidates of the PhD course degree for max-

illofacial, jaw and oral surgery conducted at the Institute of Medicine I in Yangon. In the academic year 2002-2003, the Institute of Dental Medicine (Yangon) opened its first doctorate degree course — Oral medicine and oral pathology. Plans are under way to open more oral and dental PhD courses.

He said at a time when the government is implementing the project for development of dental health sector including oral and dental health care and human resource development, it is obviously seen that dental medicine has improved up to the international level, standard of oral and dental health of the people has raised and their knowledge has also widened due to active cooperation of Myanmar Dental Association and its members.

He said the MDA is actively participating in the tasks of dental and oral health care, school health activities, dental and oral health care of the children and the elder people and operation of cleft lips and palate patients in cooperation with government departments, social organizations and international social organizations.

He said it is satisfactory to note that the MDA is undertaking plans and educative tasks to control spread of HIV and AIDS

harmful to mankind through dental treatment.

Moreover, he said, for continuing education of dental surgeons the association is making efforts for dissemination of dental science through conducting refresher courses, talks and workshops for dentists, distributing papers and sending international dental conferences.

He said the government is building own national resource forces as consolidated forces in the respective sectors for national development with united national strength.

It is heartening to note that the association is serving national interest through dental and oral health care leading dental surgeons and it has become a force on which the State relies.

Better foundations for national solidarity, progress of national economic life, uplift of social conditions of the citizens and advanced science and technology of international level have been achieved due to harmonious efforts of all forces including the MDA under the correct and upright leadership of the government.

Accelerating the already-achieved national development momentum, the government is now implementing the seven-point future policy programme in accord with the correct na-

tional path to keep abreast of international communities, to serve national interest and to safeguard the Union for perpetuation.

He urged the association to make continued efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme preserving good traditions of participating in the mass rally to support the seven-point future policy programme held in Yangon in September 2003 and the Bagan mass rally held in November in the Bagan Archaeological Zone.

He said the strength of national forces can promote the nation, its people and dignity and stand tall as a independent sovereign state as long as the world exists. He urged the dentists to participate in dental health care sector for uplift of dental health care and strength.

In conclusion, he urged them to make efforts to become a national interest force, to promote dental and oral health care and to participate in efforts to implement the seven-point future policy programme.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted delegates from international organizations and chairman president and members of MDA.

The Prime Minister inspected showrooms of dental medicines and equipment companies. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views dental medicines and equipment at the opening ceremony. — MNA

Laotian goodwill delegation visits Hlinethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 28 Jan — Accompanied by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, Laotian goodwill delegation led by Dr Thongloun Sisolith, Visiting Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Laos People's Democratic Republic, visited the management office at

Hlinethaya Industrial Zone this morning.

They were welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Director-General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Arnt Kyaw and officials.

At Kanaung Hall of the office, the deputy minister extended greetings to the visiting delegation and gave an account of the industrial

zone.

The visiting delegation then visited FAME medicine factory in the zone-3. The factory manager and officials welcomed the visiting Laotian delegation and briefed on the production process of the medicines at the factory.

Later, the visiting Laotian delegation was conducted round the factory. Afterwards, the visiting delegation left the factory at 10 am. — MNA

Seminar on Understanding Myanmar concluded

YANGON, 28 Jan — The second day session of the Seminar on understanding Myanmar, organized by the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, continued at the MICT Park in Hline Township today.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, ambassadors from foreign missions in Yangon, retired ambassadors, historians, economists, rectors and professors, researchers from Brunei, Chinese, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Pa-

kistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA and Vietnam, resource persons, officials and invited guests.

The papers read today were 'Priorities in Myanmar Foreign Policy' by Director-General U Thauang Tun of Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 'Cooperation with the United Nations' by Director-General U Win Mra of International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 'Women in Myanmar' by Professor (Retd) Dr Daw Khin Aye Win of Yangon University, 'Historical and

cultural aspects' by Director-General (Retd) Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and 'Human rights in Myanmar' by Ambassador Dr Kyaw Win.

After the presentations, the academicians and researchers from home and abroad collectively participated in discussions on respective papers.

Chairman of Myanmar ISIS Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung made concluding remarks and the seminar came to a close.

The participants led by the minister will tour Upper Myanmar to observe development of border areas tomorrow.

MNA

MDA Conference begins

YANGON, 28 Jan — The 24th Conference of the Myanmar Dental Association and the fifth joint educational meeting of the World Dental Federation (FDI) and MDA began at the Traders Hotel here this morning.

President of MDA Prof U Ba Myint, Dr Choo Teck Chuan of FDI and Reception Committee Chairman Prof Dr Thein Tut gave speeches.

MDA members read out the messages and presented reports.

An new executive committee with Prof U Ba Myint as the president, Prof Dr Thein Tut vice-president,

and Prof U Myo Win as general secretary, was elected.

The FDI-MDA meeting was held in the afternoon.

Twenty-two resource

persons from the country and abroad will read papers at the meeting that continues till 31 January.

MNA

Energy Minister leaves for India, Malaysia

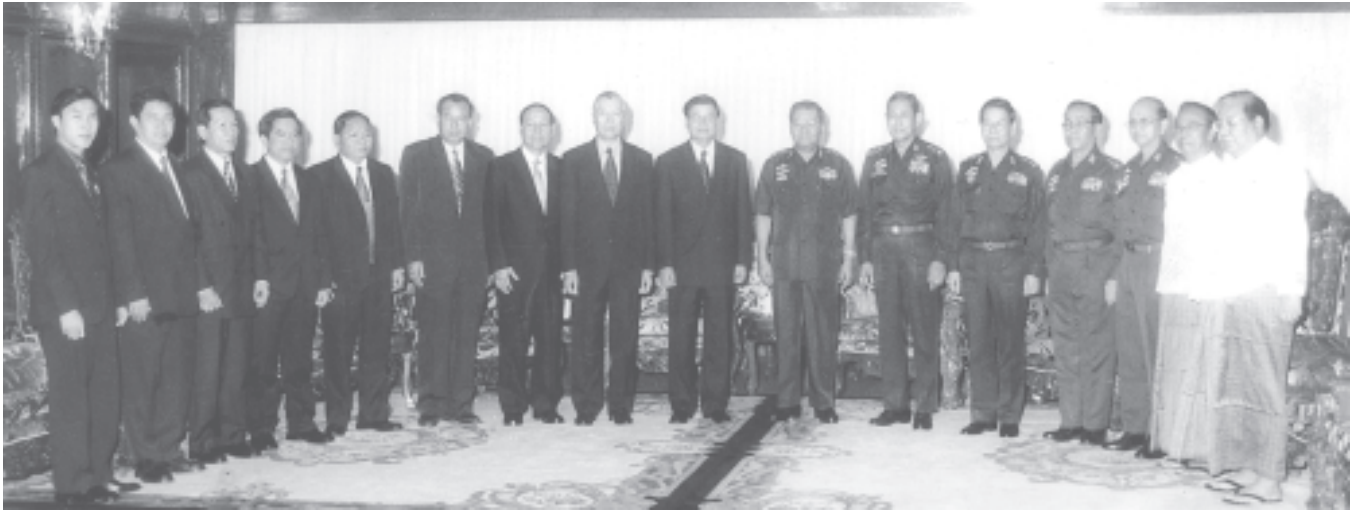
YANGON, 28 Jan — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi left here by air this morning to attend a meeting on prospects of bilateral energy cooperation in India and a meeting on natural gas development work programmes of off-shore oil fields in Malaysia.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, departmental heads of the Ministry of Energy, and officials.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and party being seen off at the airport. — ENERGY



Senior General Than Shwe and party pose for a documentary photo together with Laotian Deputy Prime Minister Dr Thongloun Sisolith and party. (News on page 1)—MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint asks after health of Nayarkyaung Sayadaw, inspects Yangon-Mandalay Highway Project (Mandalay-Meiktila section)

YANGON, 28 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and departmental heads, visited State Ovadacariya Mandalay Phayagyi Monastery Nayarkyaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika

Bhaddanta Medhiya-bhivamsa, aged 94, Vasa 74, who was receiving medical treatments at Mandalay People's Hospital, yesterday morning.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint asked after the health of the Sayadaw and presented offertories to him.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the opening of Chaungmanet Dam in TadaU Township, Mandalay Division. They inspected the Six-lane Yangon-Mandalay High-

way Project near Myothagon Village, Singaing Township, Mandalay Division, and gave instructions to the officials on construction tasks.

Afterwards, they inspected laying concrete for construction of a bridge across Kwunsay canal near Thamandalin Village in Kyaukse Township. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected construction of Mounbaung bridge in Ingon Village, and earth work for construction of Dan bridge in Dan Village and left necessary instructions.

They proceeded to mile post No 393 and looked into building a bridge across Thin Dee canal. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected

land preparation with the use of heavy machinery for upgrading the road at mile post No 391 near Sulegon Village, and construction of concrete foundation for Shweniyo canal-crossing bridge with 25 feet in length at mile post No 381/6.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected construction tasks along the highway up to mile post No 353/7 in Shawbin Village.

In the afternoon, they arrived at Thabyewa camp at mile post 349. Officials concerned reported on the chosen axis for the construction of Meiktila circular road. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to the officials.

MNA

MFF holds executive meeting

YANGON, 28 Jan — Myanmar Football Federation held its executive meeting No 1/2004 at the national football training camp (Thuwunna) here this morning.

Present at the meeting were MFF Patrons Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and U Aung Ko Win, the chairman, vice-chairmen and executives and others.

MFF Patrons Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and U Aung Ko Win and Chairman U Win Aung spoke at the meeting.

Vice-Chairman of MFF Lt-Col Maung Ko, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Sports, and the executives presented reports. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and U Win Aung fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Rice Milling Development Committee holds work co-ordination meeting

YANGON, 28 Jan — The rice milling development committee held its 3/2004 work coordination meeting at the Ministry of Commerce this evening.

Present were patron of the rice milling development committee Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Chairman of rice milling development committee Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, member Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, Myanmar Rice Merchants Association and guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone spoke on formation of the rice milling development committee. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun took part in the discussions. Chairmen of various subcommittees reported on future tasks and requirements. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA

MWAF national races affairs working group meets

YANGON, 28 Jan — The working group for national races affairs of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held its second work coordination meeting at the meeting hall-1 at the Institute of Nursing here this afternoon.

Vice-President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe delivered an opening address at the meeting, followed by talks given by working group leader Prof Dr Daw May Win Aung Khin.

Secretary of the group Daw L Khun Yi submitted the resolutions of the previous meeting. Matters related to the drawing of a year-long work programme of the working group were also discussed and then approved. — MNA

Divisional Organization for Women's Affairs clarifies sector-wise tasks

YANGON, 28 Jan — Yangon Division Organization for Women's Affairs clarified sector-wise tasks to Yangon South District Organization for Women's Affairs at the Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Office this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Organization for Women's Affairs Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay, President Daw Cherry Ye Khaung and members, Yangon South District Organization for Women's Affairs President Daw Le Le Chit and members, officials and guests.

Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay spoke on the occasion. Next, the leaders of the working groups for education, health, economy and environmental conservation took part in the discussions on respective sectors.—MNA

Information Minister inspects e-Library in Kyauktan

YANGON, 28 Jan — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan today inspected modern e-Library in Kyauktan in Yangon South District. He was welcomed there by Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department and officials.

The minister inspected extended construction tasks for the library. ACE Construction Group Chairman U Tint Hsan reported to him on construction tasks.

After giving necessary instructions, the minister went to Kyauktan Township Information and Public Relations Department and Yangon South District Information and

Public Relations Department where he gave necessary instructions to the officials.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects e-Library in Kyauktan, Yangon South District. — IPRD



Myingyan Degree College in Myingyan, Mandalay Division. (News reported) — MNA

Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge

ADVERTISEMENTS

Salonsip Aqua-Patch

Over 5,000 flood victims evacuated in Sarawak

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Jan — A total of 5,500 victims in flood-hit areas in Sarawak State were evacuated to higher grounds as flood conditions there worsened, State's Deputy Chief Minister George Chan said on Monday.

With the additional 1,500 victims evacuated in Kuching and Samarahan, the number of evacuees increased to 5,500 till Monday, Chan told reporters in Kuching, capital of the state.

"Heavy rain (300 millimetres) which fell over the last 24 hours saw water levels rising in various areas around Kuching, dashing any hope of a quick relief to those affected," he said. Rescue workers were working overtime to transfer those trapped by rising waters, he added.

"We do not have enough boats to ferry those affected. We urge those with boats to come forward and assist the rescue operations. We have opened 56 relief centres and another 200 mini centres to accommodate those affected

by the floods," he said.

It is reported the police station in Bau Town not far from Kuching was also closed after being submerged by flood waters.

Chan, who chairs the State Disaster Committee, added that heavy rain was expected to continue for the next two or three days although satellite pictures indicated that dark clouds hovering over Sarawak for the past few days had eased a little. Meanwhile, State's Social Development and Urbanization Minister James Jemut Masing has said that Sarawak is facing difficulties in supplying relief to flood victims as roads to some parts of the state are submerged in flood waters.

MNA/Xinhua

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for **HISAMITSU PHARMACEUTICAL CO., INC.**
P.O Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 29 January 2004

WHO Regional Director arrives in Hanoi

HANOI, 28 Jan — The World Health Organization's Western Pacific Region Director Shigeru Omi arrived in Hanoi Monday to discuss issues of avian influenza virus H5N1, said a Press release of the Representative Office of WHO in Vietnam on Monday. Omi will meet with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem and Minister of Health Tran Thi Trung Chien to discuss the spread of avian influenza virus H5N1 in Vietnam and other parts of the region.

A total of 46 people, mostly children, have been hospitalized in Vietnam due to flu Type A infections. Of whom, seven have been confirmed to be infected with H5N1. Flu Type A infections have been reported in 10 cities and provinces, while bird flu has spread to 24 localities, infecting over 3.2 million fowls in Vietnam. —MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပကုမ္ပဏီများ

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that AKTIEBOLAGET SKF (formerly known as AKTIEBOLA-GET SVENSKA KULLAGER-FABRIKEN), of Gothenburg, Sweden, Manufacturers, are the Owners and Sole proprietors of the following Trade Mark in Myanmar.

SKF

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U KYI WIN, B.Com., B.L for **AKTIEBOLAGET SKF** by its Attorneys
REMFRY & SAGAR
NEW DELHI MUMBAI
Dated: 29th January, 2004

Nine die in bush fire in western Uganda

KAMPALA, 28 Jan — Nine people died on Sunday in a bush fire that engulfed them as they collected grass for thatching houses in Lunlung, Panyango Sub-county in Nebbi District, western Uganda.

The incident took place around 2 pm (1100 GMT), according to Radio Uganda.

Police and local rescue teams are on the hunt for any possible survivors or other bodies and the items they were using, the government radio said. The area's Parliament member, Fred Jachan Omach confirmed the incident and sent his condolences to the bereaved families.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK

CAUTION NOTICE

MR. LEK RUENGSON-BOON and **MR. CHET CHAMNITIRAVANICH**, Thai citizens under the laws of THAILAND, and having its principal office at 28/2 Moo 5, Soi Ruampalang, Rama II Road, Chomtong District, Bangkok 10150, Thailand is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-



Reg. Nos. 3982/1994, 4/5713/2003 & 4/5714/2003

Used in respect of: Facial cream, hair dyes, all kinds of cosmetic products. Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

TIN OHNMAR TUN
B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
PO Box 109
Ph: 248108/723043
(For **Domnarn Somgiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand**)
Dated: 29th January, 2004

Thailand to declare eight more provinces as bird flu epidemic zone

BANGKOK, 28 Jan — Thai Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives Minister Somsak Thepsuthin said Monday that eight more provinces would be declared bird flu epidemic zones as new infected cases have been found in farms of the provinces, the state-run Channel 9 reported.

He told reporters that from about 40,000 samples, laboratory tests indicated that some chickens, ducks, quails and fighting cocks from eight provinces including Ayutthaya, Singburi, Chainat, Kamphaengphet, Phichet, Sukhothai, Uthaitani and Phitsnulok were infected by the H5N1 virus.

Including the eight, a total of 10 provinces in Thailand have been affected by the virus, particularly in the lower northern region, he said, adding that all the 10 provinces would be declared epidemic zones.

The first confirmed cases of avian flu were found in the central province of Suphan Buri, while later cases were discovered in the nearby province of Kanchanaburi.

Somsak noted that the officials of the ministry would cooperate with soldiers to use strict measures

Toyota becomes world's 2nd biggest automaker

Tokyo, 28 Jan — Toyota Motor Corp announced Monday it had unseated the US rival Ford Motor Co to become the second largest automaker worldwide.

The global sales for the No 1 Japanese automaker in 2003, including those of subsidiaries Daihatsu Motor Co and Hino Motors Ltd, increased some 10 per cent from the previous year to about 6.78 million vehicles, surpassing the 6.72 million Ford sales, Toyota said.

General Motors Corp of the United States remains its top position with 8.59 million vehicles sold.

Toyota said its overseas sales in 2003 expanded 13 percent to 4.48 million vehicles, supported by a fast rise in overseas production and robust exports from Japan.

Domestic sales last year stood at 2.3 million vehicles, up 4 per cent from the year before, with its Corolla passenger car topping the best sellers.

The company sold 2.03 million vehicles in North America, making itself the first foreign automaker to sell more than two million there.

MNA/Xinhua

to stop the disease spreading further.

Under the strict measures, all poultry within a five-kilometre radius of areas where infected birds have been detected would be killed, and chickens within a 50-kilometre radius would be banned from being transported.

The report said about 10 million chickens have been killed so far in the first two provinces confirmed bird flu epidemic zone.

The Thai Government announced on 23 January that the country had found bird flu cases and the virus had not only spread among millions of chickens in farms but also infected two boys, one of whom died of bird flu Monday morning.

Thailand will on Wednesday host an international meeting on the epidemic.

MNA/Xinhua

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"Green Lighting" project helps ease power pinch in China

SHIJIAZHUANG, 27 Jan— With a coupon given by the residents' committee, Grandma Wang in Shijiazhuang of north China's Hebei Province bought ten energy-saving bulbs at half price this week.

Grandma Wang is a participant in a trial project, the "Demand Side Management (DSM) Green Lighting" Project, which aims to promote the concept of energy saving to help solve the power pinch in the country.

Besides Shijiazhuang, seven other Chinese cities, including Shanghai, Beijing and Nanjing, are also trial cities for the project.

With subsidies from the local government and international organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the project helps consumers to buy and use comparatively expensive energy-saving fluorescent lamps, rather than former incandescent ones. In Shijiazhuang, the project plans to promote 300,000 such lamps in 2004, and the local government plans to add 200,000 more. In Shanghai, the figure will be 400,000 lamps.

China has been experiencing a power pinch for the past two years. In China's largest city Shanghai, the electricity demand is expected to reach 12.8 million kilowatts this winter, leaving a shortage of two million kilowatts. Facing the shortage, China has

promised to give priority to power supply for daily life use, such as in residential quarters and schools. In Shanghai, electricity consumption for lighting accounts for 10 per cent of the city's total.

China is the world's biggest lighting products producer, with output reaching 7.4 billion lamps in 2001, including 1.3 billion fluorescent ones. But because of low prices, most Chinese families are still using incandescent lamps. Experts said that fluorescent lamps, especially energy-saving ones, have better light efficiency and are more durable compared with incandescent ones.

A recent survey held in Shanghai shows that 45 per cent of lamps used in the city are incandescent and another 15 per cent are non-energy-saving fluorescent ones. "By 2010, if we could replace 20 million incandescent lamps with energy-saving fluorescent ones in Shanghai, the power saved would be equal to 400 million yuan of investment in power station construction," said Chen Jinhai, director in charge of energy-saving and environmental protection under the Shanghai Economic Commission.—MNA/Xinhua

Scientists call Mars rock photos a "Holy Grail" for geologists

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan— Photos from the surface of Mars taken by the newly-landed *Opportunity* rover offer a "Holy Grail" for geologists, leaders of NASA's mission to the Red Planet said on Monday.

In a briefing at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, officials also said they were making progress in diagnosing and fixing the problems that have plagued the *Spirit* rover, though they said it was too soon to tell if *Spirit* would ever return to fully normal operations.

Opportunity, which landed on Mars early Sunday in a small and shallow crater in what scientists called an "interplanetary hole-in-one," has begun the process of shooting a 360-degree image of its landing area using a panoramic camera setup called a "pancam".

In the meantime, scientists said, a "postcard" assembled from photos shot out of the back of the rover are showing significant rock formations.

"We're seeing outcrops ... this is like a Holy Grail for geologists to be able to see these incredible rocks," said Jim Bell, the team's leading camera specialist. "There's a lot more coming and we couldn't be happier, more thrilled, with what we're seeing at this incredible landing site."

Steve Squyres, the principal science investigator for the mission, said the team was already trying to figure out where to head next.

"There are a number of tempting targets, potential craters that we could go to after we crawl out of the one we are in," he said.

Much of *Opportunity's* landing zone appeared darker in colour and draped in fine-grained red and gray soils devoid of the rocks and boulders littering other areas on Mars, and Squyres said his team was still debating the composition. He also said that, notwithstanding *Spirit's* troubles, the rovers looked to be outperforming design expectations.

"There is reason to believe we're going to get significantly more than the 90 sols (Martian days) that we originally planned for," he said. *Spirit* mission manager Jennifer Trosper said her group was hard at work trying to get *Spirit* back into shape after putting it into "cripple mode" over the weekend, allowing the rover to ignore the flash memory chips that appear to be at the root of its problems. —MNA/Reuters

US survey says Love has eye for plastic surgery

NEW YORK, 27 Jan— Love is not blind—at least when it comes to facial plastic surgery.

Of people who are dating or married, 59 per cent of women and 54 per cent of men would like to change at least one feature on their partner's face, according to an American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery survey released on Monday. It found that men were most likely to take suggestions about plastic surgery as an insult.

Women were more likely than men to take suggestions as gestures of love and

when a sweetheart offered to pay, were twice as likely to go ahead with plastic surgery.

"This survey shows that love is not blind and, in fact, has an eye for improvement," academy president Dr Keith LaFerriere said in a statement. The Alexandria, Virginia, academy sponsored the telephone survey December 2-5 of 1,000 adults across the United States, including 738 who were dating or married. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 per cent.—MNA/Reuters

Fossil millipede found in Britain to be oldest land creature

LONDON, 28 Jan— Scientists revealed that a fossilized millipede found in Britain is the remains of the oldest creature to have lived on land — and named it after the bus driver who found it.

The tiny fossil was found on a harbour foreshore near Aberdeen, eastern Scotland, about three years ago and has since been studied by experts from the National Museums of Scotland and Yale University in the United States.

National Museums curator of invertebrate palaeontology Lyall Anderson said it was not only the oldest fossilized millipede found anywhere — at about 420 million years old — but when scientists saw it under the microscope they could see it had holes allowing it to breathe air, meaning it lived on land.

Aberdeen bus driver and fossil hunter Mike Newman, 36, told *Reuters* on Monday he found the remains while he was out searching in the area and immediately thought: "Here we go."

"I knew this was quite well preserved, the legs were very clear, and although we had been able to infer before that they could have been able to breathe air, this was

the first we were able to prove had," said Newman, who has a degree in geol-

ogy. "This was breathing air 420 million years ago".

MNA/Reuters



A Belgrade girl enjoys playing in the snow with her puppy in the centre of the Yugoslav capital, on 27 Jan, 2004. A heavy snowfall hit Belgrade for the second time this week, causing serious traffic jams.—INTERNET



A child is pulled in a sled across a downtown intersection in Toronto on 27 Jan, 2004. Environment Canada says a winter storm over southwestern Ontario Tuesday afternoon will bring more snow, freezing rain and ice pellets to the region. —INTERNET

Malaysia has no cases of bird flu

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Jan— The Malaysian Health Minister said here on Tuesday that Malaysia has so far no reports of avian influenza, the H5N1 virus known as bird flu, either among poultry or humans.

Chua Jui Meng said his ministry is working with the Agriculture Ministry to guarantee that the disease, which has swept across Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia, will not spread to Malaysia.

The ministries of health and agriculture have "acted very positively and swiftly," he told a Press conference.

Chua will attend an international meeting on the poultry disease in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday.

The meeting will bring together ministers of agriculture and health from the region as well as officials from the European Union (EU), the United States, the

World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Chua said that his ministry already has a National Surveillance System, under which clinics, laboratories and hospitals were mobilized during the Nipa epidemic and the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreaks.

"It's already in place and we are using the same machinery and network to ensure Malaysia is safe from avian influenza and other new and old diseases," he said.

So far, there have been 10 reported cases of humans contracting bird flu and 10

deaths in the affected countries.

There has been no vaccine for the epidemic, but WHO is working with other institutions to develop the vaccine. Bird flu can be transmitted to humans through contact with an infected chicken's beak, nostrils, body fluids and faeces. However, there are no reported cases of person-to-person transmission.

Health clinics across Malaysia are monitoring cases of influenza-like illness, fever, pharyngitis and atypical pneumonia since the latter is one of the complications of avian influenza.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Man Utd reach 5th round of FA Cup

LONDON, 28 Jan— Manchester United overcame a spirited Northampton Town to reach the fifth round of the FA Cup with a 3-0 win over the third division side on Sunday.

United striker Diego Forlan had an early penalty saved, but the Uruguayan redeemed himself with a goal which, added to a Mikael Silvestre effort and an own goal, saw the Premier League champions safely through.

Manchester United fielded a weakened side for the trip to Northampton but they looked set for an early breakthrough when a penalty was awarded for Chris Carruthers' push on Ronaldo in the third minute — only for Lee Harper to save Forlan's spot kick.

Northampton battled to keep the visitors out but in the 34th minute Ronaldo's shot was deflected away from Harper by his own defender and Silvestre was on hand to bundle the ball into the net.

Just after the break Northampton defender Chris Hargreaves, under pressure from Forlan, put through his own net to double United's lead.

Forlan sealed victory for the 10-times Cup winners in the 68th minute, turning the ball in from close range after Ronaldo's header across the area.—MNA/Reuters



Boavista and Beira-Mar players hold hands during a minute of silence paying tribute to Benfica's player Miklos Feher at the start of a Portuguese league match on 26 Jan 2004 in Oporto. The 24-year-old Hungarian soccer player Feher died Sunday night after apparently suffering a heart attack and collapsing on the pitch during a Portuguese league match in Guimaraes, northern Portugal.—INTERNET

Benfica's Feher dies after on-field collapse

LISBON, 28 Jan— Benfica's Hungarian international Miklos Feher died on Sunday after collapsing from a heart attack just before the end of a league game with Vitoria Guimaraes, a hospital spokesman said.

The 24-year-old striker was taken to a nearby hospital from the stadium in Guimaraes after falling to the ground in injury time. Medical personnel struggled to save him for about 90 minutes "until about 11:10 p.m., without success, the player have died", the spokesman told private radio station TSF. Television reports said that emergency medical personnel had managed to revive Feher on the field using a defibrillator.

However, his heart had stopped by the time he reached hospital. An autopsy is

scheduled for Monday.

This was the second on-the-field death of a professional soccer player within seven months. Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe died in June when he collapsed during a Confederations Cup semifinal against Colombia in Lyon in France. He was suffering from a heart-related condition.

The stadium in Guimaraes, about 200 miles north of Lisbon, will be one of 10 hosting the European Soccer Championship finals this summer.—MNA/Reuters

Brazil fail to qualify for Olympic Games

VINA DEL MAR (Chile), 28 Jan—Brazil, who have never won an Olympic gold medal in soccer, failed to qualify for this year's Games in Athens after a shock 1-0 defeat to Paraguay on Sunday.

Brazil, five times world champions, had needed only to draw against their less illustrious neighbours in their last game of the South American qualifying tournament but were instead sunk by a 32nd-minute goal scored from rival captain Jose de Vaca.

Paraguay will thus join Argentina, who qualified with a game to spare, as South America's Olympic representatives.

Paraguay finished the four-team final stage with six points alongside Argentina, who were playing their final game against hosts Chile later Sunday. Brazil have three points and Chile none.

Brazil have always taken Olympic soccer seriously and see the gold medal as the one item missing from their trophy cupboard.

Coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo lost his

job with the senior team after failing to take Brazil's Olympic squad beyond the quarter-finals in Sydney four years ago.

This time former Paris St. Germain defender Ricardo Gomes took charge solely of the under-23 team and is almost certain to be axed in turn.

Brazil, whose squad includes five members of the Santos team which won the Brazilian championship in 2002, had beaten Paraguay 3-0 in the first stage of the tournament.

They fielded four attackers in the second half but were unable to break down a typically stubborn Paraguay defence and also found goalkeeper Diego Barreto in inspired form. The closest Brazil came was when Dudu Cearense sent a shot agonisingly wide with five minutes to play.—MNA/Reuters

Two-goal Kanoute wins opener for Mali

BIZERTE (Tunisia), 28 Jan—Striker Frederic Kanoute scored twice on his competitive international debut to give Mali a 3-1 win over Kenya in their African Nations Cup opener in Group B on Monday.

Mohamed Lamine Sissoko, who like Kanoute had played for France at junior level before changing his footballing nationality this month, put Mali ahead after 28 minutes.

Titus Mulama levelled for Kenya in the 58th minute but Kanoute restored Mali's lead five minutes later and then rifled home their third with nine minutes left.

The goals will have vindicated the striker's decision to play this tournament in the face of strong opposition from his English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur.

Mali's delighted French coach Henri Stambouli said: "We've won a lot of matches before this competition and we'd never really been in difficulty."

"Today we were, but my players showed they could deal with that — thanks to our qualities up front."

He said of Kanoute: "A lot of people have criticized me for selecting certain players, but today the answer was there on the pitch, in his effectiveness and his model approach. He's an example for the whole group."

The French connection provided the kind of dividend which Malian soccer officials had been praying for at these finals.

Their team enjoyed more control of the game but lived dangerously at times against Kenyan counter-attacks led by teenage striker Dennis Oliech, whose poor finishing in both halves cost his side dearly.

Kenya coach Jacob Mulee, whose team face group favourites Senegal on Friday, said: "We cannot repeat the kind of mistakes we made today — it would be suicidal."

Pointing the finger at Oliech, the target for countless long balls over the Mali defence, he said: "The tactic worked very well. Had he been playing for the team, I think Mali would have been talking a different kind of story in the first half."

Mali applied the early pressure and nearly took the lead when Kanoute set up Robert Mambo for a shot that cannoned off a defender.

But Sissoko, who plays for Valencia in the Spanish Primera Liga, took full advantage of a mix-up to rob the Kenyan defence of possession and steer his shot past keeper Francis Onyiso.

Further shots flew wide of the target and the misses could have proved expensive after Mulama volleyed home an equalizer and the Kenyans pressed for a second goal.

But Kanoute came to Mali's rescue, collecting a cross the right and rifling the ball into the far corner minutes later.

Further chances for the Kenyans to get back in the game were blazed off-target by Oliech before Kanoute put the result beyond doubt with a low shot.

The Group B action was continuing later on Monday with 2002 finalists Senegal taking on Burkina Faso in Tunis.

MNA/Reuters

Diouf says Senegal pay price for misses

TUNIS, 28 Jan— Senegal playmaker El Hadji Diouf and coach Guy Stephan blamed their team's squandered chances for a bitterly disappointing 0-0 draw with Burkina Faso on Monday.

The World Cup quarter-finalists created plenty of opportunities in their African Nations Cup opener in Group B, only for striker Henri Camara to let them go begging.

"Above all, our finishing came up short," Stephan told reporters. "There were a lot of efforts that went very close to the woodwork, and we also managed to hit it."

"We had so many chances inside the penalty area — not shots from distance, but from seven or eight metres out."

"We just weren't accurate enough and although we've worked on that over that past week we're going to have keep at it."

With Mali having beaten Kenya 3-1 in Monday's earlier game at Bizerte, Stephan added: "As a result, we're obliged to beat Kenya and then get a result against Mali."

Diouf, behind many of Senegal's best moves, also rued his team's profligacy in front of goal.

"We had chances and we didn't take them," said the Liverpool midfielder and former African Footballer of the Year. "And when you don't take them in games at the highest level, you end up regretting it.—MNA/Reuters

FIVB admits East Timor, opens way to Iraq

ACAPULCO (Mexico), 28 Jan— The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) accepted on Monday the membership number 218 of East Timor and opened the doors for the return of Iraq.

The Administration Council of the FIVB that holds meetings in the touristic resort of Acapulco, 300 kilometres of Mexico City, decided to provisionally accept the membership of East Timor beginning on the next World Congress of the association to be held in May in Portugal.

The federation also opened the doors for the return of Iraq, who was suspended in the late 1980s for not fulfilling the organization of a tournament and for a debt with the Asian Confederation (AVC).—MNA/Xinhua



Patty Schnyder of Switzerland raises her arms in celebration after defeating Lisa Raymond of the United States in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, on 28 Jan, 2004. Schnyder won in straight sets 7-6, 6-3.

INTERNET

Modernization of Kandawgyi Park and Zoological Gardens coordinated

YANGON, 28 Jan — The work committee for all-round modernization of Kandawgyi Park environs and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) held a work coordination meeting at the briefing hall of the Water Plaza construction site at Central Forest Zone yesterday afternoon.

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting.

Present at the meeting were deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, departmental heads, and officials.

In his speech, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said as the project is aimed at building a public recreation centre, departmental officials are responsible for speedy completion of the project in accord with the master plan without causing any harm to natural beauties and resources.

He also urged the zonal officials concerned to present progress reports on tasks being carried out in their respective zones.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa later presented reports on progress of earth work, construction of island-crossing bridges and car parking lots at Relaxation Zone. Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu also reported on construction of modern restaurants in the park, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay on assistance to be rendered by the ministry to the modern-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at the meeting. — MNA

ization project of the park, Managing Director of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo on measures being taken for installation of spot lights, Director-General of the Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing on cultivation of trees and flowering plants, and other departmental officials and business entrepreneurs on tasks being carried out by their departments and companies in Recreation Zone and Education Zone.

After hearing the reports, the commander attended to the requirements and gave instructions. — MNA

Surgical treatment given to nasal meningocoele

YANGON, 28 Jan — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials, encouraged the surgical treatment of nasal meningocoele jointly conducted by neurological surgery team of Myanmar and German Interplast Munich at the neurological surgery unit of Yangon People's Hospital here this morning. At the operation theatre, the minister and party watched the treatment being given by Myanmar-German neurological surgery team and the medical coop-

eration between the two countries and greeted Prof Muhr Bauer of German Interplast Munich.

The minister and party met with members of both surgical teams at the meeting hall, and attended to the requirements. Myanmar team consisted six surgeons and one anaesthetist, and German team three surgeons and two anaesthetists. They will give surgical treatment to 5 persons suffering from nasal meningocoele. The operation continue tomorrow. — MNA

Cultural Minister inspects antiques

YANGON, 28 Jan — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung together with officials concerned arrived in Pinya on 23 January morning and inspected renovation works of Aungsgon Pagoda built by Mingyi Swasawke in 736 ME at southern part of Pinya ancient city. Pyu period urns and earthen wares

In the afternoon, the minister went to Tagaung and inspected pieces of earthen wares, pieces of pots and beads found at palace mound No 24. He also inspected antique items discovered from the first plinth. He also inspected the charcoal pit which is 56 feet in diameter and 3.5 feet in height in the east of Chanthagyi monastery in Tagaung region. These findings stand evidence that man lived there in very early periods.

Later, the minister inspected Laymyethna Temple of King Anawrahta and antiques of Tagaung period kept in the temporary museum there.

On 24 January, the minister handed over enshrined ancient pagoda near the farm of U Win Aung at Wayongon village, 20 miles south of Tagaung. Then, he attended the cash donation ceremony for building a pagoda there and accepted the cash donation of K 410,000. The

Ministry of Culture donated K 500,000 to the pagoda construction fund.

Afterwards the minister went to Kyan Hnyat ancient fortress and inspected antiques of Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age as well as of Pyu and Bagan periods. Those items were collected by primary school head U Tin Win Oo. The minister also inspected the ancient iron smelting oven and other furnaces near Padeephyu village. In the evening, the minister paid homage to Tayok Khaungtaik Pagoda and gave instructions to make excavations along River Ayeyawady there. He also inspected the renovation of the second plinth of Tagaung City.

On 25 January, he attended the ground-breaking ceremony for renovating the Yazamuni Pagoda at Wayongon village. In the afternoon, he went to Hanlin ancient city of BC 11th century and inspected the city gate and buildings at Nos 9 and 10 mounds. He also inspected the Hanlin stone inscription shed and gave instructions on preserving Pyu stone slabs and inscriptions. On 26 January, he went to Nyaungkan village of Budalin Township and inspected bones, pots and utensils of Bronze Age. He paid respects to Thaphanywa Sayadaw U



The ancient iron smelting furnace. — MNA

Jetika and studied the footprint of ancient man. He also inspected Ingyin fossils and sand stones in the environs of the monastery. — MNA

Sermons to be delivered

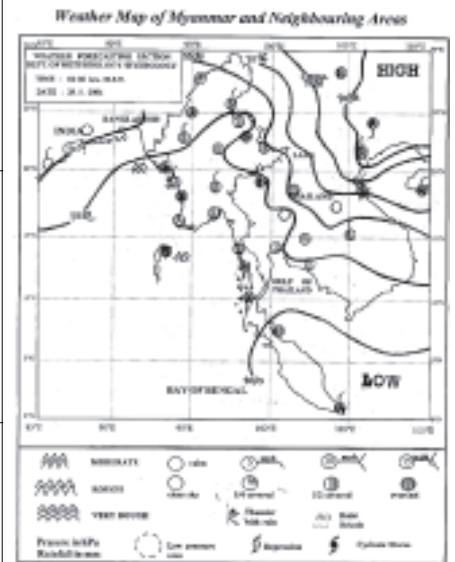
YANGON, 28 Jan—Buddha Pujaniya of Myatheintan Pagoda of Dhammamaydini Pariyatti Sathintak and monastic education school in Ayechanthaya extension ward in Waw Township, Bago Division will be held from 30 January to 4 February.

Minbu Sayadaw U Gositha (Dhammacariya) will deliver sermons on 30 and 31 January, Sayadaw U Waiponla of international Mahasi training school on 1 and 2 February and U Janeya (Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja) of Dhammamaydini Pariyatti Sathintak and Aunggyin Sayadaw U Kundala on 3 and 4 February respectively. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree

was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.



WEATHER

Wednesday, 28 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Mandalay Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Mon States, Bago, Taninthayi Divisions and (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 27-1-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 28-1-2004 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-1-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 27-1-2004 was (7.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-1-2004 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 8 mph from Westerly at (12:30) hours MST on 27-1-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is cloudy in South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 29-1-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%). **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-1-2004:** Partly cloudy to cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.

"Earthquake Report"

(Issued at 10:00 hours MST Today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (110) miles North of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (07)hrs (46)min (38)sec MST on 28th January 2004.

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

All district hospitals have dental wards staffed with dental surgeons installed with advanced equipment

Myanmar Dental Association holds 24th Conference

YANGON, 28 Jan — The 24th Conference of the Myanmar Dental Association and the fifth joint educational meeting of the World Dental Federation (FDI) and MDA opened at the Traders Hotel here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the NHC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-

UN agencies, representatives of international bodies, delegates of social organizations and guests.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, the holding of the Myanmar Dental Conference up to the 24th time indicates the fact that the MDA has been standing firmly as a united organization working in the interest of the nation.

The FDI-MDA joint educational meeting has been held for the fifth time this year since the year 2000 to mark the centenary of FDI. The holding of the joint educational meeting has proved the MDA's active efforts

have helped Myanmar dental surgeons get access to the ever developing dental medicine, new therapies and advanced equipment with the times, and create a better environment resulting from the cooperation with the international academics of the field.

At a time when the State is striving with the national strength for the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation standing shoulder to shoulder with the world nations and with dignity, health and fitness of the entire people is a basic requirement.

down and implementing the national health plans covering the oral and dental health sector to develop the public health care system.

Primary oral and dental health care services are being conducted in multi sectors to extend oral and dental health care services among the students, youths, middle-age persons and the aged persons; to effectively take precautionary measures; to educate the people to have the habit of taking the food that is good for the oral and dental health; and to educate the elementary students and the public about the oral hygiene.

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech at the opening of 24th Conference of Myanmar Dental Association and joint educational meeting of World Dental Federation (FDI) and MDA. — MNA



Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of NHC, officials of SPDC Office, heads of department, representatives of FDI, President of MDA Prof U Ba Myint, executives and members, delegates to the conference, resident representatives of

to cooperate with the FDI and the international academics of the profession for development of the dental studies and improvement of the dental health standard of the global people.

The joint meetings held in cooperation with the FDI

In this regard, the Government has laid down the objective — Uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation — and is striving in all sectors for development of the public health care services.

The Government has been systematically laying

ICT Week continues for 8th day

YANGON, 28 Jan — Students, service personnel, and the public thronged the Third Myanmar ICT Week-2004 on its eighth day at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park on Hline

University Campus in Hline Township here today.

The advancing IT technologies are on display there.

Canon copiers and spare parts are put on sale at the booth of Success Copier

Group Ltd which offers one-year guarantee and after-sale services.

Software products and hardware computer sets are available at a discount at Myanmar Technology Gate Co Ltd which offers various services on computer.

Tech training centre conducts courses on engineering, computer general business management. Micro Computer Co Ltd sells computers, laptop PC networks, toplat PCs, digital cameras with after-sale warranty.

Win Win War Co Ltd offers installation of websites, registration of domain names, sells mail4U, e-mail account and access card at the Myanmar ICT Week-2004 which was extended to 31 January. Admission is free.

MNA



The Government Technical Institute (Myingyan) under construction in Myingyan, Mandalay Division seen on 27 January. (News reported) — MNA