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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives President of Unocal

YANGON, 29 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received President of Unocal Mr David C Peters at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta, here,

at 5.30 pm today.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen

Than Htay and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets President of Unocal Mr David C Peters. — MNA

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Circulation

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Model cooperative sale centre opened in Tamway

YANGON, 29 Jan — The Cooperative Syndicate of Yangon Division General Economic Enterprise and the Cooperative Society Ltd of Myanmar Pyitha General Economic Enterprise jointly opened a model cooperatives sale centre at Building No S-2, Room-001, of Minye Kyaw Swa Estate in Tamway Township this morning.

Minister for Coop-

eratives Maj-Gen Htay Oo attended the opening ceremony of the centre.

Present on the occasion were directors-general and general managers of departments under the ministry, the executive director of the central cooperatives syndicate and members of the board of directors, officials of cooperative societies and others.

Director-General Col Soe Win of the Coop-

erative Department, Chairman U Ye Aung of Yangon Division GEE's Cooperative Syndicate, and Chairman U Myint Naing of Myanmar Pyitha Cooperative Society formally opened the centre.

Later, the minister and guests viewed round the centre. Foodstuff, household goods, stationery and others are on sale at the centre.

MNA

Unity, an absolute necessity



Our nation is the Union where various national groups live together and each and every region is also like a small union where different nationalities reside. As we have been living together so long that we are inseparable, love and friendship and unity are a must for all of us.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From guidance given to trainees of No 35 Primary Teachership Course of University for Development of National Races.)

57th Anniversary Union Day commemorative special features on pages 7, 8 and 9.

Ministry of Health holds coord meeting

YANGON, 29 Jan — The Ministry of Health held its second and third four-monthly work coordination meeting for the year 2003 at the meeting hall of the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township here this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr

Kyaw Myint.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, directors-general of departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, deputy directors, health officers, project managers and officials.

In his speech, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint expressed his delight at the endeavours made by health officers in regions covered by the border area development projects. He also said public confidence has been won to a greater degree as hospitals are provided with modern equipment in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, adding that machinery should be used with special care. He also urged the officials to make effective use of computer-

ized e-health system designed to enhance communication skill and said that efforts are to be made to win public cooperation in carrying out natural disasters preparedness and disease control activities.

Next, the deputy minister expressed his delight at the emergence of health staff the public can rely on along with the advancement in public health care services and called upon the officials to meet the goals for the reduction of mother and child mortality rate and the development of nourishment.

Later, directors-general reported on progress of tasks being carried out by their respective departments. Health officers, rectors and medical superintendents also presented progress reports. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 30 January, 2004

Keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic

The Union of Myanmar is a land where national brethren have long been living together in unity and amity always unitedly safeguarding her for her perpetual existence. Although the Union had been under the imperialists for over 100 years, she regained her status of an independent and sovereign nation because all the Union nationals drove out the invaders through their united efforts.

Now our Union is able to stand tall in the world and this is also due to the oneness of various national races. Therefore, we should value the essence of the Union and national unity. All the citizens of the Union have the tradition of living in unity with mutual respect, trust and lovingkindness for one another, practising the religion of their choice. Therefore, the Government has always given a top priority to preserving this fine tradition.

One of the objectives of the 57th anniversary of the Union Day is "to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people".

It is the duty of new generations to preserve the fine tradition of unity of their ancestors. It is the duty of all the nationals born in the Union to safeguard their motherland so that it can exist as long as the world does.

The Government shows sincere goodwill and lovingkindness towards all the national people living in various regions of the Union. Therefore, it has been fulfilling their education, health, social and economic requirements for parallel development of all parts of the Union.

Realizing the goodwill of the Government, the national people, on their part, have been enthusiastically taking part in its national development endeavours.

Now that peace and stability is prevailing all over the Union, regional development work can be carried out with added momentum. And the entire people will be able to enjoy higher living standard as much as development work can be done.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the Union nationals to preserve peace and stability and to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among themselves.

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.

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 29 Jan —The State Peace and Development Council has appointed U Win Pe, Deputy Director-General of the Transport Department under the Ministry of Transport, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — 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.

Minister addresses coord meeting on Myanmar Open Golf Tour



YANGON, 29 Jan — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports

Chairman of Leading Committee for Holding Myanmar Open Golf Tournament-2004 Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint this morning attended the coordination meeting for holding Myanmar Open Golf Tour -2004, held at Padamy Hall of National Indoor Stadium-1 here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar PGA and MGF Chairman of Work Committee for holding the tour Maj-Gen Win Hlaing and committee members, officials from the Ministry of Sports, departmental officials and



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at the meeting. — MNA

invited guests.

The minister made an introductory speech. Maj-Gen Win Hlaing explained matters related to organizing

the tour and those present on the occasion took part in the discussions.

The meeting came to a close with concluding remark by the minister.

The tour will be held at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon here from 12 to 15 February. Golf stars from Australia, Fiji, Canada, the

People's Republic of China, Ecuador, Mexico, Scotland, Singapore, England, Hong Kong, Sweden, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China (Taipei), the United States and Myanmar will take part in the tournament.

MNA

Children's paintings invited

YANGON, 29 Jan — Children are invited to send their paintings for the Volume I No 3 of Metta Sanye magazine to be published by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in April 2004.

They will have to send their works of art to Executive Editor Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint of the MMCWA Office at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami roads in South Okkalapa Township not later than 20 February.

MNA

Soe Kyaw Naing still leads Gold Uni Golf Classic



YANGON, 29 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 third round, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) was still leading the tournament with 215 (72+68+75) strokes,

followed by Min Naing (Srixon) with 216 (73+71+72), Myint Thuang (KM Golf Centre) with 218 (76+74+68), Aung Win (YCDC) with 218 (73+76+69), Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) with 222 (76+72+74) and Nanda Kyaw (YCDC) with 222 (71+76+75).

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

MNA



Myint Thuang takes part in the tournament. — MGF



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

Bomber kills three outside Baghdad hotel

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan—A suicide bomber blew up a van disguised as an ambulance in front of a hotel Wednesday after speeding through a security barrier in the heart of Baghdad, killing three people—including a South African—and injuring 17.

The bombing at the Shaheen — a hotel frequented by Westerners — confirmed intelligence warnings that insurgents might use ambulances to evade security checks.

It also reinforced fears voiced by US officials that insurgents would step up attacks ahead of the planned on 1 July transfer of power

by the US-led coalition to Iraq. It was the second suicide bombing in the capital in less than two weeks.

Witnesses said a white van with Red Crescent markings drove through an opening in the barbed wire and concrete cylinder barriers on Masbah Street at about 6:40 am.

They said guards opened

fire at the van but it managed to reach the front of the Shaheen Hotel, where it exploded. The US military said the van was packed with 400-500 pounds of explosives.

Police and the US military said four people, including the bomber, were killed. One was South African, according to South African

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa. He said four South Africans were among the injured.

The blast left a huge crater in the street and destroyed the ground floor of the three-story hotel, which was used by long-term guests, including Iraq's labor minister, Sami Izara al-Majoun. He was unhurt.

"My guards came to the room and rushed me downstairs. The hotel was burning and there was fire and smoke everywhere," al-Majoun said.

One of his guards, Rassol Karim, said the bomber "was trying to drive into the hotel."

Several embassies, including the Swiss, Polish and Armenian, are located in the posh Karadah neighbourhood. The blast damaged at least three nearby buildings, including one housing police assigned to protect the embassies.

The blast hurled remains of one car across the street. Several other cars caught fire and were reduced to mounds of twisted metal.—Internet



US troops secure the area after a car bomb exploded in front of a hotel in central Baghdad on 28 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

India, Pakistan agree to hold talks in February

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan—India and Pakistan have agreed to hold three-day talks beginning February 16 in Islamabad to commence the process of composite dialogue, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI).

The talks will first be held at the level of joint secretaries on February 16 and 17 followed by a one-day meeting between the two foreign secretaries on February 18, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna was quoted as saying.

A similar announcement was made by Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan in Islamabad.

Official sources were cited as saying that during the three-day talks, the two

sides would discuss the modalities for the composite dialogue.

The leaders of both countries had expressed the hope that the positive trends set by the recent confidence-building measures (CBMS) would be consolidated, PTI said.

The Pakistani leader had emphasized that a sustained and productive dialogue addressing all issues would lead to positive results, PTI added.

The leaders of both coun-

tries had reportedly shared the view that constructive dialogue would promote progress towards the common objective of peace, security and economic development of the people of the two countries and for future generations.

The two sides have also agreed to discuss peace and security, terrorism, economic commercial cooperation, art and cultural exchanges.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian company to deliver military planes to Pakistan

JAKARTA, 29 Jan — State-run aerospace industry PT Dirgantara Indonesia has completed a military plane for Pakistan and will deliver three more this year, an executive said on Wednesday.

"The plane is part of the order contract for four military planes signed on 29 June, 2001 in Rawalpindi, Pakistan," Dirgantara president Edwin Soedarmo was quoted as saying by the Antara news agency in the West Java capital of Bandung.

The CN-235 propeller plane is priced at 52 million

US dollars for VIP carrier, Edwin said, adding that each of the other three CN-235s costs 49 million dollars.

According to the original contract, Dirgantara should have delivered the planes last October, but the schedule was delayed due to financial constraints in the company, which now plans

to lay off more than 5,000 workers.

Edwin said all the planes will be delivered in stages in June, August and December. He claimed that each plane has the short take off and landing (STOL) ability and is equipped with night vision goggles.

MNA/Xinhua

Almost 300 die during New Year holidays in Vietnam

HANOI, 29 Jan—Vietnam reported 621 traffic accidents during the traditional Lunar New Year (Tet) holidays from January 21-26, which killed 281 people and injured 728 others. The respective figures for the previous Tet were 369, 279 and 213, according to the Ministry of Public Security on Tuesday. The decrease in accident numbers is mainly attributed to tightened traffic management during Tet. No extremely serious accidents happened in major cities.—MNA/Xinhua

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BBC chairman resigns after Hutton criticism

LONDON, 29 Jan—The chairman of the BBC has resigned and the broadcaster has apologized for some of its reporting after the Hutton inquiry lambasted the corporation.

The inquiry by Lord Hutton criticised journalist Andrew Gilligan, the BBC's management and its supervisory board of governors, for a radio report saying the government "sexed up" intelligence in a dossier on Iraqi weapons.

Hutton said the BBC report was unfounded.

He said the BBC's editorial system was "defective" in allowing Gilligan's report to air and the governors should have investigated it in the aftermath, during which weapons expert David Kelly was unmasked as Gilligan's source and committed suicide.

Gavyn Davies, chairman of the BBC board of governors, tendered his resignation after the publication of the report, with immediate effect.

"I have been brought up to believe that you cannot choose your own referee and that the referee's decision is final," he said in a statement.

"There is an honourable tradition in British public life that those charged with authority at the top of an organization should accept responsibility for what's happened in that organization."

The report also brought a public apology from BBC Director General Greg Dyke, who said: "The BBC does accept that certain key allegations reported by Andrew Gilligan on the Today programme on 29 May last year were wrong and we apologize for them."

Hutton's findings will strengthen BBC critics who say the broadcaster should fall under the oversight of media regulator Ofcom. Conservative leader Michael Howard said the case for outside regulation of the BBC "has never been stronger".—Internet

"Ruthless killings" spark new IFJ safety alert for media in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan—The International Federation of Journalists today warned that "Iraq remains the world's most volatile and dangerous conflict zone where journalists' safety cannot be guaranteed", after two CNN employees were killed, and a third was slightly wounded this afternoon when the cars in which they were travelling were ambushed on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Their deaths bring the official media death toll during and after the war in Iraq to 22 journalists and media staff killed with two journalists still missing presumed dead. "The clear and present danger for all journalists working in this country has by no means passed," said Aidan White, IFJ General Secretary, "and more than ever journalists and media staff must exercise extreme caution."

On 27 January, transla-

tor and producer Duraid Isa Mohammed and driver Yasser Khatib died of multiple gunshot wounds as they were returning to Baghdad in a two-car convoy from an assignment in the southern city of Hillah. Cameraman Scott McWhinnie, in the other vehicle, was grazed in the head by a bullet. A delegation of the International Federation of Journalists and the Federation of Arab Journalists, led by IFJ General Secretary Aidan White and

FAJ Vice-President Mahboob Ali, on Sunday concluded a week-long visit to Iraq with a call for international support for a practical programme to build unity, professionalism and a secure environment for Iraqi journalism. The mission also coincided with the launch of a series of safety training workshops last week for Iraqi journalists and foreign reporters working in Baghdad.

Internet



An injured Iraqi man is wheeled from a ward in a Baghdad hospital after an explosion at a hotel in central Baghdad on Wednesday, 28 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

Brazilian President says new economies can rule century

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Tuesday the 21st Century belonged to the power-houses of the developing world, who should stop asking the West for favours and start working together.

"We have been treated as second-class citizens," he told a business lunch in India. "We must change the economic geography of the planet. I am convinced if we work together, this century will belong to developing nations."

Lula has been urging free trade among developing countries as a counterweight to trade with rich nations and called on China, Russia and India to work with him.

Brazil, India and South Africa have already formed a bloc to boost trade and pool political muscle in talks with rich nations.

MNA/Xinhua

519 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan—As of Wednesday, 28 Jan, 519 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 361 died as a result of hostile action and 158 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 56 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 381 US soldiers have died — 246 as a result of hostile action and

135 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,546 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 399.

Internet



A minibus burns after a man, getting off the public minibus, stepped on a roadside bomb killing him in a Baghdad suburb on Monday, 26 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

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Iraq arms row swirls

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan—Former chief US weapons hunter David Kay says the belief Iraq had weapons of mass destruction was wrong, as both the United States and Britain grappled with controversy over why they went to war against Saddam Hussein.

Kay spoke to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday while in Iraq a suicide bomber killed three people when he rammed a car packed with explosives into a Baghdad hotel.

"Let me begin by saying, we were almost all wrong, and I certainly include myself here," Kay said in his first public appearance on Capitol Hill since stepping down last week.

"I believe that the effort that has been directed to this point has been sufficiently intense that it is highly unlikely that there were large stockpiles of deployed militarised chemical and biological weapons there."

With US presidential elections due in November, Democrats trying to unseat Republican President George W Bush are using evidence such as Kay's to try to make a case that the White House exaggerated intelligence to go to war — waged to rid Iraq of what Washington said was an arsenal of banned weapons.

In Britain, Bush's staunchest ally in the war against Iraq, Tony Blair, cleared the second hurdle of his toughest week in power on Wednesday when a judge said the prime minister bore no blame for the suicide of a top Iraq weapons expert.

Although the report by senior judge Lord Hutton for the most part exonerated Blair, it did not rule on the merits of the war and many Britons remain unconvinced of whether it was justified. — Internet

Top Iraqi official calls for UN-monitored census

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan— Iraqi authorities will ask the United Nations to oversee a national census if and when it returns to Iraq, in what could be a politically charged move ahead of elections due next year.

If the survey is conducted, it would be the first full accounting of the country's make-up in more than 45 years.

Depending on what questions are asked, it could be an explosive move in a country where there are few accurate figures on the size of the population or its religious and ethnic breakdown, both of which are deeply divisive issues.

Adnan Pachachi, president of the Iraqi Governing Council, told a pro-democracy gathering in Baghdad a census was one of several

issues that needed to be addressed before US authorities hand power back to Iraqis on 1 July.

"We will ask the United Nations to run a complete, exact census and to put in place voter lists via voter registration centres throughout Iraq," Pachachi told around 250 Baghdad leaders gathered to discuss the power transfer.

It is not yet clear whether the United Nations will return to Iraq after pulling out of the country in October last year following the bombing of its Baghdad

headquarters.

US authorities and the Governing Council have asked it to return to help decide whether it is possible to hold early, direct elections before the July power transfer, as Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has demanded.

Currently, the US-led administration plans to hold a series of indirect caucuses leading to creation of a transitional authority that would take power from July. A Constitution would then be written and elections held in 2005.—MNA/Reuters

UNSC members support Annan's decision to send team to Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 29 Jan — Several members of the UN Security Council have supported Secretary-General Kofi Annan's decision to send a team to Iraq to examine the feasibility of elections before the June 30 transfer of sovereignty.

"I have come to the conclusion that the UN can play a constructive role in helping to find a way out from the current impasse," Annan said in a statement in Paris Tuesday.

The Secretary-General said the team must have adequate security to carry out its task of soliciting the views of a broad spectrum of Iraqi society in the search for alternatives that might be developed to move forward to the formation of a provisional government.

"We welcome the decision by the Secretary-General to send an electoral mission, subject to security arrange-

ments," said Council President Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz of Chile.

"We feel this is a very important step to collaborate with the Iraqis in their political process," he added.

At the same time, he emphasised the need for quality. "Elections can be carried out in five months," he said. "The question is whether you can carry out credible and transparent elections."

US Ambassador to UN John D Negroponte also welcomed Annan's decision. "It is part of the process on the part of the Secretary-General and the United Nations of re-

engaging itself in Iraq," he said. "I know this is going to be a step-by-step process but it's definitely a positive development."

"Clearly, the United Nations can play an important role in this unfolding political process in Iraq," Negroponte added in response to questions.

German Ambassador Gunter Pleugers said, "we have welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General saw fit, also regarding his responsibility for the security of his people, to send this mission to talk to the people in Iraq and listen to what they want."—MNA/PTI

Iraqi paper doubts UN's ability of holding direct elections

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan — In an article entitled "It's our fate that Annan decides our destiny," Iraqi newspaper *Al Mashriq* on Wednesday put into doubt the ability of a UN team to assess the possibility of holding direct elections in Iraq.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced Tuesday that he agreed to send a team of experts to Iraq to assess the situation and the possibility to hold general elections in the war-torn country.

The team is to arrive here on Wednesday.

The decision was announced by Annan in response to a request from the United States, whose plan to install a government by a transitional assembly by June

30 met strong opposition from the majority Shiite Muslim community in Iraq.

"Today all Iraqis are waiting for the word of the UN employees on whether or not to have elections, which is the most serious issue in the Iraqi streets," said the paper.

"Who can guarantee that they will deal professionally and honestly with their mission," asked the paper.

The paper reminded the Iraqis of the inspections in the time of the former presi-

dent Saddam Hussein, saying that each inspector was "a time bomb".

"Iraqis held their breaths during the inspection time for fear that the wrong word was uttered by an inspector and Iraq was put as a scape goat," added the paper.

Last November, US civil administrator for Iraq Paul Bremer and the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) signed an accord providing for handing over power to Iraqis by July.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi tribal members raise their weapons into the air at a memorial service for a tribal leader in Samawa, southern Iraq, on 28 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Annan says UN to resume role in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in Paris on Tuesday that the world body will send a mission to help the power handover to Iraqis, about three months after the UN staff was evacuated from Iraq due to security concerns.

The decision was announced by Annan in response to a request from the United States, whose plan to install a government by a transitional assembly by June 30 met strong opposition from the majority Shiite Muslim community in Iraq.

UN civil administrator for Iraq Paul Bremer and an Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) delegation met Annan in New York last week, urging him to resume the UN role in Iraq, including assessing the feasibility of holding direct elections in Iraq in the next six months as called for by top Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani.

The Shiite Muslims, representing 60 per cent of the 25 million Iraqi population, have been flexing their muscles after three decades of repression under Saddam Hussein.

Last November, Bremer and IGC signed an accord providing for handing over power to Iraqis next June.

However, differences soon emerged over how to choose representatives to the top new government organs which will replace the American-hand-picked IGC. While most Iraqis want direct democratic elections, the CPA and some IGC members favour the caucuses system to select such organs including the provisional Parliament, saying that the troubled situation in the country made such elections almost infeasible.

Postwar Iraq is suffering from insecurity and incessant armed attacks by guerillas on US-led coalition forces and civilian Iraqi target in which scores of innocent Iraqi people were killed or injured.

Meanwhile, Al-Sistani upholds di-

rect elections and has drawn tens of thousands of supporters on to the streets of Iraq. He also said he favours a UN assessment of the feasibility of such elections.

He has indicated that he will agree to compromise if the United Nations sends a team of experts to Iraq that concludes it would be impossible to organize free and fair elections before the handover deadline.

So far, Annan has sent a team to Baghdad to study the possibility of despatching a group of experts on elections, and another security team to decide on whether it would be safe for UN staff to return.

Most Iraqis want the United Nations to act as a counter-balance to the overwhelming US influence in their country. — MNA/Xinhua

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Al-Arabiya to resume coverage from Iraq after two-month ban

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan— Arab satellite television Al-Arabiya resumed its coverage from Iraq after the interim Governing Council lifted a two-month ban imposed for "inciting to murder."

"Al-Arabiya can resume work immediately in Iraq," the head of the Governing Council's media committee, Samir al-Sumaydai, told AFP. "The channel has promised to work in a professional manner," he said. In Dubai, Saad al-Silawi, the regional director of the Saudi-owned channel said the US-installed council "did not put any conditions" for allowing the channel to reopen its Iraq office. Al-Arabiya will operate in full freedom while abiding by the laws in force in Iraq, he said.

The Dubai-based satellite TV ceased operating in Iraq on November 24, one day after it was banned on grounds of "inciting murder" when it broadcast a tape of ousted Iraqi president Saddam Hussein calling for attacks on Governing Council members. — Internet

German Minister slams US military policy

BERLIN, 29 Jan— German Minister of Economic Cooperation Heidemarie Wiese-Zeul on Tuesday criticized the US claim that it can launch preventive military strike even without UN permission.

Speaking at a conference of the Federal Academy for Security Policy here, she called the US concept of preemptive strike violating international laws and counterproductive.

The United States has set on "aggressive unilateralism," which opens door for arbitrariness, she said.

The experience in Iraq shows that with its military superiority, the United States has won the war, but not

peace, while the previously non-existent problem of combination of Arab nationalism and terrorism has now surfaced, she said.

The European security policy does not exclude military intervention, but more importantly, it relies on civilian crisis prevention, she said.

The policy to help developing countries is more cost saving and more humane, while "military intervention

is always expensive," she added.

The German official noted that conflicts in the world were connected with the unequal distribution of resources and this problem could not be solved by military means.

She called for rooting out violence by promoting education, health care and economic development in poor countries.

MNA/Xinhua



A truck and trailer burn after a roadside bomb blast in Khaldiya, Iraq, on 27 Jan, 2004. Three American soldiers were killed and one was wounded in a large explosion 50 miles west of Baghdad. — Internet

Blair faces damaging defeat as Hutton report looms

LONDON, 29 Jan— British Prime Minister Tony Blair could suffer a damaging defeat in Parliament on Tuesday, the night before a potentially explosive report into an Iraq weapons expert's suicide poses a further threat to his government.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said that with just hours to go until a vote on plans to make students pay more for higher education, Blair was staring down the barrel, with dozens in his Labour Party vowing to defy him.

"On the way the figures are at the moment, to be absolutely honest, the government will get defeated unless some more people come over," Prescott told BBC radio.

Rejection of his education reforms — which would be Blair's first major policy defeat — and harsh criticism in Judge Lord Hutton's report on the death of David Kelly could leave the Premier wounded, perhaps even fatally.

Neither is inevitable and financial markets, although jittery, are not betting against the resilient Blair yet.

But to be beaten by his own supporters would deal a huge blow to his authority and leave his flagship public service reform plans in tatters.

It may even force Blair to call a rare confidence vote in his government. Voting on the second reading of the bill is set for 1900 GMT. No British government has been defeated at this stage, which debates a bill's broad principles, since 1986. "This is not an easy situation for Tony. We need to win this vote," Prescott said.

Blair commands the biggest parliamentary majority in recent British history, controlling 408 of the 659 seats in the House of Commons. Losing a vote should be inconceivable.

But since waging war in Iraq last year, and with none of the banned weapons that Blair argued made military action necessary yet found, many in his party are no longer prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt. — MNA/Reuters

IMB says Maritime piracy increased sharply in 2003

LONDON, 29 Jan— Pirate attacks on ships worldwide increased to 445 in 2003 compared with 370 in the previous year, according to the London-based International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Wednesday.

The International Maritime Bureau of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) said in its annual report "Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships" that 21 seamen were killed in these incidents compared with 10 in 2002 and 71 crew and passengers were listed as missing.

This was the second highest number of attacks since the IMB's Malaysia-based Piracy Reporting Centre began compiling statistics in 1991, slightly below the 469 incidents in 2000 but sharply up from the 37 attacks in 2002.

MNA/Xinhua



US Army troops survey the scene of a bomb attack at a Baghdad hotel, on 28 Jan, 2004. A suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives outside the hotel on Wednesday.

INTERNET

Balkans enhance cooperation against money laundering

TIRANA, 29 Jan — Balkan countries decided to enforce their cooperation in the fights against money-laundering and financial support to terrorism at a two-day regional conference that ended here Tuesday, the ATA news agency reported.

Participants discussed the issues of establishing the legal framework for regional collaboration in the fight against money laundering. They also discussed ways to enhance cooperation in this fight.

Money laundering has been detrimental to the economic stability and development of Balkan countries, as it generates and spreads crimes, said sources close to the meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Civilian deaths resulting from US invasion in Iraq



Ahmed Abdul-Wadud, 30, is treated at a Baghdad hospital after arriving from the scene of a car bomb which exploded outside the main gate to the headquarters of the US-led coalition in Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 Jan 2004.

The unipolar world dominated by a super power nation is leading the world to economic chaos, political anarchy, uncertainty and fear. The people of the world are not going to recover, and have peace for as long as threats are used for political and economic reforms that most of the world is not ready for and not willing to accept.



Iraqi children visit a wounded woman, who was shot while walking to work in the city of Najaf on 21 December, 2003.



US soldiers remove the body of an Iraqi man killed during clashes in Latifiyah, south of Baghdad.

Civilian deaths up to December (2003)

1.	Roadside bomb	14
2.	Gun fire	283
3.	Air strikes	1271
4.	Cluster bomb	279
5.	Car bomb	89
6.	Others	7865
Total		9801



A wounded Iraqi girl sits in her bedroom in front of a hole caused when a rocket tore into her family's apartment in central Baghdad.



An Iraqi family injured in mortar attack sit on a bed at al-Husseiniyah hospital in Karbala, Iraq, on 28 Dec, 2003.

Ali Ismail, 12, receives treatment at a Saddam City Hospital in Saddam City, a district of Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday, 12 April, 2003. Ismail lost both arms and suffered burns over most of his body following coalition attacks over Baghdad.

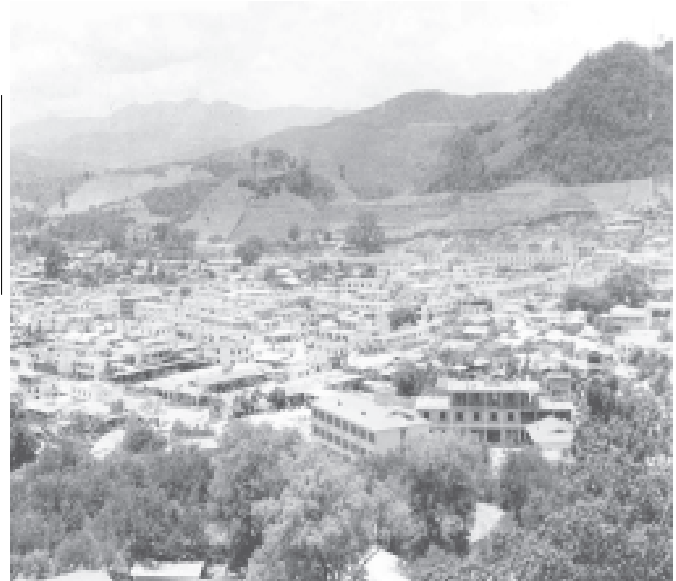


Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day; Development images of Shan State (North) in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



The main aim of the border area development programme is development of national races in border areas, and is to enable them to earn a proper living after eradicating poppy cultivation. The photo shows Laukkai Drug Elimination Museum, a symbol of efforts to fight against narcotic drugs.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Irrigation facilities	-	2
Highland cultivation	-	4388 acres
Poppy-substitute crops	-	66461 acres
Electric power		
Hydropower plant	2	13
Diesel-fired power plant	13	34
Shweli Hydropower Project (under construction)		1
Communication		
Post office	37	55
Telegraph office	13	32
Auto-exchange	1	7
Manual exchange	8	33
Ground satellite station	-	3
Microwave station	-	15
Information		
TV retransmission station	-	28
Education		
Basic education		
high school	23	63
Middle school	77	119
Primary school	1167	1535
School with multimedia centre	-	21
College	1	3
Health		
Hospital	-	53
Regional health care centre	-	1
Rural health care centre	-	52
Traditional clinic	-	9
Building new road		
Hsipaw-Manli-Tonlawt-Pankaytu section	-	78.75 miles
Mongshu-Tangyan section	-	55 miles
Namlaung-Mongyai-Lashio section	-	79 miles
Pankaytu-Kehsi-Mongnaung section	-	52 miles
Tangyan-Hsaungkye-Hsipaw section	-	101 miles
Bridge		
Above 180 feet	12	19
Under 180 feet	24	377



The Government has been striving for development of the border regions which lagged behind in progress for various reasons in the past. Nowadays, people in the border regions are witnessing progress in their respective regions and are also enjoying the fruit of peace and tranquillity in their regions. The photo shows an aerial view of Panhsan (Pankam) in Shan State (North).



Thanks to the emergence of the network of roads and bridges, local people can travel wherever they want in Shan State. In the breathtaking scenery, a heavy truck seen rolling on the mountain road section of the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Road, an important facility helping promote Myanmar's border trade with the People's Republic of China, and develop a large region covering the northern Shan State especially the border areas with Muse, a border town, at the centre.



Coal deposits found in Manpanponmar region in Tangyan Township, Shan State (North). Coal produced in the coal mines in Shan State (North) is of high quality.



Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Unity is strength

The Union of Myanmar has stood as an independent and sovereign nation with its own monarchs for thousands of years. The national brethren have been living in the nation through thick and thin, building mutual help, friendship and understanding.

The colonialists waged three aggressive wars on Myanmar — in 1824, 1852 and 1885 — and then occupied the nation. With whatever arms they could get, the national races launched attacks against the intruders for 10 years.

Well aware of the strength of Union Spirit and concrete unity of the national races, the colonialists laid down various wicked schemes so as to colonize the nation for a long time. Then, the British practised the divide-and-rule

policy to stop the national resistance against them after sowing discord among the national races.

The colonialists employed all possible ways and means in political, administrative and racial spheres to undermine national solidarity. They sowed discord and hatred among national races by adopting different administrative policy and creating racial riots.

Regarding the social sector, they brought foreigners into the nation, and drove a wedge between the natives and the foreigners.

Giving priority to self-interests, the British colonialists violated Myanmar's traditions, culture and customs and introduced the western culture into the nation.

Furthermore, they ruled Myanmar dividing it into the plains and the

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day

Colonialists' instigations to drive a wedge among national races



Hsamar fortress of the British colonialists. The fortress was repeatedly attacked by Kachin national race who were engaged in anti-colonialist movement. It was also known as Fort Morton as Captain Morton, a British, was killed at the fortress.

hill regions. In the process, the invaders designated parts of the nation as Rakhine hill region, Chin hill region, Hugaung valley region and Thanlwin District.

special regions.

The colonialists separated Shan State from other regions and allowed it to continue to practise feudalism. In addition to Shan State, the British

could enact the law to rule Kachin hill region. They declared that the law was specially meant for Kachin nationals in the

region. So, other national races living in Kachin hill region were not covered by the law.

(See page 9)

Soe Nyein San

They also separated Shan State into feudal Shan State, a member of the Union, and Shan State free from the Union.

The British also designated plains of Myitkyina and Bhamo District, Homalin, Mawlaik, Kawkareik and Myawady upstream Chindwin River, and Kayin hill region east of Thaton as

caused dissension among Chin nationals in Chin State with poor transportation. Like other national races, Kachin nationals strongly fought against the intruders. The British had to tackle the strong resistance and so they could not immediately establish administrative machinery in Kachin State. Only after 1895, they

The Union of Myanmar has stood as an independent and sovereign nation with own monarchs for thousands of years. The national brethren have been living in the nation through thick and thin, building mutual help, friendship and understanding.

The colonialists waged three aggressive wars on Myanmar — in 1824, 1852 and 1885 — and then occupied the nation. Holding whatever arms they could get, the national races launched attacks against the intruders for 10 years.



National brethren residing in Myanmar bravely fought against colonialists who encroached upon the sovereignty of Myanmar.

Colonialists' instigations to drive a wedge among national races

(from page 8)

The enacted laws for Chin hill region could be prescribed only in 1896. Heads of the villages got authority just to dispose of petty cases and to levy taxes.

In January 1892, Bawlake, Kyebugyi, Naungpale and Nanmekhon became the regions under the government of India. In administration, heads of Kayinni areas had to follow the instructions of the British. They could not contact with other regions without the permission of the British. Staff could be appointed only with the approval of a British official.

The British made instigations between Kayin and other national races. Kayin nationals had been living together in amity and in peace with other national races for thousands of years. In 1885-86 a reserve unit of the Police Force was formed by the British. The unit made up of Kayin nationals only was employed for cracking down anti-colonialist struggle in lower Myanmar.

They practised the strategy to break up unity or the divide-and-rule policy during their colonial rule in Myanmar.

They ruled the plains, Shan State and other hill regions and border areas using different methods of ad-

ministration. They ruled national races of border areas as if they were from early period of man. There were different administrative forms in Chin hill region. They aimed at weakening the close relations among the national races. It was the attempt to break up the tradition of Myanmar national races who had waged anti-colonialist wars between 1885-1900 that there is unity in case of emergency. The imperialists were afraid of unity and courage of Myanmar national races.

The imperialists allowed the elected government to rule the mainland, lower part of Sagaing Division, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayewawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions under the 1935 Myanmar government act. They said that there was still less political development in hill regions. Giving this excuse, the British governor-general himself directly ruled those regions. It was the cunning plot to divide the plains and hill regions.

When the British occupied Myanmar the territory was that of the Myanmar Empire founded by King Alaungmintayagyi. They divided the country into many parts.

It is the characteristic of old and new colonialists in separation of the regions according



The photo taken at the 21st Anniversary Union Day shows Daipha Duwa, the leader of Kachin national race who fought against the colonialists.

to religion, race and geographical and political conditions.

If the British had to grant independence to Myanmar, they would leave hill regions as their colony. It was obvious that it was the driving of a wedge among the national races with their political tricks.

The Union spirit of Myanmar national races living in weal and woe for thousands of years is the essence of the Union that will continue to exist forever.

Translation: MS*+NY

Well aware of the strength of Union Spirit and concrete unity of the national races, the colonialists laid down various wicked plans so as to colonize the nation for a long time. Then, the British practised the divide-and-rule policy to stop the national resistance against them so that it caused dissensions among the national races.

The colonialists employed all possible ways and means in political, administrative and racial spheres to undermine national solidarity. They sowed discord and hatred among national races by adopting different ruling policy and creating racial riots.

Regarding the social sector, they brought foreigners into the nation, and drove a wedge between the natives and the foreigners.

Poem

Our nation, our village

- * In lower country, rivers and creeks abound
Green and golden paddies, fragrant with rain
How pleasant is the scenery.
- * In upper country, there's sunshine plentiful
The level fields of vegetation, smell of Htanaung
How sweet-smelling it can be.
- * In the Shan, Chin, Kachin hills
Strewn with mist, there pinewood aplenty
Strange as they can be.
- * In Kayah and Kayin, there are streams aflow
Emerald green forests, mixed with beauty
Scenes that take your breath away.
- * In Mon, Taninthayi and Rakhine
Cool crests of waves, wafted by the wind
There's peace all around.
- * Our nation, our village, everywhere
Beauty's to be found allaround
Our village, our land, our people
With lofty generosity, goodwill
Brimming with loving kindness, hearts of gold
If our land, village is transgressed
We shall crush all enemies
In all unity, and solidarity
With all our strength, love of roots
We are known to repulse.

Min Yu Wai (Trs)

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day.



leaders of Chin national race who fought against the colonialists.

A trade fair for national economic development

Article by Reporter Khin Maung Thaw
(Kamayut)

Photos by Nyi Bo Bo Chaw

Holding of the trade fairs, participated by local and foreign companies, in the nation helps local entrepreneurs acquire business knowledge they can apply in promoting the sale of their products.

The Yangon Trade Fair 2004 will also be the one that will help develop the national economy in multi-aspects and promote the private sector.

It will be held at Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Road, Yangon, for four days from 30 January to 2 February 2004 with the permission of the Ministry

of Commerce.

In an interview with the members of the board of directors of a business organization which has much experience in holding trade fairs, they explained the aim of the Yangon Trade Fair. The directors of Quartz International Co Ltd told me that its aim was to make the public know more about the quality goods, to share business knowledge among the entrepreneurs to develop the manufacturing techniques and production of the advanced type of goods in the nation, to strengthen their markets and to achieve

sound economic foundations in building a new nation.

"The local and foreign fashion companies, services and industries producing cosmetics, household goods, electronic appliances, plastic wares, costumes, foodstuff, construction material, stationery, light machinery and medicines will open booths there", they added.

"Mainly, the trade fair will concentrate on exhibiting various kinds of import-substitute goods and new products. Old ways of distributing goods will not work



VeVe booth of Hnin Hnin Khine Co Ltd.

at present. As competition is high among the producers, trade fairs are being held to help them get in touch with the consumers. As they can directly introduce their goods to the consumers, they will be able to launch sale promotion campaigns," they explained.

Great Summit International Co Ltd is planning to sell Korean-made laminate sheets with 10-years guarantee at reasonable prices at the trade fair, while Hnin Hnin Khine Co Ltd and Green Circle Co Ltd are making arrangements for the consumers to directly buy various kinds of VeVe brand import-substitute foodstuff from the producers.

"We are going to introduce the VeVe milk candy at the fair in addition to displaying our other food products that are made from fresh local fruits", an official of the two companies said. Meanwhile, the head of Star Entertainment Co Ltd ex-

plained plans to stage performances of young artistes and models, saying that by holding the entertainment programmes, he hoped to find fresh blood for his company. "People find it easy to buy their choice of goods at a trade fair where different brands and types of goods are available at a single place.

And producers are going to sell their goods at reasonable prices", Managing Director Daw Myat Thet Aye of the Quartz International Co Ltd told me, adding, there are lucky draw programmes for the buyers, and the first prize of K 100,000 will be awarded to the winner on the last day of the fair. The best booth designing award will also be presented at the fair, that will be opened to public from 9 am to 6 pm every day from 30 January to 2 February.

"I would like to invite the people to visit the fair

where they can enjoy window-shopping or buy goods at fair prices and draw lucky dips. And the admission is free!", she said.

The State is rendering assistance in all sectors for the national economic development in accord with its four economic objectives.

In accord with one of the four economic objectives — Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system — the State has been permitting to hold the trade fairs not only in Yangon, but also in the whole nation. Producers need to publicize their goods and find markets. Likewise, the wider availability of the new brands of product manufactured as the import-substitute goods is also important. Thus, the trade fairs are being held to introduce the new items and advertise all kinds of products.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 29-1-2004



Korea-made laminated flooring tiles.

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Trust Fund Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 29 Jan —The Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Trust Fund Supervisory Committee held a meeting at the hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Chief Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye, departmental heads, Sayagyi U Ohn Pe, members of the Supervisory Committee and guests.

On the occasion, the deputy minister gave a speech. Secretary of the Supervisory Committee U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) presented matters for holding this year's prize-distribution ceremony in Pakokku.

Next, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint

Thein, Chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Selection Committee U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), Treasurer of the Supervisory Committee Deputy General Manager (Accounts) of the PPE U Mya Maung, Director-General of the Education Planning and Training Department under the Ministry of Education U Bo Win and Chairman of Pakokku District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Htay Oo reported on holding the ceremony sector-wise.

Deputy Chief Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye and Sayagyi U Ohn Pe assessed the reports. Those present also held a general round of discussions.

The deputy minister attended to the needs and gave closing remarks.

MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein gives a speech at the meeting of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Trust Fund Supervisory Committee. — MNA

Asian fish shares fly as bird flu hits food firms

SINGAPORE, 29 Jan — As restaurants across Asia took chicken off the menu during an outbreak of bird flu, investors reshuffled their portfolios on Wednesday to boost exposure to seafood and pork while-carving away fowl-related stocks.

Hoping for a swift pick-up in demand for seafood as consumers shun poultry, investors poured money into Asian fish producers, pushing up prices of fish firms in Japan and Korea.

"You want to sell chickens, and get into fish and pigs. What you want to be doing is buying anything that slaughters pigs in China, outfits like People's Food,"

said one Hong Kong-based food and beverage analyst.

He also suggested investors look at Thai Union Frozen Products PCL (TUF), a major canned tuna exporter and retail-focused conglomerate China Resources Enterprise Ltd.

Millions of chickens have been slaughtered and several governments including Singapore have banned poultry

imports from a list of 10 countries now affected by the disease, including China and its vast poultry industry.

At least eight people have died.

In one example of poultry disappearing from Asia's menus, Hong Kong-based airline Dragonair plans to drop chicken from its menus from Friday.

But as major chicken

chains and poultry processors braced for lost business, one Singapore chicken producer, KSB Elite Holdings Ltd, said investors had snapped up the bulk of a small privately placed share offering as part of an initial public offering.

An adviser to the deal, however, acknowledged that bird flu held the price down.

MNA/Reuters

AIDS is a national concern.



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan views a booth at the Third Myanmar ICT Week-2004. — MNA

Minister for Culture inspects ancient pagodas in Salin, tours Bagan

YANGON, 29 Jan — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected renovation of Laysin Yoksonekyauing in Salin on 27 January morning.

Together with officials, the minister looked into Koehsaung Kyaunggyi in which Bo Ottama, Bo Byaing Gyi and Bo Byaing Lay took a foothold to launch attacks against the British colonialists in the Myanmar's independence struggle. There the minister viewed the cemetery where 17 British officers who were killed in the independence struggle were buried. The minister also viewed the Pyu period pagoda at the entrance to Salin.

The minister paid reverence to Kyapin Ngamyethna Pagoda built by King Narapati Sithu in Bagan period. He gave instructions to the officials on excavation tasks at Kyapin Village, ancient Pyu city.

Next, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and party went to Bagan-NyaungU and inspected Bagan Archaeological Museum.

Afterwards, the minister inspected construction of a retaining wall and artefacts unearthed at the site for excavation of the ancient palace of King Anawrahta. The minister gave instructions.

In the evening, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected the work site for excavation of the ancient palace, renovation of Phwa Saw Hsutaungpyae Pagoda, myinkapa Gupyauckyi Pagoda and Wetkyi-in Gupyauckyi Pagoda and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Information Minister visits Myanmar ICT Week-2004

YANGON, 29 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week-2004 went on for the ninth day at the MICT Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township here today.

The exhibition was crowded with the students, service personnel and people.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan arrived at the exhibition at 5.15 pm. Myanmar Radio and Television Director-General U Khin Maung Htay, members of Board of MICTDC Directors and officials welcomed the minister.

The minister viewed the booths. Officials concerned conducted the minister round the exhibition.

The exhibition will be kept open until 31 January from 9 am to 5 pm. — MNA

CORRECTION

In the news "Cultural Minister inspects antiques" which appeared on column 1 to 4 on page 15 of 29-1-2004 issue of NLM, please read: "He also inspected the octagonal shaped pagoda's foundation measuring 56 feet in diameter and 3.5 feet in height and the charcoal layer four feet below" on 9th line of the second paragraph of the story. On the 7th line, third para, second column, please read BC 5th century instead of BC 11th century. Ed

Pho La Pyae Co Ltd introduces new products

YANGON, 29 Jan — Pho La Pyae Co Ltd held a ceremony to introduce its new products, Scorpion C Plus, and to present the best seller awards at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

It was attended by Managing Director of the company U Thura Thwin, General Manager U Aung Lat, company staff, Seller, and guests.

After a speech given by U Thura Thwin, master of ceremonies Daw Tin Moe Lwin gave an account on the new products. Later, U Thura Thwin and officials of the company presented the best seller awards and the consolation prizes to winners. — MNA



Managing Director of the Pho La Pyae Co U Thura Thwin speaks on the occasion. — MNA

CAM office to be closed on Bakari Idd Day

YANGON, 29 Jan — As 2 February 2004 (Monday) is Bakari Idd Day, the public holiday, the Controller of Military Accounts Office of the Ministry of Defence in Yankin here will also be closed on that day. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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



Salone Traditional Festival 2004

(Sea Gypsy Festival)

Ma Kyone Galet Village, Myeik

Archipelago

Union of Myanmar

14 to 17 February 2004

e-Education Learning Centre

သင်ခန်းစာထုတ်လွှင့်မည့်အစီအစဉ်

နေ့လည် ၁၃:၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၅:၀၀ နာရီအထိ

၂-၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္လာနေ့)

* Cultural Anthropology

ပထမနှစ် မနုဿဗေဒဒဿနိကဗေဒ၊ ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသန

ပညာ နှင့် စိတ်ပညာအထူးပြုကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

* Archaeological Theory

ပထမနှစ် ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသနပညာကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၃-၂-၂၀၀၄ (အင်္ဂါနေ့)

* Chemical Bonding

ဒုတိယနှစ် ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု နေ့ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

* Carbohydrate

ဒုတိယနှစ် ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု နေ့ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၄-၂-၂၀၀၄ (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့)

* Basic Electronics

တတိယနှစ် သမိုင်းအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

* Basic Crystal Structure

တတိယနှစ် ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၅-၂-၂၀၀၄ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့)

* Supremal Points

သင်္ချာအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ အားလုံး

* An animal cell

ပထမနှစ် သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၆-၂-၂၀၀၄ (သောကြာနေ့)

* Ecto: and Endoparasites

တတိယနှစ် သတ္တဗေဒကျောင်းသူ/ကျောင်းသားများ

* How to Make Golden Rice

ပထမနှစ် ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၇-၂-၂၀၀၄ (စနေနေ့)

* UDE ကျောင်းသူ/သားများအတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ

၈-၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)

* UDE ကျောင်းသူ/သားများအတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ

၉-၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္လာနေ့)

* Plant Nutrition

ပထမနှစ် ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

* Earthquakes in Myanmar

တတိယနှစ် ဘူမိဗေဒအထူးပြု ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

၁၀-၂-၂၀၀၄ (အင်္ဂါနေ့)

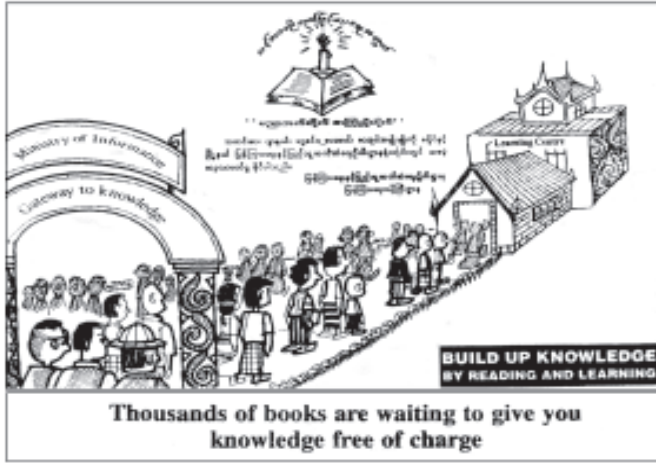
* Water Pollution

တတိယနှစ်နှင့် ပထမနှစ်ရုက္ခဗေဒတန်း ကုန်ထုတ်ဓာတုဗေဒ

ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

* Curriculum Development

B.Ed ပထမနှစ် စာပေ၊ စာယူသင်တန်းသားများ



ADVERTISEMENTS

UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS. INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Carbon Brush TA-641, Bore Gauge Extension, Injector Tester and MTU Special Tools which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Quantity:
1.	12(T) 27/MR (ML) 2003-2004	Carbon Brush TA-641	580 - Pairs
2.	12(T) 28/MR (ML) 2003-2004	(1) Bore Gauge Extension (2) Injector Tester Complete with Gauge & Pipe	1 - No 2 - Nos
3.	12(T) 29/MR (ML) 2003-2004	MTU Special Tools	4 - Items

Closing Date: 10-2-2004 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours
Opening Date: 10-2-2004 (Tuesday) (14:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 30-1-2004 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605, 612.

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.**

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "BAGO" VOY NO BG 761/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No BG 761/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 30-1-04 and will be berthing on about 31-1-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GEE HONG VOY NO (402)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOY No (402) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-1-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

China's youth learns to be strong as scouts

TIANJIN, 29 Jan — At the tender age of seven, Shang Fulin barely survived a fire that scarred his face and deformed his hands despite eight major operations, including skin transplants and face-lifts.

But Shang has built up a pleasant and outgoing personality and learned to face up to all his pains in life, physical and mental, over the past six years, thanks to the help he has received from a local scout association for boys and girls whose child-

hood was overshadowed by mishaps ranging from illness and poverty to loss of parents.

The scout group was founded in 1997 in Hexi District, northern China's Tianjin municipality, 120 kilometres from the nation's capital Beijing, as China's first non-governmental organization to foster the mental well-being of these disadvantaged children.

Despite all the pains he had to endure, Shang has learned to swim, paint and

play chess from the scouts, and encouraged his peers to be as strong and optimistic toward life.

The scouts are a necessary supplement to school education, said sources with the local education authority. "These children need special care and support from the society, but above all, they need to be strong," said an official.

"We're strong and full of sunshine," the children would sing each time they gather for gymnastics, sum-

mer and winter camps and voluntary services at communities. To date, the scout association has set up 40 branches in Tianjin and opened a hotline to provide psychological counselling for children. It has received several hundred thousand yuan in donation from corporate and individual donors.

Of its 4,000 members, 2,520 have got financial aid and 2,000 have received special training on a wide range of cultural and sport avocations. —MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြိုင်ဘက်အားလပ်

Rio de Janeiro police shoot dead 34 in anti-drug sweep

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 29 Jan — Police in Rio de Janeiro have shot dead 34 people in a sweeping crackdown on drug gangs in the city's infamous shantytowns since November, officials said on Tuesday.

A police spokesman described the victims as criminal suspects killed in shoot-outs.

MNA/Reuters

**TRADE MARK
CAUTION NOTICE**
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**TIN OHNMAR TUN
B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)**
PO Box 109
Ph: 248108/723043

(For Domestically Sogiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated: 30th January, 2004

Eleven bodies found in Mexico house amid drug war

CIUDAD JUAREZ (Mexico), 28 Jan — Mexican police said on Tuesday they found 11 bodies at the home of a suspected leading drug trafficker in a violent city on the US border and were searching for more victims.

The attorney general's office said police unearthed four bodies at the house in Ciudad Juarez over the weekend and found seven more on Monday. Mexico has been rocked in the past weeks by a wave of drug-related violence, with at least 18 people gunned down in the past week in gangland-style hits.

Police sources said the victims in the house were men and that at least some of them had been beaten, tortured and then suffocated. Investigators believe the victims were involved in the drug trade and may have been killed as part of a turf war between rival traffickers.

MNA/Reuters

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Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **EYGN LIMITED**
P.O Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 30 January 2004

Japan balloonist fails at Pacific crossing

TOKYO, 29 Jan — A bureaucrat turned adventurer failed in an attempt to become the first Japanese to cross the Pacific by hot-air balloon, just hours after beginning his voyage.

Michio Kanda, a 54-year-old town official, had taken off just before dawn from a dry river bed some 62 miles north of Tokyo in his balloon, the *Milky Way 2*.

If he had succeeded it would have been only the second such flight ever made.

But the balloon was forced to land in the ocean some 930 miles east of Kinko Mountain in Miyagi Prefecture in northern Japan, a Coast Guard official said.

A Coast Guard patrol boat and aircraft were headed toward the site to rescue Kanda and another passenger, the official said.

Kyodo news agency said the two on board were safe and that their gondola was floating on the water.

The previous successful hot-air balloon crossing was made in 1991 by a group from Britain that included entrepreneur Richard Branson, who flew from the southern Japanese prefecture of Miyazaki to Yellowknife in Canada, in about 46 hours.

MNA/Reuters

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A dusting of snow covers one of the lions in Trafalgar Square, London, on late 28 Jan, 2004. Britain was braced for another night of snow, ice and freezing temperatures as the cold snap continued and London received another dusting of snow leading to travel chaos.—INTERNET

Anti-corruption drama performed in HK schools

HONG KONG, 29 Jan—An anti-corruption drama has been performed in Hong Kong schools as a measure to pass such message to young students.

The drama, Fake Robin Hood, was produced by the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre (HKRep) for secondary students.

It tells the story about a secondary student, Ah Kin, who worked as a part-timer at a bank and discovered that his boss was planning a bribing activity. On struggling for some time, Ah Kin decided to report it to the ICAC, and the "black sheep" was arrested at last.

The drama has been performed in 102 secondary schools with a total number of more than 20,000 audience.

Students who have seen the drama said that it was more effective to use this interactive means to spread anti-corruption message. It made them more clear about the definition of corruption. —MNA/Xinhua

Bangladeshi experts say mysterious disease may be encephalitis

DHAKA, 29 Jan—The unknown virus that killed 19 Bangladeshi people in the last two weeks was suspected to be encephalitis by some experts.

According to the Daily Star Wednesday, in the last two days, except for a nine-year-old child from Dhaka City was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with symptoms of high fever, headache, nausea and spells of unconsciousness, no other new infections were reported from across the country.

"We cannot confirm as yet, but symptoms of the dying patients suggest the disease could be encephalitis,"

said Professor Nazmun Nahar, head of the department of DMCH Paediatrics.

She said whether it is encephalitis could be easily figured out after autopsy, but parents of all the three children who died at DMCH have taken the bodies home without autopsy.

"The government should take steps to carry out autopsy

in such cases," she added.

Dr MA Aziz, professor of medicine in DMCH, however, expressed his doubt about the opinion of encephalitis.

"If it were encephalitis, only the brain tissues would have been affected, but two patients I have examined had multiple affected organs and other symptoms," said he.

He did not dismiss it as a

possible case of encephalitis, but stressed there is not proof yet. Aziz, however, disagreed to establish any link with bird flu that broke out in some neighbouring countries, saying the bird flu causes cold, fever, pain and headache, which are quite different from the symptoms of this unknown disease in Bangladesh.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO seeks speedy bird flu vaccine

GENEVA, 29 Jan—The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday held talks with drugs firms and international laboratories on developing a vaccine to fight bird flu, which it fears could become a pandemic.

Officials said any such protection was probably still some six months away, but that they hoped soon to have a prototype of the bird flu virus that could serve as the basis for a vaccine.

Stressing there was no sign the avian flu, which has killed eight people in Vietnam and Thailand, could be transmitted from person to person, senior officials said

the aim was to be ready for the worst.

"We are observing a possible pandemic situation and we are trying to take precautionary measures in case significant human to human transmission takes place," said Klaus Stohr, head of WHO's global influenza programme.

The prototype could be ready within two months but

after that more time would be needed to test its safety, for which they use ferrets, with the final step being clinical trials.

Stohr said 11 international companies had indicated during the teleconference conducted from the WHO's Geneva Headquarters that they were ready to take part in the clinical testing.—MNA/Reuters

Regional meeting opens in Bangkok to address bird flu epidemic

BANGKOK, 29 Jan—Agriculture and health officials from economies hit by bird flu and world major chicken importers met on Wednesday afternoon here to discuss joint efforts to curb the spread of the epidemic.

The three-hour meeting, urgently initiated by the Thai Government on Saturday, was expected to hear parties concerned on how to address the current situation at the quickest speed.

Millions of chickens have been killed on farms in many areas since the avian influenza first broke out in

Vietnam and affected many human beings.

The epidemic also broke out in Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, China and Taiwan.

So far, at least 10 people have died of the disease in the region whose poultry industry has already suffered great losses.

Representatives from the United States, the European Union, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong participated in the meeting. The World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health also sent delegates to the meeting.—MNA/Xinhua

Flood situation in east Malaysia improves

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Jan—The flood situation in Sarawak, east Malaysia, was improving with more victims returning home, State's Deputy Chief Minister George Chan said recently.

As of Tuesday evening, 3,500 evacuees were still taking shelter at flood relief centres, Chan said at a Press conference in Kuching, capital of the state.

A total of 5,500 victims in flood-hit areas in the state were evacuated to higher grounds on Monday. The state government opened 56 relief centres and another 200 mini centres to accommodate those affected by the floods.

"If heavy rain and high tide do not continue, all flood-hit areas in Sarawak will return to normal in two or three days time," he said.

The water level at Sungai Sarawak has receded by two metres and normal high tide occurred in the evening. However, there was only small amount of spill-over at the river bank which did not flow into the Kuching City Centre.—MNA/Xinhua



European Space Agency astronaut Andre Kuipers from Holland trains for zero gravity conditions during a parabolic flight on a training plane near Star City outside Moscow, on 28 Jan, 2004. Kuipers will go to the International Space Station with the Expedition 9 crew in April 2004 for eight days and will return to Earth with Expedition 8 Commander Mike Foale and Alexander Kaleri.—INTERNET

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S**Sevilla forward Reyes joins Arsenal**

MADRID, 29 Jan— Arsenal have agreed a deal to sign Spanish international forward Jose Antonio Reyes from Sevilla for an undisclosed fee, the Primera Liga club said on Tuesday.

"I'm leaving the best team in Spain to join the best team in England," the 20-year-old said at a news conference called to announce his departure.

Sevilla president Jose Maria del Nido said the club had a confidentiality pact with Arsenal regarding the cost of the transfer but he made it clear that the operation was of huge benefit to the Spanish club.

"We said we would only sell Reyes if we received an offer over and above his market price," Del Nido said.

"The transfer is for more than Bayern Munich paid for (Roy) Makaay, more than Barcelona paid for Ronaldinho and more than Real Madrid paid for (David) Beckham."

The cost of Beckham's move from Manchester United before the start of the current season was 25 million euros, plus up to 10 million euros depending on Real's performances in the Champions League over the next four years.

MNA/Reuters

Prosecutors ask court to probe AS Roma accounts

ROME, 29 Jan— Prosecutors have asked a civil court to inspect the accounts of the company that controls current Italian League leaders AS Roma, judicial sources close to the investigation said on Tuesday.

The request comes after a former accountant to Roma 2000, which has a 64 per cent stake in the Serie A club, identified irregularities related to some balance sheets listing nominal and not real values for shares, the judicial sources said. AS Roma's Press officer declined to comment.

The request comes as Italy reels from the discovery of a multibillion euro accounting hole at dairy group Parmalat, the parent

company of Serie A club Parma.

Roma 2000 is owned by the family of Franco Sensi, who has been president of the football club since 1993.

AS Roma hit some problems last summer when they had trouble producing a financial guarantee for this season and had a block on international transfers imposed by FIFA, soccer's world governing body, due to outstanding payments.

Those issues were resolved, however, and under coach Fabio Capello the team have played impressively this season and are currently leaders of Serie A having lost just one of their 18 league matches to date. They last won the title in 2001.—MNA/Reuters

Gray signs for Blackburn from Sunderland

LONDON, 29 Jan— Defender Michael Gray has joined Blackburn Rovers from first division Sunderland on a two-and-a-half year deal, the English premier league club said on Tuesday.

The 29-year-old former England international could make his debut for the club in their Premier League match at home to Chelsea on Sunday, Blackburn said.

"We have followed Michael with interest for some time and one of the big plusses is his ability to play in all positions down the left," Rovers manager Graeme Souness told the club's web site. Gray was Sunderland's longest-serving player, after 11 years at the club who were relegated from the premier league last season.—MNA/Reuters



AC Milan midfielder Cristian Brocchi, left, and Siena's Brazilian midfielder Fernando challenge for the ball during their Italian first division soccer match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, Italy, on 28 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Bolton survive defeat to reach League Cup final

LONDON, 29 Jan— Bolton Wanderers will meet either Middlesbrough or Arsenal in the League Cup final next month after beating Aston Villa 5-4 on aggregate despite losing Tuesday's semi-final second leg 2-0 at Villa Park.

"It was an unbelievable battle and we've done it the hard way, but we've done it," Bolton manager Sam Allardyce told Radio Five Live.

"We did not punish them with a goal when we could and in the end it was an almighty scramble for us because we faced a hard, fighting battle from Villa. I am delighted. This is the first cup final I've reached as either a player or a manager."

Earlier this month Allardyce played a weakened team in two FA Cup matches against second division Tranmere, losing in the replay, and said he was glad they were knocked out.

He must have been concerned that Bolton would go the same way in the League Cup when Villa, thrashed 5-2 in the first leg, pulled one back after nine minutes.

German Under-21 midfielder Thomas Hitzlsperger opted not to produce his usual blast from a free kick and instead floated the ball beyond Finnish goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen from 25 metres.

Villa's chances suffered a setback after 39 minutes, however, when midfielder Gavin McCann was sent off for hitting Bolton's Brazilian defender Emerson Thome — his former team mate at Sunderland — in a flare-up after McCann's late follow-through on Jaaskelainen. After that Villa worked hard and created a number of scoring chances, but did not strike again until

the 88th minute when Trinidadian defender Illoyd Samuel scored from close range. That set up a storming finale, but Bolton survived.

Villa, without their injured 16-goal Colombian leading scorer Juan Pablo Angel, continually carried the game to the visitors but their attacking play failed to match their midfield approach work.

Bolton, missing their star play-maker Jay Jay Okocha, away with Nigeria in the African Nations Cup following his two goals in the first leg, were more than content to soak up the pressure and created little of their own up front.—MNA/Reuters

Nomvete double gives South Africa 2-0 win

Sfax (Tunisia), 29 Jan— Siyabonga Nomvete scored twice in the second-half to give South Africa a 2-0 win over Benin in their opening group D match at the African Nations Cup finals on Tuesday.

The Italian-based striker, who has never scored in Serie A, also missed a penalty on the stroke of halftime.

The result comes as a major confidence booster for beleaguered South Africa, who fired their coach Ephraim Mashaba on the eve of their departure for the tournament.

The side looked languid in the first half but Nomvete's two well-taken goals on 58 and 76 minutes enlivened a match which had delivered little excitement until the first goal. —MNA/Reuters



Second seed Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to eighth seed David Nalbandian of Argentina during their quarter-final match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, on 28 Jan, 2004. Federer won the match 7-5, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 and will play Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero in the semi-finals.—INTERNET

Safin upsets Roddick, sets up Agassi semi

MELBOURNE, 29 Jan— Top seed Andy Roddick and Marat Safin collided head on at Melbourne Park on Tuesday and after five riveting sets the American bounced off an impregnable wall of Russian brawn and out of the Australian Open.

Safin's lowly world ranking of 86, due to a year of injuries, proved irrelevant as he won their quarter-final meeting 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-7, 6-4.

"Thank you everyone," the popular Russian grinned to the crowd on his 24th birthday. "Thanks for all your support."

World number one Roddick was stunned. "He played well, he played great tonight... I have to just suck it up and give credit to him," he said.

Safin's reward is a semi-final against Andre Agassi after a groin strain to his French opponent Sebastien Grosjean had earlier allowed the defending champion to advance with the score at 6-2, 2-0.

France's misery was complete with Grosjean's withdrawal. Women's fourth seed Amelie Mauresmo had earlier been forced to admit she could not play her match against Colombia's Fabiola Zuluaga because of a back injury.

The Frenchwoman was inconsolable and the tears flowed freely throughout the morning.

Zuluaga got a walkover through to the semis — a first for any Colombian, man or woman — where she will meet top seed Justine Henin-Hardenne on Thursday.—MNA/Reuters

Brazil defender Roque Junior joins Siena

ROME, 29 Jan— Brazilian World Cup winner Roque Junior has joined Siena on loan, the Serie A club announced on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old defender, who is contracted to AC Milan, was loaned to Premier League side Leeds United after helping Milan win the Champions League final in May.

But after making just seven appearances in England in the first half of this season he has returned to Italy with Siena, who are 10th in Serie A.

Roque Junior was part of Brazil's 2002 World Cup-winning squad in South Korea and Japan.—MNA/Reuters

Villa losses soar to \$30m

LONDON, 29 Jan — English Premier League Aston Villa announced interim losses of 16.5 million pounds on Tuesday, including 4.1 million to pay off players' contracts.

Villa ended Turkish international defender Alpay Ozalan's contract by mutual consent in October and terminated the contract of Croatian striker Bosko Balaban in early December, both in a bid to cut costs.

The results, for the six months ended November 30, also showed an operating loss of 12.4 million pounds.

In August, Villa revealed full-year pre-tax losses of 11.6 million pounds.

"Our results in the early part of the season were disappointing, but since the half-year end there has been a considerable improvement both in terms of results and league position," Villa chairman Doug Ellis said in a statement to shareholders. "Despite an adverse trading performance in the first half of the year our balance sheet remains strong and is undoubtedly one of the strongest amongst our peers in the premier league."—MNA/Reuters

Lao PDR Deputy Prime Minister and goodwill delegation visit Thandwe

YANGON, 29 Jan — The visiting Laotian goodwill delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisolith and wife arrived at Thandwe in Rakhine State yesterday afternoon. The Lao PDR Deputy Prime Minister and party visited Myanmar at the invitation of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe.

They were accompanied by Ambassador of LPDR Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane

and wife and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On arrival at Thandwe Airport, they were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Western Command Col Tin Hlaing, Chairman of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Tint and officials. Accompanied by the deputy commander and officials, they visited the prawn reprocessing plant of Lin Aung Industrial and Production Co Ltd at Lintha Ward in the town. The company officials explained the location and area of the plant, prawn trawling at Rakhine coastal sea, finished good produc-

tion, marketing and ice production. The Laotian visitors went around the factory, studying the prawn selection unit and the storage of prawn.

At the prawn fry production centre of Everlive Co Ltd at Mazin village in Thandwe Township, they heard a report on fry breeding, investment, production process of the fries, and feedstuff for the fries presented by the company officials. Afterwards, they looked round the centre. They spent the night at Bayview Hotel at Ngapali Beach. They left Thandwe for Yangon by air this afternoon. — MNA



Visiting Laotian Deputy Prime Minister Dr Thongloun Sisolith and Madame Naly Sisolith and party observe the sea shrimp production centre of Everlive Co Ltd. — MNA

MCF warns users against outbreak of new e-Mail virus

YANGON, 29 Jan — Myanmar Computer Federation warned users against the outbreak of a new e-Mail virus called My Doom this month, and up to yesterday, over 100 million infected copies have been spreading worldwide.

In Europe alone, the infection rate of the virus, also known as W32.Novarg.A@mm, jumped from 20 per cent on 28 January morning to 33 per cent in the afternoon.

A mass-mailing worm, Mydoom spreads via e-Mail as an attachment, with extensions — .bat, cmd, .exe,

.pif, .scr, .zip. When the virus comes it presents the subjects — Test, Hi, Hello, Mail Delivery System, Mail Transaction Failed, Server Report, Status or Error on the e-Mail subject line. It spreads to other e-Mail users through the infected e-Mail, and can also leave a proxy backdoor in a computer after infecting it.

In every 12 e-Mails, one is a My Doom infected copy. Thus, It is deadlier than Worm Sobig.F that broke out last year at one in every 17 e-Mails. Because of its fast infection rate, it raises the Internet traffic, that leads

to blocking the Internet system. The virus's target is the Websites of Microsoft Main Website and SCO Unix Vendor. The virus can be prevented by the new Norton Anti-Virus introduced on 26 this month.

And if anyone of the subjects — Test, Hi, Hello, Mail Delivery System, Mail Transaction Failed, Server Report, Status, or Error — are presented, the user should not open the e-Mail. He must delete it immediately. The virus can be removed from the computer with the special removal tool from Norton. — MNA

A&I Minister inspects Thebyu dam, Madan dam in Lewe

YANGON, 29 Jan — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin on 26 January arrived at Thebyu Dam, being constructed near Yaypayayoe Village in Lewe Township, Yamethin District in Mandalay Division, and inspected construction tasks for spillway.

At the briefing hall of the project, the director (Construction-5) of the Irrigation Department reported on tasks already completed

and being carried out. The minister gave necessary instructions on timely completion and minimizing loss and wastage. The minister and party inspected three chosen sites for Madan Dam near Chaungkhwa Village in the township.

After hearing the report of the director (Construction-4) of the Irrigation Department, the minister viewed the flow of Madam Creek and growing of crops.

In meeting with local

authorities and farmers, the minister gave instructions. In the evening, the minister inspected construction of the spillway at Paunglaung multi-purpose dam project in Pyinmana Township.

Yesterday morning, the minister, accompanied by responsible officials, visited Myanma Farm Machinery Factory at Ingon Village, Kyaukse Township, and production line of power tillers and harvesters.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspects earth work for Thebyu Dam Project. AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION

Sports Minister arrives back from Thailand

YANGON, 29 Jan — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the ceremony to sign a cooperation agreement between the Olympic Committees of Myanmar and Thailand in Bangkok.

The minister, who is also Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee, was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, officials of the Sports Ministry, and the president of

Myanmar Football Federation.

Members of his team MOC member Myanmar Yachting Federation Secretary U Moe Myint, President of Myanmar Boxing

Federation U Win Myint and Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Khin Maung Lwin also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Construction of separation wall launched

YANGON, 29 Jan — The opening ceremony for construction of separation wall of Shwekyin Hydropower Project took place in Shwekyin Township, Bago Division, yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, officials, members

of social organizations and guests.

The officials formally opened the ceremony. The minister pressed the button to launch the project. The minister presented fruits baskets to foreign experts who will participate in the project. Afterwards, the minister and party inspected the project site. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut presents a fruit basket to a foreign expert. — ELECTRIC POWER