

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 31 January, 2004

## Education most basic and firmest strength of nation

**Further improvement in international relations has promoted exchange of goodwill visits between leaders of Myanmar and other nations**

YANGON, 30 Jan — The Special Refresher Course No 4 for University and College Teachers concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, members of CSSTB, director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, rectors, principals, the rector of CICS and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Gen-

eral Khin Nyunt said, teachers of the institutions of higher learning are academics having the high level of knowledge. Thus, they have already possessed the ability to study things from the root cause, to assess things in a correct way, and to make incisive analyses. In this regard, it is believed that they will become the persons serving and protecting the national interest after clearly seeing the objective conditions of the State during the course. And it is also believed that they can understand the national conviction and the national resolve and strength not only in their mind, but also in their hearts.

The Union of Myanmar is striving to stand firmly as an independent and sovereign nation and to catch

up with other nations in terms of development, while facing and overcoming many difficulties and hardships.

Despite the existence of disturbances and obstacles, the entire nation is endeavouring for the emergence of sound political, economic and social foundations to heal the wounds and totally end the ugly incidents caused by the evil legacy of the past and to safeguard the nation from facing the evil situation again in the future.

All-out efforts have been made to implement the project to build up the national strength, covering the task to ensure spiritual development that will further strengthen the national unity for the non-disintegration of the Union; and build development infrastructures for harmonious progress of the entire Union, economic infrastructures for national economic development, and health and education foundations to raise the health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. But the task has not been completed yet, and an endless number of works still left undone.

All the countries of the world are striving in competition to promote their national interest. In this world, there are countries relying on their own resources for national economic development, while extending cooperation with others based on sincerity and mutual in-

## Fruits of peace and stability



Remote border areas have now an improved network of roads, bridges and modern communications. The economic life of the people in those areas has also improved with the development of agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, trade and tourism sectors. The local people are now able to fully enjoy the benefits of schools, hospitals and dispensaries. The border areas today are developing in parallel with the major cities and so various national races are sharing the fruits of peace and stability.

**Senior General Than Shwe**  
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council  
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services  
(From message on the 56th anniversary Union Day.)

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the closing ceremony of the Special Refresher Course No 4 for University and College Teachers. — MNA

terest as well as countries trying to interfere in others affairs and dominate and manipulate them for self-interest, while ignoring the international norms of equality and international principles.

Because of the attempts of the countries giving priority only to self-interest and protectionism practices,

conflicts based on ideology, human rights, democracy, religion and race are appearing in other world countries in various forms.

In this world today, there are many instances in which some countries of the world are using the political objectives and multi reasons as an excuse to interfere in the affairs of the

developing countries and putting pressures on them. Some nations have already faced the rule of anarchy that is dragging them to the verge of disintegration resulting from external instigation, internal instability and the change of political system without making sufficient preparations.

(See page 10)



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

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 31 January, 2004

### Cultivation of summer paddy in Yangon Division

Nowadays, officials of the ministries concerned and the Yangon City Development Committee are striving with might and main for Yangon, the Capital of Myanmar, to possess the characteristics of the cities of the world.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on taking measures for greening the 30-mile radius of the capital based on agriculture. Agricultural works and the project for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon will surely benefit paddy cultivation in Yangon Division. Without requiring to build big dams, the project can be successfully implemented in a short period by making use of the existing canals, sluice gates, and small-size dams. With the success of the project around Yangon, there will be over 400,000 acres of paddy fields in summer. Moreover, crops can be grown all the year round in Thanlyin, Kayan, Thongwa and Kyauktan townships where paddy cultivation can be made only in the rainy season. The Irrigation Department is building Kayan sluice gate near old Chaungwa village in Thanlyin township. Building of a sluice gate at the fork of Bago River and Kayan Creek will benefit the people living in Kayan, Thongwa and Thanlyin townships in cultivation of summer paddy and other crops, supplying fresh water and preventing the flow of salt water.

On 24 January, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected summer paddy cultivation and regional development tasks in Mingaladon and Hlegu townships. The commander inspected thriving paddy fields of battalions and units under the Yangon Command and building of Ngamoeyek dam and Ngamoeyek sluice gate. He gave instructions to officials and farmers on completion of the projects as soon as possible, enough water supply and cultivation of summer paddy.

The Ngamoeyek sluice gate will benefit 5,000 acres of summer paddy and it will prevent overflowing of Ngamoeyek creek during the rainy season. As agricultural methods are being provided and water for agricultural purpose is supplied to local farmers, they are to strive for extended cultivation of summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops, vegetables and other cash crops.

We would like to urge officials concerned to make earnest efforts for successful realization of the project for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon and farmers to cultivate summer paddy wherever possible in the division.



Wellwishers U Ko Ko Htoo, Daw Sanda Aung and family of No 70 (E), Golden Valley 1st lane, Bahan Township, Yangon, donated the first instalment of K 10 million for construction of a new hospital at the Hninzigon Home for the Aged. Trustee Board Chairman of the Home U Maung Tin accept the cash donation on 30 January 2004. — (H)



State Ovadacariya Pintaya Galon Hill Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Tejaniya. — MNA

### Konlon Sayadawgyi passes away

YANGON, 30 Jan—State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Galon Hill Monastery in Pintaya, southern Shan State, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Tejaniya Konlon Sayadawgyi (aged 96, Vasa 76) passed away at 00.15 am today, Friday, (9th Waxing of Tabodwe 1365 ME), according to the Religious Affairs Department.—MNA

### Gold Uni Golf Classic Tournament concludes



YANGON, 30 Jan — The fourth day round of Gold Uni Golf Classic golf tournament, organized by Myanmar PGA and MGF was held at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) here this afternoon in conjunction with a prize presentation ceremony.

Myanmar PGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing gave a speech in honour of the prize-presentation ceremony after the 18-hole round of golf tournament. Yangon Golf Club Secretary U Aye Cho presented prizes to daily best golf players.

Next, Maj-Gen Win Hlaing presented awards to Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) who stood first with 285 strokes, Aung Win (YCDC) second with 288, Myint Thauing (UM Golf Centre) third with 290, Nandar Kyaw (YCDC) fourth with 292, and Zaw Paing Oo (Pan-West), Min Naing (Srixon) and amateur golfer Thein Zaw Myint who won the fifth prizes with 296 strokes each.

U Tin Maung, Managing Director of Xie Family Co, and Mr Pitak Chaiprasit, Executive Director of Gold

### 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

### 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.



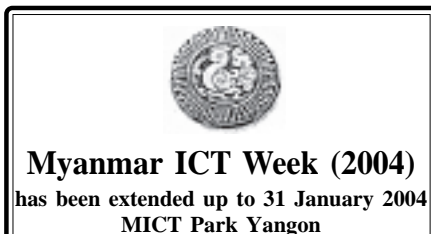
Executive Director of Gold Uni Jewellery Co Mr Pitak Chaiprasit presents cash award of K 800,000 to Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West). — MGF

Uni Jewellery Co, presented a special prize and a cheque respectively to the champion. The tournament was sponsored by Gold Uni Jewellery Co, Xie Family and Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water.

MNA

### Hlawga Wildlife Park to be kept open on Bakari Idd Day

YANGON, 30 Jan — The Hlawga Wildlife Park of the Forest Department will be kept open on 2 February 2004 (Monday), Bakari Idd Day, the public holiday, for public recreation, it is learnt. —MNA



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



ISD SOCCER: The 49th Inter-State/Division soccer tournament is being held at Aung San Stadium in Yangon. The Yangon Division team and the Sagaing Division team in action on Friday. — NLM

## US commander foresees increase in Iraqi attacks

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — More violence is likely as Iraq moves toward resuming self-governance, the commander of US forces in the region said on Thursday, and a "bad series of events" could put the country on a path to civil war.

General John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, also said the United States planned to restructure its military leadership in Iraq before the planned return of sovereignty by July. He said US-trained Iraqi security forces, now numbering 203,000, would not be able to take over security responsibilities by themselves at that time.

"It's apparent to all of us that Iraqi security institutions will not be mature enough by July... to be able to control the situation throughout the nation without the help of coalition forces," Abizaid told a group of reporters.

Leading US commanders in Iraq this month have said American forces have "turned the corner" in the fight

against guerillas, and that the members of ousted president Saddam Hussein's government who were leading the resistance had been "brought to their knees".

Abizaid was not so optimistic. He said that despite "good progress", there would be "a lot of fighting ahead".

"The clear thing that I understand as a military commander is, whether we have elections or not (have) elections, as we move toward an Iraqi sovereign authority, we're going to have increased levels of violence," Abizaid said.

US officials are balking at demands by Iraq's Shiite Muslims, who represent 60 per cent of the population but

were brutally suppressed under Saddam, for quick direct elections.

"I mean, there are an awful lot of people that don't want an Iraqi sovereignty entity that has any legitimacy or power to emerge," he added, mentioning members of Saddam's Baath Party, and Islamic militant groups such as al-Qaeda and Ansar al-Islam.

He hoped "the forces of goodwill will actually hold the country together and move it toward a better future".

Analysts have worried that a traumatic event, perhaps an assassination of a key Iraqi or a Shiite revolt over the rejection of their political demands, could send the country spiralling out of control. —MNA/Reuters

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## Blast hits Iraqi security forces north of Baghdad

BAQUBA (Iraq), 30 Jan — An explosion hit an Iraqi security patrol in the restive town of Baquba, north of Baghdad, on Thursday and witnesses said they feared many casualties.

The blast struck members of the Iraqi Civil Defence Force as they were conducting an early morning patrol through the town, 40 miles north of Baghdad, which has been the scene of repeated attacks against Iraqi forces in recent weeks. Two weeks ago a suspected suicide bomber detonated his vehicle outside a police station in Baquba, killing several bystanders. Late last year, twin car bomb attacks on police stations in Baquba and a nearby town killed more than a dozen. — MNA/Reuters

## Annan denies full return of UN in Iraq

BRUSSELS, 30 Jan — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday that the UN mission, to be sent to Iraq, is to "give advice," and it is not "full return" of the United Nations (UN) in the conflict-plagued country.

Annan, who visited the European Commission (EC) for the first time at the invitation of EC President Romano Prodi, made the remarks after his meeting with Prodi.

"Even for the team (to be sent), we will assess the security measures before they are going," said Annan at the EC headquarters.

The UN chief announced Tuesday in Paris that the United Nations will send a mission to help the power handover to Iraqis.

Annan said the mission will exert all efforts to help all sides agree on a "mechanism by which provisional government will be set up" before June 30.

"If no mechanism or formula for a pro-

visional government to be agreed on, I'm very much worried that there will be continuing division and conflicts (in Iraq)," said the Secretary-General.

He said the US-led coalition should be responsible for the smooth power handover, because it is the coalition that "is governing," and the United Nations will "do everything to help them."

Annan, who pulled international staff out of Iraq in October after attacks on the UN Baghdad headquarters, highlighted security measures for the UN mission.

"We are prepared to go, but security will determine," he stressed.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier stands close to a fountain in front of the Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters in central Baghdad on 28 January. — INTERNET

## Malaysia to consolidate cooperative movement

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Jan — Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to further strengthening and consolidating the cooperative movement.

At the launching of the National Cooperative Policy here, Abdullah said in a written speech that in its role as a catalyst of the nation's economic development, the cooperative movement, with its five million members and assets totalling 21 billion ringgit (5.52 billion US dollars), would be accorded equal recognition as the public and private sectors in the country.

As of June 30, 2003, there were 4,388 cooperatives nationwide with a membership of 5.33 million.

The text of his speech was read out by Land and Cooperative Development Minister Kasitah Gaddam.

"I understand that the cooperative sector has a huge capital but a large amount has been deposited in fixed deposit accounts and the cooperatives only wait for the dividend," he said.

Abdullah said that the capital could be utilized to improve benefits for the cooperatives and members like providing micro-credit or to make investments to enhance the economic performance of the cooperatives.

He also hoped that the cooperative movement could seek a balance between entrepreneurship and the need to ensure the well-being of members.

"Both should be undertaken with professionalism and sensitivity. Due to the special structure of the cooperatives, their leaders should think like entrepreneurs but they must also be administrators of the community at the same time," he said.

Abdullah said that cooperatives should always embark on and seize opportunities from economic activities while the profits gained should be used for the long-term well-being of members.

He called on the cooperatives to forge closer cooperation through networking, whether for business purposes or to provide better facilities for members. — MNA/Xinhua

## East Asia, Latin America to push for resumption of Doha talks

MANILA, 30 Jan — Senior officials from East Asia and Latin American countries holding a meeting in Manila agreed Thursday to push for a stronger statement calling for the resumption of Doha multilateral round of trade negotiations.

"There was consensus (among senior officials) that there should be a strong statement for the resumption of the Doha Round," said Philippine foreign department official George Reyes, spokesman of the Forum for East Asia Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) meeting.

At a Press briefing, Reyes

said the senior officials wanted the Doha Round to resume in "more proactive" negotiations among World Trade Organization (WTO) members.

"It complements the efforts of developing countries in other fora and sends a signal to developing economies for a strong need to resume the Doha

Round," Reyes said.

The initiative to call for the resumption of Doha Round came from Latin American countries, and it will be discussed on Friday by FEALAC foreign ministers when they meet in Tagaytay City, south to Manila, Reyes said.

MNA/Xinhua



A wounded man walks past through the wreckage following a bomb attack in Baghdad on 28 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET

## Strong quake jolts eastern Indonesian islands

JAKARTA, 30 Jan — An earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale jolted Indonesia's eastern Moluccas Island chain on Thursday and could have caused a tsunami, officials said.

Officials from the State Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said the epicentre for the early morning quake was in the Seram Sea, more than 60 miles northwest of the Moluccas' main city, Ambon. Aftershocks were also reported.

"It was quite big but we have not received any damage or casualty reports yet. Earthquakes with such power and depth like this have a high possibility of causing tsunami waves," Benny Sipollo, the head of a state geophysics station in Ambon, told Reuters.

Earthquakes frequently hit Indonesia, occasionally causing widespread damage and loss of life.

In 1992, an earthquake with similar power struck another eastern Indonesian chain of islands, causing tsunamis and killing more than 2,000 people.

MNA/Reuters

## US deaths rise in wake of Saddam capture

**BAGHDAD, 30 Jan**—US combat deaths in Iraq have risen sharply during January despite a drop in the number of attacks and the capture of former dictator Saddam Hussein over a month ago.

As of Thursday, 33 American soldiers and one civilian had been killed by hostile fire during the month. That compares with 24 US combat deaths in December, and a total of 32 coalition combat deaths.

The figures appear to show that the security situation in Iraq is not improving, contrary to earlier claims from the US military and politicians.

The US casualties are also mounting in Afghanistan, where seven US soldiers were killed on Thursday in an explosion near an ammunition dump in the south of the country.

Rebuilding Iraq

The US military on Thursday declined to confirm or deny the figures for combat deaths in Iraq this month, which were calculated from press releases from US Central Command in Florida. A US

military spokesman in Baghdad said figures were only kept for two-month periods, and a computer malfunction made it impossible to calculate an official casualty count for separate months.

Overall, January has been one of the bloodiest post-war months for the coalition. Combat deaths in the first 28 days of January alone exceeded those in every post-war month except October (35) and November (94), according to Iraq Coalition Casualty Count - a website devoted to tracking coalition deaths.

Eighteen combat deaths - more than half the January total - occurred in one province, Anbar, in central Iraq, where the restive cities of Falluja, Ramadi, and Khaldiya are located. Nine soldiers were killed when a Blackhawk helicopter was shot down near Falluja on

January 8.

Four further fatalities from the two most recent helicopter crashes, on January 23 and 25, are still under investigation to determine if hostile fire was involved.

Iraqi casualties also remain high. More than 300 Iraqi policemen have been killed in shootings, bombings and suicide attacks since May 1, when President George W. Bush declared major combat to be over in Iraq, according to Nouri Badran, interior minister. In the same period, 295 coalition troops have been killed by hostile fire, according to Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

On Thursday, 13 Iraqis were wounded and one killed in a fresh wave of bomb attacks against police and security forces.

Internet

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## Utah guard hit from roadside bomb in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 30 Jan**—A Utah National Guard member was wounded in Iraq when he was hit in the leg by shrapnel from a roadside bomb, the Guard said.

Sgt Jeremy Evans, 27, of Provo was traveling in a convoy Tuesday when a roadside bomb exploded, breaking the windshield of his pickup truck and hitting him in the leg, Utah Guard spokeswoman Maj Lorraine Januzelli said Wednesday.

Evans was treated in a hospital and returned to his unit, the 1457th Engineer Battalion, at the Baghdad Airport but has not been placed back on duty.

Five Utah guard or reserve members have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. Five other Utah men have been killed since the start of the war in Iraq. —Internet

## “Reuters” slams US’ treatment of journalists in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 30 Jan**—Reuters news agency has slammed the Pentagon for failing to address concerns about reporters in war-torn Iraq after US troops killed two of its cameramen and arrested two journalists and their driver. On Jan 2, two Reuters journalists and the driver were detained for 72 hours near the restive town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, by US troops after being mistaken for enemy fighters, the company said in a statement.

Following their release, the international news agency lodged a formal complaint with the US military, attesting to their alleged mistreatment in detention.

“Unfortunately no progress has been made. Immediate action is necessary to address these issues,” it said, in a copy of a letter sent to the US defence department.

After their arrests, Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, the coalition’s deputy director of operations, said five people wearing black vests marked “press” fired at and were then chased by US troops, who captured four of them.

Two Reuters cameramen, Ukrainian-born Taras Protsyuk, 35, and Palestinian Mazen Dana, 43 were also killed by US troops while covering the Iraq war in 2003.

The letter, signed by David Schlesinger, the Reuters global managing editor, appeals for a copy of a US military report into the death of Dana, who was shot on Aug. 17, 2003. It said the report was promised several months ago.

“The safety of journalists in Iraq is not improving,” Schlesinger said in the statement.

Internet



Doctors help a badly burned Iraqi man at a hospital in Baqouba, Iraq after a roadside bomb explosion on 29 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

## Indian Govt bans import of poultry food, declares red alert

**NEW DELHI, 30 Jan**—Alarmed over reports of bird flu in neighbouring countries, Indian Government on Thursday announced a ban on import of processed poultry food and declared a red alert to prevent spread of the disease.

It has also decided to intensify vigil over passengers of Samjhauta Express from Pakistan.

Health minister Sushma Swaraj made public these decisions after the first high-level coordination meeting of Ministries of Health and Agriculture.

“More attention is being paid on border states like Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab, where a red alert has been declared”, she told reporters after a meeting which was attended by Agriculture Minister Rajnath Singh and representatives of WHO and FAO.

This follows reports of bird flu cases in Pakistan, she said.

Swaraj said no case of bird flu has been reported in the country till now and State Governments had been asked to report to the Central Government about reports of mass death of chickens or poultry birds. “The situation is fully under control”, she said.

While a special vigil was being kept on passengers coming by Samjhauta Express from Pakistan, Swaraj said paramilitary Border Security Force has been asked to be on alert on border states.

The minister commended the role of Punjab Government in maintaining strict vigil on passengers from Pakistan. “We have also completely banned imports of poultry food processed from any country”, she said.

Elaborating on the steps taken by the government to prevent the spread of the disease into the country, she said that the government had taken preventive strategy as also a contingency plan to deal with the situation.

Both agriculture and health ministries have initiated strict vigil and letters have been sent to the state Chief Secretaries with adequate guidelines to deal with the situation. — MNA/PTI

## Philippines, Colombia seek cooperation to fight illegal drugs

**MANILA, 30 Jan**—Colombia and the Philippines are seeking closer cooperation in the fight against illegal drugs, insurgency and kidnapping.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert and Colombian Foreign Minister Carolina Barco signed Thursday a memorandum of understanding for the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation mechanism between their governments, which includes cooperation in fighting transnational crimes.

The document establishes a framework within which both countries could

flexibly conduct bilateral consultations at anytime and anywhere in the world, providing a venue for the two countries to interact closely with each other.

“We are most definitely interested in helping, sharing anything we can do. Colombia is a country that has suffered the effects of drugs. We feel a very important responsibility to the international community to talk about what is happening to

Colombia, to explain what we are doing and also to seek that there be co-responsibility, shared responsibility and that other countries also assume that responsibility we each have in this fight,” Barco said at a Press briefing.

Barco is in Manila for the Forum on East Asia and Latin American Countries (FEALAC), which is co-chaired by Colombia and the Philippines. —MNA/Xinhua



A camel sits on a pickup truck with sheep and a girl before leaving Samawa, southern Iraq, for the desert on 29 Jan, 2004. The nomads will spend several months in search of better grass for the sheep. —INTERNET

## Hu Jintao in Cairo for state visit

**CAIRO, 30 Jan**—Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao began talks with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Thursday evening. The two leaders are expected to confer on bilateral ties as well as international and regional issues of shared concern.

Prior to the formal talks, Hu and Mubarak met briefly. The Egyptian President first extended his warm welcome to President Hu.

During the brief meeting, Mubarak said that he had personal contacts with the three generations of Chinese leaders — Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin, and the two countries had conducted fruitful cooperation in various fields.

While noting smooth development of the Sino-Egyptian friendly relations, Hu hoped that his ongoing visit and talks with Mubarak would further boost the friendship between the two peoples.

MNA/Xinhua

# Second BBC exec resigns over Iraq story

LONDON, 30 Jan—A second top official of the BBC stepped down Thursday as the badly rattled broadcaster struggled to respond to harsh criticism from a judge who repudiated its report that the government “sexed up” intelligence on Iraq.

The resignation of British Broadcasting Corp. director-general Greg Dyke stunned BBC employees, and hundreds of them rallied outside the network's offices around Britain to show their support for him. One local BBC radio station briefly went off the air in protest.

The BBC apologized for errors it made in the story, which was at the center of a furious, monthslong battle with the government.

Dyke, the BBC's chief executive, resigned after an emergency meeting of the board of governors. Board chairman Gavyn Davies quit Wednesday, hours after the judge, Lord Hutton, announced his findings.

The BBC, whose extensive news and entertainment programming gives it a uniquely powerful place in British life, was shaken by Hutton's assessment Wednesday that its report was “unfounded” and its editorial procedures were “defective.”

The senior appeals judge led an inquiry into the suicide in July of David Kelly, a government weapons adviser who was the source of BBC radio correspondent Andrew Gilligan's report that the government exaggerated evidence on Iraqi weapons and included a claim they knew was probably false in a September 2002 dossier summing up intelligence for the public.

Hutton almost completely exoner-

ated the government, saying it had neither mistreated Kelly nor knowingly “sexed up” the dossier and calling the Gilligan report's claims “unfounded.”

He said the allegations were “very grave” and faulted BBC editors for failing to review what Gilligan was going to say before he went on the air with the first, and strongest, version of his story.

The reporter broadcast that version without a script, answering an anchor's questions extemporaneously. The BBC later faulted him for “loose use of language.” Richard Ryder, appointed as a temporary replacement for Davies, noted that Hutton had “highlighted serious defects in the corporation's processes and procedures.” — *Internet*

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## Military identifies three Fort Bragg soldiers killed in Iraq

RALEIGH, 30 Jan—The military on Thursday identified three Fort Bragg soldiers killed this week when a roadside bomb exploded west of Baghdad.

The paratroopers killed Tuesday near Iskandariyah were identified as 2nd Lt. Luke S. James, 24, of Oklahoma, Staff Sgt. Lester O. Kinney II, 27, of Zanesville, Ohio, and Sgt. Cory R. Mracek, 26, of Hay Springs, Neb., the Department of Defense said in a news release.

The soldiers were part of Joint Task Force Seven and supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, the military said.

Another Fort Bragg paratrooper was critically wounded in the attack on the 82nd Airborne Division convoy, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmit, deputy chief of operations, said after the incident. He said a rescue force that rushed to the scene came under small arms fire, but suffered no casualties.

Mracek left for Iraq on Jan. 16, his mother, Pat Mracek, said Thursday night in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. Family members of James and Kinney could not immediately be reached for comment late Thursday. — *Internet*

## Iraq attacks kill local security officer, wound 13

BAGHDAD, 30 Jan—A series of roadside attacks in Iraq killed a local security officer and wounded at least 13 other people on Thursday as guerrillas mounted fresh strikes against Iraqis seen as collaborating with US forces.

In Iraq's north, guerrillas fired a rocket-propelled grenade on Thursday at a checkpoint manned by the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps south of the city of Kirkuk, killing one member of the force, the Kirkuk police chief said. In central Iraq, explosives hidden in a car carrying diesel fuel was detonated as a Defense Corps patrol made its way through the town of Baquba, 40 miles north of Baghdad, wounding 10 people, two of them seriously.

And in the southern city of Basra, where British troops are responsible for security, a roadside bomb exploded as a convoy carrying civilian officials was passing, wounding three Iraqi bystanders, a spokesman for the British forces said. The Baquba

blast was the latest in a string of attacks against Iraqi security forces in the restive town on the eastern edge of the “Sunni triangle” area, the hotbed of the 10-month anti-coalition insurgency. As US forces have ratcheted up strikes against insurgents in recent months, guerrillas have increasingly targeted Iraqi police, the Defense Corps and others seen as easier targets. Since May 1 last year, when Washington declared major combat over in Iraq, more than 300 Iraqi police have been killed in shootings, bombings or suicide attacks. Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, the overall commander of US forces in Iraq, has expressed concern about the growing focus on softer targets as attacks on coalition forces decline. — *Internet*

Chinese President Hu Jintao (L) walks with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak on their way to participate in the welcoming ceremony at the presidential palace in Cairo.



## Hu Jintao appoints new ambassadors

BEIJING, 30 Jan—Chinese President Hu Jintao announced Thursday the appointment of new ambassadors to Cambodia and nine other countries, in accordance with a decision made by the National People's Congress Standing Committee.

Hu Qianwen was appointed the new Ambassador to Cambodia, replacing Ning Fukui.

He Siji was appointed the new Ambassador to the Central African Republic, replacing Wang Sifa.

Wang Sifa was appointed as the new Ambassador to Cameroon, replacing Xu Mengshui.

Liu Yukun was appointed the new Ambassador to Guinea, replacing Gong Yuanxing.

Sun Rongmao was appointed as the new Ambassador to Cape Verde, replacing Hong Hong.

Hu Shouqin was appointed as the new Ambassador to Zambia, replacing Peng Keyu. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## 185 million Chinese people travel by train, bus for Spring Festival

BEIJING, 30 Jan — Some 185 million Chinese people travelled by train and bus for the Spring Festival holiday from January 22 to 28, up 4 per cent from the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Railways.

The Spring Festival holiday has long been the busiest season in China as hundreds of millions of people return home for family reunion. The festival had exerted strong pressure on China's transportation system, particularly on the 72,000 kilometres of railways. The train was the first choice of most passengers, for its safety and low cost.

In order to meet the demand, the ministry had added more than 4,000 standby railway cars and redistributed resources, reducing trains in less busy areas and sending more to busy areas. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## Chinese, Egyptian leaders discuss Iraq, peace process and economic ties

CAIRO, 30 Jan—Chinese President Hu Jintao began talks with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak on Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict as the two sides broadened economic ties, officials said.

Hu, on his first visit to Egypt since becoming head of state last March, arrived from Paris where the French government stirred controversy with its support for Beijing's opposition to a referendum in Taiwan.

Egypt's official MENA news agency said Mubarak and Hu discussed “the situation in the Middle East, espe-

cially the (Arab-Israeli) peace process, the situation in Iraq, and how to improve bilateral cooperation.”

It gave no other details of the talks which were being held at Mubarak's palace in northern Cairo. MENA said that officials traveling with Hu and their Egyptian counterparts signed several cooperation agreements, includ-

ing on technology and oil exploration in Egypt.

China's ambassador to Cairo, Wu Sike, has said the visit would focus on strengthening bilateral and economic links and would also review changes in the Middle East over the past four years.

“China is ready to transfer to Egypt its technology in all fields, without restriction,”

especially in telecommunications and aeronautics, Wu said. But he added that the Chinese delegation included no military representative.

— *Internet*

## Seven US soldiers killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 Jan — An explosion near an ammunition dump in southern Afghanistan killed seven US soldiers and wounded three others on Thursday, the US Army said.

US Central Command said in a statement the soldiers were killed when working near an arms cache in the southern province of Ghazni on Thursday afternoon.

An interpreter was also injured and another soldier was missing, the statement said. “Everything else is under investigation, they'll be wanting to establish exactly what happened,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Leslie Williams at Central Command in Florida.

— *MNA/Reuters*



US soldiers take away blindfolded Iraqi detainees after conducting a sudden raid at a house in Ouja, Iraq, on 29 Jan. — *INTERNET*

# Iraq under US and allies' occupation

## Innocent civilian deaths in air strikes in Iraq



Iraqis shout in the street past a burning car after an air strike on Baghdad, March 26, 2003. At least 15 burned corpses lay in a popular residential area of Baghdad.



Iraqi men search for their belongings in a house damaged during an air strike in Baghdad on 28 March, 2003. Bombs crashed into Baghdad as the United States kept up a relentless pounding of the Iraqi capital.

**The war was ultimately waged outside the framework of international legitimacy and it has "always been about oil and always (will) cost the lives of innocent Arab men, women and children".**



Iraqis carry the body of a man who Iraqi authorities say was killed in air strikes in Baghdad. At least 15 burnt corpses lay in a popular residential area of Baghdad, apparently killed in a US-led bombing or missile raid on the Iraqi capital on 26 March, 2003.

### Reported innocent civilian deaths in air strikes in Iraq

Data	Location	Death toll
20-3-2003	Rutba	1
20-3-2003 to 7-4-2003	General Hospital, Basra	201
20-3-2003 to 3-4-2003	Mohammedia Distirct	22
20-3-2003 to 3-4-2003	Nassiriya	240
22-3-2003	Tikrit	5
22-3-2003	Baghdad	3
26-3-2003	Baghdad	21
27-3-2003 to 12-4-2003	Hillah and surrounding areas	201
27-3-2003	Mosul	50
28-3-2003	Missan	2
28-3-2003	Waset	2
28-3-2003	Babel	26
28-3-2003	Karbala	11
28-3-2003	Baghdad	7
28-3-2003	Baghdad	62
29-3-2003	Baghdad	6
29-3-2003	Najaf	35
29-3-2003	Karbala	6
29-3-2003	Babel	3
29-3-2003	Anbar	28
30-3-2003	Baghdad	6
31-3-2003	near Hilla	15
31-3-2003	Baghdad	6
1-4-2003	Baghdad	24
1-4-2003	Babylon province	33
3-4-2003	Baghdad	27
5-4-2003	Rashidiya	99
8-4-2003	Al-Jazeera office, Baghdad	1
9-4-2003	Fathlia	4
11 to 22-4-2003	Ar-Ramadi	18
23-9-2003	al-Jisar village	3
29-9-2003	Kahaldiyah	1
Total		1169



In Baghdad, Iraqis are burying their dead after an explosion devastated a city market, killing scores.



Smoke billows from a large explosion that rocked Baghdad, Iraq during air raids early, on 31 March, 2003.



Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

## Development images of Kayah State in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



*The Cultural Museum in Loikaw, Kayah State.*



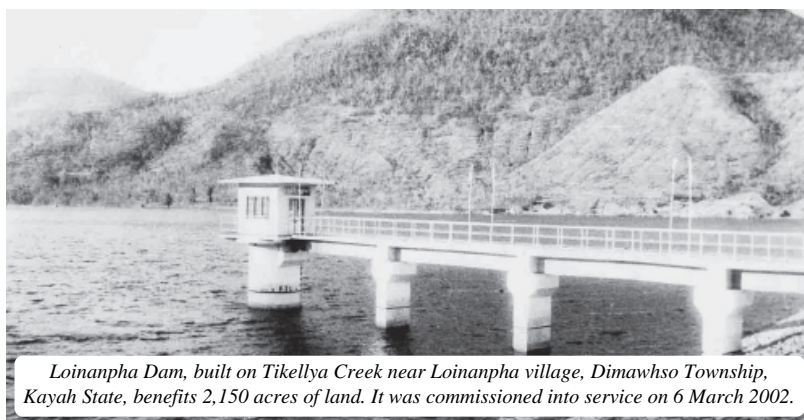
*Microwave Station in Loikaw serves the people for their convenience in communication.*

*Government Computer College in Loikaw, Kayah State.*

Development Sector	1988	2004
Sown acreage	185000 acres	over 200000 acres
Irrigation facility	1	3
<b>Transport</b>		
Bridge	254	323
Road	446 miles	579 miles
Railroad	-	276 miles
<b>Communication</b>		
Microwave station	-	1
Auto Telephone	-	1089
Post office	7	13
Telegraph office	-	8
Auto-exchange	-	1



*The scenic view of downtown Loikaw, Kayah State, shows the development of the state.*



*Loinanpha Dam, built on Tikellya Creek near Loinanpha village, Dimawhso Township, Kayah State, benefits 2,150 acres of land. It was commissioned into service on 6 March 2002.*

Development Sector	1988	2004
<b>Information</b>		
TV retransmission station	-	6
Information & Public Relations Department	-	8
Library	-	34
<b>Education</b>		
Basic education school	333	383
University	-	1
College	-	2
<b>Health</b>		
Hospital	1	7
Station hospital	-	8
Rural health care centre	-	1
Rural health centre (branch)	-	19
Nurses training school	-	1

## Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



### Ketu Nilar

Anti-colonialist, anti-fascist and national independence movements were launched throughout the period of the independence struggle in Myanmar on the basis of the consolidated efforts of Myanmar national races including Shan, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Mon, Bamar and Rakhine nationals. By winning one victory after another, the Union of Myanmar became a sovereign state on 4 January 1948. It is safe to assume that the achievement is a fine legacy in the course of

racess.

It is in fact undeniable that the first one was the provenance of the holding of the second one. The reason was that Sawbwas in Shan State came into conflict with the British colonialists over the administrative reform in the region at the beginning of 1946. In a bid to expand their influence in Shan State, the British colonialists enacted laws which were aimed at granting limited rights to Shan nationals and lowering the influence of Shan Sawbwas. A patriot of Shan national

fectured by the law. The commissioner replied that it was not the business of the Sawbwas whether they agreed to the law or not, and that it was only the matter for the governor whether to approve it or not. Not only did they come to abhor the British colonialists, but they also came to understand that mass protests were the only answer. With the political conviction that it would be impossible to achieve anything if there was no contact with the public, Shan Sawbwas started conceding that the entire national races were to make concerted efforts to secure national interest and that national unity was the prime mover.



Signatures of delegates who signed the Panglong Agreement.

national history.

The Panglong Conference is a prominent proof of that achievement. When it comes to Panglong Conference, there were two Panglong Conferences — the one held in March 1946 and the other held on 3-12 February 1947 in which Panglong Agreement was signed unanimously by the national

working in the British commissioner's office had got a copy of that law before the law was enacted. Shan Sawbwas then got it from the organizers of the Shan State Freedom Federation.

Unable to agree to the law, Shan Sawbwas informed the commissioner of the hill regions of the issue so that Shan State would not be af-

The first Panglong Conference was held in order to address the future of Shan State as well as regional prosperity and to sound out the feelings of Shan nationals. It was attended by representatives of the AFPFL, Shan Sawbwas from SSFF, Shan national patriots, Hill Commissioner Stevenson, and U Saw. At the conference, U Tin

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

## In the name of Panglong



The above right photo shows the monument erected after signing the Panglong Agreement on 12-2-1947 and left shows today's monument.

E, leader of Shan national patriots revealed the genuine wishes of Shan nationals, saying that he hoped the appearance of Galon U Saw there to be a good sign; however, he would like to request U Saw to go home if U Saw was there just to sell dominion which had no market in Yangon; and that what the people of Shan State desired was freedom alone.

Shan Sawbwas came to realize their true situation after the first conference and became more eager to regain independence. As a result, some Shan nationals with progressive outlooks were able to be organized. The British attempt to publicize the dominion was rebutted.

At the invitation of British Prime Minister Mr Attlee, a Myanmar delegation left Yangon on 2 January 1947 and arrived in London on 9

January and started to discuss the issue on the regaining of independence with the British government on 13 January. During the time when discussions were being held with the British government, some feudal Sawbwas dancing to the tune of the British colonialist officer Mr Stevenson sent a secret telegraph requesting the British government to invite a delegation of Shan State separately to discuss matters related to the hill regions as the delegation then in London did not represent the Shan Sawbwas. In consequence of it, the meeting with the British government did not go as smoothly as it did earlier.

Realizing the true situation, national leaders from the Shan State Liberation Federation held a mass rally in Taunggyi and telegraphed to London that the hill regions

also wanted to gain independence along the plains; that the Myanmar delegation then in London had the right to represent the hill regions; and that they supported the desire and proposals of the Myanmar delegation.

It was a close call that the colonialist scheme to drive a wedge between national brethren could be saved just in time.

On the receipt of the second telegraph, the British government resumed the meeting. As the Myanmar delegation reached an agreement with the British government in the meeting, a bilateral agreement was signed by both sides on 27 January 1947. Later, the Myanmar delegation left London on 30 January 1947 and arrived back in Yangon on 2 February.

(See page 9)

The entire nationalities took part actively and earnestly in the nationwide movement to be free from the enslavement of the British colonialists and to establish a sovereign state. Braving a variety of wicked attempts made by the British colonialists, the people of entire national races had to build nationalism and Union Spirit to be more consolidated on the basis of ever-flourishing national pride.

As a result, the national races reached an agreement on meeting in Panglong or at any suitable place to seek approval to secure independence of the whole country including hilly regions. The national races decided to convene the second Panglong conference for implementing the agreement matters.

The united strength of the entire national races, who were opposed to the British imperialists, caused the birth of the Union Day which was 12 February 1947.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

## In the name of Panglong



A delegate to Panglong Conference signs the agreement.

(from page 8)

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pendence of the whole country including hilly regions. The national races decided to convene the second Panglong conference for implementing the agreements matters. In sending invitations to the delegates to the conference, the officials under the influence of British imperialists tried to prevent the Kachin national races, who actively took part in politics in collaboration with the AFPFL, from attending the conference. However, Kachin national races who were vigil and imbued with patriotism attended the second Panglong conference as observers.

The British imperialists and their accom-

plishes attempted to undermine the conference, resorting to various ways and means. The British imperialist officers themselves attended the conference and drove a wedge among the national races to sow seeds of suspicion among the latter.

Although the conference could have been in failure, the Shan State Freedom Federation had to try its best to keep the conference going.

As a result, the national people, the students and service personnel in Taunggyi under the

Panglong agreement in Panglong out of a sense of Union Spirit.

To put it in a nutshell, the Panglong soil which bore the unity of the entire national races is a place where the independence was conceived.

It was the strong Union Spirit of the national brethren that eliminated the treacheries and instigation of the imperialists with no desire for privileges but independence. Panglong stands witness to this.

\*\*\*\*\*

Translation: KTY +TS

### Poem:

### Like a curry of various vegetables

- \* With a variety of vegetables mixed  
When the cooking is done  
Add a sprinkling of parsley  
Spices to add to aroma.
- \* Aroma of the curry  
Spreads as it comes out  
Feelings of wanting to enjoy  
Salivating with good taste  
Flavour unparralled  
This Myanmar curry.
- \* Myanmar curry with various vegetables  
Look at it that way  
Nationalities  
With help clearly intertwined  
Unitedly built  
This is our Union.

Po Wa (Trs)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)



Delegates of plain and hill regions of the Union who attended the first Panglong Conference held in March, 1946.

sponsorship of Shan State Freedom Federation on 8 February 1947 marched to Panglong in a motorcade, leaving their day to day duties behind. The crowd shouted the slogan "No imperialists, just independence".

However, the united strength of the entire national races, who were opposed to the British imperialists, caused the birth of the Union Day, which was 12 February 1947.

The patriotic leaders and the national races in successive eras put up much of a fight against the British imperialists for the independence, sacrificing a lot of lives, blood and sweat.

They had to face with the instigation manufactured by the imperialists at a time when the independence was nearly regained.

In this situation, the national brethren, regardless of hilly regions and plains, signed the



U Tin E who represents Shan State signs the Panglong Agreement on 12-2-1947.

**The patriotic leaders and the national races in successive eras put up much of a fight against the British imperialists for the independence, sacrificing a lot of lives, blood and sweat. They had to face with the instigation manufactured by the imperialists at a time when the independence was nearly regained. In this situation, the national brethren, regardless of hilly regions and plains, signed the Panglong agreement in Panglong out of a sense of Union Spirit.**



## Education most basic and ...

(from page 1)

A special requirement for a developing country like Myanmar is to firmly build the highly qualified national strength that can be relied on in striving to stand shoulder to shoulder with others as an independent and sovereign nation, without harming the national interest.

In this age, education is the most basic and firmest strength of the nation, and for Myanmar that is making self-reliant efforts, the education sector will have to fulfil her primary requirements — the strengthening of the national economy, the advancement of the sciences and technologies in all development sectors, the emergence of brilliant intellectuals and intelligentsia having a clear national outlook, the promotion of the national defence power, and the consolidation of the national unity.

Myanmar is firmly building the national strength to effectively safeguard her independence and sovereignty. In the international sector, the nation is joining hands with the world countries in amity for equality, peace, prosperity and progress.

In accord with the independent and active foreign policy which the nation has been strictly adhering to, Myanmar is cooperating with all the global nations, especially, the neighbours, from the constructive point of view. Myanmar's relations with the neighbours and regional countries is further improving.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents award for perseverance to Demonstrator Daw Amy Soe of Mawlamyine University. — MNA

The further improvement in the international relations has promoted the exchange of goodwill visits between the Heads of State and Government of Myanmar and other nations. During the previous year, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe toured the People's Republic of China, Laos and Vietnam on goodwill visits, and attended the Summit of SARS held in Bangkok, Thailand. Similarly, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Ninth ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, and ASEAN-Japan Summit held in Tokyo, Japan.

Likewise, Thai Princess Sirindhorn, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin, Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia and the Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Langqing were on goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The results of the efforts for the existence of the bilateral friendship and the extension of relations between Myanmar and the neighbours and the regional countries is the further flourishing of amity, friendship, sympathy and goodwill for Myanmar.

Despite pressures from the west, the ASEAN nations are clearly standing by Myanmar. At the Bali Summit, the ASEAN nations issued an announcement, expressing support for the democracy process programme of Myanmar and saying that sanctions will not help the emergence of democracy in Myanmar. Japan also said that it would render assistance to the democracy process of Myanmar.

As Myanmar lies in the hub where Southeast Asia and South Asia meet, the development in the cooperation between Myanmar and the regional countries will benefit both. ASEAN Vision 2020 is for the ASEAN to work together to further develop the human society where sympathy and love flourish, and for the emergence of an association collectively formed with the harmonious efforts of the members living in peace, prosperity and unity, while extending relations with the outside world. The Hanoi Plan of Action was laid down in 1998 to realize the Vision. The main economic cooperation objective of the ASEAN is to reduce the trade tariff among the member nations down to zero per cent and to five per cent and to set up the ASEAN Free Trade Area. Under the plan, Myanmar will have the opportunity to compete in the ASEAN market, and on the other hand, it will have to allow free trade on most of the exports from other mem-

ber nations. Thus, arrangements will have to be made from now on for the Myanmar goods to have the competitive edge in quality as well as in price.

Under the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) the investors from other member nations can enjoy equal rights with the local investors. The programme will help increase the investment of the ASEAN members and the foreign companies in the member nations. Thus, it has become important for the production enterprises of Myanmar to be able to compete with the industries of the foreign investors.

There are also programmes to facilitate and harmonize the financial functions among the member nations, to narrow the development gap, and to bridge the technology including the IT divide. The Association has plans to collectively conserve the cultural heritage and develop tourism. The Ninth Summit in Bali has laid down the Bali Concord II.

The Bali Concord II is based on three pillars — the security community, the economic community and the social and cultural community for the future of the ASEAN. The vision of the first pillar (the security community) is to support peace through the extended ASEAN cooperation, and to set up an ASEAN enjoying greater peace and stability through the peaceful solving of the problems between nations in an environment that is free from foreign interference and that respects each other's sovereignty.

The vision of the second pillar (the economic community) is to ensure free flow of goods, services and investments among the member nations, to bring fair economic development, and to reduce poverty and social and economic gap by creating the ASEAN into a single market and single production area. The third pillar (the social and cultural community) hopes to set up a peaceful and prosperous environment through the improvement of the social standards of all walks of life, promotion of the education standards, setting up of an infectious diseases free society, extension of relations between academics and artists, and cultural conservation and exchanges that are in accord with the ASEAN Vision 2020.

If the pillars can be erected firmly, the ASEAN will become a family fully enjoying security, economic strength, and social and cultural values. Thus, Myanmar will have to make necessary arrangements from now on.

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy between the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — was held successfully in Bagan in November. The meeting has envisioned to increase competitiveness and generate growth at the borders of the four nations; to facilitate relocation of agricultural and manufacturing industries to areas with comparative advantage; to create employment opportunities and reduce income disparity among the four countries; and to enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner.

To be combined are such seven sectors as trade and investment sector, agricultural sector, industrial sector, transport sector, road transportation sector, tourism sector and human resource development sector. Cooperation will be enhanced among all four countries or between two countries. According to the economic cooperation strategy, there is expected to be increased momentum in cooperation among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. Ties have been built not only between the members of ASEAN family alone but also with what is called ASEAN+3 (People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea). In addition, a new chapter, known as ASEAN+India, has also been opened so as to further extend the relations.

As a member of ASEAN and of BIMST-EC, Myanmar is making efforts to promote economic, trade, social and cultural cooperation among member countries. In particular, priority should be given to the promotion of road transportation, economy and trade between BIMST-EC and ASEAN regions through Myanmar which lies in the strategic transit amidst the two regions.

Therefore, teachers are required to do everything in their capacity while Myanmar, as a member of ASEAN and BIMST-EC, is implementing the goals of the two bodies. It is encouraging to see the fruits of success as Myanmar is promoting constructive relations and cooperation with the international community, neighbouring countries and regional countries.

However, some big western countries are still putting pressure on Myanmar on various pretexts. Previously, they accused Myanmar of violating human rights, and forced labour. Now, it is found that they have changed their course and start to open a new page on the accusation of



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt having a cordial conversation with the trainees at the closing of the Special Refresher Course No 4 for University and College Teachers. — MNA

child soldiers.

Myanmar is trying to rebut their accusations by providing accurate data systematically. As part of measures to cooperate with the UN, special envoy of the UN Secretary-General Mr **Razali Ismil** and Professor **Pinhero**, who submitted a special report on human rights in Myanmar, were received and clarified on the true situation of Myanmar and the genuine goodwill of the Government. Moreover, they were allowed to freely visit in the country.

As Myanmar has been able to enhance cooperation with the international community, now it wins mutual respect, understanding and cooperation from neighbouring as well as regional countries. Maintaining the friendship with the world nations including those who do not see eye to eye with Myanmar, Myanmar can stand tall as a sovereign state. The seven-point future political programme of the State was also made known to the world in order to take steps to build infrastructure capable of warranting the long-term perpetuity of a sovereignty state.

As the UN Organization, the ASEAN, neighbouring countries and regional countries are in support of the seven-point roadmap of the State, measures are under way to implement the programme.

All the national organizations backed the seven-point political programme of the State and lent themselves to that drive. As the first-phase of the roadmap, all the committees necessary for the reconvening of the National Convention were formed and assigned duties to them.

The harmonious participation of the entire national people and the supports of international community are of necessity for the successful realization of the seven-point future political programme.

Any attempts to hinder the working process will make the national goal — the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy — be a distant reality. Therefore, university and college teachers are to do their bit by lending themselves to the drive to implement the seven-point roadmap to be able to march towards the goal of the entire national people smoothly.

Only the State that springs from the fitness of the entire citizens, internationally-advanced education, strong national economic life, highly-qualified human resources, and national solidarity can survive as a sovereign state as long as the world exists. This being so, university and college teachers are to make harmonious efforts to build such good foundations.

To sum up, all the teachers are to strive for producing continuously intellectuals and intelligentsia whose patriotism, nationalism and Union Spirit are strong enough to defend and build a modern and developed nation; to carry out regional stability, economic security, development of well-rounded human resources, preservation of cultural heritage with higher historical values in cooperation with the members of ASEAN family, neighbouring countries and regional countries; and to play their every part energetically in the realisation of the seven-point future political programme with dynamic nationalistic fervour for the establishment of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic state, he concluded.

Later, course completion certificates were presented to trainees. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the model trainee awards to U Zaw Lin Thu, demonstrator at Dagon University; and Daw Thein Thein Soe, demonstrator at Patheingyi University; and model hostel awards to trainees of the men's company-5 at the building-6 and trainees of the women's company-8 at the building-2.

Next, trainees donated K 251,000 to be used in religious, educational and social activities. The donations were received by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, who later presented certificates of honour. After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greeted the trainees. Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected the progress of construction project of the rural communication centre at Phaunggyi village. Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented reports to the Prime Minister. After hearing the reports, Prime Minister left instructions. — MNA

## The Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and the great grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2004

*Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)*

The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders comprising 300 members of the Sangha represents over five hundred thousand members of the Sangha residing in the Union of Myanmar. According to the fundamental principles of the different levels of the Sangha Organizations which were passed and adopted by the First successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Union of Myanmar, the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders shall hold its annual meeting.

We all Buddhists throughout the Union of Myanmar know that altogether five Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana were successfully held by arrangements and support of Buddhist people and Government of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000 respectively. In accordance with the objectives and guidelines laid down by these successful congregations of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the members of Sangha could be reconstructed in the Union of Myanmar within one hundred years.

We all Buddhists throughout the world heartily know that altogether Six Great Buddhist Councils leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana were convened after the noble demise of the Gotama Buddha over 2500 years ago. The Fifth and Sixth great Buddhist Councils were held in the Union of Myanmar. The Sixth great Buddhist Council was held in 1954 and attended by 2500 Maha Theras from the Five Theravada Buddhist nations — Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Myanmar — and other Buddhist nations.

A need was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able unitedly to implement the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana. In reality, all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be done to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha Himself, urged the members of the Sangha to unite in order to carry out His teaching.

In fact, the main objectives of holding the First Great Buddhist Council through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council is to purify, perpetuate, propagate and preserve the Buddha Sasana in the Universe. Although altogether Six Buddhist Councils were held, it was found that different schools and sects still appeared. They were not united and they parted from each other. Because of different schools and sects, many unlawful views (*Adhammavadas*) which were contradictory to and incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana appeared. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Theravada Buddha Sasana. According to the history of Buddhism, it is learnt that schism and split of schools and sects usually occurred among the Monastic Orders whenever some members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and

mutual misunderstanding.

To reconstruct the unity and mutual understanding within different schools and sects of the Sangha Orders is deeply needed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana. Altogether Six Buddhist Councils throughout our age were held to establish the unity of the Sangha of All Orders so long as the Buddha Sasana exists. All the Buddhists throughout our age firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation is well—developed and prosperous in these golden days when the members of the Sangha of the Orders unanimously practice the Vinaya Laws and fulfil their religious duties.

And so, the First, the Second, the Third, the Fourth and the Fifth Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders of the Union of Myanmar have absolutely and successfully reconstructed the concrete unity of the Sangha of All Orders with the encouragement and support of Buddhists and the Government since 1980. Only one Sangha Organization could be formed in the Union of Myanmar for the first time during one-hundred years.

### The Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders

In accordance with the prescribed term of the Sangha Organization of the Union of Myanmar, the Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders is fixed to be held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye hillock, Yangon, from 1 to 3 March 2004. The meeting will be attended by 300 members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and 111 members of the State Sangha Ovadacariya (Patrons) throughout the country.

The main objectives of the Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are strengthening to carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Theravada Buddha Sasana throughout the world. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders have been already made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and responsible personnel concerned.

### The great grand Religious Title Presentation ceremony of 2004

In order to preserve, promote and flourish the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana, viz (1) the Pariyatti Sasana (learning the Buddha's teaching), (2) the Patipatti Sasana (Practical application of the Buddha's teaching) and (3) the Pativedha Sasana (realization of the Buddha's teaching), the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued its Notification No. 1/ 2004 on the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4th January 2004, regarding conferring the Religious Title on the 250 eminent Buddhist monks, the 23 elder nuns and the 50 persons at home and the 11 Mahatheras and one elder nun from abroad who distinctively could carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana at their utmost efforts.

The great grand ceremony for presenting the Religious Title to the recipients will be held at the Maha Pasana Cave, Kaba Aye hillock, Yangon, Myanmar, on the 5th March 2004 (the Fullmoon Day of Tabauang, 1365 ME). All Religious Title recipients have already been invited to attend the great grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2004.

It is further learnt that altogether 655 members of the Sangha and 24 elder nuns will be present on this auspicious occasion.

Besides, the auspicious ceremony for communal offering of provisions and various articles to 655 members of the Sangha and 24 elder nuns, will be held on a grand scale on Kaba Aye hillock, on the 5th March 2004 (the Fullmoon Day of Tabauang, 1365 ME).

And so, all Buddhists and wellwishers are cordially invited to attend this auspicious ceremony for paying profound respect to the members of the Sangha and for sharing merits of meritorious deeds.

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## 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

၁-၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)

\* UDE ကျောင်းသူ/သားများအတွက် သင်ခန်းစာများ

၂-၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္လာနေ့)

\* Cultural Anthropology

ပထမနှစ် မနုဿဗေဒ၊ ဒဿနိကဗေဒ၊ ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသန

ပညာနှင့် 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 ပထမနှစ်ဝုဏ်ထူးတန်း ကျန်ထုတ်ဓာတုဗေဒ

ကျောင်းသူ/သားများ

\* Curriculum Development

B.Ed ပထမနှစ် စာပေးစာယူသင်တန်းသားများ

### CORRIGENDUM

Please read "Supreme Court Judge Dr Tin Aung Aye" instead of "Deputy Chief Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye" in the news "Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Trust Fund Supervisory Committee meets" which appeared on page 10 of this paper yesterday. — MNA

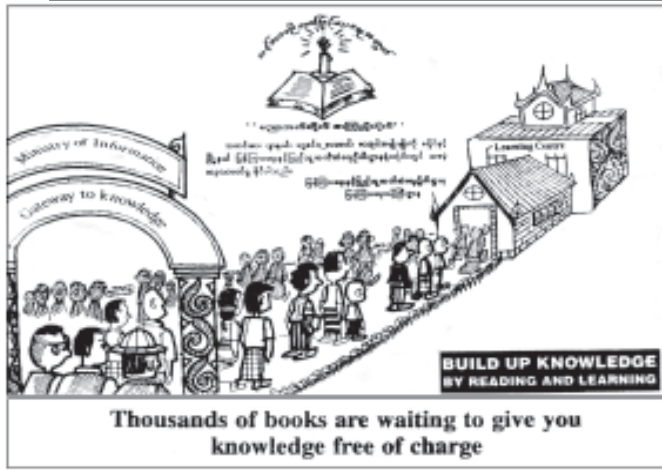
### UMFCCI delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 29 Jan — Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry U Win Aung, U Pyone Maung Maung and Central Executive Committee member Dr Sein Myint left here by air for Thailand at 10 am today. The

delegation is to attend the 17th ASEAN-US Dialogue Meeting in Thailand.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by UMFCCI President U Win Myint, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and officials. — MNA

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## ADVERTISEMENT

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (059)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (059) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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### Megawati attends Chinese New Year festivities

JAKARTA, 30 Jan — Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri, along with Vice-President Hamzah Haz and other senior officials have attended a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration here, state news agency Antara reported Thursday.

The event, sponsored by the Indonesian Confucius Council, was also attended by chairmen of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) Amien Rais and

House of Representative (DPR) Akbar Tandjung, Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and former president Abdurrahman Wahid.

Thousands of Confucian followers attended the event Wednesday evening, which was highlighted by various Chinese art shows and lion dances. The Chinese Lunar New Year started on January 22. —MNA/Xinhua

### China monitors 23 people near bird flu outbreak

BEIJING, 30 Jan — China has placed 23 people who had contact with bird flu-infected ducks in the southern region of Guangxi under close medical observation, the semi-official China News Service said on Thursday.

Up to Wednesday, no infections had been discovered among them, it said. China has confirmed that

ducks on a farm in Guangxi, which borders Vietnam, have the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, which has killed at least eight people in Southeast Asia.

Officials in Hubei and Hunan provinces were investigating bird deaths for possible bird flu and carrying out culls.

MNA/Reuters

### Vietnam strives to lure more foreign investment in 2004

HANOI, 30 Jan — Vietnam is improving its investment environment in a move to attract 3.3 billion US dollars of foreign direct investment (FDI) this year, up 6.5 per cent over last year, the Ministry of Planning and Invest-

ment told Xinhua Wednesday.

This year, the country keeps on perfecting its legal system on FDI, accelerating the administrative reform, and implementing other initiatives. —MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 31 January 2004

### Thailand declares six more provinces as bird flu control zones

BANGKOK, 30 Jan — The Thai Government announced Thursday that six more provinces had been declared as bird flu control zones, while another two provinces were degraded from control zones to monitor zones, the state-run FM 100.5 reported.

Government spokesman Chakrapob Penkaur said that laboratory test made the six provinces bird flu control zones, where all poultry within a five-kilometre radius of areas where infected birds had been detected

would be killed and transporting chickens within a 50-kilometre radius would be prohibited.

Meanwhile, Suphanburi Province which became the country's first bird flu control zone on January 23 and Kanchanaburi Province would be degraded as bird flu monitor zones, where infected animals had been killed and would undergo a 21-day surveillance, he said, adding that if no new infected cases reported in 21 days in the provinces, the

government's culling measures have succeeded.

The spokesman also indicated that 29 provinces were still on the list of bird flu control zones so far, and 10.5 million birds in 2,600 farms all over the nation have been destroyed.

As to the bird flu situation in Bangkok, he said that only infected birds in the city would be slaughtered, unlike in other provinces, in line with advice of experts.

MNA/Xinhua

### Vietnam reports two more bird flu deaths

HANOI, 30 Jan — Two more Vietnamese people have died of bird flu, a hospital official said on Wednesday, but the World Health Organization said it was uncertain whether the deaths were caused by the virus sweeping across Asia.

If confirmed, the deaths of the sisters, aged 23 and 30, would bring the death toll from bird flu to 10, of which eight have been in Vietnam. Two boys have died in Thailand.

The sisters died on Janu-

ary 23, said Hoang Thuy Long, director of the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology. "The two sisters are the latest victims of the bird flu virus. We have repeatedly tested their lung fluid samples and the results were all positive. I am very confident their deaths are caused by H5N1 virus," Long told Reuters, referring to the bird flu virus that has erupted across Asia.

The WHO said its laboratory in Hong Kong would carry out tests. "These pa-

tients have been tested before, and until now results have been negative," the UN health agency said in a statement.

The sisters had killed and eaten chicken at their brother's wedding in Thai Binh Province, 70 miles southeast of the capital, Hanoi, Long said. —MNA/Reuters

**Don't  
smoke**

cines experts.

"There is no need to be alarmed. The country is free from this virus and measures are in place to prevent its entry into our country," the DOH and DA said in the statement.

The Philippine authorities has earlier ordered the ban on poultry imports from Asian countries hit by the bird flu, including Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, Japan and Indonesia.

MNA/Xinhua

### Megawati orders mass cull of bird flu-infected poultry

JAKARTA, 30 Jan — President Megawati Soekarnoputri has ordered a mass cull of all poultry infected with bird flu, a minister said Thursday.

"I have made a conversation with the President. She ordered the mass cull of infected poultry," Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Jusuf Kalla said after meeting Megawati at the state palace here.

"Those infected will be culled, the good ones will be saved," Jusuf said.

The Ministry of Agriculture said on Wednesday that it would launch a mass vaccination campaign for healthy chickens to prevent them from contracting the flu.

Three local companies have been appointed to produce the vaccine while the government considering importing more.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လည်အေးချမ်းရေး

### Chinese Premier deploys prevention work on bird flu virus

BEIJING, 30 Jan — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Thursday urged local governments and relevant departments to earnestly implement eight major measures in an emergent effort to prevent and control the spread of the bird flu virus.

The eight measures were decided by the 37th executive meeting of the State Council, which was presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao on Thursday. They are:

— In the bird flu-hit areas, the bird flu epidemic situation must be announced to the general public timely and accurately. All the infected poultry must be slaughtered and the affected areas sanitized to stem further spread.

— In the bird flu-unaffected areas, emergency plans for the occurrence of bird flu must be worked out as soon as possible. Epidemic prevention and control measures and epidemic monitoring must be stepped up, especially at major poultry farms.

— Funds for compensating farmers must be well prepared. Farmers whose poultry have been culled must be compensated by the government in a reasonable way.

The funds will be shared by both the central government and local governments.

— Scientific research on the deadly virus should be intensified. Specialists should be aroused and organized to do sweeping re-

search on the bird flu virus.

The production and reservation of the bird flu vaccine must be arranged and international exchanges and cooperation on the virus research should be carried out.

— The quarantine work must be intensified on the poultry imported or exported and poultry smuggling must be cracked down on.

— Conscientious and painstaking efforts must be made to ensure that every Chinese person acquaints himself with the basic information on what bird flu is and how to contain the disease.

— Resolute, substantial efforts must be made to prevent the deadly virus from spreading to human beings. Medical monitoring should be beefed up among the people who are in close contact with poultry, and,

— The infrastructure construction for poultry quarantine must be stepped up and an emergency system for the outbreak of major animal epidemics must be established.

MNA/Xinhua

### Philippine to launch special task force against bird flu

MANILA, 30 Jan — The Philippine Government will organize a special task force to prevent bird flu from entering the country, the Philippine News Agency reported Wednesday.

The report quoted a joint statement of the Department of Health Secretary (DOH) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) as saying that

the special task force would be also assigned to lead the government to control and prevent avian flu epidemic if it enters the country.

The special task force will be made up of representatives from the DOH, the DA, the Bureau of Animal Industry, the poultry industry and other stakeholders, including veterinary medi-

# မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Ex-US arms Hunter says everyone wrong on WMD

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—Former chief US weapons hunter David Kay said on Wednesday he and everyone else who had believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction had been wrong and that his search found no evidence of biological or chemical arms.

"Let me begin by saying, we were almost all wrong, and I certainly include myself here," Kay told the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing 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 militarized chemical and biological weapons there," he told the hearing.

Republican senators emphasized that the hunt for banned weapons, the central argument for the US-led war against Iraq, had not ended and something could still turn up.

Democrats read quote after quote from top Administration officials saying that Iraq had such weapons.

Democrats trying to unseat Republican President George W Bush in elections this year are trying to make a case that the White House exaggerated intelligence to go to war.

"I think the Administration owes the entire country a full explanation on this war — not just their exaggerations

but on the failure of American intelligence. They are responsible for it. It failed," Senator John Kerry, who is running for president, said on a campaign trip.

Kay said European countries, including those that did not support the war like France and Germany, had also believed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. "It turns out that we were all wrong, probably in my judgment, and that is most disturbing," he said.

He said the search should continue in Iraq, but that some questions would likely remain unanswered and ambiguous.

Kay also disputed accusations that intelligence analysts were pressured to reach conclusions to fit the White House political agenda, saying not one had told him that.

"I had innumerable analysts who came to me in apology that the world that we were finding was not the world that they had thought existed and that they had estimated," Kay said. They cited the limited data on which they had

based conclusions, he said.—MNA/Reuters

## Brazilian President seeks international tax to help poor

BRASILIA (Brazil), 30 Jan—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is looking to firm up his plans for a tax on international transactions to help fight poverty when he meets with UN and French leaders this week, government officials said on Wednesday.

Lula, who Brazilian analysts say is trying to build a role as champion of the developing world, will meet UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and French President Jacques Chirac in Geneva on Friday to discuss the fight on hunger.

Lula launched the idea of a global fund to fight poverty last year and a foreign policy adviser said recently that financing for it could come from a tax on international financial transactions, or possibly a tax on the world arms trade. Few details of the proposal have been made public.

An official at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry said the leaders were expected to issue a statement after the meeting with an undertaking to push for such a tax or a commitment to study its viability.

"This is not just for internal consumption. I think (Lula) is trying to position himself as the leader of the developing world," said political analyst Carlos Pio.—MNA/Reuters

## Heavy snow leaves thousands stranded across Europe

LONDON, 30 Jan—Thousands of air and rail passengers were left stranded and road traffic was paralyzed across Europe on Thursday after a cold snap brought heavy snow and bitterly cold temperatures from London to Moscow.

Snow drifts and ice caused the cancellation of many flights at Britain's Heathrow, the world's busiest airport.

In Belgium, heavy snowfall forced most flights to be delayed or cancelled at Brussels International Airport as crews worked to remove ice from planes and runways. More flights might be disrupted if the weather did not improve, a spokesman said.

Flights destined for Brussels were also being cancelled due to similar conditions at other European airports, he said. In Frankfurt, at least 20 flights were cancelled and dozens more were delayed due to snow.

Heavy snowfall across the central region of Tuscany cut Italy in two on Thursday.

Thousands of drivers shivered in their stationary cars and police closed the motor-

way between Bologna and Florence, handing out blankets and warm drinks to stranded motorists.

Further north in the Italian Alps, the mercury dropped to -35 degrees Celsius (-31 Fahrenheit). And on the island of Sardinia, usually a sun-drenched tourist hot spot, electricity lines came down under the weight of ice.

In Britain, snowfall ranging from two to 28 centimetres (a half-inch to 11 inches) blanketed most of the country on Wednesday, and temperatures dropped to minus 5C (23 F) overnight.

Conditions were still severe in the Netherlands on Thursday, however, where snow, ice, hail and driving winds hit morning rush hour traffic across the country.

MNA/Reuters



A snowplow clears country roads near Cambrai in northern France, on 29 Jan, 2004 after heavy a snowfall in the region.—INTERNET

## Oscar nomination latest victory for Japan samurai

TOKYO, 30 Jan—Japanese actor Ken Watanabe, best known for his portrayal of samurai warriors, has already won his greatest battle by prevailing over leukaemia.

Barely a decade later, he has now become the first Japanese nominee for a performance Oscar in nearly 40 years.

Watanabe on Tuesday became one of five men in the running for best supporting actor for his role as the fierce warrior Katsumoto in "The Last Samurai", the blockbuster featuring Tom

Cruise — who did not get an Oscar nomination.

"I was just lying down, staring into space, when the envelope was delivered (with news of my nomination)," Watanabe told a news conference on Wednesday in Los Angeles, where he was attending the Golden Globe awards ceremony.

"This is like a dream,"

he said earlier.

International recognition for the 44-year-old has come after victory in an even more crucial fight: In 1989, he was diagnosed with leukaemia, spending several years in and out of hospital, and surviving at least one relapse, before the disease went into remission.

MNA/Reuters

## US singer James Brown arrested on violence charge

MIAMI, 30 Jan—The "Godfather of Soul", James Brown, was arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of committing domestic violence, South Carolina law enforcement officials said.

Brown, 70, who has had several run-ins with the law and spent time in prison, was due to appear at a bond hearing on Thursday, a spokesman for the Aiken County detention centre said.

Neither the Aiken County Sheriff's office nor the detention centre would comment further. The soul singer, famous for his hits including "I Feel Good", was previously accused of beating his wife, Adrienne, in 1995. Brown served nearly three years in prison after he was arrested in 1988 for leading police on a car chase between South Carolina and Georgia.—MNA/Reuters



A prototype model of Toshiba's High-Definition DVD player. Japan's leading electronics makers NEC, Fujitsu and Toshiba reported a major recovery in third quarter operating profits, spurred by recent restructuring and strong semiconductor product demand.—INTERNET

## Canada to provide vaccine to Asia for bird flu protection

OTTAWA, 30 Jan—Canada has given its main influenza vaccine supplier the green light to sell up to 200,000 doses of human flu vaccine originally for Canadian services to countries in Southeast Asia battling bird flu, a Canadian Press report said Wednesday.

"Canada has more vaccine than it needs at this time. Over 200,000 doses of influenza vaccine can be made available to other countries," said Irene Aguzzi, spokeswoman for Public Works and

Government Services Ministry. "We have given Shire Biologics, a Quebec based company, the green light to look at all those 200,000 doses, according to the needs that come in," she said.

Earlier in the day, the president of Shire Biologics said the government of Vietnam had asked to buy 20,000 doses of human vaccine from the company.

MNA/Reuters

## SPORTS

## Ones, Larrios win WBC awards

MEXICO CITY, 30 Jan—American Roy Jones and Mexico's Oscar Larrios tied the voting for the World Boxing Council Boxers of the Year for 2003.

Jones, 34, became only the second middleweight in history to take a heavyweight title when he beat Puerto Rico's John Ruiz for the World Boxing Association crown last year.

He then went on an eight-week diet to step down to light heavyweight and narrowly beat fellow American Antonio Tarver for the WBC light heavy title.

Larrios, 27, successfully defended his super bantamweight title three times. The fight between world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis of Britain and Ukraine-born Vitali Klitschko of Germany was named Fight of the Year.

Lewis defeated Klitschko in Los Angeles last June when the fight was stopped at the end of the sixth round because of a deep cut over Klitschko's left eye. Klitschko was leading 58-56 on all three judges' cards at the time. The World Boxing Council regroups 162 countries represented by nine continental federations holding thirty-six votes in the WBC Board of Governors. Both Jones and Larrios won 12 votes.—MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's Dutch player Patrick Kluivert, left, stretches for a high ball watched by Zaragoza's Rubi Cani during their second-leg, quarterfinal Kings Cup soccer tie in Zaragoza, Spain, on 29 Jan, 2004. Barcelona were knocked out of the cup after drawing 1-1 but losing 2-1 on aggregate to Zaragoza. INTERNET

## Tunisia qualify for Nations Cup quarterfinals

RADES (Tunisia), 30 Jan—Tunisia became the first side to qualify for the African Nations Cup quarterfinals with a controversial 3-0 win on Wednesday over the Democratic Republic of Congo, the first team to be eliminated.

The Congolese had captain Lomana LuaLua sent off following an off-the-ball incident in the first half, effectively setting Tunisia up for the win after the break.

Brazilian-born Francileudo dos Santos scored twice and Najeh Brahman once as Tunisia preserved their winning record after two games. Dos Santos, the tournament's leading goal-scorer on three, has now scored four times in three appearances for Tunisia since deciding to take up the

North African country's nationality.

But the Brazilian's achievement was overshadowed by the sending off of LuaLua after 38 minutes, the Newcastle United striker having kicked out at Tunisia midfielder Joahar Mnari off the ball.

Mnari made the most of a side-swipe from LuaLua that struck him on the shins, collapsing in a heap after first walking away from the incident. South African referee Jerome Damon immediately flashed the red card.

The game was stopped for four minutes when LuaLua refused to leave the pitch and Congo assistant coach Andy Mfutula attempted to attack Mnari as he was being taken off on a stretcher.

Both benches were involved in a brief scuffle, broken up when Tunisian coach Roger Lemerre escorted a distraught LuaLua down the tunnel to the change rooms.

LuaLua had looked particularly dangerous against a hesitant Tunisian side, with five changes from the team that beat Rwanda 2-1 in the opening Group A game on Saturday. Just two minutes before being sent off, he had outstripped three defenders and beaten the goalkeeper but Alain Masudi was too slow to capitalize on his pass across the face of goal.

Tunisia's fortunes changed after the introduction of Hatem Trabelsi in the second half with the Ajax Amsterdam right back setting up the first two goals on the overlap.

Congo goalkeeper Papy Lukata spilled his cross in the 55th minute right into the path of dos Santos, who finished easily.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

## Nations-favourites make spluttering start

MONASTIR (Tunisia), 30 Jan—African Nations Cup favourites Nigeria, Senegal and Cameroon have been left without a win between them following the Super Eagles' shock defeat 1-0 to Morocco on Tuesday.

Nigeria's defeat came after Cameroon and Senegal were held to draws in their opening games by Algeria and Burkina Faso respectively, with Cameroon the only one of the big three managing to score a goal.

But while Cameroon and Senegal can both consider themselves unlucky not to have won their matches, Nigeria's lacklustre display on Tuesday gave the impression that the players would rather have been back in their beachside hotel. Playmaker Austin "Jay-Jay" Okocha, given few options by his teammates, was reduced to thumping hopeful long-balls up the pitch.

At one point, he picked up the ball and,

## Lyon keep pressure on Monaco with home win over Bordeaux

PARIS, 30 Jan—Reigning champions Olympique Lyon reclaimed second place from Paris St. Germain with a comfortable 3-0 win over Girondins Bordeaux in a rearranged Ligue 1 match on Wednesday.

Lyon are now on 41 points, six adrift of leaders Monaco and two ahead of Paris St. Germain.

Bordeaux, who suffered a shock defeat at Fourth Division Bayonne in the French Cup second round last weekend, stay seventh on 32 points. In difficult conditions at the end of a day of snow, Lyon had to wait until the 66th minute to open the scoring through Patrick Muller. The Swiss defender volleyed in the far corner after being set up by Sidney Govou and Juninho.

Two minutes later striker Peguy Lyindula made it two when he headed in a long-range free kick from Juninho and substitute Michael Essien sealed victory eight minutes from time.—MNA/Reuters

## Second Division Alaves overcome Celta to make Cup semis

MADRID, 30 Jan—Second Division Alaves earned themselves a place in the semifinals of the King's Cup, despite a 1-0 defeat at Primera Liga opponents Celta Vigo on Wednesday.

The result gave the Basque side a 4-3 aggregate victory over the troubled Galician side, who sacked coach Miguel Angel Lotina earlier this week. Celta enjoyed a host of good chances, but only managed to get the ball in the net when Alaves keeper Juan Pablo fumbled a Gustavo Lopez free kick midway through the second half.

Sevilla put behind them the sale of their talented forward Jose Antonio Reyes to Arsenal by booking their place in the semis, completing an emphatic 6-1 aggregate victory over Atletico Madrid with a 2-1 win at the Calderon.—MNA/Reuters

## Els recovers, ready for more Johnnie Walker classic

BANGKOK, 30 Jan—Ernie Els has recovered from a stomach complaint and is all set to defend his Johnnie Walker Classic title in Thailand this week.

The South African had to call for a doctor during a practice round on Tuesday on the Alpine Sports and Country Club, venue for the \$1.83-million event.

"I am over it now," he told reporters on the eve of the event. "The doctor gave me a shot and now I am looking forward to the week." —MNA/Reuters

with nobody to pass to, attempted to chip the Moroccan goalkeeper from just inside his own half. The ball flew yards wide of the goal. Arsenal's Nwankwo Kanu, playing in midfield, barely touched the ball and Isaac Okoronkwo had a torrid time in defence.

Coach Christian Chukwu accused his team of taking the match too lightly.

"The major problem was that the players did not take the game seriously and that cost us," Chukwu said. "We told them it was going to be a difficult match. But in the first half, as you could see, they were so relaxed.

The performance reflected a turbulent period for the Super Eagles.

An attempt by the Nigerian Football Association (NFA) to sign former England captain Bryan Robson was vetoed by Sports Minister Musa Mohammed because they had not followed "due process". As a result, Chukwu was kept on as caretaker coach.

Preparations for the Nations Cup were further delayed as Parliament discussed the federal budget for 2004, which includes money for the national team.

The NFA then held a training camp for 41 national team hopefuls in Portugal at the end of December but, despite begging some players to turn up, only around half of them appeared. —MNA/Reuters

## Milan moves top of Serie A

MILAN, 30 Jan—European champions AC Milan moved top of Serie A on Wednesday after goals from Brazilian Kaka and Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson gave them a 2-1 win over Siena. Carlo Ancelotti's side lead with 45 points with Roma two points behind and Juventus in third on 40 points.

Milan went ahead in the 38th minute when Andriy Shevchenko threaded the ball into the path of Kaka who skipped past Siena defender Stefano Argilli and coolly finished, sending Generoso Rossi the wrong way for his seventh league goal of the season.

Siena had a great chance to draw level before the break when their Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo was pulled down by Milan captain Paolo Maldini, but Brazilian Fernando's weak 39th-minute penalty was saved by his compatriot, Dida in the Milan goal. Milan's second came nine minutes after the interval when Rossi failed to hold on to a long-range effort from Cristian Brocchi and Tomasson pounced to slot home the loose ball.

Flo gave Siena a slimmer of hope in the 87th minute with a left-foot strike after a deflected shot from Roberto D'Aversa fell to him at the back post, but it was too late to mount a serious challenge.—MNA/Reuters

## China beat Russia 3-0 at four-nation soccer tournament

LIUZHOU, 30 Jan—The Chinese Under-23 soccer team jumped to a good start in the Four-Nation friendly tournament here on Wednesday as they breezed past Russia 3-0 in the opening round.

Goals from Xu Liang, Du Zhenyu and Cao Ming put several thousand local fans in the standings in triumph, which was compounded by the showing-up of former Chinese team coach Bora Milutinovic.

The Russian players, most under 21, were clearly no match for their stronger and older opponents, whose stamina owed much to the intensive training in the past two months. "The players did reap good experience from the game and we also found some loopholes," said Chinese head coach Shen Xiangfu. "I am especially satisfied with the new hands in the team," added Shen, who has been coaching the U-23 team, also called the Olympic team, for three years.



Virginia Ruano Pascual (L) from Spain and Paola Suarez (R) from Argentina hold the trophy after winning the Australian Open women's doubles final in Melbourne on 30 Jan, 2004. Ruano Pascual and Suarez defeated the Russian pair of Svetlana Kuznetsova and Elena Likhovtseva 6-4, 6-3.—INTERNET



**YANGON,**  
30 Jan—The Yangon Trade Fair 2004 was launched with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce and arrangement of the Quartz International Co Ltd at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Street here this morning.

It was attended by Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, departmental heads, officials, social organizations, staff of foreign embassies in Yangon, and entrepreneurs.

The minister and Managing Director of the Quartz International Co Ltd Daw Myat Thein Aye formally

## Yangon Trade Fair 2004 launched



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Managing Director of Quartz International Co Daw Myat Thein Aye formally open the Yangon Trade Fair 2004. — MNA

mally opened the fair.

The minister, the deputy ministers, officials and guests viewed the booth round the fair.

Displayed at the fair

were local and foreign cosmetics and personal goods, textiles, utensils, foodstuff, electric and electronic apparatus, construction materials, household utensils,

stationery, gadgets, traditional medicines and medical equipment. The fair continues daily up to 2 February from 9 am to 6 pm. Admission is free. — MNA

**YANGON,** 30 Jan—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, accompanied by Director (oil exploration and development) U Kyaw Hlaing of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, inspected the Nyaungdon oil and natural gas field this afternoon. Officials concerned reported matters on exploration of new wells. The Deputy Minister gave necessary instructions. He also inspected the oil storage tank and drilling of No 21 well. Next, the deputy minister and party proceeded to the site of Nyaungdon-Ywama 14-inch gas pipeline installation. Officials concerned reported on the work progress and the deputy minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

## Installation of gas pipeline inspected



Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay inspects the installation of the 14-inch Nyaungdon-Ywama gas pipeline. — MNA

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects ...

(from page 16)

Committee U Myint Oo reported on progress in construction of road. Director U Kan Hla and Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

Afterwards, they inspected Meiktila-Yamethin section being undertaken by Yuzana Highway Co Ltd. Officials reported on progress of work. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions. They also inspected cotton plantations of farmer U Myo Win in Kantha Village, Pyawbye Township. Next, they inspected construction of a bridge on the creek at mile post No 272.

On arrival at Bawdimyaing Village, Tatkon Township, Project Manager U Bo Kyaw of Asia World Co Ltd reported on upgrading of the road, building of bridges on the road and

arrival of machinery. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to the officials concerned. They proceeded to the project site for construction of Hsinthe Creek Bridge linking Kyaukchet village and Tada U village in Pyinmana Township. Officials reported on work being done. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the construction work.

Afterwards, they inspected Ngalik Creek-Crossing Bridge Project. Officials reported on work progress, future tasks and building of the approach bridge.

They inspected progress in installation of steel beams to the bridge and laying of concrete.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction of the bridge. — MNA

## Specialists of DSMU and Australia perform surgical operations

**YANGON,** 30 Jan—A combined team comprising specialists of Defence Services Medical Unit and specialists of Australia successfully performed surgical operations on heart patients at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon from 26 to 30 January.

A group led by Prof Col Aung Kyaw Zaw of DSMU and Prof David Kelly of Australia carried out disease diagnosis while a group led by Prof Lt-Col Tin Maung Aye of DSMU and Prof Alan Gage of Australia performed surgical operations on heart patients.

A combined team successfully performed surgical operations on eight heart patients. — MNA

### ရန်ကုန်မြို့အိမ်ထောင်ရေး

မိုးလ်းသိန်းဟန် @ Mr Jimmy Lobo

အခြေခံအား အသက်(၃၀)နှစ်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့မှ (Mr.JF Lobo-ဒေါ်တင်တင်)တို့၏သား၊ ဒေါ်Mavis ၏အစ်ကို (ဒေါ်Amy)၏ခင်ပွန်းညီ Stanley Thein Aung (CE) Trimax-ဒေါ်Eleanorခင်အေး၊ ဒေါ်ရီရီအုန်း (Betty) - ဦးRobin Taw၊ ဒေါ်ခင်ဆွေတင်(Joan)၊ ဒေါ်ခင်သန်းစိန် (Patsy)- ဦးဇွေးလင်း (20-Gewin)၊ ဒေါ်သောင်းသောင်းစို (Claire)တို့၏အစ်ကို၊ မောင်အောင်ထွန်းလင်း (2nd mate FG)၊ မောင်သန်းစို၊ Steven William, Debby, Jonathan, Michelle, Maximilian တို့၏အဘိုးသည် ၃၀-၁-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့နံနက် (၃)နာရီ(၂၀)မိနစ်တွင် ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ စမ်းချောင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မြေနီကုန်း (မြောက်)ရပ်ကွက်၊ မရိလမ်း၊ အမှတ် ၂၁-၂ တွင် နေထိုင်စဉ် ခရစ်တော်၌ အိပ်ပျော်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါပြီ။ ၁၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နံနက် (၁၁)နာရီတွင် ထိန်ပင်သုသာန်၌ ဝတ်ပြုကုန် ကျမ်းသတ်ပြီးပါမည်။ (နေအိမ်မှ ကားများ နံနက်၆နာရီတွင်ထွက်ပါမည်)။

ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု

### OBITUARY

**DAW THEIN MYINT @ MRS. AGNES HO (B.A) Aged (93)Years**

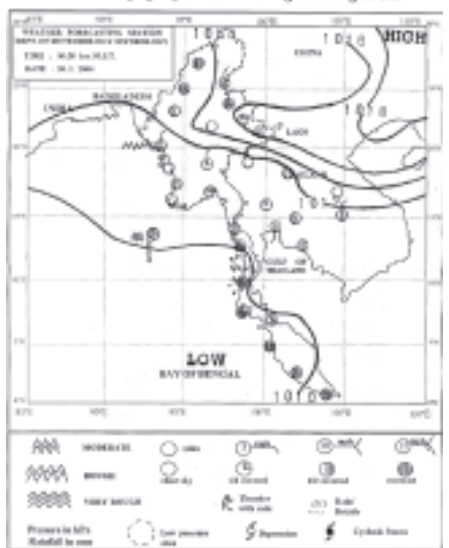
**Retired Teacher, Methodist English High School**

Daw Thein Myint, daughter of (U A Lam and Daw Gye May), beloved wife of (K.T.Ho @ U Si), eldest sister of (U Hein Tin @ Harry- Daw Thein Nu @ Lily), (George Lee @ U Nyunt Hla)-Pauline Lee, (U Mya Thauang @ Spencer - Daw Thein Zin @ Margaret), beloved mother of Harry Soe Win (Asean Focus Group) -Daw Mu Mu @ Rosebud (Diplomatic School, Yangon) beloved aunt of Dr Aung Kyaw - Dr Khin Than Tin @ Delphine, Lt. Comdr Myint Thane @ Melvin (Retd.)-Daw Win Shi Sho, Alan Burrell-Daw Khin Soe Tin @ Suzie, U Aye Maung Maung @ Raymond-Daw Khin Swe Tin @ Candy and beloved grandmother of Win Mu Aye @ Primrose, (Saw Si Soe) and Win Mu Soe @ Elizabeth (Diplomatic School, Yangon) passed away peacefully at her residence, No.38, Bawdi Yeiktha Rd.(Windermere) Bahan Township at 6.00 pm on 29th January, 2004 and cremated at 10:00 am at Ye Wun Cemetery on 30th January 2004.

Friends and Relatives, Please accept this as the only Intimation.

Bereaved Family.

### Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



### WEATHER

**Friday, 30 January, 2004**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State, lower Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Mandalay Division, Chin and Rakhine States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (0°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 29-1-2004 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 30-1-2004 was 15.0°C (59°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-1-2004 was 59%. Total sunshine hours on 29-1-2004 was (8.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 30-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport, and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 29-1-2004.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the West and Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 31-1-2004:** Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.

**Weather Outlook for last weekend of 31st January 2004:** During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

**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

## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife see off Laotian Deputy Prime Minister Dr Thongloun Sisolith and wife

YANGON, 30 Jan — After paying a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar, at the invitation of State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisolith and wife Madame Naly Sisolith left here by air this morning.

The Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and wife and members of delegation were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and wife and the staff of the Laotian Embassy in Yangon.

Before their departure at the VIP lounge, the Secretary-1 presented a photo album and a video tape on the goodwill visit to the Laotian Deputy Prime Minister.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe bid farewell to visiting Laotian Deputy Prime Minister Dr Thongloun Sisolith and Madame Naly Sisolith at the airport. — MNA

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Taungyay Dam Project in Kyaukpadaung, bridges on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway

YANGON, 30 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council

**INSIDE****Perspectives**

Cultivation of summer paddy in Yangon Division (Page 2)

**Poem**

Like a curry of various vegetables (Page 11)

**Article**

The Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and the great grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2004 (Page 11)

**Circulation**

23,087

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Brig-Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpadaung Station and officials, inspected Taungyay Dam Project near Tepinke Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Myingyan District, on 28 January morning.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of a tunnel under the Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung Road at mile post 43/4, part of the project. Next, he looked into the flow of Kyaukpon Creek from which water is

to be supplied to Kyetmauktaung Dam.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction tasks along the main canal. On arrival at Taungyay Dam Project, they inspected earth work for damming the creek. Officials reported on work progress. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into construction of the 80.5-mile district-to-district road near Zayatgon village on the border between Kyaukpadaung and Meiktila. Deputy Superintending Engineer of Mandalay Division Development Affairs

(See page 15)

## Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project inspected

YANGON, 30 Jan — State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and departmental officials yesterday morning inspected the Paunglaung multi-purpose dam project being implemented on Paunglaung River near Kyitaung Village in Pyinmana Township.

At the briefing hall of the construction site, Director of Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department U Victor reported matters on construction of the main dam and spillway, utilization of machinery, supply of construction materials, rainfalls, water flows of the river and other project tasks. Director of Hydro-electric

Power Department U Soe Myint reported matters on construction of diversion tunnel, power plant and sluice gates. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. Next, he inspected land preparation, construction of spillway, installation of sluice gates and generators. They then viewed round the dam project works by car. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party saw over Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway extension project of Dagon International Co. Next, they inspected construction of a bridge across No 6 tributary canal of Ngaleik Dam. They proceeded to Yonbin bridge construction project site near Ywathit village. Officials reported on the work progress and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions and inspected round the site.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party next went to the road construction site between Pyanchi village and Hteininn village in Lewe Township. Project Engineer U Soe Myint reported matters on the project implementation. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the condition of Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Intha village. The road section is 12 miles and 2 furlongs long and being constructed by Dagon International Ltd. So far, 1 mile and 7 furlongs of tarred road, 2 miles and 4 furlongs of gravel road and 7 miles and 7 furlongs of earthen road have been constructed.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Toungoo in Bago Division. He met with military officers and other ranks of regiments and units at Taing Aung Hall of Pyinmana Station and gave instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that Tatmadaw members are today performing not only national defence duties but also nation-building tasks. He asked the Tatmadawmen to observe discipline strictly and undertake agricultural and livestock breeding works on manageable scale. He also urged them to actively participate in community welfare activities and regional development works. Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Yamethin-Pyawbwe-Meiktila Section of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway. — MNA