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The Union of Myanmar, home to various national races

Our country, the Union of Myanmar, is home to various national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and so on residing together sharing joys and sorrows in friendship for many years countable by the thousand.

The national brethren, throughout history, have resided together with Union Spirit inherent in them and put up resistance unitedly against any danger that befell the nation as the saying goes, blood is thicker than water.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From message on the 51st Anniversary Union Day)

Prime Minister stresses importance of building of highly qualified national strength that can be relied on to keep abreast with others Special Refresher Course No 1 for University and College Teachers concluded at CICS (Upper Myanmar)

YANGON, 31 Jan — The Special Refresher Course No 1 for University and College Teachers concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOolwin Township, Mandalay Division, this afternoon, with an address by

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were the ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, the Mandalay

mayor, the deputy chief justice of the Supreme Court (Mandalay), the deputy attorney-general, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the rector of CICS (Upper Myanmar) and the pro-rector, tutors, students and faculty members.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, the special refresher course for university and college teachers specially conducted by the government has concluded. 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 cor-

rect 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.

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Circulation

23,087



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech at the closing of the Special Refresher Course No 1 for University and College Teachers. — MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 February, 2004

Produce intellectuals and intelligentsia equipped with strong Union Spirit

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 pressure on them.

At such a time, a developing country like Myanmar is needed to firmly build the highly qualified national forces 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.

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

In his address the Prime Minister said that 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 namely the strengthening of the national economy, the advancement of the science 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, with positive attitude. Myanmar's relations with the neighbours and regional countries are further improving.

As the UN, 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 back the seven-point political programme of the State and lend themselves to that drive.

Teachers are urged to strive for continuously producing intellectuals and intelligentsia equipped with patriotism, nationalism and Union Spirit to defend and build a modern and developed nation.



BLOOD BAGS DONATED: The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) donated 1,000 blood bags worth about K 4 million to the Yangon General Hospital on 28-1-2004. Ms Sook-hee Baek of KOICA hands over the gifts to Deputy Superintendent of the hospital Dr Than Tun. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win ...

(from page 16)

Information can be sent to all parts of the nation by means of Telephone No 104 of Telecom Message Service Centre at the station in a short period and the receiver can reply the facts he want to reply to the sender. Under the programme, information can be sent and received to and from the regions where there is no telephone. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party proceeded to the FISCA enterprise at 9th-mile where they were welcomed by Managing Director U Zaw Weik and officials. Next, officials conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the show rooms of the enterprise. After that, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the production process of Printed Circuit Board (PCB). Next, they inspected installation of telephone exchange booths, production of small scale auto exchanges, research room and test room. At the briefing hall, General Manager U Zaw Min reported on establishment of FISCA enterprise. Later, Engineering Director U Zaw Win reported on production and installation of KY-1000 telephone exchange booths by the company for MPT under the guidance of the Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, arrangement being made for production of public exchanges and rural exchanges and future tasks.

In response to the report, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented a report on encouragement given for development of communication related companies. Next, the Secretary-1 gave instructions, saying that Myanmar companies are highly qualified in communication techniques and it is a sign of development. Strenuous efforts are to be made through innovation to penetrate foreign markets.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at the Myanmar Ahman Automobile Industry of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone-4 in Shwepyitha Township. They heard a report presented by Chairman of the industry U Sai Myo Win on arrangement for production of small trucks.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected bumpers, exhausts, wheel discs, front doors, rear doors, floors and other parts of the vehicles. After that, they inspected various moulds for vehicles and unfinished vehicles. Myanmar Ahman Automobile Industry will produce MAM Double Cab, MAM Extra Cab and MAM Wagon.

On arrival at Fair Sun Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone-3, the Secretary-1 and party heard a report presented by Managing Director Dr Pe Khin on production of oil pump, cooling water pump, shock absorber, air compressor, clutch pressure plate, pipe joint accessory, tool and cutter and fibre gear, and arrangement made for production of 10-ton vehicle. Next, they inspected production of auto spare parts with the use of CNC machine, Fibre Moulding machine, D.R.O System Milling machine and Lathe Machine. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win viewed construction of smelting plant of the company and gave instructions to officials. The Secretary-1 left the industrial zone at 4 pm. MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Prize-presentation ceremony held

YANGON, 31 Jan — The 2002-2003 academic year prize-presentation ceremony of Mingaladon Township BEHS-2 was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of Parent-Teacher Association at Aung San Thuriya Hall of the school this morning.

Present were Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence and senior military officers, teachers, students and guests. At the ceremony Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint presented prizes to six distinction winner Ma Sanda Win. Next, officials also presented other prizes to the winners. — MNA

Yangon Trade Fair 2004 continues

YANGON, 31 Jan—The Yangon Trade Fair 2004 continued for the second day at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Street here today. Various kinds of local- and foreign-made cosmetics, liquor and commodities were put on sale by Dagon Win Win Co, Dagon Brewery Co, Summit World Industries Co, Owl International Ltd. There were also entertainment programmes presented by Star Entertainment.

MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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.

Salone Traditional Festival 2004

(Sea Gypsy Festival)
Ma Kyone Galet Village,
Myeik Archipelago
Union of Myanmar
(14 to 17 February 2004)



Press conference an official appointment of authorized resellers for Fuji Xerox laser printers was held at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel in Yangon on Saturday. General Manager of Fuji Xerox Asia Pacific Pte Ltd Mr Takahiro Ohara, Managing Director of COE Marketing Pte Ltd Mr Philip Lim and Managing Director of Concordia International Co Dr Than Win seen on the occasion. — (H)



Visitors at the Yangon Trade Fair 2004. — MNA

Oil pollutes Iraq's Tigris for second time in a month

TIKRIT, 31 Jan — A pipeline rupture sent large pools of oil flowing into Iraq Tigris River on Friday, prompting a US Army search for the origin of the second oil leak into the region's major water source this month.

A spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division, based in Tikrit, said soldiers scoured the pipeline network and oil storage facilities in the region for the cause of the problem and discovered a pipeline leak on Friday.

"There is a leak in the pipeline, unfortunately, right where it crosses the river north of Baiji," Major Josslyn Aberle said. "They believe it is a faulty weld."

The North Oil Company, the arm of the Iraqi oil ministry responsible for oil assets in the northern half of the country, is repairing the problem, she said. Their team has installed floating barriers in the river to try and corral the oil

while the weld is repaired, Aberle said.

"It's not up to our environmental standards, but they are working on it," she said.

The 4th Infantry Division's engineers support the North Oil Company and are ultimately responsible for the oil infrastructure in a region stretching from just south of Tikrit, which sits about 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, to the area around Kirkuk, which has massive oil reserves.

In the months since Washington declared major combat over in Iraq, the country's oil infrastructure has been repeatedly attacked by looters looking

to steal resources or by saboteurs trying to stop US authorities gaining access to the oil.

Repeated sabotage

The main oil export pipeline, which runs from the Baiji refinery southwest of Kirkuk to Turkey has been repeatedly sabotaged and oil has spilled from the line. The line runs close to the Tigris as the river winds south through the country.

On a bluff overlooking the river at the division's headquarters in one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces, dozens of thick, black pools of oil could be seen drifting in the flow.

Internet



Iraqi water tankers collect water from the Tigris River as large black plates of oil flow on the muddy water of the river in Tikrit. Oil engineers were plugging a leak in a pipeline in northern Iraq which is polluting the river—INTERNET

Annan agrees to Kidman, Penn film at United Nations

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Jan — The United Nations said on Thursday that a movie starring Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn would be made at UN headquarters in New York, where Hollywood has failed for decades to get permission to film.

The movie, to be directed by Sydney Pollack, is called "The Interpreter." Kidman would play a Kenyan-born UN translator who overhears an assassination plot, becomes a target herself and helps stop the killing of an African leader addressing the UN General Assembly.

Shashi Tharoor, the UN undersecretary-general for

public affairs, said it was the first time in recent memory the world body, including Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly, had allowed a feature film to be made in the building.

The United Nations rejected Alfred Hitchcock's overtures to shoot part of

the 1959 film "North by Northwest," which opened with scenes of UN lounges.

Chilean Ambassador Herald Munoz, this month's Security Council president, told Reuters earlier in the week the only query he received was from his Spanish colleague, Innocencio Arias, who wondered how one became an extra.

MNA/Reuters

Arkansas lawyer guilty of mailing deadly snake

LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas), 31 Jan — An Arkansas lawyer and his son will soon be heading to prison after pleading guilty to mailing a threatening communication — a poisonous snake.

Bob Sam Castleman, an attorney and former city judge in Pocahontas, Arkansas, and his son, Jerrod, were charged with mailing a cardboard box containing a venomous copperhead snake to a neighbour with whom they had feuded. The two pleaded guilty in federal court on Wednesday.

The wife of the man to whom the poisonous package was addressed opened the box and saw the snake, about 28 inches long, slither out. Police soon arrived on the scene in Pocahontas, about 140 miles northeast of Little Rock, and shot the snake dead. The elder Castleman faces between 27 months and 33 months in prison, while his son faces a longer term of between 31 months to 44 months on the same charge because he had a previous conviction. A sentencing date has not been set.—MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi man walks among debris which remained at the site of Wednesday's explosion at a Baghdad hotel, where a suicide car bomb killed the bomber and three others.—INTERNET

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Iraq police defuse bomb along oil route

BAGHDAD, 31 Jan — A car bomb on a major oil route in the north was defused, and Iraqi police killed an attacker after gunmen opened fire Friday at a checkpoint south of Kirkuk.

The car was discovered late Thursday on the al-Hawija bridge on a highway used by coalition forces and oil tankers transporting crude from the northern oil fields in Kirkuk to Iraq's biggest refinery in Beiji, Kirkuk police chief Gen. Turhan Youssef said.

Al-Hawija bridge is just south of Kirkuk, which is 150 miles north of Baghdad.

Youssef said Iraqi police found the car and informed coalition forces, who defused the bomb.

On Friday, six gunmen opened fire on a checkpoint of the Iraqi Civil Defense Forces in Salman Beg, 55 miles south of Kirkuk. One attacker was killed and another injured in retaliatory fire, said Gen. Anwar Amin, the ICDC chief in Kirkuk.

Many recent attacks appear to have been targeting Iraqis seen as collaborating with the US-led occupation. Eleven Iraqis, mostly members of the civil defense corps, were wounded Thursday in a roadside bombing in Baqouba, northeast of Baghdad.

Shopkeepers in Ramadi, a pro-Saddam city west of Baghdad, also reported receiving leaflets on Thursday warning Iraqis to stop working for or with Americans within 10 days or face death.

The undated statement was signed by a previously unknown group, "Anbar Mujahideen Brigade, the Military Unit." Anbar is the province that includes Ramadi.

Internet

Reporter at centre of Iraq inquiry quits BBC

LONDON, 31 Jan — Andrew Gilligan, whose radio report triggered the row between Downing Street and the BBC that preceded the suicide of Iraq weapons expert David Kelly, said he has resigned from the public broadcaster.

In a statement to Britain's domestic Press Association news agency, Gilligan acknowledged that part of his May 29 report — which alleged that Downing Street "sexed up" intelligence on Iraq — was wrong.

"I again apologise for it," he said. "My departure (from the BBC) is at my own initiative. But the BBC collectively has been the victim of a grave injustice."

"I accept my part in the crisis which has befallen the organisation. But a greater part has been played by the unbalanced judgments" contained in Lord Brian Hutton's report into Kelly's death, he said.

Gilligan aired the 29 May report on BBC radio alleging that Prime Minister Tony Blair's inner circle had "sexed up" a crucial September 2002 dossier on Iraq and its purported weapons of mass destruction.

He later retracted the claim that Downing Street "probably knew" that a key part of the dossier — that Iraq could deploy chemical or biological weapons in just 45 minutes — was wrong. But in his statement Friday, the 35-year-old journalist stood by the general thrust of his report, which Hutton dismissed as "unfounded", that the intelligence dossier had been "exaggerated".

Internet

Two Hollywood studios sue Academy member for screener leaks

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan — Two major Hollywood movie studios sued Wednesday a longtime member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for leaking "screener" copies of

movies that were later illegally posted on the Internet.

Columbia Pictures Industries and Warner Bros. filed the lawsuits in a federal court against Carmine Caridi, a 20-year academy member who

has appeared in "The Godfather: Part II" and "NYPD Blue."

Caridi, 70, has admitted sending VHS copies of about 60 movies he received each year to his friend Russell Sprague in Illinois, who was found using a software programme to convert the VHS tape into DVD format and posted them on the Internet for illegal downloading. He then sent the original tapes back to Caridi.

Sprague was arrested and charged with criminal copyright infringement last week.

A search of Caridi's Hollywood apartment turned up 36 original academy screener tapes, as well as large quantities of FedEx shipping labels bearing Sprague's address. Caridi said he received no money for the films, adding that he just believed that Sprague was a film buff and merely wished to watch them. — MNA/Xinhua

Independent Iraq commission could pose serious threat to Bush

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — An independent commission to investigate intelligence failures before last year's invasion of Iraq being demanded by Democrats could pose a serious political threat to President George W Bush.

But analysts said with Bush's Republicans in control of both houses of Congress he stood a good chance of avoiding such an investigation, which would keep the issue alive in the run-up to November's presidential election.

"The Administration wants as little attention as possible paid to the process by which they concluded that war with Iraq was a good idea," said Steven Walt, dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

"A commission would keep the issue in the news for another year. That's the last thing they want," he said.

Following Senate testimony on Wednesday from former US weapons hunter David Kay that US intelligence about Saddam Hussein's suspected weapons of mass destruction had been

fundamentally flawed, Democrats redoubled their calls for an independent inquiry. Kay himself backed the idea.

In a worrying sign for the White House, Arizona Republican Senator John McCain, known for his independent streak, broke party ranks to support the call.

"We need an independent commission to continue to investigate this because these questions need to be answered, including... why it is that we have so badly missed the mark on this and other cases," McCain said.

The Administration sent National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to appear on Thursday morning news shows on ABC, NBC and CBS to deflect the calls. "We simply believe that there is work still to be done. The Iraq

Survey Group is trying to complete its work," she told NBC's Today Show.

University of Chicago political scientist Robert Pape said the fact Rice was on three shows suggested the White House was worried. The issue is certain to remain front and centre in the ongoing presidential campaign.

Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy had a starkly different view. "What has happened was more than a failure of intelligence — it was the result of manipulation of the intelligence to justify a decision to go to war," he said. If the situation on the ground in Iraq were to deteriorate or more officials came forward with information, whether by name or anonymously, pressure for an independent commission could mount. —MNA/Reuters

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Dutch Embassy in Baghdad hit by rocket

BAGHDAD, 31 Jan — The Dutch Embassy in the Iraqi capital was hit by a rocket late Friday, but there were no injuries because the mission had closed for the day.

Security guards and US soldiers said one rocket detonated on the embassy roof, triggering a small fire which later appeared under control. Two other projectiles fell in the garden but did not explode.

Guards said they fired at the attackers' vehicle but they escaped. A rocket launcher was found nearby.

Shortly after 11 pm, another series of blasts rocked the center of Baghdad. A US military spokesman confirmed the explosions but said he did not know the source.

Dutch Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Martine de Haan confirmed the attack on the embassy and said there were no injuries. A US quick reaction force from the 1st Armored Division was sent to the embassy, the US command said.

The Netherlands maintains about 1,100 troops in Iraq.

Internet

Turkish PM warns of ethnic-based Iraq government

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday that establishing an ethnically based political structure in Iraq would be unhealthy for the country and a cause of regional concern for years to come.

While he insisted an ethnically based federation that would allow Iraqi Kurds to govern an autonomous region was a "weak possibility," Erdogan said questions about Iraq's future course remained, even after President George W. Bush renewed his commitment to the country's territorial integrity.

Erdogan, on his first official trip to Washington, promoted his vision of NATO ally Turkey as a model for Middle East democracy and outlined views on Iraq and other topics in a speech to the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a leading conservative think

tank with close ties to the White House.

With the United States planning to hand over political power in Iraq to Iraqis on 30 June, Ankara has been deeply concerned that Iraqi Kurds might press for an independent state, which could boost independence claims by Turkey's own restive Kurdish minority.

The Kurds, who fought with the United States to topple Saddam Hussein, are one of Iraq's best-organized ethnic groups after enjoying US-protected autonomy following the Gulf War in 1991. The Kurds have presented a plan to the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council that

grants significant autonomy to the Kurdish region.

Answering questions at AEI on Thursday, Erdogan said: "We do not believe that an ethnically oriented structure is healthy.... In the same way, a structure which is based on religious sects is not correct." He said Turkey would play a constructive role in promoting a broad-based government but "if there is an unhealthy structure in Iraq, there will always be a cause for concern."

Asked if he worried that in the US move toward a political transition, questions about Kurdish and Shi'ite demands for greater autonomy remain unanswered, he replied: "You can say that the waters are murky and that we need to clear the water, clear the air ... and leaving the waters as they are, won't clear it by itself."

MNA/Reuters



A Dutch soldier sits on guard at a watchtower at the military base at dusk in Samawa, southern Iraq on 30 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

Russia sends supply spacecraft to "ISS"

Moscow, 31 Jan — Russia on Thursday launched a cargo spacecraft bringing supply to the International Space Station (ISS), the Mission Control outside Moscow said.

The Progress supply ship successfully blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 2.58 pm Moscow Time (1158 GMT) and is scheduled to dock with the orbiting space station Saturday, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Besides about 2.5 tons of food, water, fuel and equip-

ment, the craft will also deliver to the ISS two new Orlan-M spacesuits and two mannequins filled with radiation sensors to collect data necessary for preparing a manned mission to Mars.

Vladislav Petrov, a senior researcher of Moscow Institute of Biomedical Problems, noted that the data

would help determine radiation doses that human vital organs receive during a long stay in space.

The Russian-made mannequin Matreshka-R will be placed in the cabin of cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, who is working at the space station with American astronaut Michael Foale. They will install the European mannequin Mister Rando on the station's exterior during a space walk next month.

The Progress will also bring to the ISS an American-made draining tube for a porthole. A crack in such tube caused an air leakage and a decrease of pressure that lasted for two weeks in the ISS.

Chief of the Aerospace Agency Yuri Koptev said Thursday that Russia would launch two manned missions and four supply vehicles to the ISS in 2004.

He pointed out that the 6.2-billion-rouble (219-million-US-dollar) capital assigned for establishing a lab module in 2004 is insufficient to launch large-scale operations for the purpose.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Venezuela sign pact on railway rehabilitation

CARACAS, 31 Jan — China and Venezuela signed on Thursday an agreement to cooperate in the rehabilitation of Venezuela's railway system.

The Complementary Accord of the Economic and Technical Agreement for the Rehabilitation of the Mid-western Railway System was signed by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Roy Chaderton, and Chinese Ambassador to Venezuela Ju Yijie.

Chaderton described the National Railway System as a "civilized, liberating instrument that allows meetings between Venezuelan citizens, facilitates our communications and lowers the transportation cost, cheapens the services and contributes to the unification of the country". The Chinese ambassador said the accord was the beginning of other new agreements between the two countries.

The governments of

China and Venezuela are working on plans to build an aqueduct in the state of Falcon, rehabilitate gold mines and undertake other projects in regions of the South American country, Ju said.

The agreement signed Thursday provides for the participation of the Chinese Government in the rehabilitation of the railway system through a two-year project including work on repair, maintenance and modernization.

The plan of the national railway system worked out by the Venezuelan Government includes a 4,000-kilometre network to be built over 20 years, and several sub-systems planned to meet the needs of economic, political and social activities. — MNA/Xinhua



A car burns following an explosion in front of a local police station in the city of Mosul, some 500 km north of Iraqi capital Baghdad on January 31, 2004. A car bomb exploded outside a police station in the Iraqi city of Mosul on Saturday and there were many casualties, witnesses said, in a fresh guerilla attack just days before a UN team is due to arrive in Iraq. —INTERNET

Blair blasted on Iraq intelligence

LONDON, 31 Jan—A former member of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour government — who resigned over the Iraq war — says “the game is up” and Blair's government should admit it went to war over “wildly wrong” intelligence.

“The intelligence was wildly wrong,” Robin Cook, a Labour member of the British Parliament and a former Foreign Secretary, said Friday.

“We were told there were weapons of mass destruction ready for firing in 45 minutes. We now can't find any weapons of mass destruction ready to be fired in 45 minutes or any other period of time.”

“Saddam Hussein was not a threat to Britain,” he said, “and of course, what that means is we did have the time to let Hans Blix and the UN weapons inspectors finish the job, and then we could have found out there was no threat without having to fight a war to prove it.”

Across the Atlantic in Washington, politicians lined up to call for an investigation of intelligence failures —

with some calling for CIA director George Tenet's resignation — in the face of former top weapons hunter David Kay's comments that Iraq was likely telling the truth when it said it had no weapons of mass destruction.

Kay blamed the intelligence agencies for the faulty information, leading some — Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry among them — to call for Tenet's resignation.

“I called for George Tenet to resign several months ago,” the senator from Massachusetts told reporters on the campaign trail Thursday. “I think there has been a lack of accountability at the CIA. I regret it. I know him personally, but that's the nature of responsibility.”

Calls for the CIA chief's resignation also followed in the wake of last summer's controversy over President Bush's

State of the Union declaration that Iraq had sought to buy uranium in Africa, an assertion proven to be wrong.

Then, as now, the administration has expressed its confidence in Tenet's abilities, and the CIA itself cautioned that Kay's criticism is premature and may be wrong.

Kerry and others — including Kay and Republican senator John McCain of Arizona — also called for an independent probe into why the intelligence was so wrong and what role, if any, the administration played.

“There has to be an outside commission investigating that and until that happens most Americans won't be satisfied,” McCain said Thursday. “But most importantly we have to have lessons learned so we don't repeat the mistakes of the past.”

Internet

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Afghans say US troops killed in accidental blast

KABUL, 31 Jan—An explosion at an arms dump that killed seven US soldiers in Afghanistan was an accident, authorities and militants fighting US forces said on Friday.

Thursday's blast near the town of Ghazni was one of the worst single blows to US forces hunting al-Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan since their intervention in late 2001.

The explosion occurred when the troops were destroying a cache of weapons dating back to the war against the Soviets in the 1980s, according to the secretary to the provincial governor. “An American patrol was on a mission in Deh Ayeen, in the Jaghatu District,” Ahmad Jawid said.

“Villagers stopped the convoy and said there was an ammunition depot. The Americans went to evacuate the ordnance, which was stored there from the time of the jihad (holy war).”

“They began to destroy it. The incident happened when the person in charge of blowing it up made a mistake.”

Ghazni is about 75 miles south of Kabul.—MNA/Reuters



Iraqi children watch a soldier patrolling in the southern Iraqi city of Samawa on 30 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

Romanian helicopter crash kills three

BUCHAREST, 31 Jan — A helicopter crashed Thursday morning in southeast Romania, killing all three people aboard, the Romanian National Defence Ministry announced.

The IAR 316B Alouette helicopter belonged to the Romanian Air Force Application School based at Boboc, Buzau.

It was carrying a weather-research mission in the unit's flight area when it crashed at Posta Calnau, Buzau.

The cause of the accident is under investigation by an Air Force commission.

MNA/Xinhua

MI6 chief faces Iraq weapons probe

LONDON, 31 Jan—Mr Tony Blair is facing an inquiry into the intelligence that led Britain into war with Iraq, dashing his hopes of drawing a line under an affair that has dogged his government for months.

The head of the intelligence service, MI6, is to be summoned before a new parliamentary inquiry, which will examine the accuracy of the information about Saddam Hussein's weapons and will report in June, it was learnt last night.

The disclosure came on the day that Mr Greg Dyke resigned as the BBC director-general over the David Kelly tragedy, and the corporation apologised to the government, prompting Downing Street to declare that its war with the BBC was at an end.

In an exclusive interview yesterday, Mr Dyke said he expected to be asked to stay on when he offered his resignation to the BBC govern-

nors. Describing how he had lost the support of his board, he added: “If in the end you screw up, you have to go.”

Later, addressing BBC staff who staged demonstrations protesting against his departure, the outgoing director-general was in tears. Mr Blair's keenness to close the damaging battle was explained by the findings of a Times/Populus poll today showing that, despite the Hutton report's exoneration of him, his ministers and officials, the public believes that he has been damaged almost as much as the BBC by the affair.

Sir Richard Dearlove, the head of MI6, will appear before the Intelligence and Security Committee, headed

by Ms Ann Taylor, the former Labour Cabinet minister, to give further evidence on why he believed that the intelligence on Saddam's weapons was reliable and accurate.

It was MI6 that provided the bulk of the intelligence for the Downing Street dossier that underpinned Mr Blair's decision to go to war.

Bush wants ‘facts’: US President Mr George W Bush today said he wants “the facts” about why US-led forces in Iraq have failed to find the weapons of mass destruction. But he declined to say whether he backed mounting calls for an independent inquiry into the matter, AFP reports from Washington.—Internet

US proposes \$274m biosurveillance upgrade

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—The Bush Administration said on Thursday it wants to spend 274 million US dollars in 2005 to build a system that can detect and react to outbreaks of disease — natural or otherwise.

The money will be split between the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to use in beefing up the BioWatch detection system for biological warfare agents and for setting up an integrated disease reporting system.

“Whether bioagents are thrown at us by terrorists or by Mother Nature, our ability to respond quickly ... will certainly save lives,” Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told a news conference.

Ridge and Thompson admitted they were virtually building programmes from the ground up. BioWatch, which has detectors in 30 cities across the country, had proven to be slow, labour-intensive and plagued by false positives, Ridge said.

“It's not fail-safe, scientifically or technologically,

yet,” Ridge said.

Part of the money will go to creating quicker and more accurate detectors which give instant results that do not require sending a sample to a laboratory for analysis.

Many experts have called for such a system, which would allow for real-time monitoring of disease outbreaks by reporting symptoms, drug use and disease diagnosis.

Then if a cluster of flu-like symptoms is seen in July, for instance, when influenza is rare, health officials could investigate quickly. It could also catch an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome or an anthrax attack, experts say.

“This is going to allow us to get information on a daily basis from doctors, clinics and pharmacies. We've never been connected with clinics and hospitals and pharma-

cies across America,” Thompson said.

A budget request to be made by President George W Bush will include 129 million US dollars for Homeland Security to expand and upgrade the BioWatch programme and create a system to integrate surveillance data from across the government.

HHS would get 135 million US dollars to strengthen laboratories, and monitor disease. Most would go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but five million US dollars would go to the Food and Drug Administration to integrate with Homeland Security and improve food surveillance.

“In addition, the initiative provides 10 million US dollars to the Department of Agriculture to improve food and animal surveillance,” the departments said in a joint statement. —MNA/Reuters

Chile, Philippines agree on shared goals

SANTIAGO, 31 Jan—The Chilean and Philippine governments have agreed on establishing a series of concrete goals under a bilateral agenda agreed to by the two countries. This was announced on Thursday on the arrival of

Chilean Foreign Minister Soledad Alvear in the Philippines, the Chilean Government said Thursday.

Alvear was in Manila to meet with her counterpart, Delia Albert, and take part, on Friday and Saturday, in

the Forum on East Asia and Latin American Countries (FEALAC), which is co-chaired by Colombia and the Philippines. The statement by the Chilean Government said it was the first meeting between Alvear and Albert since the Philippine Foreign Minister took office last December. They agreed to establish specific goals to advance firmly in fulfilling objectives, including issues in the economy, political dialogue and scientific and cultural cooperation. The two foreign ministers agreed to continue working closely in areas where the Philippines can share experiences with Chile, such as the Chilean programme of social housing.

The statement said the two countries shared similar views on economic development, and this could help Chile's entry to the Forum of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).—MNA/Xinhua



Snow piles on rooftops, lawns and along the streets as pedestrians walk through blowing snow as it continues to fall in Edinboro, Pa., on 30 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Children deaths resulting from US invasion in Iraq

Iraqi children fall victim to US-led war

More and more Iraqi children are becoming victims of the US-led war against Iraq.

Wounded people, including children, were rushed to hospitals by ambulances, which were not enough to carry children and others injured. It remains unknown how many children fell victim to US-led war.



During US invasion of Iraq, Haidar Aziz, 11, injured in the leg in an explosion in a crowded shopping centre in south Baghdad, leaves the al-Kindi hospital after receiving treatment.

An Iraqi girl, Heba Hachem Hussein, injured in clashes between supporters of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and Iraqi police and US troops, is held by her mother in a Baghdad hospital on 16 December, 2003.



A child walks out through a bullet-riddled entrance hit during a US Army attack in the town of Samaraa. The US military upped its death toll from intense clashes with guerillas in the Iraqi town of Samarra to 54 amid reports by Iraqi doctors that eight civilians were killed by US fire in the exchanges.

Children deaths in Iraq

Date	Location	Target	Death toll
26-3-2003	Rutbah	Children's hospital bombed	2
5-4-2003	Karbala	10-year old boy shot	1
28-4-2003	Outside school in Fallujah	demonstrators including pre-teen children shot	15
3-5-2003	Basra	14-year old boy shot	1
6-5-2003	Tikrit	a child shot	1
22-7-2003	Mosul	14-year old son of Qusay Hussein killed	1
28-8-2003	Basra Highway	a child shot	1
12-9-2003	Fallujah	3-year old bystander shot	1
16-10-2003	Tikrit	4 years old boy hit	1
24-10-2003	Mosul	two children hit	2
27-10-2003	Police station, Baghdad	children hit	15
2-11-2003	Near Fallujah	11-year old boy caught in crossfire	1
5-11-2003	Mosul town centre	ten-year old boy killed	1
11-11-2003	Fallujah	children killed	5
12-11-2003	Nasiriyah	children among dead	13
17-11-2003	gun market in Baghdad	11 year old among dead	3
19-11-2003	Ramadi	tribal chief-a cousin and a 9-year old boy killed	2
26-11-2003	Hay Masraf district, Mosul	12-year old boy in crossfire	1
28-12-2003	Karada district, Baghdad	two Iraqi children killed	2
Total			69



Daud Salim holds his injured one-year-old son Benin, at al-Husseiniyah hospital in Karbala, Iraq, on Sunday, 28 December, 2003.



An Iraqi infant is fed at the al-Alawiyah hospital in Baghdad where many children are suffering from malnutrition since the US-led intervention of Iraq. Medact warned that Iraq is facing a 'considerable' disruption of its health care system as a result of the US-led invasion.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Development images of Chin State in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



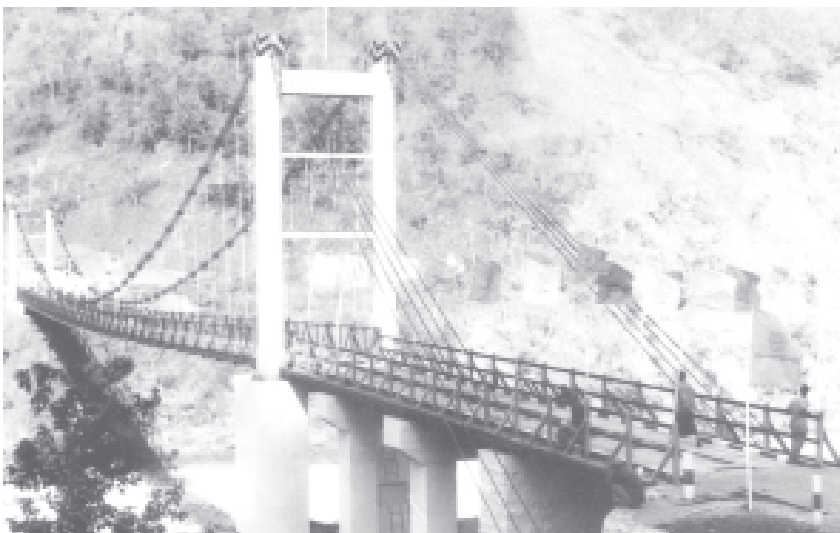
Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Tea	-	3280 acres
Paddy (terrace)	-	24492 acres
Paddy (highland)	-	84638 acres
Corn	-	84187 acres
Mixed and multiple cropping	-	139640 acres
Edible oil crop	-	40200 acres
Industrial crop (sugarcane, mulberry, cotton)	-	1923 acres
Perennial crop (apple, orange, avocado)	-	4268 acres
Livestock breeding		
Domesticated wild ox	21561	34675
Buffalo	21552	36790
Cow	80480	109941
Sheep, goat	34909	52610
Pig	62429	175260
Chicken	200689	1371744
Transport		
Tarred road	53 miles	119 miles
Gravel road	86 miles	315 miles
Earth road	607 miles	856 miles
Kalay-Haka Road (115 miles)	one night	around 9 hours
Gangaw-Haka Road (70.5 miles)	one day	5 hours
NyaungU-Pakokku-Mindat Road	one night	8 hours
Bridge (above 180 feet)	1	4
Suspension bridge (under 180 feet)	-	30
Bridge (bding built)	-	1 (Meswong suspension bridge) 360 feet (Tiddim Township)



Chin State located in the far corners of the nation is now witnessing progress in all sectors including the health, communication, livestock breeding and social sectors.

The photo shows the Microwave Station in Falam, Chin State.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Communication		
Microwave station	-	5
Ground satellite station	-	2
Telephone	-	2129
Auto-exchange	-	1
Exchange	-	9
Rural telephone	-	9
Post office	10	43
Telegraph office	10	17
Manual exchange	8	20
Electric power		
Hydropower plant	6	14
Diesel-fired power plant	13	26
Education (basic)		
Primary school	998	1167
Middle school	76	83
High school	17	26
Post-primary school	-	194
Education (higher)		
University & college	-	3 (Kalay university, technological college, computer college)
Health		
Hospital (100-bed)	-	1
District hospital	-	2
Township hospital	-	6
Station hospital (branch)	-	3
Station hospital	-	10
Rural health care centre	-	60
Rural health care centre (branch)	-	241
Information		
TV retransmission station	3	9
TV retransmission building	-	1
TV broadcasting station	-	1



The 480 feet long and 10 feet and 9 inches wide Kattel suspension bridge across Manipur river is located in Tiddim Township, Chin State.



Outpatient Department of the People's Hospital in Haka, Chin State.



Var bridge in Falam Township, Chin State.

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Unity is strength

Tagaung Era is a historical era that really existed in the hearts of Myanmar people as well as on the pages of Myanmar history. From the point of view of the great historians of Glass Palace Chronicle, Tagaung is said to be the dawn of Myanmar history.

The colonialist historians who wrote Myanmar history however set it dating from the time of King Anawrahta. Sadly, that is the reason why Tagaung, which was in the hearts of Myanmar people, was like a legend.

The colonialist historians concluded that the Glass Palace Chronicle was compiled in AD 1829 because Tagaung was recorded only in Glass Palace History and was found nowhere in Ashin Maha Silavamsa's Great History written in AD 1520 and U Kala's

Great History written in AD 1711. At that time, Myanmar lost the first Anglo-Myanmar war.

They said the loss of war led to the downfall of the pride of Myanmar. Defeated in the first Anglo-Myanmar war, Myanmar had to sign the peace treaty in 1826. The colonialist historians wrote Myanmar history dating from the reign of King Anawrahta for the simple reason that the compilers of Glass Palace Chronicle tried to save the downgrading of Myanmar pride because of the defeat in the war by including the incidents of Tagaung in the Glass Palace Chronicle deliberately as the Glass Palace Chronicle was written only three years after the war.

The objects of writing Myanmar history by English people was to

make Myanmar people think highly of them, the Europeans, and to make themselves feel small. No matter whatever is mentioned in Myanmar history and literature, they left out what they wanted to.

It was usual practice of writing history and national races should not be misled by their invention.

Although Harvey, who was one of the members of Indian Civil Service (ICS), was said to have compiled a Myanmar historical paper by making references to a great deal of data collected by the Myanmar Research Bureau for many years, the purpose of his work was merely to make Myanmar people think highly of the Europeans. In compiling the history, the colonialist historians were prone to refuse what was said in Myanmar history, Myanmar records and Myanmar stone inscriptions provided it was not in conformity with the

Chit San Win

Chinese, Indian, Thai and European records. In their writing Myanmar history, they were in the habit of jumping to conclusion without any consideration as soon as they overheard what other peoples, save Myanmar, said, and found their records.

They also fabricated news about Tagaung history as if the creators of Glass Palace History doctored the history. Moreover, they had such concepts lectured at colleges and high schools. Only after the colonialists fled from Myanmar soil did such kind of teaching programme come to an end.

In that regard, Sayagyi Zeya wrote in his article on the Glass Palace in Myawady magazine, Vol-1, No-2, December 1952 issue, that as a matter of fact, although high-ranking court officials of



Members of the field survey team have found historical evidences in Pondaung region of Upper Myanmar to confirm the fact that Myanmar is the origin of human species.

Myanmar Kingdom compiled Myanmar histories, they did not do anything in favour of righteous or wicked kings in such a way of a saying goes 'To side with the king is to win the king's heart'; that they told in praise of the king should he behave well. Otherwise, they condemned the king; and that the Myanmar pundits wrote the history with the intention of providing laws or lessons for the

sword; that although they claimed so, they themselves had not read those great histories thoroughly; that and they did not understand the administrative patterns and legislations of Myanmar; and that in fact, they merely conjectured based on the wrong views the colonialists invented.

Those who wrote Myanmar history with the sole aim of disparaging the national characteristics of Myanmar people are in fact the white-faced colonialist historians decrying the national pride of Myanmar people not only on the pages of history but also at every opportunity.

The place at which the cast Buddha image was built in the heart of Bago was the victory ground of King Alaungphaya. As the majority of Myanmar people visited the place even in the time of British rule, the Brit-

ish colonialists heinously made arrangements to build a hospital and decided to build a mortuary there.

At that time, the people of Bago, in a bid to halt the wicked scheme of the colonialists, started collecting bronze as much as they could, cast them into a Buddha Statue, and built the pagoda on the victory ground of King Alaungphaya. Only then did the British colonialists give up their plan and choose the plot in the moat for construction of a hospital.

In another similar incident, the British colonialists built a prison in the compound of the Palace Court of King Alaungphaya in Shwebo. Later, they constructed a women's prison there, with the aim of tarnishing the once grandeur of the palace.

(See page 9)

Glass
Palace
Chronicle
was
compiled
in AD
1829
which
states the
history of
Tagaung
era of
Myanmar.



The traditional culture of Myanmar lineage has lasted for years countable by the thousand. Since the primitive period of the world, there have been historical evidences concerning the primates in Myanmar.

Myanmar lineage has lived in accord with their own style on their own soil. Myanmar people have own thought, own literature and own civilization. Therefore, the era of Myanmar homo sapiens in Myanmar should be termed Myanmar Myanmar era. Myanmar era has had historical evidences from the beginning.

As the relics of homo sapiens outnumber the fossil primates found in Pondaung region in Myanmar, they can be regarded as primitive homo sapiens and termed 'Bahinia'. These primates are the fossils which have existed since 40 million years ago. Such findings are in fact the historical resources capable of tracing the history of the primitive people of the world in Myanmar.

The treacherous writing of Myanma history by colonialist historians



Ancient religious objects found near Wayon village in Thabeikkyin township prove that Tagaung era existed earlier than Bagan era in Myanmar history.

(from page 8)

The Mandalay Palace Court was a place which always had vitalized the national characteristics of Myanmar people. Bearing malice, the British colonialists constructed a railroad at great costs crossing the wall with the intention of defacing the splendour of the palace. It was the deliberate act of the British colonialists to do so because it was still possible to construct a railroad at a low cost in other place.

The British invented such treacherous plots flagrantly in writing Myanmar history. As regards the matter, Sayagyi Zeya also wrote in his article "Those who attempted to make Myanmar people misunderstand the history of Myanmar were none other than the colonialists who occupied and governed the country. When the coun-

try was under the British occupation, the colonialists fooled the people of Myanmar into thinking highly of the British and disrespecting themselves. Therefore, it turned out to be the responsibility of the colonialists to mislead Myanmar people into looking down their own kings and histories.

The one who initiated the scheme was High Commissioner Sir A Phayre. After studying Myanmar histories, he wrote a history of Myanmar in English and published it in 1883. He had been to Upper Myanmar on frequent visits. As he had seen with his very eyes Myanmar as masters, he could not write ill of Myanmar people much critically.

The second person who assaulted Myanmar history was James Grey, who had worked as Pali professor at the science

school of Yangon College. He wrote the history of King Alaungphaya Dynasty. He wrote ill of King Alaungphaya down to all kings of the whole Konbaung Dynasty. If read, his history will make the reader think as if the entire Konbaung Dynasty which lasted for over 150 years was filled with such events as power struggles, massacre, torture and bloodshed.

Again, British education director Cocks compiled a history on Myanmar. Grey's history on Myanmar covered Konbaung Dynasty alone. But, Cock's history covered the entire Myanmar history. Attempts were also made to translate it into Myanmar and teach it to the young students of Myanmar.

Later, a history book named 'Burma through the centuries'

written by Stuart, who was Yangon Gazette Press owner, was out. The book was meant for the Europeans visiting Myanmar and those wanting to have a slight knowledge of Myanmar, not for Myanmar people. Though care was taken in writing the book, it was not much different from Grey's and Cock's. Though published twice in England, it did not gain popularity in Myanmar. Despite the colonialist historians wrongly stated Myanmar history, Dr Lao, prominent historian in the Europe who studied thoroughly the history of the East, concluded that the history books on Myanmar written by Myanmar people were correct and that there



Patriotic Myanmar researchers try to get the facts right that the histories on Myanmar written by the colonialists are factitious.

was no use exaggerating the good and bad things of Myanmar.

German history professor Leccine, who had made an especial study of Myanmar history, once wrote that there were history books containing the histories of Bago, Chiangmai and nearby areas; that the compilers expressed not only the good things but also the bad things in their history books; that the books were therefore

Poem

Union Spirit

We ourselves

Are born of same Union, brethren
Even if it comes to arguing
'Tis just for a while and vanishes
Sparks of a fight do not grow
Prevented and smothered by water of loving
kindness

Being far sighted, in peace
We believe, and go on building
Because we're all Union citizens.

We ourselves

Remember aliens of another race
Insulting, suppressing us in the past
Didn't allow suppression, found ways to be free
For the Land of Myanmar to be staunch and
reberverate

Work together, hand in hand in unison
Because we're all Union citizens.

An

Union citizen
Union strength
Union sword

Proudly we hold hands together
Nation's pride we try to bring forth
For us not to fall into alien hands
Not to be enslaved, not to fall into quagmire
As patriots truly, we're united
Union citizen, our spirit.

We shall raise pride of land, we'll do it.
Will shine as the sun and the moon.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

has lived in accord with their own style on their own soil. Myanmar people have own thought, own literature and own civilization. Therefore, the era of Myanmar homo sapiens in Myanmar should be termed Myanmar Myanmar era. Myanmar era has had historical evidences from the beginning.

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These primates are the fossils which have existed since 40 million years ago. Such findings are in fact the historical resources capable of tracing the history of the primitive people of the world in Myanmar.

Myanmar has a long history. With this, the patriotic spirit and Union Spirit of the national brethren has been firm and consolidated. No matter how the colonialists attempted to falsify Myanmar history, it is incumbent upon all of us to be on alert every time by keeping our eyes wide open to their aggressive acts of destroying our Union.

Translation: KTY



Fossil jaw pieces of homo sapiens indicate the origin of Myanmar.

Myanmar lineage

Prime Minister stresses importance...

(from page 1)

All the countries of the world are striving in competition to promote their national interest.

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.

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 was set by ASEAN in 1997. The Hanoi Plan of Action was laid down in 1998 to realize the Vision.

The main economic cooperation objective of the ASEAN is to set up the ASEAN Free Trade Area and ASEAN Investment Area (AIA).

Moreover, 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 Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy between the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — was held successfully in Bagan in November.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents model trainee award to Assistant Lecturer U Sithu Kyaw of Kyaukse Technological College. — MNA

cal 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 the trainees. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the model trainee awards to U Sithu Kyaw, assistant lecturer at Kyaukse Technical College, and Daw Sanda Aung, tutor at Mandalay University; perseverance awards to U Shwe Win, assistant lecturer at Mandalay University of Medicine, Daw Sanda Tun, assistant lecturer at Myitkyina University and Daw Yint Yint Thi, assistant lecturer at Mandalay Traditional Medicine University; model hostel awards to the trainees of the men's company-1 at the building-6 and trainees of the women's company-3 at the building-7; and completion certificates for the trainees to company leaders.

Next, trainees donated K 50,000 to be used in religious, educational and social activities. The donations were received by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. —MNA

Delegates to Seminar on Understanding Myanmar make study tour of Shan and Kachin States

YANGON, 31 Jan — Led by Chairman of Myanmar Strategies and International Studies Group Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar, the resident representative of UNICEF, retired ambassadors, researchers from China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam who attended the Seminar on Understanding Myanmar organized by the Institute of Myanmar Strategies and International Studies, resource persons and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29 January morning left here by air and arrived at Tachilek Airport in Shan State (East). They were welcomed there by Tactical Operation Commander Col Myint Han and depart-

mental officials. The minister and party visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in Tachilek, viewed the scenery of the town and King Bayintnaung Statue and had a group photo taken. They also studied Tachilek-Maesai friendship bridge, Talaik Market near the bridge and poppy-substitute cultivation camp. Next, they went to Kengtung and Maingzin poultry farm. Deputy Commander of Triangle Region Command Col Wai Lin and officials conducted them round the farm. They then visited Kengtung People's Hospital. The minister and party held a meeting regarding the study tour at Kengtung Hotel and attended a dinner hosted by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen

Khin Zaw. Local nationals performed traditional songs and dances. Yesterday morning, the minister and the guests visited Akha Village weaving training school, Kengtung Degree College, Yattawmu Pagoda, Thittapin Mountain and colleges under construction. Next, they went to Myitkyina Airport by special aircraft where Northern Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun and departmental officials welcomed them. And they proceeded to Putao Airport. Tactical Operation Commander Col Khaing Soe and officials and local nationals welcomed them performing traditional songs and dances. The minister and party then viewed panoramic views of Putao and Khakaborazi snow-capped mountain and visited Khakaborazi National Garden. Afterwards, they went



Minister U Win Aung and delegates to the Seminar on Understanding Myanmar visit Kengtung People's Hospital. — MNA

to Mulashidee Village by car and studied Mulashidee suspension bridge, traditional performance of local nationals, traditional costumes and local fruits and vegetables. The minister and party next

left Putao Airport and stopped over at Myitkyina Airport where on behalf of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen

Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun presented souvenirs to the minister and guests. Later, they left Putao and arrived back here in the evening. — MNA



Minister U Win Aung and delegates at the Khakaborazi National Gardens in Putao. — MNA

Golf tourney held

YANGON, 31 Jan — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President's trophy golf tournament organized by the UMFCFI Sports Affairs Committee and sponsored by Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd took place at Myodaw Golf Club (Myakantha) here this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, and UMFCFI President U Win Myint and CEC



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun presents prize to a winner. — UMFCFI

members.

After the tournament, officials presented prizes to the winners. The UMFCFI

president presented a certificate of honour to Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co U Kyaw Win. — MNA

Let us pay profound respects to the three Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) who have distinctively emerged in the year 2004

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, multifarious Buddhist people and Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand, are supporting and encouraging to carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana at home and abroad.

With a view to promoting and flourishing the Pariyatti Sasana (Learning the Buddha's teachings) mainly leading, to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the world, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar is striving to hold the following religious examinations in the Union of Myanmar yearly —

- (1) Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination
- (2) Dhammacariya Exam
- (3) Pahtamagyi Exam
- (4) Pahtamalath Examination
- (5) Pahtamange Exam
- (6) Abhidhamma / Visudhimagga Exam (only for laymen and nuns)
- (7) Five Nikaya Exam

Out of these seven kinds of religious examinations Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination is most extensive, most difficult and profound and highest, and so it has been separately held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar since 1949 (1310 ME).

Buddhist monks who wish to appear for this Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination must have passed at least the Pathamagyi Examination. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination is quite different from other religious Examination because the candidates who will appear for this examination must have to take (33) days. They have to meet both oral and, written portions as prescribed. The oral portion consists of (8026) page of Tipitaka Texts and the written portion consists of over (100) books of Tipitaka Texts, Athakatha (Commentaries) and Tika (Sub-commentaries) of Tipitaka Canons respectively. Only candidates who have got

through both oral and written portions of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara, Tipitakakovidha and candidates who have got through the oral portion will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara.

Emergence of three Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) in the 56th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination of 2004

The 56th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination was held at the Vizaya Dhamma Hall on Sirimingala Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, Myanmar from 28 December 2003 to 29 January 2004. It took 35 days. It is learnt that altogether 94 members of Sangha throughout the country appeared for this sacred examination. Out of them, Ven. Ashin Sondhara (age 48, vasa 28) and Ven Ashin Indapala (age 42, vasa 22) have distinctively got through written portion consisting over (100) books of Tipitaka Texts in the 56th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination and both of them got through oral portion consisting of 8026 pages of Tipitaka Texts in the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination in 2001, and Ven Ashin Indacariya (age 39, vasa 19) has distinctively got through oral portion consisting of 8026 pages of Tipitaka Texts in the 56th Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Selection Examination in 2004.

Ven Ashin Sondhara and Ashin Ven. Indapala who got through both oral and written portions of Tipitaka Texts will be conferred upon them the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha (Religious Hero) and Ven Ashin Indacariya who got through oral portion of Tipitaka Texts will be conferred upon him the Title of Tipitakadhara (Religious Hero) by the Government of the State Peace and Development Council at the Union of Myanmar in 2004. The short biographies of three Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) are as follows.

Ven Ashin Sondhara, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidha Title Recipient

He was born in Kyauk Thing Village, Myaing Township Pakkoku District, Magway Division



Ven Ashin Sondhara.

on 8th waxing of Kason (Friday) 1317 ME. His parents are U Tha Dun and Daw Khin Hpwa. He was novitiated at the age of 12, with sponsorship of his parents and his preceptor was Ven Bhaddanta Kovida of Mangyeecho Monastery, Myaing Township.

He was ordained on 2nd waxing of Tazaungmon 1336 ME (at the age of 19) with sponsorship of families of U Than and Daw Khin Hla, U Aung Thein, Daw Seinn Yee and Daw Ni, U Win Maung and Daw Phyu and others. His preceptor was Ven Bhaddanta Kovida of Tumaung Monastery, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division.

He learnt and studied Buddhist scriptures under the famous and learned Mahatheras such as Ven Bhaddarita Kovida Mangyeecho Monastery, Myaing Township, Ven Bhaddanta Jotika of Pyintha, Ven Bhaddanta Nandiya of Tumaung Monastery, Amarapura Township, Ven Bhaddanta Koviddabbarasa of Masoechin Monastery, Ven Bhaddanta Kumara of Bhamo Monastery, Mandalay and Ven Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa of Ywama Pariyatti Institution, Insein Township, Yangon Division. Ven Ashin Sondhara distinctively

passed various kinds of religious examinations such as Sasanadhaja Dhammacariya, Sasanadhaja Siripavara Dhammacariya and others held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

Ven Ashin Indapala, Tipitakadhara, Tipitakakovidha Title Recipient

He was born in Mangyee Kyun Village, Rambye Township, Rakkhine State on 10th Waning of Waso (Sunday) 1322 ME. His parents are U Ngwe Tin and Daw Pe Sein. He was novitiated at the age of 12, with sponsorship of his grandmother, Daw Aye Mya Oo and his parents. His preceptor was Ven Bhaddanta Sasana (Sasanadhaja Dhammacariya) of Mangyee Kyun Myaukyaung Monastery. He was ordained at the age of 21, with sponsorship of U Thein Aung and Daw May May Khin's family of Bago; Sihassudhamma Manijotadhara Sayagyi U Kyaw Min's family of Yangon; U Hla Myint and Daw Aye Hlat Mu's family of Yangon; Dr Soe Lwin and Daw Khin May Tint's family of Eithabyu; U Maung Maung Lwin and Daw Sein's family of Yangon; and U Tun Yin Oo and Daw Sein Khine's family of Yangon. His preceptor was Ven Bhaddanta Naginda of Myet Hnar Taw Monastery, Bago.

He learnt and studied Buddhist scriptures under the famous and learned Mahatheras such as Ven Bhaddanta Sasana of Rambye, Rakkhine State; Ven Bhaddanta Suriya (Pali Scholar, BA) of Minkyaung, Bago; Ven



Ven Ashin Indapala.

Bhaddanta Kumara and lecturer Ven Bhaddanta Nanda (Pali Scholar) of Taikthit Pijjotayone, Myaungmya, Tipitakadhara Dhamma Bandagarika the most Ven Bhaddanta Vicitasara bhivamsa of Mingun and Ven Bhaddanta Kumara (Siromani, BA) of Bhamo Monastery, Mandalay; Ven Ashin Indapala passed Sasanadhaja Phamaacariya and Sasanadhaja Siripavara Dhammacariya examinations held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

Ven. Ashin Indacariya, Tipitakadhara Title Recipient

He was born in Myutoo Village, Butalin Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division on 8th Waning of Nataba 1326 ME, 27th December 1964. His parents are U Bo Han and Daw Myo Kyi. He is 39 years old, and has completed 19 years of monkhood (Vasa).

He was novitiated at the age of 11, with sponsorship of the family of his uncle, U Tun Shwe and his aunt, Daw Tin May of Mogoke, Mandalay Division. He was ordained at the age of 19, with sponsorship of the family of U Kyaw Than, holder of medal for

Excellent Performance in Industrial Field (third class) and Daw Htay Tin of Mandalay and his preceptor was Agga Maha Pandita Ven Bhaddanta Nagavamsa of Pizzotayon Monastery in Monywa, Sagaing Division. He learnt and studied Buddhist scriptures under the famous and learned Mahatheras such as Ven Bhaddanta Vannasiri of Butalin; Agga Maha Pandita



Ven Ashin Indacariya.

Ven Bhaddanta Nagavamsa of Monywa; Ven Bhaddanta Naanisara of Sarlingyi Township; Ven Bhaddanta Visuta of Pizzotayon Monastery, Sagaing; Ven Bhaddanta Candasiri of Pathingyi Township; Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadaw the Most Ven Bhaddanta Vicitasara bhivamsa and Ven Bhaddanta Kumara bhivamsa of Bhamo Monastery, Mandalay. Ven Ashin Indacariya has already passed Pahtamange, Pahtamalath, Pahtamagyi Dhammacariya (lecturer-ship) examinations held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and other religious examinations by religious organizations in the Union of Myanmar.

In order to effectively carry out the noble task of Pariyatti he is now residing at Tipitaka Monastery, Sakawa Street, Dagon Township, Yangon.

Reedkhawdhar Border Trade Centre opened in Falam, Chin State

YANGON, 31 Jan — The Reedkhawdhar Border Trade Centre in Falam Township, Chin State, was launched at the top of the friendship bridge on the border of Myanmar and India yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Acting Prime Minister of Mizoram State and Minister of Home Affairs of India Mr Aichhinga, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, Chin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Tin Hla, local authorities, departmental personnel, officials of Indian Embassy to Myanmar, departmental heads from Mizoram State, distinguished guests and local people.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and the Indian Acting Prime Minister formally opened the trade centre.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone delivered a speech. In his speech, he said that the purpose of the centre is to promote bilateral border trade. The two nations are doing maritime trade as well as border trade. Tamu Border Trade Centre was opened on 12 April 1995 and Reedkhawdhar Border Trade Centre, the northern one, is the second. And the border trade centre from India's side is in Zokhawthar, Mizoram State. The emergence of the centre will contribute towards job opportunities and higher living standard of

the people on the border areas of the two nations. It will also lead to development of infrastructures. The Indian Government constructed Kalay-Tamu Road, and it will provide assistance in building Falam-Reed Road and Tiddim Road.

The Indian Acting Prime Minister also gave an address. Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented a gift to mark the opening ceremony to the Indian Acting Prime Minister.

The minister, the Indian Acting Prime Minister and guests walked through the friendship bridge and attended the opening of the border trade centre.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone formally unveiled the stone plaque to mark the opening of the centre. The two ministers made addresses on the occasion.

In the afternoon, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone hosted a luncheon to the Indian Acting Prime Minister and the guests at Reedkhawdhar Guest House.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone inspected vehicles and the chosen site for construction of a market. The minister also looked into construction of staff quarter in the unloading ground in Haimhoir village and attended to the needs. —MNA

MNA/Xinhua

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Harbin "city of ice" gives warm welcome to holidaymakers

HARBIN, 31 Jan—Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province and known as "city of ice", hosted 1.067 million tourists from home and abroad during the week-long Spring Festival holiday, which concluded on Wednesday.

The figure is 18.25 per cent higher than the same period last year, according to the city tourism bureau.

The city earned 839 million yuan (101.45 million US dollars) in tourism income during the week-long holiday from January 22 to 28, up 21.06 per cent over the corresponding period of last year.

In recent years, as incomes increase, some Chinese have chosen to travel around China and even overseas to celebrate the Spring Festival, a traditional festival of family gatherings.

Many holidaymakers to Harbin were from warmer southern and eastern China regions, as well as southeastern Asian countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines.

Skiing has become the most popular

sport as temperatures in northeast China drop to 20 degrees below zero Celsius. Snow and ice sculptures also pull in the crowds.

Most four-star and three-star hotels in the city had been fully occupied over the past week.

However, the swarms of tourists burdened local road, rail and air transport.

The Harbin-based Taiping International Airport handled 783 passenger flights from January 22 to 28, a year-on-year increase of 20.83 per cent. The airport handled 128 passenger flights on Wednesday alone.

Sources with the Harbin Railway Station said the daily number of passengers leaving Harbin had topped 100,000 since Tuesday.

Tourists in Harbin have been warned to book tickets early to avoid delays.

MNA/Xinhua

Wild Siberian tiger attacks former in Liaoning Province

SHENYANG, 31 Jan—A Siberian tiger that attacked a farmer in northeast China's Liaoning Province on 16 January is being probably the first Siberian tiger seen in the wild in the province in the past 300 years, the local wildlife protection station announced Thursday.

The 42-year-old farmer, surnamed Cao, in Xinbin Manchu Autonomous County of Fushun City, was attacked and badly mauled by a tiger as he was going down a hill with three other people.

His wife said a yellow bear jumped onto the path and bit his arm. The others shouted loudly as the bear dragged him for several metres aside and then fled. The attack lasted less than 20 minutes.

The bear nearly severed the muscles from his left arm, said doctors.

Villagers said they had

found unfamiliar large animal tracks in the hills before the attack.

The clear claw trace and yellow, white and black fur left at the scene indicated the beast was probably a Siberian tiger, said the man in charge of the station.

The State Forestry Bureau confirmed his words with a DNA test of its blood on 20 January, adding that the bear might have a slight injury.

However, the station also warned the public that the tiger might have escaped from a zoo and they were checking

the zoos in the vicinity.

Siberian tigers, the largest of all tigers, live mainly in Siberia of Russia and northeast China. It is believed there are some 300 Siberian tigers left in the wild, including less than 10 in China.

Most Siberian tigers in China live in the Lesser Hinggan Mountains in Heilongjiang Province and Changbai Mountain in Jilin Province. The World Wide Fund for Nature has included Siberian tigers in its list of the world's 10 most endangered animals.

MNA/Xinhua

Ivanov invites Indian, Chinese colleagues for informal meet

MOSCOW, 31 Jan—Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has invited his Indian and Chinese counterparts for an informal trilateral meeting in near future for the exchange of views on key global issues.

"We are now discussing the dates for such a meeting to take place in Moscow in the near future," Ivanov told a Press briefing here.

According to sources, the trilateral ministerial meet is most likely to be held after the parliamentary elections in India and the presidential polls in Russia.

It would be the third Foreign Minister-level meeting in the trilateral format since 2002. Earlier, they had met on the sidelines of UN General Assembly sessions in New York.—MNA/PTI

Record setting Britons reach South Pole

LONDON, 31 Jan—A pair of British adventurers set two records on Thursday as they arrived at the South Pole at the end of a 680-mile unassisted trek across the frozen continent.

Former French Foreign Legionnaire turned businessman Simon Murray became, at the age of 63, the oldest person by a decade to make the gruelling journey—taking the title from fellow Briton Ranulph Fiennes who made the trek in 1993. His companion Pen Hadow also set a record by being the first person to walk unassisted to both the North and the South Poles—twin missions he managed to complete in less than 12 months.

"They are both exhausted and have lost a lot of weight. But they are also both in very high spirits," a spokesman for the pair said in London.

In an email sent from the Amundsen-Scott South Pole

base at the end of their 58-day marathon dragging 250 kilos sleds, which steadily got lighter as they consumed their rations, the pair expressed delight and relief at their success.

"It's not exactly my idea of a winter holiday but there is a strong sense of achievement arriving at the South Pole," Murray wrote. "The visual deprivation has been extreme—with nothing at all to focus on for two months except miles of featureless white landscape," he added.—MNA/Reuters

Berlusconi says wife made him do facelift

ROME, 31 Jan—The old adage that behind every successful man stands a woman appears to be true even for Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who says his wife persuaded him to have cosmetic surgery around the eyes.

"She convinced me to do it. Veronica is behind the whole thing," he told reporters on Wednesday night at a meeting with fashion industry leaders.

He also suggested he had not seen the last of his plastic surgeons, saying "I'm not finished yet, as you can see."

The 67-year-old Berlusconi, Italy's richest man, was not seen in public for more than a month over the Christmas and New Year holidays before he returned to the scene a week ago to mark the 10th birthday of his Forza Italia Party.—MNA/Reuters



A model gets into a Panasonic luge-shaped vehicle operated by 'Oxyride' dry batteries, developed by Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial (Panasonic), at an unveiling of the next generation batteries in Tokyo, on 28 Jan 2004. The vehicle can go as far as 1.2 km with two Oxyride AA batteries at a maximum speed of 3.3 km per hour, Matsushita said. The new battery will go on sale in April at 360 yen (\$3.40).

INTERNET

American douses crying baby on Brazil-bound flight

SAO PAULO, 31 Jan—Poor Ronald Duffy. First he could not get into Brazil. Now he cannot get out.

The 35-year-old Pennsylvania native was barred entry in the South American country after he threw water on a baby whose crying annoyed him on the long flight from Miami, police said on Thursday. Duffy, who had been planning to spend Car-

nival with his Brazilian girlfriend in the city of Salvador, was arrested by federal police at Sao Paulo International Airport when the flight landed on Wednesday.

"I think I overreacted a little," Duffy told *Estado de Sao Paulo* newspaper.

Police said Duffy appeared to be drunk on the flight. When the baby began to cry, he complained he could not sleep. He then asked for a glass of water and doused the toddler with it as the shocked parents watched.—MNA/Reuters

India expected to join Russian space-based navigation system

MOSCOW, 31 Jan—India is likely to join the Russian space-based global navigation system "GLONASS" which is expected to be in place by 2007 as an alternative to Pentagon-controlled US Global Positioning System (GPS).

"Currently we are negotiating with the Indian partners and after 2-3 months we hope to sign a full-scale agreement," Chief of the

Russian Aerospace Agency "Rosaviakosmos" Yuri Koptev told a Press conference here on Thursday.

"With the participation

of India it would be realistic to place all the planned 18 satellites on orbit by 2007," Koptev said.

MNA/PTI



Science Team Member Dr Matt Golombek shows a photo taken by the Hubble Space Telescope as he discusses how scientists decided upon the landing area for the Mars 'Opportunity' rover, during a news conference at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, on 28 Jan, 2004. Opportunity, NASA's second of two roving Mars probes, has been transmitting images since landing safely inside a shallow impact crater at Meridiani Planum late on 24 January.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Safin stops Agassi in Australian Open

CANBERRA, 31 Jan—Russian Marat Safin ended Andre Agassi's five-year winning streak at the Australian Open, beating the American reigning champion 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (8-6), 5-7, 1-6 and 6-3 at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne on Thursday.

Safin, 24, who once ranked first in the world but dropped to 86th last year after an injury-plagued season, defeated 33-year-old four-time champion Agassi with his thunderous serve and speedy groundstrokes.

Safin, who beat Pete Sampras in the 2000 US Open final and a 2002 Australian Open finalist, scored 33 aces and 79 winners over fourth-seeded Agassi in 3 hours and 42 minutes.

Agassi, who had not lost a match at the Australian Open since his 1999 fourth round exit, also became the fifth American to fall victim at these championships to the Russian, who also eliminated world number one Andy Roddick in a five-set quarterfinal.

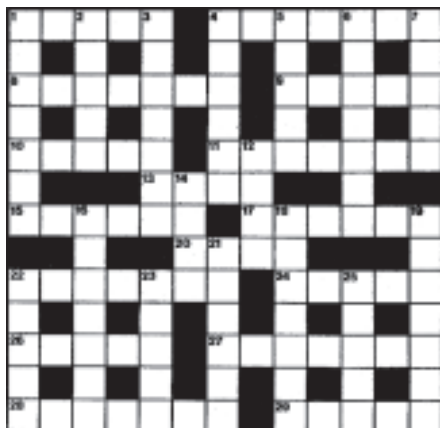
With the victory, Safin will play either Switzerland's Roger Federer or Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain in his third appearance in a Grand Slam final. Federer and Ferrero face each other on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua



FC Schalke's Ebbe Sand (R) from Denmark scores against Borussia Dortmund's goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz from France, while Dortmund's Christian Woerns (L) watches during a German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Dortmund on 30 Jan, 2004. Schalke won the match 0-1.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Electrical power units
- 4 Preparing a hot meat
- 8 Reprimand
- 9 Swiss town
- 10 Type of nut
- 11 Beseech
- 13 Fencing weapon
- 15 Does up (anag.)
- 17 Extremely cold
- 20 Overdue
- 22 School bag
- 24 Sag
- 26 Danger signal
- 27 Very old
- 28 Lockjaw
- 29 Utter slowly

DOWN

- 1 Venerate
- 4 Precious stone
- 3 Glowered
- 4 Refreshing drink
- 5 Planetary path
- 6 Examine
- 7 Visitor
- 12 Orderly
- 14 Long wooden post
- 16 Draw out
- 18 Down in price
- 19 Chief city
- 21 Every time
- 22 Barely sufficient
- 23 Mortal
- 25 Greek letter

Wales keeper Jones rejoins Wolves

LONDON, 31 Jan—Wales goalkeeper Paul Jones has completed a move from Southampton to Wolverhampton Wanderers for 250,000 pounds (455,400 US dollars), the Premier League clubs said on their web sites on Thursday.

Jones is rejoining his former club on a 2-1/2 year deal after a loan spell at Liverpool, whose manager Gerard Houllier said he would not stand in the Welshman's way now that Polish international Jerzy Dudek was fit again. "I'm delighted to be back. You don't spend five years of your career at a club and then forget about it," said Jones.

He will link up for a third time with Wolves manager Dave Jones, who signed the 36-year-old for both Stockport County and Southampton. With Chris Kirkland still injured, Jones had looked set to extend his loan deal at Anfield, but could not resist the challenge of helping Wolves, who are second from bottom of the table, in their relegation battle.

MNA/Reuters

Algeria pull off shock win at Nations Cup

Sousse, 31 Jan—Ten-man Algeria scored a late winner to pull off a shock 2-1 win over Egypt in Group C of the African Nations Cup on Thursday and join defending champions Cameroon at the top of the standings.

A mazy run from deep in his own half by substitute Hocine Achiou gave Algeria the three points, after they had spent much of the time defending wave after wave of Egyptian attacks.

Achiou tricked his way past several Egyptian defenders to score four minutes from time and send a capacity crowd, almost exclusively made up of Algerian supporters, into a frenzy.

Algeria took a surprise lead through Mamar Mamouni from a corner kick after 13 minutes but the midfielder later turned from hero to villain when he was sent off in the second half

after pushing Egypt's Ahmed Hassan in the face.

Egypt equalized in the 25th minute through Ahmed Belal, who took advantage of some poor defending which left Algeria repeatedly exposed on the left-hand side.

Just before the break, Egypt squandered a chance to take the lead when Belal got in the way of teammate Hassan, who missed an easy opportunity.

Egypt went looking for the winner in the second-half after Algeria were reduced to 10 men but passionate defending kept them at bay.

Algeria took off striker

Mansour Boutabout to strengthen their defence, in a bid to hold on for the draw, before they profited from a brilliant individual effort from Achiou.

The win sparked off massive scenes of celebration at the 22,000-capacity stadium.

Algeria will now fancy their chances of progressing to the quarter-finals when they meet Zimbabwe in Sousse next week.

Zimbabwe, after two successive defeats, have already been eliminated. Egypt will have to beat Cameroon to stand any chance of making the last eight.

MNA/Reuters

Solano signs for Aston Villa

LONDON, 31 Jan—Aston Villa have signed midfielder Nolberto Solano from Premier League rivals Newcastle United for an undisclosed fee, Villa said on their web site on Thursday.

The 29-year-old Peru international put pen to paper after passing a medical and agreeing personal terms.

Newcastle manager Bobby Robson told Sky Sports TV he was sorry to see Solano leave.

"Nobby has been a fantastic player here," he said. "They have bought a very good player at a very good price."

"We are sorry to lose Nobby but we do have other players who can play in his position. The loss of Nobby won't affect the side."

Solano joined Newcastle from Boca Juniors in 1998 for 2.5 million pounds (4.57 million US dollars) and has played more than 200 games for the St. James' Park club, scoring 38 goals.

MNA/Reuters

China beats Macedonia 1-0 in soccer friendly

SUZHOU (China), 31 Jan—China scored a 1-0 victory over Macedonia in a soccer friendly here Thursday.

Zheng Zhi scored his header in a goal-mouth melee in the 88th minute, helping the hosts win the otherwise lukewarm match as China only unleashed its first shot on the goal in the 29th minute.

However, Macedonia lost its golden chance in the 20th minute with a hit against the pole.

MNA/Xinhua

Zaragoza beat Barcelona to reach Cup semifinals

MADRID, 31 Jan—Real Zaragoza edged past Barcelona and into the semifinals of the King's Cup on Thursday, drawing the second leg 1-1 to clinch a 2-1 aggregate victory.

Barcelona, trailing 1-0 after a dismal performance in the first leg at the Nou Camp, levelled the overall score when Luis Garcia cracked in a spectacular volley in the 12th minute.

The Catalans might easily have increased their lead but they were left to rue a series of missed chances when Yordi hooked in a loose ball from a corner five minutes from time.

Zaragoza will join Real Madrid, Sevilla and Second Division Alaves in the draw for the semifinals on Friday.

Defeat for Barcelona will pile pressure on coach Frank Rijkaard, who has been under fire from local media for the team's indifferent performances this season.

Barcelona were given just the start they wanted with Garcia's stunning goal.

Ronaldinho hit a low free kick that rebounded off the wall and straight to Garcia a few metres outside the box to blast back past Cesar Lainez with a first-time strike.

Ronaldinho and Xavi, in complete charge in midfield, created several chances with their astute passing but Lainez was sharp to block at the feet of Patrick Kluivert after 20 minutes and then palm away a goalbound Edgar Davids shot.

Rijkaard surprisingly opted to take off Kluivert, Davids and Ronaldinho in the second half and Zaragoza took advantage to clinch victory when Gabriel Milito's header fell to Yordi to fire home.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal football club manager Arsene Wenger (L) and new signing Spain's Jose Antonio Reyes pose for photographs at the club's training ground in London on 30 Jan, 2004. Twenty-year-old winger Reyes signed from Sevilla for a four and half year deal worth up to 17.5 million pounds sterling.—INTERNET

Development of the State...

(from page 16)

country. He said roads and bridges are the strength of the nation. The government has undertaken road and bridge construction projects and is building roads linking divisions, states, townships and rural regions for development of trading, production and socio-economic life.

The Thagara-Koebin Yoma Road was formerly a timber extraction path and it was upgraded to 30 feet wide earth road by the Ministry of Forestry under the guidance of Head of State. It is one of the five roads crossing Bago Yoma, namely, Oktwin-Paukhaung Road, Myogyang-Seinkantlant Road, Koebin-Thagara Road, Letpadan-Zaungtu-Phayagyi Road and Taikkyi-Bago Road.

It is the third road after construction of Oktwin-Paukhaung Road and Myogyang-Seinkantlant Road. The 10-mile and one furlong of the road was paved with gravel and the rest are earth roads. The road will be upgraded to tar road year by year, he said.

He said the opening of the road saves time and villages along the road will develop. Teak and other hard wood can be extracted by the use of the road. He said Pokya camp was established as a camp based on eco-tourism.

The government is implementing the three major development projects for harmonious development of the Union— border areas and national races development project, 24-development special zone project and project on five rural development tasks. Trading and tourism and social and economic conditions of the people in the regions will improve in the future, he added. In conclusion, he called for maintenance of the road in the interest of the region and the State.

A local resident from Thagara, Yedashe Township, expressed words of



Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party stroll along the newly opened Thagara-Koebin Yoma road. — MNA

thanks to the State for construction of the road.

Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the road.

Together with local people, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party posed for a documentary photo in front of the archway. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party and the guests viewed the newly-opened facility and had a cordial conversation with local residents.

Next, they went to Kyaukmahsin forest reserve, where they were welcomed by Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min and officials. They attended the opening of Thagara-Koebin Yoma Road (Koebin side) held near Koebin village, Sinbaungwe Township.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint delivered a speech. In his speech, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that Thagara-Koebin road links Thagara village in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, and Koebin village in Sinbaungwe Township, Magway Division, passing through Bago Yoma mountain range. The eastern part of the facility was opened by Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than in the morning, and he opened the Koebin side on the occasion.

With the emergence of new roads linking east and

west of Bago Yoma, there will be better transport. It is known to all that in the past, in travelling between east and west of Bago Division or between Bago Division East and Magway Division, one had to make a detour round the mountain range through Yangon-Htaukkyant Road or Meiktila-Thazi Road. As a result, it cost more expenses and took more time with a slow commodity flow.

A salient point of

Thagara-Koebin Road is that it passes through the boundary point of Bago, Magway and Mandalay divisions. Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdingyi Road and Pyawbwe-Ywamon-Natmauk-Magway Road linking eastern and western parts through Magway and Mandalay divisions have been upgraded to tarred ones. And Natmauk-Ywamon-Zayatkon-Kyaukpadaung Road and Natmauk-Ywamon-Zayatkon-Pyinzi



Map showing the Yoma roads. — MNA

(Nwatoigi) Road have been constructed and Ywamon-Kyaukpadaung Road has been upgraded, which are linking southern and northern parts.

The Ministry of Forestry had to face hardships in constructing the road as well as selecting the axis that runs through dense Bago Yoma forest. So, the ministry could carry out construction tasks only in open season. The service personnel of the ministry built the facility overcoming hardships and difficulties in the interest of the people. The 96-mile earth



Map showing the newly opened Thagara-Koebin Yoma road. — MNA

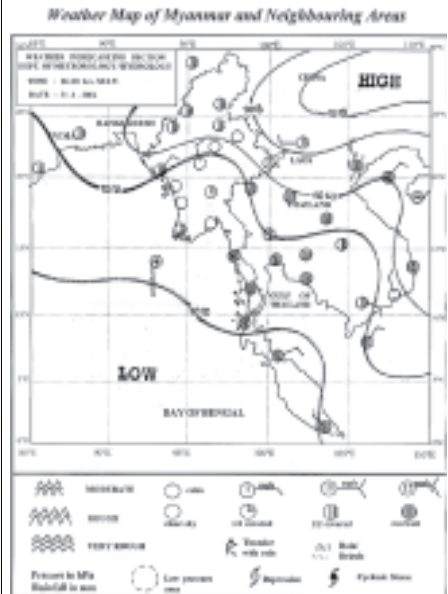
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မိုက်ကြီးသိန်းဟန် @ Mr Jimmy Lobo

အကြိမ်စား၊ အသက်(၉၀)

ရန်ကုန်မြို့နေ (Mr.JF Lobo-ဒေါ်တင်တင်)တို့၏သား၊ ဒေါ်Mavis ၏အစ်ကို (ဒေါ်Amy)၏ခင်ပွန်း၊ Stanley Thein Aung (CE) Trimax-ဒေါ်Eleanoreခင်အေး၊ ဒေါ်ရီရီအုန်း (Betty) - ဦးRobin Taw၊ ဒေါ်ခင်ဆွေတင်(Joan) ဒေါ်မေသန်းစိန် (Patsy)- ဦးဌေးလင်း (2/O-Gewin)ဒေါ်သောင်းသောင်းစိုး (Claire)တို့၏ဖခင်၊ မောင်အောင်ထွန်းလင်း (2nd mate FG) မောင်သန်းစိုး၊ Steven William, Debby, Jonathan, Michelle, Maximillian တို့၏အဘိုးသည် ၃၀-၁-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့ နံနက် (၃)နာရီ(၂၀)မိနစ်တွင် ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ စမ်းချောင်းမြို့နယ်၊ မြေနီကုန်း (မြောက်)ရပ်ကွက်၊ မပိလမ်း၊ အမှတ် ၂၁-၂ တိ နေအိမ်တွင် ခရစ်တော်ဘုရားသို့ အိပ်ပျော်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ၁-၂-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နံနက် (၁၁)နာရီတွင် ထိန်ပင်သုသာန်၌ ဝတ်ပြုကိုးကွယ်ပြီး သင်္ဂြိုဟ်ပါမည်။ (နေအိမ်မှ ကားများ နံနက်၉နာရီတွင်ထွက်ပါမည်)။

ကျန်ရစ်သူများ



WEATHER

Saturday, 31 January 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C above normal in Mon State, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Magway Divisions about normal in the remaining areas. Maximum temperature on 30-1-2004 was 35.2°C. Minimum temperature on 31-1-2004 was 14.2°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 31-1-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 30-1-2004 was 8.8 hours approx. Rainfall on 31-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon.

road will have to be upgraded to gravel one then to tarred one soon.

The development of the State and the transport sector goes together. Thus, with better transport, the standards of social, economic, health and education standards of local people will rise, and it would lead to narrowing the development gap between one region and another and to equitable development of all parts of the nation and also to enhancing national solidarity.

Thanks to the emergence of the road, locally-produced goods and teak and hard wood from Bago Yoma could be transported easily through the facility, thereby raising the living standard of

local people.

In conclusion, he expressed his thanks to those who contributed towards the facility, and he called on them to strive for upgrading the road. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung handed over the documents related to the road to Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the road (Koebin side). Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party had a documentary photo taken together with local residents. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted local people. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner to mark Myanmar Dental Conference and World Dental Federation-FDI and Myanmar Dental Association meeting

YANGON, 31 Jan—In commemoration of the 24th Myanmar Dental Conference and the 5th joint meeting of World Dental Federation-FDI and Myanmar Dental Association, a dinner was hosted at the Traders' Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here at 7.20 pm today, attended by Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of NHC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the NHC members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, representatives of FDI, Chairman of Myanmar Dental Association Professor U Ba Myint, executives and members, delegates to the conference, resident representatives of UN agencies and guests.

On arrival at the dinner at 7.20 pm, the Prime Minister was welcomed by Chairman of Myanmar Dental Association Professor U Ba Myint and members, representatives of FDI and dental surgeons. First, MDA Chairman Professor U Ba Myint presented prizes to Dr Ko Ko Maw and Dr Soe Naing who won the best resource person awards at the paper reading sessions of the 24th Myanmar Dental Conference and the 5th joint meeting of World Dental Federation-FDI and Myanmar Dental Association. Next, dinner was hosted to those present.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends the dinner hosted to mark the 24th Myanmar Dental Conference and the fifth joint meeting of World Dental Federation.

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects communication tasks, Shwepyitha Industrial Zone

YANGON, 31 Jan—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected the functions of overseas call station at 8th-mile in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

On arrival at the station at noon, the Secretary-1 was welcomed by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Min-

ister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department.

At the briefing hall, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported to the Secretary-1 on services of auto telephones, mobile telephones, radio telephones and rural telephones, installation of international telephone link, communication work being under-

taken in cooperation with foreign nations, and measures taken for development of state and division-wise communication sector.

Next, Deputy General Manager U Tint Lwin reported on arrangements being made for global telematics services.

After that, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win looked into communication equipment to be used for global telematics services.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected Myanmar packet network room, Internet room and transit exchange room at the station.

Next, the Secretary-1 heard a report presented by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on information service-104 for sending news to far-flung regions through telephone communication system and receiving news.

(See page 2)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the automobile factory of the Fair Sun Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone 3. — MNA

Development of State and transport sector goes together Thagara-Koebin Yoma Road opened in Yedashe Township

YANGON, 31 Jan—The 96-mile 3-furlong long Thagara-Koebin Yoma Road linking Thagara Village in Yedashe Township, Bago Division (East) and Koebin Village in Hsinpaungwe Township built by the Ministry of Forestry was held at Thagara Village in Yedashe Township yesterday, attended by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, teachers, students, members of Kayin dance troupe, guests and local people totalling over 3,000.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address. He said the State Peace and Development Council is making endeavours for development of all sectors such as economic, education, health and transport sectors with greater momentum for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation, a national goal. The government has laid down development projects and is implementing them day and night for development of the Union made up of 14 states and divisions in order to narrow the gap between one region after another, he said. Transport is an important basic requirement for development of a region. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, new motor and rail roads were constructed after laying down strategies for linking eastern, western, northern and southern parts of the country. There were 13,635 miles of motor roads in 1988-89 and now there are 18,111 miles of motor roads. There are many roads under construction, he added. He said bridges crossing rivers were built in construction of the roads. Based on guidance of the Head of State, Public Works successfully built 166 bridges which are 180 feet and above, Myanmar Railways six, Defence Services engineering unit five totalling 177 in the whole

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