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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets an archer. — NLM

Through this very important International Sports Events, not only the athletic abilities of participants is developed in the spirit of friendly competition but even more important, a sense of fellowship and goodwill is also created in the true Olympic Spirit.

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

Even though existence of Myanmar Archery Federation is still quite young, development programme of Archery has been implemented tremendously First South East Asian Archery Championships opened

YANGON, 10 Jan— A ceremony to open the First South East Asian Archery Championships hosted in Myanmar was held at the Kyaikkasan Archery Ground here this morning, and it was attended by Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, diplomats of foreign missions, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of South East Asian Archery

Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta and officials, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe and officials, the presidents of the Myanmar Sports Federations and officials, managers of archery teams of South East Asian nations, coaches, archers, guests, students and enthusiasts.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made a speech. He said: As you may aware that the art of archery is well known to Myanmar since ancient times, but it is only in the last couple of years that Myanmar Archers have taken part in the International Archery Competitions.

Even though the existence of Myanmar Archery Federation is still quite young, the development programme of Archery has been implemented tremendously under the leadership and guidance of Myanmar National Olympic Council, Myanmar Olympic Committee and Ministry of Sport, by taking part in the Continental and Re-

gional Games and in the International and World Archery Championships, and by hosting the continental and regional cham-

pionships like this occasion and invitational championships in our country.

(See page 8)

INSIDE

People of Ayeyawady Division are now gearing themselves up for regional development tasks in the footsteps of the government which is building infrastructures in agriculture, livestock breeding and transport in the region just as it does in other states and divisions.

(Page 7)

MOE HTET MYINT (Delta Region)



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at the opening of SEA Archery Championships. — NLM

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 11 January, 2005

Strive for more consolidation of national unity

Our three main national causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — are the objectives that cover the past, the present and the future and the government of the Union of Myanmar has adopted them as its national policy. As the Union of Myanmar is home to more than 100 national races, it is necessary for all of them to safeguard “our three main national causes” as their lives so that they can live together in peace and friendship in the Union as long as the world exists.

On the fourth day of the Union Solidarity and Development Association General Assembly (2004), Patron of USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that a united national force that was patriotic and full of Union Spirit and upheld our three main national causes was necessary in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

New generation youths who can assess the objective conditions of the nation are the highly-qualified national forces and so they are required to lend themselves to the tasks for perpetuation of the Union and emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The spirit to safeguard the interests of and to enhance the dignity of the nation and the people is the noble spirit that each and every citizen should cultivate.

All the national races full of national spirit should actively take part in building a democratic nation and a better Myanmar society.

Now is the time when the entire nation is unitedly working for a developed and discipline-flourishing democracy through the implementation of the seven-point Road Map for the future of the nation. To reach our national goal calls for successful observance of the National Convention and realization of the seven-point Road Map. And the successful observance of the National Convention and the realization of the seven-point Road Map call for active and enthusiastic participation of the entire national people.

Therefore, all the national races are to always uphold “Our Three Main National Causes” and are to work in concert with the government for stronger consolidation of the Union and the national unity and for successful implementation of the road map for the future of the State.



Myanmar ICT Week, 2005

Organized by

Myanmar ICT Development Corporation

21-27 January 2005

MICT Park

Yangon, Myanmar.

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



Minister U Aung Thuang attends the 100th birthday party of Granma Daw Ein Pyae. — MNA

Centenary birthday ceremony of Phwa Ein Pyae held

YANGON, 10 Jan — The centenary birthday ceremony of Daw Ein Pyae (Phwa Ein Pyae) took place at Dhetkhinayon Pariyatti Sarthintaik on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this morning.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang and wife, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and wife, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and wife, departmental heads and guests graced

the ceremony.

On the occasion, Lanmadaw Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Thayattaw Kyaungtaik Hman Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pannajota administered the Five Precepts to Phwa Ein Pyae, the ministers and the congregation.

Later, Phwa Ein Pyae, the ministers and their wives donated alms and offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. —MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win meets Director of CARE Foundation of the Republic of India Professor AK Tiwari at the Ministry on 10, January, 2005.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Education inspects schools in Kanyutkwin

YANGON, 10 Jan—Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and officials inspected classrooms, language lab of Ywale Basic Education Middle School and construction of new building in Kanyutkwin, Phyu Township, Bago Division yesterday.

The deputy minister met education staff at the Basic Education High School in Kanyutkwin and presented 100 dozens of exercise books for students

to the Township Education Officer.

The deputy minister inspected laboratory and classrooms of the BEHS.

In meeting with Township Education Officer and school heads in Nyaunglebin Township, the deputy minister discussed academic matters, observance of discipline and efforts for high pass rate of matriculation examination.

MNA

Respect-paying ceremony for ex-referees of Tatmadaw Football team held

YANGON, 10 Jan — The eighth respect-paying ceremony for ex-referees of the Tatmadaw Football team took place at the sports ground of Yangon Command in Mingaladon this morning.

Present on the occasion were Principal of Defence Services Martial Arts and Physical Education Institute Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee Col Htain Lin, Secretary Major Kyi Hlaing and members, Joint-Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation Wo Ba Yi (Retd) and guests.

Those present paid homage and presented gifts to the ex-referees of the Tatmadaw Football team. Next, a souvenir was presented to Sergeant Maung Maung Naing, referee of the Tatmadaw Football

team, who had retired from the Tatmadaw, and the best referee award for 2004 soccer season to Sergeant Win Htut.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

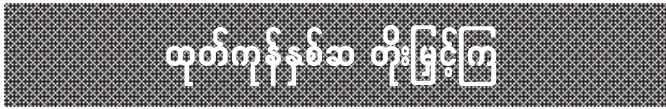
Malaysia keen on all Indian infrastructure projects

NEW DELHI, 10 Jan—Malaysia, which is implementing highway projects worth 1.8 billion US dollars in India, is now interested in making investments in all other areas of infrastructure such as water and power, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted a top minister from the Southeast Asian country as saying Saturday.

Addressing a session on infrastructure at the three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Indian Diaspora Day) in Mumbai in Maharashtra State in west India, Malaysian Works Minister Samy Vellu said even within India's road projects, his country was now looking at areas like operations and maintenance. "Malaysia hopes to remain an important strategic partner to the Republic of India not only in roads

and highways but also in other areas of infrastructure development including power supply, water, ports and airports," he said. Vellu, who has his roots in southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu and is leading a 168-member high-level delegation to the three-day event, also recalled Malaysia's participation in India's development in the past and said it had been mutually beneficial.

In highways, he said, companies from his country had already completed projects worth 300 million US dollars and laid emphasis on proper maintenance and management for ensuring smooth traffic and road safety. He said while the country's various highways accounted for only two per cent in terms of total road length, they were carrying close to 40 per cent of the net traffic.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Asia's largest long-distance bus station to debut in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 10 Jan—Asia's largest long-distance bus station will open in Shanghai on 25 January, said the station's operator.

Located near the city's new railway station, the long-distance bus station will be a landmark building in the city thanks to its top class design, said Guo Wei, general manager of Shanghai Zhixin Transport Company, the operator of the station.

Guo said the new bus station, which cost 750 million yuan (90.6 mil-

lion US dollars), have a three-floor parking lot with an area of 36,000 square metres and a 5,000-square-metre lounge able to seat 3,000 passengers.

The station is equipped with intelligent networks for ticket selling, logistics and bus arranging and will have the capacity to transport 20,000 passengers with

600-1,200 coaches-times each day, said Guo.

With the extension of freeways in China, the number of passengers choosing long-distance bus in travel is increasing at an annual speed of 10 per cent. About 30 per cent of Shanghai's travellers choose to travel by bus, second only to rail transport.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese women walk past a sculpture of a rooster on sale at a shop in Beijing, China, on 9 Jan, 2005. 2005 is the year of the rooster according to the Chinese calendar.—INTERNET

US Army sgt convicted of assault in Iraq prisoned for 6 months

FORT HOOD, 10 Jan — A US Army sergeant — cleared of the drowning death of one of two Iraqis thrown off a bridge but convicted of assault — was sentenced to six months in a military prison on Saturday.

A military court cleared Sergeant First Class Tracy Perkins, 33, on Friday night of a charge of involuntary manslaughter for the supposed drowning death of one of the two Iraqis.

That panel found Perkins guilty on charges of assault and obstruction of justice but cleared him on a charge of making false statements.

The same military court that passed judgment on Perkins also sentenced him to a one-grade reduction in rank to staff sergeant. Perkins faced a possible punishment of up to 11-1/2 years in prison and a dishonourable discharge from the Army.

In a voice choked with emotion, Perkins, a 14-year veteran, apologized to Army officers and his fellow enlisted personnel for the incident that provided fodder for those opposed to US military operations in Iraq.

"I recognize what we did was wrong, and I will accept the punishment given," Perkins told the panel.

Perkins was accused of killing Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, by having soldiers force him and Hassoun's cousin off a ledge about 10 feet above the Tigris River in Samarra, Iraq in January 2004.

Marwan Fadel, who was forced off the bridge along with his cousin, Hassoun, testified on Wednesday that the soldiers tossed the two at gunpoint into the water after they begged for mercy and then laughed as Hassoun drowned. — *MNA/Reuters*

Vietnam aims to produce 39 m tonnes of food this year

HANOI, 10 Jan—Vietnam aims to produce 39 million tonnes of food and register an agro-forestry produce export value of

more than US\$4.5 billion in 2005. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development announced the target at a conference in Hanoi on Thursday to review their 2004 work.

The sector mentioned eight measures which were needed to reach the goal. They include restructuring production to raise product quality and competitiveness, mobilizing

all investment resources for the development of the agricultural and rural economy, actively expanding outlets for farm produce and preparing conditions for international integration. In 2004, the agricultural sector produced 35.9 million tonnes of rice, 1.3 million tonnes more than 2003; the country exported more than 4 million tonnes, ranking

second in the world. Other products have registered high values on the world market. Vietnam earned US\$594 million from coffee exports, an increase of 18 per cent; US\$425 million from cashew nuts, up 49 per cent; US\$150 million from pepper, up 43 per cent; and US\$579 million from rubber, up 53 per cent from 2003.—*Internet*

Hunan Province sees growing foreign trade

CHANGSHA, 10 Jan—Central China's Hunan Province has achieved a record foreign trade of 5.2 billion US dollars in 2004, a 40-per-cent increase over 2003, said the source with Customs office of its capital Changsha here.

It is the first time that Hunan's foreign trade has surpassed five billion US dollars. Hunan's export turnover was 2.9 billion US dollars last year, bringing a 700-million-US-dollar favourable balance to the province. The rapidly growing processing business is one of the major contributors to the province's foreign trade. The European Union is the province's biggest trade partner, with trade worth 850 million US dollars last year. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Party leader assassinated in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Jan—The manager of the Iraqi National Accord party, headed by interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, was assassinated Sunday near his home in Baghdad.

Sources close to the party said masked gunmen tailed the car of General Jassem al-Obaidi, who was accompanied by his daughter, and riddled him with bullets.

They said his daughter, who was on her way to school, was seriously injured and was reported in critical condition in a Baghdad hospital.

The assassination of al-Obaidi comes three weeks is part of a series of assassinations in Iraq that has killed hundreds of political, security and military officials. *Internet*

Armed men Saturday abducted Ali Ghaleb, the Mayor of the northern Salaheddine Province, and Qahtan Hammadi, an aide to the Province's governor, in southern Baghdad.

Iraqi security sources said the authorities were still searching for their whereabouts.

Meanwhile, the US military in Iraq said an American soldier was killed when an explosive device blew up during a patrol in a Baghdad street. No further details were provided.

Two Iraqi police were injured by stray bullets from a US military patrol Saturday night after a roadside bomb exploded in southern Baghdad.



A US soldier guides an Iraqi hooded detainee in the western city of Fallujah, in this photograph released on 8 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

South Korean firm to launch scholarship fund in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 10 Jan— A South Korean company has said that it will launch a scholarship fund for the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) first-degree graduates to study doctoral programmes in South Korea.

Speaking here on Friday at a handover ceremony of 20 state-of-art computers, which are part of 505 computers to be donated to the UZ for the next five years, the director of Blue Track Investments, Kevin Ahn said their company was committed to the development of Zimbabwe's education sector.

He said a committee that will manage the scholarship fund and determine the criteria for the scholarship awards would be set up.

Ahn revealed that two UZ postgraduate students would further their studies to doctoral level in South Korea this year.

Speaking on the same occasion, UZ Vice-Chancellor Professor Levi Nyagura said the donation had come at an opportune time when the university, through its five-year master plan launched last year, was seeking to promote information and communication technology studies among all its students.

MNA/Xinhua

Six killed in plane crash in Uganda

KAMPALA, 10 Jan— Six people were killed on Saturday when an Antonov transport plane registered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo crashed after taking off in Uganda's Entebbe Airport, some 40 kilometres south of Kampala, Radio Uganda reported.

Minister of Works, Housing and Communications John Nasasira said the Antonov plane with six people on board crashed into a village, some 10 kilometres northwest of the airport, where it had taken off at 12.48 pm (0948 GMT).

"It crashed about 12 minutes after taking off and investigations into the possible cause of the accident have been instituted. All six people are feared dead," the minister added. — MNA/Xinhua

1,353 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 9 Jan—As of Sunday, 9 Jan, 2005, at least 1,353 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,056 died as a result of hostile action, the Defence Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 11 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one

death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,214 US military members have died, according to AP's count.

That includes at least 947 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Internet



US Army soldiers with the 1-278th Regimental Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division, search and clear a bridge during a combat patrol north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 8 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်: အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



South Korean businessmen walk past a branch office of the Korea First Bank in Seoul on 10 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Fears as Iraq terror threat spreads to Europe

BAGHDAD, 10 Jan—Islamic extremists accused of plotting to kill Iraq's Prime Minister in Germany are smuggling battle-hardened fighters from Iraq to Europe, raising a potential new terrorist threat on the continent, according to German officials.

More than 20 alleged supporters of Ansar al-Islam have been arrested in Europe in the past year as authorities move against the group that has links with al-Qaida and Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has been leading bloody attacks against US forces and their Iraqi allies in Iraq.

About 100 Ansar al-Islam supporters are in Germany alone, officials say. Mullah Krekar, the group's spiritual head, has lived for years as a refugee in Norway, and in-

vestigators believe that the group has also recruited volunteers in Italy and Britain. Estimates of its total membership range between about 500 and 1,000.

Ansar al-Islam is suspected of spurring dozens of fired-up young Muslims to Iraq to join the guerillas, but the latest raids in Germany – the most spectacular yet against the group – have heightened concerns that the organisation also could pose a menace outside Iraq, too.

Acting on intelligence suggesting the group planned to attack Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi in Berlin, police on 3 December arrested three Iraqis believed to be Ansar al-Islam members.

A top security official in Hamburg, Heino Vahldieck, said German authorities were right to strike quickly despite what appears to be the lack of hard evidence. Prosecutors are preparing charges of belonging to a terrorist group against the three men.—Internet

Philippines asks Japan to phase in immigration act over 5 years

MANILA, 9 Jan— Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Friday that he had asked Tokyo to effect a five-year "adjustment period" for new anti-trafficking legislation, which threatens to keep tens of thousands of Filipino workers from going to Japan.

Romulo said he met Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura in Jakarta Thursday on the sidelines of an international conference on the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.

However, Romulo added he failed to win a definite commitment from his Japanese counterpart.

Romulo said he had a "very warm and friendly discussion" with Machimura on "how best to approach this issue in a way that would address the concerns of both our countries."

Romulo said he believes "a transition period of at least five years will be necessary for the Philippines to make adjustments to the

changes brought about by the amendments" to Japan's immigration law.

"I believe that we both understood our respective position and situation," Romulo said.

"I emphasized that one way to resolve this issue is for Japan to consider a reasonable adjustment period before implementing its new immigration act," said Romulo.

"Although we have slight difference of opinion in terms of specifics, Japan and the Philippines share the common vision of making sure that foreign workers to Japan are properly protected and not victimized by human traffickers," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier asks Shenzhen to accelerate development

SHENZHEN, 10 Jan — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has asked southern city of Shenzhen, the country's first special economic zone, to accelerate development and make an exemplary role in promoting all-round social and economic progress in China.

Wen made the remarks on Friday during an inspection tour in Shenzhen after attending a special international meeting in Indonesia for helping the tsunami-hit Asian countries.

Wen said the central government "always attaches great importance to, actively support and have great hopes for the reform and development of Shenzhen".

"Since it became a special economic zone, Shenzhen has fully lived up to its role as a 'window' and 'test field' for China's reform and opening-up," Wen said. "It has achieved world-stun-

ning achievements in economic and social progress and urban construction."

He said the city faces new tasks and requirements as China steps up efforts to promote all-round economic and social progress and modernization.

Wen urged the city to be a model in pursuing a scientific viewpoint of development, promoting all-round, coordinated and sustainable development, and improving the quality of economic growth.

In this process, the Premier said, the city should pay more atten-

tion to optimizing and updating its industrial structure and promoting the development of high-tech and service sectors.

In addition, it should give more attention to environmental protection, economic use of resources, coordinated economic and social development and building a harmonious society, Wen said.

Wen asked the city to boost cooperation with neighbouring Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in economic, scientific and technological and cultural fields.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven Ukrainian soldiers, one Kazakh die in Iraq

SUWAIRA, 10 Jan — Seven Ukrainian soldiers and one Kazakh serving with the US-led coalition in Iraq were killed in an explosion Sunday while loading bombs that could be used by warplanes, officials said.

Lt Col Artur Domanski, a Polish military spokesman in Iraq, said the explosion occurred at about noon at an ammunition dump about 6 miles south of Suwaira. Eleven soldiers were wounded — seven Ukrainians and four Kazakhs, he said. An investigation is underway to determine what sparked the blast, Domanski said.

"We don't know the reason of the explosion, but as a result seven Ukrainian soldiers and a Kazakh were killed and 11 soldiers were wounded," he said. Ukraine's Defence Ministry said soldiers were loading aviation bombs when one of the devices exploded. A spokesman said he had no further details. Ukraine serves in a Polish-led contingent in south central Iraq and is the fourth-largest contributor of troops to the US-led war effort with 1,650 soldiers. Kazakhstan has sent a 27-strong contingent of military engineers to Iraq and is the only Central Asian nation to contribute troops to forces there.—Internet

Russian plane diverts to Iceland

MOSCOW, 10 Jan — A Russian plane diverted to Iceland on Saturday after a drunken man tried to start a fight with the crew and his fellow passengers, an Aeroflot spokeswoman said.

Police removed the man from the Toronto-Moscow flight, Irina Danenberg told Russia's Ekho Moskvyy radio.

"A Canadian of Russian extraction in a state of alcoholic intoxication provoked a fight, swore wildly and shouted

at the crew and passengers.

As a result the captain decided to make a forced landing in Iceland," she said. Ekho Moskvyy quoted a passenger as saying the man punched the plane's captain.

MNA/Reuters



Honda Motor's biped humanoid robot, 'ASIMO' (R), demonstrates pounding mock rice cakes with a mallet made from styrofoam while three-year-old Japanese Koh Katagiri (L) and Honda employee Ayano Sato look on at the company's New Year event in Tokyo on 5 Jan, 2004. Rice cakes are eaten in Japan during special occasions such as New Year's day and other festivals.

INTERNET



A vendor tries to entice customers in front of his stall selling fake winter jackets along Beijing's famed Silk Alley, popular with tourists and locals alike for its cheap counterfeit goods on 9 Jan, 2005.

INTERNET

Withdrawing Ukraine troops from Iraq priority, Yushchenko says

KIEV, 10 Jan — The winner of Ukraine's presidential vote Viktor Yushchenko said that withdrawing the nation's troops from Iraq will be a priority for him once he takes office, after an accidental blast killed seven Ukrainian soldiers there.

"Viktor Yushchenko sends deep condolences to the families of Ukrainian peacekeepers who died in Iraq Sunday," said a statement released by his press office late Sunday.

"Insofar as withdrawing Ukraine's peacekeeping contingent from Iraq, it remains one of Yushchenko's priorities once he assumes office," the statement said.

The seven Ukrainian troops, along with one Kazakh soldier, died after a bomb they were about to defuse went

off accidentally in Iraq's central Wasit region, where Ukrainian and Kazakh troops serve under Polish control, Kiev's defense ministry said.

Another seven Ukrainian and four Kazakh troops were injured as a result of the accident, which occurred at 12.05 pm after a team of Kazakh sappers and their Ukrainian backup had brought back for defusion some 35 aerial bombs that Iraqi police had found stashed near the central military base of As Suwayrah.

Internet

11 killed as winds batter N Europe at weekend

STOCKHOLM, 10 Jan — Eleven people were killed and at least four were missing after gale-force winds battered northern Europe at the weekend, causing flooding and transport chaos and leaving hundreds of thousands without electricity.

Worst-hit was southern Scandinavia. In Sweden, IT news agency said seven people died, including three motorists whose cars were hit by falling trees, as winds of up to 67 miles per hour (mph) hit the south of the country.

The winds left 400,000 Swedes without power and forced the closure of two nuclear power stations. Sturup Airport, near Malmo, was briefly closed and ferry traffic stopped, IT said.

Across the Baltic Sea, Latvia's state power company, Latvenergo, said 60 per cent of the country's population of 2.4 million was without electricity on Sunday.

"The Prime Minister has announced that this is an electricity crisis," Arno Pjaktins, spokesman for Prime Minister Aigars Kalvitis, told Reuters.

The military had evacuated people from districts in the capital, Riga, because of flooding, he said.

Danish news agency Ritzau said more than 15,000 households were without power, and the Meteorological Institute issued a severe storm warning for the country as high winds caused wide-

spread disruption to trains and ferry transport.

Danish police said on Saturday two men were killed when they were struck by a roof torn off a cottage on the Island of Funen, while two others were killed by falling trees.

A blackout hit 20,000 households in southern Norway on Saturday night, but power had been restored to most homes by Sunday morning, Norwegian rescue services said.

Power was out at one quarter of Estonia's electricity companies, and mobile and fixed line telephones were also hit, the *Baltic News Service* said. The Tallinn weather station reported waves of up to 12 metres high in the Gulf of Finland.

In Britain, police searched for two men swept away by overflowing rivers in the north of England, after heavy rain and 90 mph gales ripped through many parts of the country.

Police were also investigating three deaths that may have been caused by the extreme weather.

MNA/Reuters

Reva powered for Japan run

NEW DELHI, 9 Jan—The Reva, India's low-cost electric car, is all set to enter the Japanese market.

The Reva, made by Bangalore's Maini industrial group, will be exported to Japan as an eco-friendly product.

The Japanese government has agreed to provide a subsidy of \$2,600 for each car. Three models, which will be sold there, will be priced between \$12,000 and \$13,500, or 1.29 million yen and 1.49 million yen.

Speaking to *The Telegraph*, Reva Electric Car Co Deputy Chairman Chetan Kumar Maini said, "The models were now being showcased at the Osaka Auto Show. Car lovers are quite enthusiastic about them. The subsidy will be given to customers directly by the Japanese government on purchasing the car."

Reva Electric has ap-

pointed Takeoka Auto-craft as its distributor to market the Reva in select Japanese cities. Maini said, "The Reva will be positioned in the small and mid-sized car segments and promoted as an ideal alternative environmental vehicle to gasoline-based passenger cars."

Reva can be described as a two-door hatchback. It can seat two adults in front and two children at the back. It uses 9 units of electricity for a single full charge that gives a mileage of 80 kilometres in city-driving conditions.

At home, the Reva, which is priced between Rs 2.6 lakh and Rs 3.2 lakh, has a presence in Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad and Bangalore. The variations in the car's prices are not only based on embellishments but also on the road tax imposed by some states.

The EEC-certified Reva is available in three variations — standard, AC and Classe. However, the company did not disclose the number of cars it has sold so far.

The Reva has been exported to Nepal, Malta, Hong Kong and China. The price is approximately one-third of that of a similar electric vehicle. According to the company, it is one of the reasons for the car's appreciation in the international market.

Internet

Two Chinese firms forge alliance to build coking projects

SHIJIAZHUANG, 10 Jan—A strategic cooperative partner relationship has been formed by two Chinese companies to build coking plants in China. The Feng Feng Group and the Handan Iron and Steel Group have recently forged a strategic cooperative partner relationship to jointly construct two 800,000-ton environmentally friendly coking projects.

Construction of the Yanting coking project started in December 30, 2004 and total investment in the project is estimated to be 700 million yuan.

Upon completion, it

will be able to produce 800,000 tons of coke, 600,000 tons of active lime and one million tons of limestone, with annual output value exceeding one billion yuan.

Internet

Passenger ferry runs aground on Scotland's coast

LONDON, 9 Jan—A passenger ferry carrying 100 people ran aground on Scotland's gale-lashed west coast on Saturday, and officials said tug boats would not be able to reach the stricken ship until Sunday because of the weather.

None of the passengers or crew were injured when the P&O Highlander hit a sandbank at Cairnryan.

"It's far safer to keep the passengers on board," P&O Irish Sea Managing Director Terry Cairns told BBC television as gales of

up to 120 miles (195 km) an hour and heavy rain battered many parts of Britain.

"We had a bit of a struggle to find two tugs, but we've got them now. They'll be on their way at midnight," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Portuguese President sees better ties with China

LISBON, 10 Jan— Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio said relations between Portugal and China have a bright prospect and his upcoming visit to China will further strengthen bilateral cooperation in politics, economy and other sectors.

Sampaio, who starts his 8-day China trip on Tuesday, said in an interview with *Xinhua* that the main purpose of his visit is to infuse new vigor into bilateral economic ties, expanding cooperation in trade, investment and tourism.

As a great country, China would play an important role in the 21st Century in politics, economy and culture, and Portugal looks forward to boosting bilateral cooperation in culture and technology, Sampaio said.

The visit, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations and the 5th anniversary of

China's resumption of its exercise of sovereignty over Macao, is an indication of the good political ties between the two countries, Sampaio said.

Bilateral relations have developed very smoothly since the establishment of diplomatic ties, Sampaio said, noting successful negotiations over Macao's handover.

Sampaio, recalling his meetings with Chinese leaders during the negotiations, said his visits to China in 1997 and former Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to Lisbon in 1999 consolidated the friendship between the two countries and deep-

ened mutual understanding.

He stressed Portugal's adherence to the one-China policy, adding that since the implementation of the "one China, two systems" principle in Macao, the region has retained its identity and characteristics, facilitating political stability and economic prosperity.

China, as one of the largest economies in the world, has become an important economic partner of many countries or regions, especially since its accession to the World Trade Organization, the President said.

MNA/Xinhua



Some Pakistani women make their way along a street in Peshawar on 9 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

BBC calls in police to investigate torrent of abusive calls

LONDON, 10 Jan— The BBC has called in police to investigate a torrent of abusive calls made to the homes of its senior executives before its broadcast of a profanity-laden opera, a BBC spokesman said on Saturday.

The BBC also forced the closure of a web site revealing the private telephone numbers of two senior managers and its governors after its decision to transmit the award-winning London show "Jerry Springer — The Opera".

"BBC staff and their families have received a significant number of abusive and threatening telephone calls, some of which have been reported to the police as criminal matters," the spokesman said.

Christian protestors

had demonstrated peacefully outside the BBC's London offices before and during the broadcast on Saturday night, condemning the show's profane language and portrayal of Jesus as a fat man wearing a diaper.

But the campaign of abusive phone calls, many answered in daytime by the executives' young children, had taken the protest to an unacceptable level, a BBC source told *Reuters*.

"These staff have

been harassed and bullied way beyond what is acceptable in a free and democratic society," the source said.

"A very small number of people — but it is more than two or three — are trying to impose their will by threats and by harassment," the source added.

The BBC has now installed special interceptors to divert incoming calls made to the homes of the executives named on the web site.—MNA/Reuters



A promoter shows off Samsung Electronics' satellite digital multimedia broadcasting (DMB) phones, the SCH-B 100 in Seoul recently.

INTERNET

Hard-working people of Ayeyawady

Moe Htet Myint (Delta Region)

On his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division on 7 June 2003, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the paddy output of the country will hit 1,200 million baskets if efforts are exerted on a perceptible increase of current per

2002-2003. The nationwide paddy output as a whole also rose to 830 million baskets in 1993-94 and 872 million baskets in 1994-95. The total output of paddy reached 1,022 million baskets in 2000-2001, 1,050 million baskets in 2001-2002, and 1,070

on 156,352.22 acres.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected Bo Myat Tun Bridge on 13 November 2004. On the occasion, Minister for Construction

Bo Myat Tun Bridge is the most strategic in the region and the third longest in Myanmar. It was constructed spanning Ngawun River in Nyaungdon township. It is 8,544 feet in length and 40 feet in width, and it is of concrete-reinforced type. Its construction started on 15 June 1996 and was opened for pub-

goodwill. In addition to the bridge, Patheingyi Thabaung, Patheingyi Chaungtha and Patheingyi Ngwehsaung roads have been upgraded phase by phase to turn them into tar roads. Transport facilities on the west bank of Ngawun River will help further develop the region. Marine, agricultural and forest products

Patheingyi Bridge. The division now has nearly 1,300 miles of roads, up from over 460 miles in the past. Now, the division can rely both on road and water transport, thus it can be said that the division has entered a new age of development and changes, or, in other words, it is a victory for both the government and the people of the division".

Patheingyi Bridge is 2,140 feet in length, and it has a 28-foot-wide motor road with a four-foot-wide pedestrian lane on its both sides. The clearance of the bridge is 840 feet in width and 33 feet in height. The bridge can withstand 75 tons of loads. Of the bridges which are 180 feet and above, Patheingyi Bridge is the 176th and the 40th in the region.

Thanks to the emergence of the bridge, people living in the vicinity of Patheingyi township are now enjoying fruitful results in such sectors as health, economy and education. Now, Patheingyi has become a boon town in trade.

People of Ayeyawady Division are now gearing themselves up for regional development tasks in the footsteps of the government which is building infrastructures in agriculture, livestock breeding and transport in the region just as it does in other states and divisions.

Translation: KTY
Myanma Alin: 9-1-2005

Thanks to the emergence of the bridge, people living in the vicinity of Patheingyi township are now enjoying fruitful results in such sectors as health, economy and education. Now, Patheingyi has become a boon town in trade.

lic service on 16 June 1999. It was constructed at a cost of K 5,665.4 million plus US\$ 8.6 million. Now, the bridge earns an average of K 110.4 million a year.

At the opening ceremony of Patheingyi Bridge that took place on 22-11-2004, State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. In his speech, he said: "Z craft were the only means of transport to cross Ngawun River in the past. The bridge now shortens the travelling time for all who have to travel crossing the river for work or other purpose. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the government has built bridges, essential for social, economic and regional development, with

from the region can be transported to all other places of the nation through the bridge in a short time, leading to promotion of trade and economy on the west bank. Moreover access to Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beach resorts will become easier and speedier.

"The government has been building a network of roads linking the whole nation and also the bridges to narrow the gap between one region and the other. Up to now, the government has built 40 large bridges including Patheingyi Bridge in Ayeyawady Division, and on the Ngawun River alone, flowing from north to south in the division, are two facilities — the Ngathaingyi Bridge and the



Patheingyi bridge across Ngawun river is 2140 feet long. The magnificent bridge seen from the west bank of Ngawun river. — MMAL

acre yield of paddy in the division; therefore, ways and means are to be sought to obtain 1,200 million baskets as the output has dwelt around 1,000 million baskets.

In Ayeyawady Division, over 1.3 million acres of land have been put under beans and pulses; over 300,000 acres under edible crops; some 100,000 acres under maize; over 200 acres under cotton; and some 2,000 acres under sugarcane as part of efforts to ensure an increase in per acre yield of crops in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

Ayeyawady Division produced an average of 65 baskets of paddy per acre in 1997-98. But, the per acre yield rose to 70.84 baskets in 2001-2002 and 73 baskets in

million baskets in 2002-2003.

In 2003-2004, Ayeyawady Division put 4.72 million acres of land under monsoon and summer paddy, 29 % of the nationwide paddy-sown acreage against 16.16 million acres as a whole. Efforts are under way to grow over 1.7 million acres of summer paddy as over 3.5 million acres have been put under monsoon paddy in 2004-2005. In the past, the region has made its name as 'the granary of the country' and 'the rice bowl of the country'. But now, the region has deserved to be called 'the curry pot of the country' as the livestock breeding sector is booming there. Fish and prawn breeding industries are being operated

Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on measures being taken for maintenance of the bridge, and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing on assistance provided for prevention of erosion, and long-term use of the bridge.

In response to the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that Bo Myat Tun Bridge is always busy with heavy traffic and most strategic. He also pointed out that the upkeep of the bridge is a must to ensure its long-lasting usability, adding that necessary steps are to be taken on a constant basis for stable flow of waters along the areas in the vicinity of the bridge and for navigational management for prevention of erosion.

Chinese Vice-PM visits nat'l centre for geographic information centre

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan paid a visit to the national centre for basic geographic information centre, in Beijing, last Thursday, to discuss the country's strategy on the development of measuring work with experts and scholars.

During his visit, Zeng heard reports on the development of the sector by academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Li Deren, Chen Junyong and Cao Jun. Zeng said the measuring sector is of great importance for China's economic and social development, national security, people's life, and the goal for achieving a sustainable development in the country.

Over the past decades, China's measuring sector has developed rapidly

as systems have been established for standardization, technology and law of measuring work, Zeng said.

He urged Chinese scientists to learn from developed countries and increase the level and capability of the country's measuring sector.

Efforts should be made to speed up the pace of automation and digitalization and build up networks in the measuring sector, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, and SEA Archery Federation President Mr San Gun Kosavinta formally open the championship. —NLM

Even though existence of Myanmar Archery...

(from page 1)

We are very proud and much honoured to get the opportunity to host this First South East Asian Archery Championships in order to take another step towards the development of archery in our country, and I would like to welcome you again, all the world-grade archers from the participating countries.

It is my honest belief that the goodwill and friendship, which will be cultivated and cemented from this event, will contribute significantly towards a better understanding and further strengthening of the existing friendship between our member countries of this region, South East Asia.

I also sincerely believe that through this very important International Sports Events, not only one the athletic abilities of participants developed in the spirit of friendly competition but even more important, a

sense of fellowship and goodwill is also created in the true Olympic Spirit.

I am also sure that during your stay in our country, you can witness and see the peaceful development, beauty and scenery of the country, the dynamism and friendliness of the people as well as the diversity and richness of our Myanmar's culture and civilization, which you will find the better way for the vitalization of existing friendship and relationship between our participating countries, and better understanding for the promotion of sports relationship among our neighbouring countries.

Once again, I would like to stress that we are very proud and much honoured to host this championships, of which I wish also to take this opportunity to express our very sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to the International Archery Federation,

Asian Archery Federation and South East Asia Archery Federation for granting Myanmar the opportunity to host this championships, the first time ever such a big event takes place in our nation.

In conclusion, with our warm Myanmar hospitality and culture embracing you, may I once again convey my best wishes and good luck for the championships, and let me convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the responsible personnel from the Organizing Committee of the First South East Asian Archery Championships, team officials and participants from all the participating teams, and all the sports fans, for assisting us to organize this championship to come into reality. I hope that you all can make the best of your time with full enjoyment during your short stay in the golden city of Myanmar.

Next, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation and President of South East Asian Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta extended greetings.

Afterwards, Chairman of Yangon Division

Peace and Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of the Committee for Ensuring Myanmar Sports to win victory Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of South East Asian Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta formally opened the championships. Next, Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein

The 58th 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

Sein and officials greeted managers, coaches and archers of the participating teams.

Next, President of MAF Dr Khin Shwe presented K 10 million, Vice-Presidents of MAF Chairman of ACE Construction Co U Tint Hsan K 10 million, Managing Director of Shwe Gon Dine Specialist Clinic Dr Zaw Tun K 10 million, and Managing Director of Asia Express Co U Maung Maung K 10 million for the holding of the archery championships.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepted the donations.

Later, President of MAF Dr Khin Shwe presented US\$ 10,000 do-

minated by Myanmar Archery Federation for South East Asian Archery Federation to Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of South East Asian Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta.

The opening ceremony ended with the skill demonstrations of Indian Club sports team, Myanmar Thaing Federation and students of Latha BEHS No 2 and Mingalar Taungnyunt BEHS No 3.

Altogether 76 archers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Laos and host Myanmar are participating in the championships. The championships continues until 13 January. — MNA



President of MAF Dr Khin Shwe presents US \$ 10,000 to SEA Archery Federation President Mr San Gun Kosavinta. — NLM



SEA Archery Federation President Mr San Gun Kosavinta. — MNA

Yangon Division MCWASC meets

YANGON, 10 Jan — Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee held a work coordination meeting at Yankin College this morning, with an address by Chairperson of the committee Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Daw Khin Thet Htay explained the project for all round progress of womenfolk with the supervision of the committee and future work programmes.

She then handed over 14 bicycles donated by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association to Yangon East District Maternal and Child Welfare

Association Supervisory Committee.

Chairperson of the district association Daw Nang Shwe Yin accepted the donation, and presented proposals for permanent membership to Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Secretary of the division supervisory committee Head of Division Health Department Office Dr Hla Myint reported to the meeting on organizational set up and the assignment of duties, and Joint Secretary Dr Daw Nweni Ohn, the future work programmes.

MNA

Agricultural, regional development...

(from page 16)

Later, the commander proceeded to the construction site of Lagunpyin a canal being carried out by the Irrigation Department at Minwingon village. At the briefing hall, the commander heard reports on progress of the construction project and arrangements for supply of irrigation water to farmland.

Officials concerned conducted the commander and party around the construction site. After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions on speedy implementation of the project.

Next, the commander went to the control tower, from which he inspected the way irrigation water is being fed into farmland. He also cordially conversed with farmers and gave instructions on making efforts to exceed the targeted output of summer paddy.

The commander also visited the farm run by Yangon Command at the edge of Hlegu township and Mingaladon township. At the farm, the commander inspected the digging of drains for adequate supply of irrigation water and the thriving plantations of crops. Next,

the commander gave instructions on making efforts to obtain targeted paddy output and speedy completion of the drains.

Next, the commander and party arrived at Bala No 2 bridge construction project. At the briefing hall, the commander heard reports on tasks being carried out and the tarring of the feeder road to Nos 1, 2 & 3 Highways. Afterwards, the commander inspected construction of the bridge and the feeder road and gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standards. — MNA

Ma-le village gets bio-gas power

YANGON, 10 Jan — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint inspected Ma-le Nattaung Dam Project in Singu Township and attended the opening of a village bio-gas power plant on 6 January.

Accompanied by departmental personnel, the commander visited the Ma-le Nattaung Dam Project near Ma-le village in Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division.

Officials of the Irrigation Department and the project explained salient points of the project. After fulfilling the requirements, the commander observed the construction of the No 1 outlet conduit.

The earth dam on Ma-le Nattaung Creek will be a 11,850-foot long and 72-foot high facility storing up to 57,470 acre-feet of water. It will irrigate 8,000 acres of monsoon paddy and 2,000 acres of other crops.

At the village, the

commander attended the opening ceremony to launch the bio-gas power plant. Village local authorities formally opened the plant.

Together with officials, the commander went around the plant and made arrangements for running the plant smoothly. The plant will run its 15-kva engine to generate power for 200 two-foot florescent lamps, 40 road lamps, five florescent lamps of the village pagoda and five TVs for four hours in the evening. — MNA

Measures taken for hydro electric power projects inspected

YANGON, 10 Jan — Accompanied by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and the Directors-General, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut arrived at Shwekyin hydro electric power project which is located on Shwekyin creek, 6 miles northeast of Shwekyin, Bago District on 7 January. At the briefing hall, the ministers gave necessary instructions to officials concerned following the reports presented by the deputy minister and officials of the project.

After scanning the scale model and sample of earth, the ministers and party observed construction tasks of emergency spillway and water intake.

Next, Secretary-Gen-

eral of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Secretarial member Maj-Gen Tin Htut met with executives and members of Shwekyin Township USDA and held discussions on regional development tasks with them and donated cash for rural development tasks and books for the library.

On arrival at Yenwe hydro electric power project being built in Myochaung village, Kyauktaka Township, the ministers gave instructions to the officials concerned after hearing the reports at the briefing hall of the project and they inspected construction tasks of emergency spillway, water intake and hydro electric power station.

On the following day, they went on inspection tour of Kunchaung

hydro electric power project which is situated in southwest of Pyu. At the briefing hall, the officials concerned reported on matters relating to the project tasks.

Regarding the reports, the ministers gave instructions to the officials concerned.

Afterwards, the ministers instructed the officials concerned to carry out the projects in cooperation with other departments, to make efforts to complete the construction tasks earlier than schedule meeting the set standards, to handle and drive heavy machinery with care, to use fuel and cement efficiently, to minimize loss and wastage and to guard against occupational hazards and to take preventive measures against fire outbreaks.

MNA

60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

Paddy fields thriving in Lashio

YANGON, 10 Jan — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, accompanied by departmental officials, arrived at the plantation of Yadana high yield paddy strains in the 1000-acre paddy strain-producing zone in Lashio on January 8 and inspected arrangements for

cultivation of summer paddy.

Next, the commander went to the macadamia plantation in the paddy strain-producing zone in Meikhtila where he oversaw clearing the weeds for extended cultivation of macadamia and gave necessary instructions to officials. He then inspected cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, perennial

macadamia, honey oranges and other crops and vegetables and storage of water for the plantations.

Afterwards, the commander visited the plantation of Shweli and Hsin Shweli paddy strains being implemented by the Myanmar Police Force near Yaypusan Village in Lashio and left necessary instructions there.

MNA

Independence Day Exhibition continues



School boys and girls visit the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition. — MNA

YANGON, 10 Jan — The 57th Anniversary Independence Day Exhibition organized by the 57th Anniversary Independence Day Information Organizing Subcommittee and the Exhibition Staging Subcommittee continued for the eight day today at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township.

As today was the public holiday, Kayin New Year Day, the exhibition attracted a great number of people, to be exact 4,200.

The portrait of Head

of State Senior General Than Shwe and his guidance on independence, the booth on human origin from Myanmar, that on ancient Myanmar empires, that on independence struggle, that on regaining the independence and safeguarding it, that on scenic Myanmar, that on eye-catching national culture, that on nation-building endeavours and the booths of various ministries, are being displayed at the exhibition.

Students of five basic education high schools in Yangon Divi-

sion took part in the computer quiz organized by Yangon University of Computer Studies and the teaching contest with audio language lab by Soft Guide Computer Co Ltd. BEHS No 1, Dagon Township, won the first prize. Books on various subjects, journals and magazines are available at reasonable prices at the News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, Sarpay Beikman Book Shop and three other private book shops.

The exhibition continues tomorrow from 9 am to 5 pm. — MNA

SEA Archery team managers meet

YANGON, 10 Jan — Managers of the teams to the first Southeast Asian Archery championships met at Myanmar Archery Federation in Kyaikkasan Grounds here today.

President of MAF Dr

Khin Shwe, Dr Myat Thura Soe of MAF and President of SEA Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta gave speeches.

Judges led by Mr Baharuddin Jamil of

Malaysia, managers of Indonesian, Malaysian, Thai, Vietnamese, Singaporean Lao and Myanmar teams and MAF officials joined in the discussions.

MNA

Commander, ministers attend opening of new school building in Sagaing Div

YANGON, 10 Jan — A ceremony to donate Shwe Yeik Mon new school building of Saye (East) village post-primary school and furniture was held in conjunction with stake driving for the annexe at the site in Sagaing Division on 9 January.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Secretary of Division PDC Lt-Col Myo Myint, directors-general of the Ministry of Education, local authorities, members of the Sagaing Division Union Solidarity and Develop-

ment Association, faculty members, students and local people.

First, Minister U Than Aung, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wellwisher U Maung Ko formally opened the new school building while Commander Maj-Gen Than Aye formally unveiled the stone inscriptions.

Next, stake driving ceremony for the annexe was held. The commander and the ministers delivered addresses on the occasion. Related documents of the new school building were handed over to Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department Lt-Col Win Htein. The new school was built at a cost of K 35 million.

Afterwards, the

commander and the ministers presented teaching aids and sports gear to officials concerned.

Wellwishers donated K 9.92 million for new generation education funds. School board of trustees member U Sein Myint Aung expressed thanks. Minister U Than Aung and party went to Sagaing Institute of Education and inspected construction of its main building and met with faculty members and explained on tasks being carried out by the Ministry of Education.

Later, he proceeded to Chanayethasan Township Thangaza Kyaungtaik Monastic Education and paid homage to Sayadaws and donated a set of television and video.

MNA

Villages in Kachin State get water supply station and power plant

YANGON, 10 Jan — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe inspected development undertakings in Hopin Township on 6 January.

Accompanied by officials, the commander attended the ceremony to hand over a fire engine to auxiliary fire brigade in Namti village, Mogaung Township, Kachin State, in the morning. He presented the related documents to deputy company commander of the fire brigade.

At the village, the commander inspected the basic education high school, the station hospital, repair of the road bordering MyoU ward and Shwewa I ward, and made arrangements to facilitate

the work of departments.

In the afternoon, he visited the basic education middle school in Taungni village, Mogaung Township, and provided K 1 million for construction of a new building, 250 corrugated iron sheets, 100 bags of cement and two computers. Hailing the 58th Anniversary Union Day, the village opened the water purification tank of its water supply project. The project was jointly implemented by Mogaung Township Development Affairs Committee and the local people. Donors and officials formally opened the project, and the commander opened the taps. He also delivered an address. The Township DAC provided K 5 million, and the public, K 2.5 million.

At Nammana village

in the township, he made arrangements for the facilitation of the work to construction of extra classrooms at the village school. The village opened its self-reliant power station. The commander pulled the gear to start the power generation. Afterwards, he delivered an address, and donated K 2.2 million for installation of cables in the village.

In the evening, the commander visited Hopin Township Information and Public Relations Office Project, and heard a report on progress in construction the office presented by officials. He inspected the site to build the office. The commander attended the school family day at the township basic education high school at 7.30 pm.—MNA

Minister inspects approach road of Thanlwin River Bridge (Mawlamyine) Project



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects a rail bridge. — RAIL TRANSPORTATION

YANGON, 10 Jan — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspected the Thanlwin River Bridge (Mawlamyine) Project on 8 January. The minister heard a report on the approach road construction project, progress in building Mawlamyine Railway Station and requirements with the help of charts. Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave a supplementary report. The minister made

arrangements for completion of the approach road and the railway station in time.

At the construction site where a railroad will pass Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei road, the minister observed heavy machinery at work. In Ye, he inspected the durability of Ye River Bridge and progress in construction of Ye Railway Station.

The following day, he inspected the

bridges, substitution of sleepers and Thanbyuzayat Railway Station on Ye-Thanyuzayat railroad by EMC rail bus.

He urged the officials to conduct constant inspection of the railroad and the bridges, and to make arrangements for the trains to run according to the schedule and ensuring swift and convenient transport of goods and passengers.

MNA

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC inspects pulp factory in Thabaung Township

YANGON, 10 Jan — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials inspected 200-ton pulp factory in Thabaung Township on 8 January.

Factory manager U Nyunt Aung reported on operation of the factory, raw materials and produc-

tion.

The commander observed production process and transport of raw materials to the factory.

Construction of the pulp factory started in November 2001 and completed in April 2004. Test run started in July 2004 and regular production will commence soon.

The commander met departmental officials, chairmen of Ward

Peace and Development Councils and members of social associations.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Hla Thaug reported on agriculture, livestock breeding, transport, social, health and regional development tasks.

The commander called for cooperation with local people and departments concerned.—MNA

Commander inspects regional development

YANGON, 10 Jan — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and officials inspected cultivation of cold season crops in Kawtmupon Village in Chaungzon Township on 8 January.

The commander also met farmers and Chairman

of Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Myint reported on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and cultivation of cold season crops.

The commander gave necessary instructions.

He also inspected construction of Daw Chaw Bridge in Kahlaw Village.

He inspected station hospital donated by U Aung Kyaw Win-Dr May Thet Sein in the village and rural roads. In meeting with local authorities and people, the minister discussed rural development matters. The commander inspected upgrading of Nathmaw Port and extension of the retaining wall.—MNA

Myanmar Cooperatives Centenary Products Show and Festival continues

YANGON, 10 Jan — Myanmar Cooperatives Centenary Products Show and Festival 2005 continued for the fourth day at Cooperatives Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza), Bahan Township today and it was teeming with visitors.

It displayed traditional costumes manufac-

tured by Kayin State Cooperatives Society, a variety of handicraft of Myawady Township Cooperatives Society, personal goods, foodstuff, clothing, stationery, household goods of cooperative societies of Yangon Division sold at reasonable prices, local products, silverware and bronzeware,

furniture and local clothing of Sagaing Division Cooperatives Society, plus, traditional medicines of Kachin State Cooperative Society and all kinds of textile, personal goods and household goods of private shops.

It offered entertainment programmes to the visitors.—MNA



Buyers at a booth of Myanmar Cooperatives Centenary Products Show and Festival. — COOPERATIVES

UN overpaid \$5b to compensate for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait

GENEVA, 10 Jan — The United Nations overpaid by as much as 5 billion US dollars to individuals, companies and Gulf states for losses in Iraq's 1990 invasion and occupation of Kuwait, auditors' documents showed on Sunday.

The 19 internal audits of the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) were posted on its web site a day before a total of 56 audits were to be made public by an independent panel led by former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker.

Senior UNCC officials strongly denied any overpayment and dismissed the auditors' conclusions saying they had exceeded their mandate by delving into legal issues.

Volcker's panel is investigating the oil-for-food programme that the United Nations operated for Saddam Hussein's Iraq when the country was under international sanctions.

The US Congress is probing alleged corruption in the programme. The 19 audits of the Geneva-based UNCC, carried out by the U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) from July 1997 to December 2004, do not identify any corruption.

But the audits raised questions, mainly about evidence in approving awards for damages, and concluded overpayments had been made. Along

with exchange rate and other issues, the audits pointed to a total overpayment of some 5 billion US dollars, officials said.

The UNCC said it had issued the audits after being tipped the Volcker panel was going to make them public without including the UNCC's responses to each audit's findings.

"Our goal is to show that the Office of Internal Oversight Services' audits have been easily rebutted," said UNCC deputy executive secretary Mike Raboin.

"Since we are not part of oil-for-food, we are at a loss as to why these documents were given to the Volcker committee."

The UNCC also posted a confidential decision by UN legal counsel Hans Corell, who ruled in November 2002 that the U.N. auditors had gone "beyond the proper scope of audit" by trying to reopen legal issues.

The UNCC was set up by the UN Security Council in 1991 to compensate individuals, companies and governments for losses from Iraq's invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

MNA/Reuters

Rats can tell difference between Dutch, Japanese

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — Rats can use the rhythm of human language to tell the difference between Dutch and Japanese, researchers in Spain reported on Sunday.

Their study suggests that animals, especially mammals, evolved some

of the skills underlying the use and development of language long before language itself ever evolved, the researchers said. It is the first time an animal other than a human or monkey has been shown to have this skill.

"These findings have

remarkable parallels with data from human adults, human newborns, and cotton-top tamarins," the researchers wrote in their report, published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behaviour Processes*, which is published by the American Psychological Association. For their study neuroscientists Juan Toro and colleagues at Barcelona's Scientific Park tested 64 adult male rats. They used Dutch and Japanese because these languages were used in earlier, similar tests, and because they are very different from one another in use of words, rhythm and structure. The rats were trained to respond to either Dutch or Japanese using food as a reward. Then they were separated into four groups — one that heard each language spoken by a native, one that heard synthesized speech, one that heard sentences read in either language by different speakers and a fourth that heard the languages played backwards.

MNA/Reuters



Satomi Kawaguchi, a diver at Tokyo's Sunshine International Aquarium, wearing Japan's traditional kimono embraces a giant moray during the annual new year's feeding performance Monday, 10 Jan, 2005. —INTERNET



Smart cars. Owners of two half-size small cars should pay only one parking fee if both of them fit into a parking space. —INTERNET

Eight soldiers killed in Iraq while detonating ammunition cache

WARSAW, 10 Jan — Eight soldiers, seven Ukrainians and one Kazakh, were killed in Iraq on Sunday while attempting to detonate an ammunition cache, a spokesman for the Polish Army said.

"I can confirm that seven Ukrainians were killed and one Kazakh," General Staff spokesman Colonel Zdzislaw Gnatowski told *Reuters* of the incident in Wasit Province.

Earlier, Poland's *PAP* news agency had reported General Andrzej Ekiert, commander of the Polish-led multinational division in south-central Iraq, as putting the death

toll at nine.

In Kiev, Ukraine's Defence Ministry confirmed seven of its soldiers had been killed. Gnatowski said a single large bomb had exploded while being transported for destruction, injuring an additional seven Ukrainians and four Kazakhs. Ukraine's Parliament has asked outgoing president Leonid Kuchma to withdraw its

1,600 troops in Iraq, further depleting the multinational division, whose numbers have already fallen to 6,000.

Poland, one of the US Administration's staunchest allies in Iraq, has said it will reduce its own 2,400 troops in the country by one-third from February and hopes to bring the rest home by the end of the year.

MNA/Reuters

Heavy rains, blizzards slam California

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 Jan — Heavy rains and blizzards slammed California on Saturday, triggering floods and mudslides and tying up traffic from southern California to San Francisco and into the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

As much as 8 feet of snow was expected through Tuesday in the northern Sierra Nevada. Wind gusts on some mountaintops reached 160 miles per hour, said Gay Barbato, hydrologist with the National Weather Service in Reno, Nevada.

Hundreds of cars were stranded by heavy snow in the San Bernardino National Forest east of Los Angeles, and by a mudslide on Saturday morning. Forecasters predicted as much as 3 inches of rain in the San Francisco Bay Area over the weekend and as much as 6 inches to 8 inches in some areas around Los Angeles.

Napa and Marin Counties north of San Francisco were

particularly hard hit, with floods closing highway exits and swamping parked cars, authorities said.

"What concerns us is the large amount of rain in a very short period of time," said Wendy Sellers, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Monterey. "Combined with the already saturated ground and high tide with the new moon, there's an increased risk of flooding and mudslides."

The storm system, which swept to California on Thursday from Alaska, is not expected to let up until Monday, Sellers said.

Across the country, after days of rain and snow, the Ohio River flooded its banks from

Huntington, West Virginia, to Cincinnati, triggering widespread power outages and causing hundreds of residents to flee their homes.

Meteorologists predicted the river would reach its highest level in eight years.

The Ohio governor has declared a state of emergency in 49 of the state's 88 counties.

About 101,000 people in Ohio were without power on Saturday for a third day due to flooding as well as ice and snow storms. Utilities estimated that most of those customers should have power back by Sunday night although some outages will continue into next week.

MNA/Reuters

Fire lose control in gas field of northeastern Bangladesh

DHAKA, 10 Jan — A staged-fire to avert a major blowout in a gas field went out of control in northeastern Bangladesh, and the spreading blaze is feared to blow out more facilities.

According to the official *Bangladesh News Agency* Saturday, operators of the Tengratila gas field in the northeastern district of Sunamganj Friday night lit fire at a point 500-metre off the well being drilled, to avert a major blow out when noticing some leaks and excessive gas pressures.

The technique to set fire near the gas well is to exhaust the "pocket gas" to ease the dangerously increasing gas pressure, but the fire went beyond control on Saturday morning when the well blew with a huge bang.

The raging fire with big bangs engulfed the entire complex rapidly and spread over a large area quickly destroying the in-

frastructures.

So far there is no report of casualties, but it is feared that the blaze can blow out two huge oil tankers kept at the gas field complex containing 51,000 litres of petroleum, Magistrate Khalid Hassan of Sunamganj Town was quoted as saying.

Officials and witnesses said the raging flames as high as 500 feet amid big bangs prompted authorities to order evacuation in nearby villages, while paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) troops and police cordoned off five-square-kilometre-area around the spot for security.

Witnesses said mild tremors were being felt around the scene while

officials have cut off electric supplies to avoid any further disaster.

With helicopters hovering over the skyline near the flame to assess the situation, the panic-gripped people living in neighbouring villages keep fleeing their houses for safety. State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain was quoted as saying that luckily the fire was still raging mainly towards the upward direction instead of spreading in horizontal direction. Energy Ministry officials said the Tengratila field is containing at least 300 billion cubic feet gas, and the fire is destroying gas worth million dollars in every hour.

MNA/Xinhua



Marine biologists carry a 30-year old Green turtle off the back of a truck and release him back into the sea in Takuapa district, about 130 km (81 miles) north of the Thai resort island of Phuket on 10 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

Eight illegal combatants killed in Colombia fighting

BOGOTA, 9 Jan — Eight members of illegal armed groups have been killed in fighting with government troops, the Colombian Army said Saturday.

As part of Operation Sagaz, the Army killed three guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in La Muerte, in the rural area of the northern province of Sucre, the Army said in a statement.

In the eastern province of Casanare, three paramilitaries were killed in clashes with government troops.

In another military action, two guerrillas of the National Liberation Army were killed in San Fernando Alto, in the province of Magdalena, said the statement.

The Army "spotted and destroyed in a controlled way seven explosive devices" in Arauca and Norte de Santander provinces.

MNA/Xinhua

Plane crash claims pilot's life in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 10 Jan — A man died and his daughter was seriously injured when their light aircraft crashed near De Doorns, Western Cape province of South Africa, local SABC radio news reported Sunday.

Johan and Solette Malan had been flying over mountain peaks near the town in a two-seater plane when the accident took place. The cause of the crash had not yet been established, the report added.

Western Cape police spokesperson Inspector Elliot Sinyangana said that details of the crash were still sketchy. He said Solette had been airlifted by helicopter to Worcester Mediclinic.

MNA/Xinhua

Flooding hits Britain amid high winds

LONDON, 9 Jan — Flooding triggered by high winds and torrential rains has been sweeping over Britain throughout Saturday, inundating houses, blocking roads and cutting off electricity.

Due to the bad weather, homes have been deluged and some houses evacuated in parts of Wales, Scotland and northern England, the BBC reported.

Cumbria County in northern England experienced its worst weather in almost 40 years, with power cut off in about 50,000 homes in its northern and western parts. Carlisle in Cumbria is awash with water and cut off with no safe routes in or out, local police were quoted as saying.

Spates of accidents have shut roads on some sections of the M1 and M6 motorways while a ferry was reported to run aground off the west coast of Scotland, but no one was injured among the 43 passengers and 57 crew.

In Northern Ireland, strong gales have uprooted trees across the province, with Enniskillen and Downpatrick particularly affected.

Winds are likely to continue in the coming days in central and southern Scotland, with heavy rains in northern England predicted to turn into squally showers, reports said.—MNA/Xinhua

330 kilos of cannabis sativa seized in Albania

TIRANA, 10 Jan — The Albanian police seized on Sunday 330 kilos of cannabis sativa in the southwestern seaport Vlora, the ATA news agency reported.

According to the chief of Vlora police, Josif Shtembari, the pressed drug was found in a truck with an Italian plate, which was being embarked on a line ferry to Italy.

The truck's driver and the two co-owners of the truck, an Albanian and an Italian citizen, were detained, Shtembari said, adding that the two owners declared to the Customs officials that they were transporting to Italy apparatuses for discotheques and consumer goods.

The police did not publish the names of the three detained because they were suspected of being members of an Italian-Albanian network of drug trafficking, the ATA said.

MNA/Xinhua

US nuclear submarine runs aground off Guam

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — A US nuclear submarine ran aground while conducting underwater operations about 350 miles south of the island of Guam on Friday, the Navy said Saturday.

Several people were injured, including one critical injury, in the incident, which occurred at approximately 4 pm Friday Hawaii Standard Time (0200 GMT Saturday), the Navy said in a Press release.

The extent of the injuries and damage aboard the Los Angeles-class submarine *USS San*

Francisco was still being assessed, but there were no reports of damage to the reactor plant which was operating normally, the release said.

The submarine was on the surface and on its way back to their homeport in Guam, and US military and Coast Guard aircraft were enroute to monitor

and assist in the situation, according to the release.

News reports said however that about 20 crew were injured in the accident, which happened when the submarine, with a 137-member crew, was heading for a port visit in Brisbane, Australia.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe strengthens research on horticultural varieties

HARARE, 10 Jan — The Zimbabwe Agricultural Research and Extension Service Research (ARES) is carrying out trials aimed at beefing up the horticultural sector, Director of ARES Shadreck Mlambo said here Sunday.

"We have a research component that is carrying out trials on high yielding varieties that it will distribute to farmers," he said.

Mlambo said the move would enable farmers to realize good yields.

Zimbabwe floriculture production had declined to below 20,000 tons in 2004 compared with 24,000 tons worth 86 million US dollars produced in 2002.

Horticultural Promotion Council Chief Executive Basilio Sandamu said "volumes have gone down to the extent where we are even failing to sat-

isfy traditional markets."

"We are, therefore, concentrating on building volumes to fulfill the levels we used to export. Only then can we start looking at alternative markets," he said. About 100 per cent of cut flowers, 89 per cent of vegetables, herbs and spices and 75 per cent of citrus fruits find a ready market in the European Union.

Mlambo said the ARES officers would be geared to providing nec-

essary information on horticultural production to the farmers.

Zimbabwe had been one of the world's leading growers of flowers that were not genetically modified as was the case with flowers from other countries. However, the horticulture sector had been on a downward slide over the past four years due to changes that had been taking place in the agricultural industry.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

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Pitt, Aniston separated after 4-1/2 years

LOS ANGELES, 9 Jan—Superstar Hollywood couple Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston have separated after 4-1/2 years of marriage, but they remain's committed and caring friends," they said on Friday.

The announcement of their split followed months of tabloid stories about spousal ups and downs, including reports that Pitt, 41, wanted to become a father but Aniston, 35, was reluctant to start a family.

Aniston had been photographed recently without her wedding ring, but just two days ago the *New York Post* spashed a picture of the couple on its front page with a circle around Aniston's hand and the headline: "The Ring's Back On!" Pitt, one of Hollywood's most sought-after leading men, and Aniston, who became a household name on the long-running NBC television comedy "Friends," met on a dinner date in 1998.

They were married in a lavish, celebrity-studded wedding in the seaside California resort of Malibu on 29 July, 2000. News of their breakup came in an understated announcement released late on Friday afternoon through *People* magazine. "We would like to announce that after seven years together we have

decided to formally separate," they said. "For those who follow these sorts of things, we would like to explain that our separation is not the result of any of the speculation reported by the tabloid media."

"This decision is a result of much thoughtful consideration. We happily remain committed and caring friends with great love and admiration for one another. We ask in advance for your kindness and sensitivity in the coming months."

Aniston's spokesman said the pair spent the New Year's holiday weekend vacationing together in the Caribbean with her former "Friends" costar Courteney Cox and her husband, David Arquette.

Pitt, currently starring in the crime caper "Ocean's Twelve," and Aniston, best known for her TV role as Rachel Green in "Friends," also are partners in film production company, Plan B, whose first movie, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," is due out later this year from Warner Bros.—MNA/Ruters



Renee Zellweger holds the award for favourite leading lady at the 31st Annual People's Awards, on 9 Jan 2005, in Pasadena Calif. —INTERNET

State of alert declared in Guatemala over activity of 3 volcanoes

MEXICO CITY, 10 Jan — Guatemala declared Saturday a state of alert after volcanoes Pacaya, Santiaguito and Fuego became active again, almost simultaneously, in recent days, according to reports from the Guatemalan capital of Guatemala City.

Hugo Hernandez, spokesman for the National Disaster-Management Coordination, said that the preventive alarm is meant to keep a permanent vigilance over the three volcanoes.

Since last week, the

three volcanoes have been spewing out lava, ashes and rocks in a low magnitude, making local inhabitants evacuated out of the region, he added.

Santiaguito is located in Quetzaltenango department, 150 kilomet-

res west of the capital, while Pacaya lies between Sacatepequez, Escuintla and Chimaltenango. The two became active last Sunday.

Fuego, 60 kilometres southwest of Guatemala City, became active

several days earlier.

It is rare for the three volcanoes to become active almost simultaneously over the past 31 years.

MNA/Xinhua

Academy Awards Winner Kate Winslet to appear in "The Office"

LONDON, 9 Jan— "Titanic" star Kate Winslet is to appear in

British comedian Ricky Gervais' follow-up to cult sitcom "The Office", *The Sun* newspaper reported on Saturday.

British actor Jude Law will also star in the sitcom "Extras", which is set in the world of bit-part movie players and sees Gervais playing ageing film extra Andy Millman.

"It's great to have Kate Winslet and Jude Law on board as we have so few British people who have made it big in Hollywood, but these are two who have," Gervais told *The Sun*.

"In 'Extras' Jude and Kate play twisted versions of themselves," Gervais added. Winslet, 29, has been nominated for Academy Awards for her roles in "Titanic", "Sense and Sensibility" and "Iris".

Last year "The Office" won two Golden Globe awards as well as dominating Britain's BAFTA television awards for a third consecutive year.

The Daily Mirror newspaper also reported Gervais had been offered a part in "Mission Impossible III" by director Jeffrey Abrams. "I know the director well and he said: 'Do you want a part?' I just replied: 'Yeah, that will be great,'" Gervais told the *Daily Mirror*. —MNA/Ruters

US crewman dies after submarine ran aground

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan— A crewman died on Sunday from injuries sustained when the US nuclear submarine *USS San Francisco* ran aground Saturday off Guam in the Pacific Ocean, the US Navy said.

Medical personnel rushed to the submarine continued to treat 23 other injured crewmen, some critically, suffering from broken bones, lacerations and bruises, a Navy spokesman said.

Lieutenant J G Adam

Clampitt, a spokesman for the US Pacific Fleet, said the name of the sailor was being withheld for a 24-hour period following notification of the next of kin.

He said there was no damage to the nuclear reactor that powers the submarine nor the ship's weapons systems in the accident that occurred at noon on Saturday Guam time (0200 GMT) (9 pm EST on Friday).

Though the ship's hull is intact, external damage to it was being investigated, he said.

MNA/Ruters

Don't smoke



High above: Poland's Adam Malysz soars during a training jump at the team event of the Ski Jumping World Cup in Willingen. —INTERNET

Briton swept away in River Aire

LONDON, 10 Jan— A man has been swept away in a river in the north of England on Saturday as gales and heavy rain battered many parts of Britain, police said on Sunday.

The man was carried away down the River Aire at Apperley Bridge, near Bradford. "Police, fire brigade and ambulance attended and even though police did see the man briefly he was carried away by the fast-flowing river," said a West Yorkshire Police spokesman on Sunday.

"Unfortunately, due to access problems and the dangerous state of the river nobody was able to get close enough to render any assistance. We plan to start searching again at first light on Sunday morning." In Cumbria emergency services rescued hun-

dreds of people from their houses after a local river burst its banks on Saturday, swamping Carlisle with its worst floods for 40 years and cutting electricity from 76,000 homes. Royal Air Force helicopters were called in to airlift families from the tops of farmhouses and waterlogged vehicles after floodwater knocked out the city's main electricity sub-station.

Cumbria police were also investigating three deaths in the Carlisle area, though they were unable to confirm whether they had died due to the extreme weather conditions.

The Environment Agency issued over 100 flood warnings as gales of up to 120 miles an hour swept across the country.

MNA/Ruters

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Kipchoge wins cross country race in Kenya

NAIROBI, 10 Jan — The sixth and final Athletics Kenya cross country weekend meeting of the 2004/05 season in Eldoret lived up to the high quality predictions, with a fine field and some superb performances on Saturday. The event attracted two medallists from last summer's Athens Olympics who lived up to their reputations.

Eliud Kipchoge, the world 5000-metre champion and the bronze medallist in Athens, strode to victory in the senior men's short course race (4 kilometres) after posting 12:19.

Just behind, a second down, came former world youth 1500-metre champion Isaac Songok, and Brimin Kipruto, the winner of the Olympic silver medal in the 3000-metre steeplechase in Athens was another five seconds adrift (12:25) in third.

Augustine Choge, the world junior 5000-metre champion, was fourth in 12:34 "This was my first race on the local circuit this season and I am happy with my form," said Kipchoge. "We are now planning to defeat Kenenisa Bekele in France. We all send our sympathy to him following the sudden death of his fiancée. But that does not make us blind to our number one priority: beating him in France in March," he added.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Jose Antonio Reyes (L) of Arsenal celebrates his equaliser against Stoke City with teammate Jermaine Pennant during their third round F.A. cup match at Highbury in north London.—INTERNET

Newcastle to end yeading's FA Cup run with 2-0 victory

LONDON, 10 Jan — Newcastle United were made to wait for a 2-0 victory over minor league Yeading and champions Arsenal had to come from behind to beat Stoke City 2-1 in the FA Cup third round on Sunday.

Despite six divisions separating the two clubs, the biggest gap in FA Cup history, Newcastle needed second-half goals from Lee Bowyer and Shola Ameobi to shatter Yeading's FA Cup hopes at Loftus Road.

A shock was also on the cards at Highbury, where second division Stoke had a goal disallowed before taking the lead through defender Wayne Thomas just before halftime.

Arsenal's equaliser came from Spanish forward Jose Antonio Reyes on 50 minutes but Stoke had a shot cleared off the line and hit the woodwork before Dutchman Robin van Persie fired home the 70th-minute winner.

Arsenal and Newcastle go into Monday's fourth-round draw unlike the four Premier League clubs who lost on

Saturday, Aston Villa, Manchester City, Norwich City and Crystal Palace.

A replay on January 18 will be needed to separate minor league Exeter City and Manchester United following their remarkable 0-0 draw at Old Trafford.

Yeading's hopes of causing the biggest ever upset were ended after 51 minutes when Bowyer steered in Newcastle's first goal and Ameobi arrowed in a header 10 minutes later.

"Apart from my kids being born, that was the second proudest day of my life," Yeading manager Johnson Hippolyte told the BBC.

"A lot of those players have had disappointments earlier in their careers, at pro clubs and that sort of thing.

"But I thought they

had the character and I knew they had the technical ability and I think they showed that to everybody watching today."

Newcastle boss Graeme Souness told Sky Sports News: "We've had great chances today and we've been guilty of not taking them.

MNA/Reuters

Federer wins Qatar Open

DOHA, 10 Jan — World number one Roger Federer continued his spectacular run at the Qatar Open by beating Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 6-3, 6-1 in the final on Saturday.

Federer's 21st consecutive victory brought him his 23rd win in 31 finals and his 14th final triumph in a row since 2003.

The Swiss top seed dominated the sixth-seeded Ljubicic from the start, putting on a scintillating display of accurate serves, fluent backhands and punishing forehands.

"I was expecting a tough match because he (Ljubicic) is a big guy with a good serve," Federer told reporters. "He has been a dangerous proposition to all big players. But as it turned out, it was an easy match for me.

"But in a way it was surprise win too for me because at the start of a new season you really don't know where to focus — on your backhand, forehand or serves. It will take a few matches to know where you stand."

Ljubicic, who had beaten Federer three times in six meetings, folded as the pressure mounted and made too many

unforced errors.

Federer broke Ljubicic in the sixth game to jump to a 4-2 lead and held his next two service games to take the first set 6-3 in 35 minutes.

The second set lasted only 27 minutes as the holder of three Grand Slam titles blasted his opponent off the court.

Federer broke Ljubicic in the first and fifth games as the Croatian continued to make unforced errors.

Federer's victory ended the poor record of top seeds in the tournament, except in 1995 when Sweden's Stefan Edberg won the title.

Ljubicic paid tribute to his opponent. "I didn't serve well at all," he said. "I was running around a lot in the first set, but as the match progressed it became increasingly difficult for me.

"He (Federer) knows how to deal with each player and has a knack of winning big points. He is a great player." — *MNA/Reuters*

Moya retains Chennai Open title

MADRAS, 10 Jan — World number five Carlos Moya of Spain retained the ATP Chennai Open here, then donated his entire 52,000-dollar prize money to tsunami victims.

The top seed Monday emerged unscathed after a three-hour slugfest against Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand to win 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) in a repeat of last year's final before a sell-out crowd of 6,000 at the Nungambakkam tennis stadium.

"I want the money I have earned here to help the survivors of one of the worst tragedies of our times," said the 28-year-old Moya after winning his 18th ATP title in a rousing final.

More than 156,000 people were killed across Asia in the December 26 tsunami disaster -- nearly 10,000 of them in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu of which Madras is the capital.

"It is a small contribution which I hope will help the affected families," said Moya. "They deserve all the help they can get."

Moya, who led Spain's victory against the United States in the Davis Cup final in December, said he was delighted to start the season with a win.

"There is no better way to start the new year," he said. "Last year, too, I won here in January, ended the year by winning the Davis Cup and have now begun the year with another win.

"It bodes well for the tough contests ahead in the Australian Open (news - web sites)."

Paradorn, seeded second, appeared to have the title in his grasp when he served for the match at 5-2 in the final set, but Moya showed his undisputed class with a stirring comeback.

The Spaniard reeled off four games in a row to lead 6-5 before Paradorn, playing his fourth successive final here, forced the tie-breaker after saving a match point.

Moya wasted two more match points following a 6-3 lead in the tie-breaker, but then sealed the match as Paradorn returned a serve beyond the baseline.

Paradorn pocketed 30,000 dollars, once again narrowly missing out on the title after a similar tie-breaker loss in the third set had cost him the final against Moya last year.

"I had my chances but did not take them," said Paradorn. "But I have to take the positives from the match. "I could have lost in the first round, but at least I made the final. — INTERNET

Germany to lose Athens Olympics team Showjumping gold medal

LONDON, 10 Jan — Germany will lose the Athens Olympics team showjumping gold medal after the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) said it had disqualified Goldfever and rider Ludger Beerbaum for doping.

"The Judicial Committee has agreed that the horse Goldfever and the (rider) must be disqualified from the event and that all prizes and prize money won at the event must be forfeited," a statement on the FEI web site said.

"The FEI will modify the team results at the Olympic Games." Ointment containing the banned substance Betamethasone, a type of steroid, was used to treat eczema on the horse before the Games. Although independent vets said there would have been no impact on the animal's performance, the FEI has applied the rules of strict liability.

MNA/Reuters



Spanish tennis player Carlos Moya holds the winner's trophy aloft after winning the final of the Chennai Open.—INTERNET

Maldivian Foreign Minister meets Chinese delegation

MALE (Maldives), 10 Jan — Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel met here Sunday with Wu Dawei, Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs who is heading a Chinese official delegation to review the aftermath of the tsunami and express the Chinese Government's condolence to the government and people of the Maldives.

On behalf of the Maldivian Government, Jameel expressed thanks to the Chinese Government for providing aid to the Maldives after the country was hit by the tsunami.

Jameel also briefed the Chinese delegation on the rescue and relief operations being taken by the Maldivian Government after the tsunami.

Wu said China is standing with the Maldivian Government and the Maldivian people in its efforts to rebuild the country after the tsunami. He said as a developing country, China will provide aid to the Maldives within its own capacity.

Wu also visited Maldives' National Disaster Management Centre which was established immediately after the tsunami to coordinate the country's rescue and relief efforts. The Chinese delegation is scheduled to visit some severely affected islands on Monday.

The Chinese official delegation, composed of five high-ranking officials from different departments, arrived here on Saturday.

The tsunami which hit the island on December 26 killed 82 people and displaced more than 20,000 while 26 people are still missing.

MNA/Xinhua

Marine disasters cost China 5.4 b yuan in eco losses in 2004

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Storm tides and other marine disasters cost China 5.4 billion yuan in direct economic losses in 2004, with 140 people left dead or missing, China's State Oceanic Administration said here Sunday.

"The situation of marine disasters was normal last year and storm tides are still the main cause of ocean disasters," said the administration in a report on marine disasters

in 2004.

The economic losses in 2004 drastically dropped compared with that in 2003, when the figure stood at eight billion yuan.

In 2004, China's coastal areas was hit by 10 typhoon and eight extra tropical storm tides, causing direct economic losses of 5.2 billion yuan and leaving 49 people dead or missing.

MNA/Xinhua

Britons warned to be wary of scam artists diverting donations

LONDON, 10 Jan — British police have warned people donating to the Britain's tsunami relief fund to be wary of scam artists trying to divert some of the million of pounds flowing to relief efforts.

The scams include the sending of unsolicited e-mails asking for money to be deposited in overseas bank accounts to support relief efforts as well as false web sites using the disaster to spread computer viruses.

"We urge people to exercise vigilance in order to prevent and disrupt these and other possible criminal scams," said a statement from the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) on Saturday.

Britons have donated at least 100 million pounds to the Asian tsunami appeal in the country's fastest ever charity appeal. NCIS cautioned people only to use web sites of recognized charities and aid organizations.

"We do not in any way wish to dissuade members of the public from donating money to the registered charity tsunami appeals," the statement added.

MNA/Reuters

Poll shows more Britons want Brown to be PM than Blair

LONDON, 10 Jan — More people want Chancellor Gordon Brown to be Prime Minister than Tony Blair, according to a poll on Sunday.

The ICM poll for the News of the World also showed the ruling Labour Party well ahead of their main Conservative rivals, by 38 per cent to 31 per cent just four months ahead of an expected election.

In a week in which the long-running tensions between Britain's two most powerful men resurfaced over the timing of Blair's monthly news conference, 27 per cent of those polled said they wanted Brown in the top job — against 26 per cent for Blair.

On Thursday, Blair met journalists at exactly the same time as Brown delivered a major speech

on helping the world's poorest countries, sparking speculation of a deliberate snub.

MNA/Reuters

S Korea tries to verify report on citizens kidnapped in Iraq

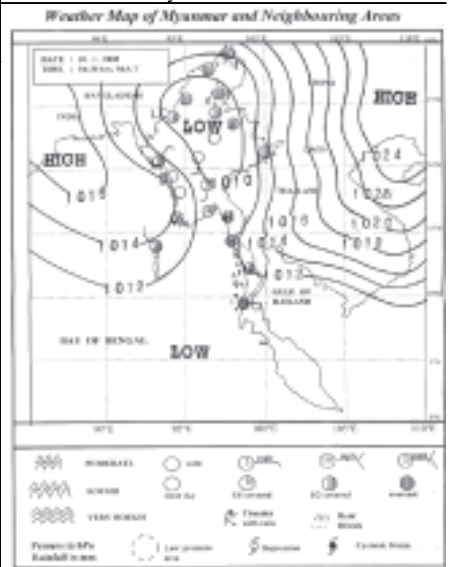
SEOUL, 10 Jan — The South Korean Foreign Ministry on Sunday was trying to verify a report that one or two South Korean citizens have been kidnapped in Iraq, reported the South Korean national Yonhap news agency.

The South Korean local MBC and other television stations earlier carried the report, but did not provide further details.

Deputy Foreign Minister Choi Young-jin presided over an emergency meeting on Sunday night attended by officials in charge of consul affairs.

Meanwhile, Yonhap quoted sources of the Ministry of National Defence as saying that all the 3,600 South Korean troops currently deployed in northern Iraq are in their own bases.

In June 2004, a South Korean worker was beheaded in Iraq after Seoul rejected the kidnappers' demand of withdrawing South Korean troops from the Middle East country. —MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 10 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Kayah States and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namsam and Hakha (4°C) each, PyinOoLwin (6°C), Pinlaung, Moekok and Ann (7°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 9-1-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 10-1-2005 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-1-2005 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 9-1-2005 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 10-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from Northwest at (14:30) hours MST on 9-1-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North and East Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

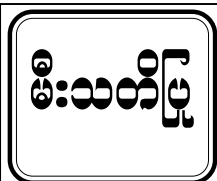
Forecast valid until evening of 11-1-2005: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State and weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-1-2005: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-1-2005: Generally fair weather.



Tuesday, 11 January

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: - Can I see you tonight
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: - Barbie girl
- 8:50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: -Sunshine
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: - Summer blue
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music -Up where we belong -First love -You and I -Near you
- 9:00 pm** English Speaking Course Level-II Unit (16)
- 9:15 pm** Article/music
- 9:25 pm** Weekly sports reel
- 9:35 pm** Music for your listening pleasure -Life is good
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Tuesday, 11 January
View on today:

- 7:00 am**
 - ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်တော်တော် အဘိဓမ္မာအယူဝါဒတော်တော်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအယူဝါဒတော်တော်တော်၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မဗျာကိရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိမိန္ဒဆရာတော်သံဃာ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
 - To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
 - Morning news
- 7:40 am**
 - Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
 - တရားဝန်ယူပွင့်
- 8:00 am**
 - အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:05 am**
 - Songs of yesteryears
- 8:15 am**
 - လေးစားရသောတံတံ
- 8:30 am**
 - International news
- 8:45 am**
 - Let's go
- 1:00 pm**
 - Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
 - Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
 - English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
 - Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
 - အစေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ပထမနှစ် (မတတ်စားအထူးပြု) (မတတ်စား)
- 5:15 pm**
 - Dance of national races
- 5:25 pm**
 - ခမ်းနားဆင်တားဇာတ်ဝင်

- 5:35 pm**
 - Sing and Enjoy
- 6:15 pm**
 - နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဇရာကံမင်းမုန့်နု" (အပိုင်း-၅၆)
- 6:30 pm**
 - Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
 - Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
 - သားငါးဖွဲ့ဖြူပြည့်အကျိုး
- 7:20 pm**
 - "မြန်မာ့ဘဝကောင်း ပျူဘဝကောင်း" ကိုတွေ့ရုံမျှ မလှိုင်သန့်ထွန်း (ဥက္ကဋ္ဌဓမ္မေ သီကုံးနွဲ့နဲ့သည့်)
- 7:45 pm**
 - အရည်အပြားအတာ ဓနိရည်ကြာ နိုင်စာမေမှ ဒိုဏှာရှု "နိဂါဗျူဇွန်အား မြှင့်တင်နိုင် စီးပွားမညှိုးမိအခြေခိုင်"
- 8:00 pm**
 - News
- 8:15 pm**
 - International news
- 8:30 pm**
 - Weather report
- 8:45 pm**
 - နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သေဥပုဗ္ဗမုန့်သု" (အပိုင်း-၂၉)
- 9:00 pm**
 - The next day's programme



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects special summer paddy high yield zone in Hlegu Township, Yangon. — YANGON COMMAND

Agricultural, regional development tasks inspected in east, north Yangon

YANGON, 10 Jan — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by departmental officials concerned, inspected agricultural undertakings and regional development tasks at Yangon East District and Yangon North District this afternoon.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected thriving summer paddy fields by six-lane Yangon-Bago Highway near Shantegy village, Dagon Myothit (South) township, Yangon East District. On the occa-

sion, the commander heard reports on the scattering of fertilizers, supply of irrigation water to the paddy fields, and prospects for cultivation of more summer paddy.

In response to the reports, the commander gave instructions on the adequate supply of irrigation water to farmland and the supply of water to water-scarce farmland by the use of CNG-powered pumps.

Next, the commander inspected the special zone of summer paddy cultivated with water from Ngamoyeik drain at Thanatpyin village, Hlegu town-

ship, Yangon North District. The commander also oversaw the tasks being taken to keep green and pleasant the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport.

Next, the commander gave instructions on cultivation of summer paddy, winter crops, beans and pulses, and edible crops on a broader scale with the application of correct agricultural techniques.

After hearing the reports, the commander attended to the needs for combined use of organic and inorganic fertilizers.

(See page 9)

Foreign Affairs Minister hosts New Year dinner

YANGON, 10 Jan — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe hosted the New Year dinner in honour of diplomats and resident representatives of UN Agencies at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel here this evening.

Present were Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and wife Dr Khin Mya Win, the directors-generals and their wives, ambassadors and their wives led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Yangon Filipino Ambassador Mme

Phoebe A Gomez, UN Coordinator Mr Charles James Petrie and resident

representatives and wives of UN agencies. Minister U Nyan Win extended

New Year greetings and Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez spoke

words of thanks.

Traditional dances and songs were presented

after and during the dinner.

MNA



Minister U Nyan Win extends New Year greetings at the dinner hosted in honour of diplomats and UN officials. — MNA

Minister inspects bank erosion prevention in Nyaungdon

YANGON, 10 Jan — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe coordinated with officials on

prevention of bank erosion at Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Division,

today.

Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Director-General of Directorate of Water Re-

sources and Improvement of River Systems U Chit Khin and officials explained the volume of traf-

fic on the river, tax collection at Panhlaing camp, the situation of the waterway and bank erosion.

Accompanied by officials, the minister observed dredgers of DWRIRS at work and waterway signs and heard a report on the volume of vessels passing the waterway under the bridge.

At the bank erosion prevention project on Kyeinbinhse bank, the minister laid down future work programmes for officials of the respective institutions.

The minister and the deputy minister then inspected the bank erosion prevention work.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects bank erosion near Bo Myat Tun Bridge. — TRANSPORT