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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Myanmar keeping constant surveillance on newly emerging infections

YANGON, 14 Jan — The Ministry of Health opened the Myanmar Health Research Conference at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The Secretary-1 said that the aims of the conference are for the researchers to share their knowledge with their counterparts, and to disseminate their findings to the persons in the practical field who will materialize them. In its national development drive, the Government accepts the task of promoting health, fitness and education standards of the people as of vital important for national requirement. Thus, it is implementing the objective — Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire

nation.

The Government is making harmonious efforts to implement the disease prevention and treatment and health promotion programmes in accord with the aims — longevity and a disease-free life for every citizen.

The Head of State has already given guidance on six priority diseases — malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes and hypertension. Research will be conducted in combination with the traditional medicine to discover potent therapies and drugs for the diseases. In addition to the three Medical Research Departments and Traditional Medicine Department, physicians of the teaching hospitals will carry out research on the traditional medicine.

(See page 8)



NHC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at Myanmar Health Research Conference (2004).—MNA

Sunchaung Dam, onion plantations inspected in Myothit, Natmauk

YANGON, 14 Jan — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, together with Chairman of Magway Di-

vision Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, inspected maintenance and storage of water at Sunchaung

Dam situated near Myepyintha Village of Myothit Township on 9 January.

Maj-Gen Htay Oo

looked into thriving onion plantations of private entrepreneurs with the use of irrigation facilities from Yin Creek in Myothit and

Natmauk Townships. Chairman of Pyi Phy Aung Co U Aung Kyaw Moe reported on cultivation of onion and sesame,

assistance of Myanma Agriculture Service and samples of onion. The minister gave necessary instructions.

It is estimated that average per-acre yield will be 8,000 viss of onion. In the region, over 594 acres of land have been put under monsoon onion, and a total of 1,299 acres of onion will be extended in the cold season. —MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo views thriving onion plantations in Myothit Township.—A&I

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 15 January, 2005

Make collective efforts with nationalism and patriotism for emergence of peaceful, consolidated Union

The Tatmadaw Government, since its assumption of the State duty, laid down Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty — which are crucial for the country.

The government hand in hand with national people made concerted efforts to bring a complete halt to the evil legacy of the colonialists — armed conflicts among national brethren, deterioration of regional stability and enforcement of law, lack of development, and cultivation of poppy.

National unity has now been consolidated, alongside the restoration of national stability and the prevalence of law and order across the country. With the stability and development in place, economic and social infrastructures are emerging one after another everywhere in the country.

State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by officials concerned, toured Thingan Nyinaung, Myawady District, Kayin State, on 11 January this year. In his meeting with departmental officials at district and township levels, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said arrangements were made to ensure the betterment of administrative machinery as the growing stability in border areas had contributed to the improvement of security, thereby vitalizing the spirit of national solidarity, Union Spirit and patriotic spirit among national brethren.

Employees taking charge of bringing stability and prosperity to border areas and raising the socio-economic life of the national people there on government's behalf are to gear themselves up for these responsibilities with goodwill by getting in close contact with them.

To ensure a harmonious development in rural areas as well as in other regions, the government is implementing the border area development project, the special 24-zone development projects, and the five-task rural development project.

It is therefore necessary to keep the current development momentum for further regional development as the government will continue its nation-building endeavours. People living in border areas are also to work hard on a constant basis with nationalism and patriotism in their interest as well as in the nation's. Now, steps are being taken to shape a discipline-flourishing democratic nation conforming to the tradition, custom, culture, and topographical features of the country.

The National Convention is now being held as part of the efforts to implement the first as well as the most important phase of the seven-point Road Map that will give birth to the discipline-flourishing democracy. The entire national people are to do their bit actively and dynamically in this process.

All in all, the onus is on the entire national people to render cooperation with nationalism and patriotism in the drive for the establishment of an ever-lasting peaceful and consolidated Union, in other words, a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

All this needs to be known

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

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



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe unveils signboard of Thahtaygwin Model Village in Thanlyin Township. YANGON COMMAND

Thahtaygwin in Thanlyin Township gets model village facilities

YANGON, 14 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee attended the

ceremonies to unveil the signboard of Thahtaygwin Model Village and open the Pre-Primary School and the rural health care branch at the respective places in Thanlyin Township yesterday morning.

The Commander unveiled the signboard of the model village.

At the Pre-Primary

School, donor U Aung Than Oo handed over documents related to the building to Secretary of Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Dr Hla Myint.

Wellwishers set up a K 1.9 million trust-funds for the school. Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay and donor U Aung Than

Oo formally opened the school. Next, the ceremony to put into service the rural health care branch and the village library were held at the respective places.

Later, the Commander and wife and guests attended the ceremony to open the village model market.—MNA

Culture Minister attends Panpyolatt Arts Gallery

YANGON, 14 Jan— The third Panpyolatt Arts Gallery of teachers of the Arts Department under the University of Culture (Yangon) was opened at the National Museum on Pyay Road here this morning, and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung attended the ceremony and opened it.

Next, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, directors-general under the ministry, patrons of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon and



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung views works of Panpyolatt Arts Gallery.—MNA

executives, Rector of the university U Tin Soe and faculty members viewed round the show.

Altogether 117 paintings including water colour paintings and oil paintings were put on

display. The show continues until 21 January.—MNA

Soe Kyaw Naing leads professional golfers division

YANGON, 14 Jan — Professional golfer Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) led with 216 strokes in the third round of his division in the MPGA and MGF President's Trophy Golf Tournament, at Bago Hanthawady Golf Course this morning.

Min Naing (Srixon) and Zaw Paing Ootied with 217 strokes each.

Thein Zaw Myint and Nay Lin Tun fired 221

strokes each in the men's amateur golfers division, followed by Zaw Zin Win with 222.

In the women's handicap 0-18 players division, Khin Thu Thu was still leading her rivals with 138 strokes.

Her runners-up were Aye Aye Hsan with 142 and Htaik Htaik with 143.

The fourth and final round continues tomorrow.—MNA

MMCWA opens Tailoring Course No 36

YANGON, 14 Jan— With the sponsorship of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Tailoring Course No 36 was opened at the hall of the association at the corner of Thanthuma Road and Parami Street in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

MMCWA Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint made an open-

ing speech on the occasion. The two-month course is being attended by 22 trainees.—MNA



Chinese Defence Ministry hosts new year reception

BEIJING, 13 Jan— Chinese Defence Ministry hosted a new year reception to foreign defence attaches, assistant defence attaches and their wives here Wednesday evening.

In his toast, Zhang Bangdong, director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the ministry, first expressed sympathy and condolences to tsunami-ravaged South and Southeast Asian nations, saying "the officers and soldiers of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) are sympathetic with the people of those nations and express profound condolences over the deaths incurred".

Zhang said that the year 2004 had seen remarkable progress made in the reform and building of the Chinese Armed Forces.

"The military building was carried out in a steadfast and right political direction and the military reform with Chinese characteristics achieved solid

results," said Zhang.

Significant progress was also made in the building of arms and equipment and national defence technology. The system restructuring was almost completed and the reform on logistics went on smoothly, Zhang said.

The exchange and cooperation with other militaries were further deepened, according to Zhang.

As an important year for China to build a well-off society in an all-round way, the year 2005 is also vital for PLA to leap forward in its modernization drive, Zhang said. "The PLA will make best of opportunities and pay unremitting efforts to advance the military reform with Chinese characteristics."

MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean student tests a MP-3 player at a shop in Seoul, South Korea, on 12 Jan, 2005—INTERNET

China, Mongolia sign agreement for education

HOHNOT, 13 Jan— Ten Mongolian orphans will receive three-year school education in Erenhot, a city in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, beginning 1 September this year, according to a latest agreement on China-Mongolia education cooperation.

The agreement was signed between the National Authority for Children of the Mongolian Government and the Erenhot municipal government earlier this week. The agreement should set the stage for future exchanges on children education between China and Mongolia.

"It's the beginning of the cooperation between Mongolia and China on children education, which will benefit the education and culture of Mongolia," said Togtokhnyam, head of the Mongolian National Authority for Children, who is heading a Mongolian delegation on a visit to Erenhot.

Togtokhnyam said according to the agreement, before the Year 2008, Mongolia will send more students to study in China each year, which is believed "to play a positive role in boosting the friendly ties between Mongolia and China".

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia likely to ditch planned order for Russian warplanes

MOSCOW, 13 Jan— Indonesia is likely to ditch a planned order for Russian warplanes because the money to pay for the jets has been diverted to the relief effort, a high-ranking Russian defence official said on Wednesday. Indonesian officials signalled in the past few days that the deal worth 890 million US dollars to buy at least six Russian-made Sukhoi jet fighters was off, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"It's all about the disaster basically ... It has already affected Indonesia's previously announced plans to buy Sukhoi planes and combat helicopters. It's a serious situation for us," the official told Reuters. Indonesia was one of the countries hit on 26 December by huge waves, triggered by an earthquake, that killed more than 158,000 people around the Indian Ocean.

Asia is a key market for Russian arms sales, especially Indonesia which is under an embargo from Washington that prevents US arms exporters selling to Jakarta.

Moscow's arms exports in the region have already been hit by Thailand's decision in October to pick an Anglo-Swedish consortium over Sukhoi to replace its ageing fleet of 16 American-made F-5s.

Sukhoi and Indonesian Government officials were not immediately available for comment.

Jet sales make up two-thirds of Russia's arms

exports, mainly Sukhoi aircraft sold to Southeast Asia. Before the US embargo, Indonesia's military imported about 70 per cent of its weapons from the United States. Separately, Russia's *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* quoted sources on Wednesday as saying total losses to Russian arms sales because of the disaster could be up to 1.5 billion US dollars.

But an official at Rosoboronexport, Russia's state arms trader, said the disaster would not have any serious effect on Russian exports.

Russia's arms trade has an order book of about 12 billion US dollars. It sold more than 5 billion US dollars' worth of arms and hardware in 2004. Indonesia announced plans in November to buy more Sukhoi fighters, adding to the four it already owns.

The Russian defence official said on Wednesday the order was for six Sukhoi-30MKs and Sukhoi 27SKs and a number of combat helicopters.—MNA/Reuters



A purple heron in Singapore.—INTERNET

Foreigners seized, bank robbed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Jan—Two foreigners have been seized in separate incidents in Iraq and armed men have stolen millions from a Ramadi bank in a day of widespread violence.

At 6.30 am (0330 GMT) on Thursday, armed men opened fire on a minibus that had gone to pick up a Turkish businessman from the Bakhan Hotel in central Baghdad.

All six on board were killed, police Lieutenant Bassam al-Abid said. The businessman, identified as Abdulkadir Tanrikulu, was captured by at least 10 men.

Five of the dead were local Iraqi employees working for the businessman, who runs a construction company, al-Abid said. The other victim was the driver of the minibus.

The assailants carried the bodies off the bus and drove off in the vehicle and two other cars, al-Abid said.

A Turkish news channel said the construction company was working in Iraq with the US.

An employee of the hotel, who gave only his first name, Alaa, said the businessman has been in Iraq for about a year.

Elsewhere, an Egyptian was seized around the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, local police and party officials said on Thursday.

"Egyptian Abd al-Khalik Ahmad, 43, who worked at a service station, was kidnapped on Thursday in front of his workplace by armed men who arrived in two cars, some of whom wore uniforms of the New Iraqi Army," Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Ahmad said.

Internet

Briton held by US forces in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Jan—US forces in Iraq are holding a Briton for suspected links to guerrillas, a British official said.

The man was detained on 7 December in the western town of Ramadi, a hotbed of guerrilla activity against allied forces. "He was caught with gunpowder residue. He was detained on suspicion of fighting," the official said.

Unconfirmed reports identified the man as Mobeen Muneef and said he was born in London. The man was sent to Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad and then moved to the Bucca detention facility near the Kuwaiti border, the official said.

The British official said the man was visited twice by consular officials and is in good health.

Iraqi officials and the US military say foreign Muslim militants are playing a major role in Iraq's raging insurgency, launching suicide and car bombings and beheading foreign hostages.—Internet



A combination photo shows fashionable Chinese girls walking in the streets of Southwest China's municipality Chongqing, on 13 Jan, 2005. China is the world's largest shoe manufacturer as well as the world's largest shoe exporter, producing at least 5 billion pairs each year. —INTERNET

စက်မှုဥစ္စာအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

China forms strategic cooperation partnership with Microsoft

JINAN, 13 Jan— A Chinese IT giant in East China's Shandong Province declared that it had established a global strategic cooperation partnership with Microsoft.

As one of the biggest IT enterprises in China, Langchao Group's business covers four fields including PC, application software, commercial terminal and mobile telecommunication.

Langchao's cooperation with Microsoft has been on-going. The strategic cooperation of both sides will depend in part on the software research and development, technological training and enterprise management.

Langchao has two companies listed in China's Mainland: Langchao Information and Langchao Software. Langchao Electronics is listed in Hong Kong. So far, Langchao has established software research and development centres in the United States and Japan and has enjoyed good cooperation with famous international IT giants such as LG of South Korea, NEC of Japan and IBM of the US. —MNA/Xinhua

China to invest \$12b to build railways in 2005

BEIJING, 13 Jan — China will invest 100 billion yuan (about 12 billion US dollars) to build railways in 2005, almost double the amount from 2004, said Liu Zhijun, Minister of Railways here Wednesday.

During a three-day national meeting on railways, Liu said his ministry will launch 58 new projects and continue the 48 projects from 2004.

The ministry will finish 714 kilometres of new lines, 523 kilometres of double track lines and 875 kilometres of electric rail routes. Work will also start on 805 kilometres of new lines and 396 kilometres of double track lines.

According to the middle and long-term programme for railway network that the State Council, or the central government, passed at the beginning of 2004, the ministry launched 48 new projects in 2004, with a total investment of more than 500 billion yuan (60.46 billion US dollars).

In 2004 the ministry laid 1,139.6 kilometres of new lines and 630.2 kilometres of double track lines.

In order to enable local governments to be more involved in the building, the ministry signed cooperative agreements with more than 20 provincial governments to build more railways to cope with the need of increasing traffic.

"The ministry has gained support from local governments in using land and expanding money-raising channels."

Moreover, the ministry will draw investments from local governments, businesses and foreign countries to build railways, and it will also issue more bond, Liu said. —MNA/Xinhua

China's senior legislator meets Finnish guests

BEIJING, 13 Jan — Jiang Zhenghua, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, met here Wednesday with a Finnish parliamentary delegation headed by its director for legislation Keijo Koivukangas.

The two sides exchanged views on Sino-Finnish relationship, NPC legislation and other issues of common concern. The parliamentary delegation is composed of secretaries-general from eight Finnish political parties and organizations. —MNA/Xinhua

Nearly eight car bombs a month in north Iraq

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan— There have been nearly 90 car bombs in north central Iraq since last February, the commander of the 1st Infantry Division said Thursday.

"We've had 45 suicide vehicle-borne (improvised explosive devices) detonate within (his area of operations)... since we assumed the mission 11 months ago," said Maj Gen John Batiste.

There were another 42 vehicle-concealed IEDs — that is, a car loaded with explosives that is remotely detonated, he said. There were about 24 attacks on US and Iraqi government forces on Wednesday alone, he said, a number that includes mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, roadside bombs or car bombs.

US forces are on the receiving end of about 75 percent of those attacks. Iraqi forces get about 25 percent, a number that continues to increase. —Internet

Philippine Govt appeals stay extension for OFWs in Thailand

MANILA, 13 Jan— The Philippines has requested Thailand to grant overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) displaced by the disaster at least six months extension to give them ample time to look for alternative jobs.

The Department of Foreign Affairs Wednesday said the employment contracts of OFWs working in the hotels and resorts hit by the disaster have been pre-terminated following the disaster that hit southwestern Thailand and other countries on the Indian Ocean.

"In line with this task, the Philippine Embassy has made representations with the employers of the displaced OFWs to ensure that their salaries, benefits and other entitlements are paid in accordance with their contracts or the laws of Thailand," the DFA said in a statement. The embassy has also requested that OFWs be given priority for employment by hotels and tourism-related service companies who are in need of staff.

MNA/Xinhua

Gulf Air's passenger revenue grows 27.5% in 2004

ABU DHABI, 13 Jan — Gulf Air Airline recorded a 27.5-per-cent growth in passenger revenue in 2004 over the previous year, local Gulf News daily reported Tuesday.

The airline, which is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), also recorded a 23.5-per-cent growth in the number of passengers carried by its network in 2004, with a total of 7,484,470, said the report.

Similar growth was also seen in cargo revenue, where there was an 18.1-per-cent growth.

"This is another very positive indicator that there is ever-growing public confidence in the changes we are making within the airline," said James Hogan, president and chief executive of the airline. —MNA/Xinhua

Army sergeant refuses 2nd Iraq deployment

SAVANNAH, (Georgia), 13 Jan—A mechanic with nine years in the Army, including a role in the assault on Baghdad, has refused to return to Iraq, claiming "you just don't know how bad it is."

Sgt Kevin Benderman, 40, said he became morally opposed to war after seeing it firsthand during his first Iraq tour. Now he faces a possible court-martial after failing to deploy Friday with his unit.

"I told them that I refused deployment because I just couldn't go back over there," Benderman said Wednesday. "If I'm going to sit up there and tell everyone that I do not believe in

war, why would I go back to a war zone?"

Lt Col Cliff Kent, a Fort Stewart spokesman, said Benderman was being considered absent without leave because he had orders to deploy to Iraq while the Army processed his conscientious objector claim.

"He was AWOL from the unit's movement," Kent said.

Internet



A construction worker walks in a tunnel under construction called the 'Common Utility Duct,' 40 m (43 yd) below Tokyo, on 13 Jan 2005. —INTERNET

Cambodia's FUNCINPEC Party delegation leaves for China

PHNOM PENH, 14 Jan—A delegation of Cambodia's royalist FUNCINPEC Party left here on Wednesday afternoon to begin its official visit to China at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party.

The 13-member delegation, headed by FUNCINPEC Party Secretary-General Prince Norodom Sirivudh, will visit Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen and held talks with Chinese Communist Party leaders, according to the party's spokesman Chea Chanboribo.

The aim of the visit, Chea Chanboribo said, is to further strengthen the friendship and cooperation relations between the two countries and parties.

FUNCINPEC Party is the coalition partner of the third mandate government with the Cambodian People's Party. —MNA/Xinhua

ADB opens resident mission in Thailand to strengthen partnership

MANILA, 14 Jan—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Wednesday said that it has opened a resident mission in Thailand to further strengthen its long-term partnership and commitment to the country.

The ADB said that the resident mission will further enhance its presence in Thailand and help strengthen its operational activities in the region.

"The new resident mission will help us gain a better understanding of Thailand's development needs, and forge a closer partnership with the government and people, as well as with non-government organizations and the private sector," said

ADB president Tadao Chino.

"It will also help ADB and Thailand work together to realize an integrated, prosperous, poverty-free, and peaceful Asia," he added.

The president, who unveiled a plague with Thailand's Finance Minister, Somkid Jatusripitak, to signify ADB's presence in Thailand, said that Thailand would continue its development pace and continue to play

an important role as a regional economic, financial and communications hub in Asia and the Pacific.

"ADB and Thailand have a shared vision of an Asia and Pacific Region, where income disparities are reduced, poverty is eliminated, and prosperity benefits all," said Chino.

As one of ADB's founding members, Thailand has received so far 84 loans totalling 5.4 billion US dollars in various sectors including

energy, transport and communications, social infrastructure, agriculture and natural resources and finance.

Meanwhile, Thailand has been playing an important role in fostering regional and subregional cooperation initiatives, including the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) programme, and in providing financial and technical assistance for its neighbouring countries.

MNA/Xinhua



Employees of Samsung Electronics Co walk by their company logo at the headquarters of Samsung Electronics Co in Seoul Friday, on 14 Jan, 2005.—INTERNET

China's nat'l expressway network "people-centred"

BEIJING, 14 Jan — The national expressway network plan reflects the "people-centred" philosophy, said Zhang Chunxian, Minister of Communications here Thursday.

The State Council approved the plan at the end of 2004. According to the plan, China will build a 85,000-kilometre-long expressway network in the coming 30 years.

Formed by seven lines from Beijing, nine lines from north to south and 18 from east to west, the 85,000-kilometre-long network, known in short as "7918 Network," will cover a region with a population of one billion.

Zhang told a Press conference of the State Council Information Office that the plan aims to satisfy "to the maximum extent" the transportation demand of people and create a safe, comfortable and convenient transport

environment so as to enable the road users to enjoy the benefits afforded by the amenities of expressway network to their life and work.

According to the plan, the network will connect all the provincial capitals, large cities with a population over 500,000 and medium-sized cities over 200,000.

It will also connect major AAAA-level tourist cities nationwide to provide a fast-track passage for tourism and recreation, Zhang said.

All these Zhang regarded as reflection of "people-centred" philosophy.

MNA/Xinhua

China rules out joint venture cigarette factories

BEIJING, 14 Jan—China will not allow the establishment of new cigarette factories including foreign-funded ones, the State Tobacco Monopoly Administration (STMA) insisted Wednesday.

Speaking at a Press conference, administration spokesman Xing Wanli said "the country's current cigarette manufacturing capacity exceeds market demands, and the establishment of new cigarette factories will not be approved". Xing's statement comes as especially bad news for British American Tobacco (BAT), according to Thursday's China Daily.—MNA/Xinhua

Minister says saboteurs strike Iraq's oil industry on daily basis

BAGHDAD, 13 Jan — Guerillas are carrying out at least one attack a day on Iraq's vital oil infrastructure, at times shutting down all fuel lines to Baghdad, Oil Minister Thamer Ghadban said.

"Over the past three months, attacks have increased to about one or two attacks every day," Ghadban told a press conference.

He warned the attacks were not random but part of a deliberate strategy to create fuel shortages in the capital. Ghadban said attacks numbered more than 200 in 2004 and had averaged about 24 per month.

running these terrorist attacks. That leadership has maps and is aiming to isolate the city of Baghdad," Ghadban said.

Guerillas deliberately target fuel lines from Kirkuk, Baiji and Nafat Khana to the north that supply Baghdad's main refinery in the southern suburb of Dura, which in turn provides fuel to the capital's main electricity plant, Ghadban said.

these three lines become idle and as a result, oil stuff no longer reaches Baghdad. Then we find we have to rely on gas tankers, but the gas tankers are then attacked and the drivers either killed or kidnapped."

Iraq has stopped its imports of gasoline and propane from Syria and Saudi Arabia because of the constant attacks on the drivers, Ghadban said.

Internet

US soldier killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Jan — A US soldier was killed in the flashpoint Anbar Province, west of Baghdad, a US military statement said on Wednesday.

"The soldier assigned to the First Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action on January 11, while conducting security and stability operations in the Anbar Province," the

statement said, without giving further details on the incident.

More than 1,350 US servicemen have been killed since the US invasion of Iraq in March, 2003. —MNA/Xinhua



Honda Motor Co's humanoid robot Asimo performs with dancers next to the company's 'Edix Modulo concept vehicle' at Tokyo Auto Salon 2005 in Chiba, east of Tokyo January 14, 2005.

INTERNET

WB President set to leave his post in June

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan— World Bank President James Wolfensohn, set to leave his post in June, said on Wednesday he hoped the institution's shareholder governments will appoint his successor in time to ensure an overlap and smooth transition.

The World Bank chief, who offered no names of possible candidates, also said he was preparing a guide for his successor on how to run the global lender. "We're already preparing a transition manual which will be an ABC guide on how to run the bank, which no doubt bootlegged copies will be made available to the press, then you can all know the secrets of the institution," Wolfensohn told a news conference to discuss the bank's lead role in the disaster reconstruction efforts.

"It was something I lacked when I came in and I would like my successor to have it, so I am doing everything I can to prepare for whoever the successor is," he added.

Wolfensohn has said he will leave the

bank at the end of his tenure on 31 May, after the Bush Administration made it known it wanted its own person at the head of the bank. Under an informal agreement, the head of the World Bank has always been headed by an American, while the top job in the International Monetary Fund is held by a European.

"What I would be very pleased about is if they could decide on a successor in time for me to be able to work with whoever that person was for a period of time to make a smooth transition," Wolfensohn said.

He said he did not see his plans to leave on May 31 being delayed by the bank's lead role in the disaster reconstruction effort.

MNA/Reuters

Macanese cabbie. Macau will host talks between China and Chinese Taipei on plans to allow direct flights between the Mainland and the island over the Chinese New Year holidays.



INTERNET

China values relations with Serbia and Montenegro

BEIJING, 14 Jan— Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, said here Wednesday that Serbia and Montenegro is China's important cooperative partner in Southeast Europe and China values its relations with the country.

Jia made the remarks in his meeting with Serbia and Montenegro's Parliament Speaker Zoran Sami.

"China and Serbia and Montenegro enjoy deep friendship and our relations have withstood the vicissitude of time," said Jia.

In line with mutual respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual benefit and non-interference of internal affairs, the two countries respected each other's choices of developing paths suitable to its own national conditions as well as the other's domestic and foreign policies, he said.

"We also showed understanding and support to the other in a number of key issues concerning fundamental national interests," Jia said. "In international and regional affairs, we maintained good communication and cooperation."

Jia expressed China's appreciation to Serbia and Montenegro's adherence to the one-China policy and its support to China's legislative process.

MNA/Xinhua



Students use the Internet in Africa. Kenya's telecommunication regulators approved licences for three new companies to provide commercial satellite Internet services in a bid to improve broadband access and boost development.—INTERNET

Specific plan for direct cross-straits charter flights revealed

BEIJING, 14 Jan— A Chinese Mainland official Wednesday revealed, for the first time, the Mainland's specific plan for the Spring Festival direct charter flights across the Taiwan Straits in 2005.

According to the plan, both Taiwan and Mainland airways should participate in the flights on an equal footing. The terminals in the Mainland will be expanded from Shanghai in 2003 to more cities, including Beijing, Guangzhou and Xiamen where Taiwan businessmen inhabit and work in large numbers.

The plan also suggests Taiwan to add new cities, such as Taichung,

and help airways cut additional expenditures, according to the plan. The first direct charter flights can carry passengers in both directions and will open not only to Taiwan businessmen and their relatives but also to all Taiwan people to-and-from the Straits during the Spring Festival, the plan says.

He Shizhong, an official with the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State

Council and Pu Zhaozhou, a senior official with the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC), both considered the plan has taken full consideration of the wishes and interests of the Taiwan compatriots and airways, and expected it to be realized via direct negotiations between non-governmental aviation companies of the two sides. — MNA/Xinhua

He Shizhong, an official with the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State

Private, foreign investment to boost Chinese film industry

CHANGCHUN, 14 Jan — More private and foreign investment will go to Chinese film industry in 2005, according to sources from the China Changchun Film Festival held from January 11-12 in northeast China's Jilin Province.

"We will cooperate with film companies from Russia, Austria and North Korea in movie production this year," announced Zhao Guoguang, chairman of the Changchun Movie Production Group Company at the festival.

In fact, private and foreign capital have injected great energy into the Chinese film industry in the past year. The additional money helped solve the fund shortages, which has been plaguing the Chi-

nese film industry for years. The participation of private and foreign capital has born remarkable result in China.

In 2004, approximately 80 per cent of the 212 movies produced in China were funded by private or foreign companies, according to statistics from the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television.

Apart from movie production, foreign capital has also been invested

in the construction of cinemas in China. After January 2004, cinemas jointly funded by domestic and foreign capital are being built in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and other big Chinese cities. From late 2003, foreign capital was officially allowed to enter into the Chinese movie production industry. This practice complies with the commitments of China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO).

MNA/Xinhua

Western Wall is most visited tourist site in Israel

JERUSALEM, 14 Jan — The Western Wall is the most visited site by foreign tourists in Israel, a survey revealed Wednesday.

Of all the tourists that visited Israel in the first half of 2004, 53 per cent visited the Western Wall, said the survey, which was conducted by the Geocartographic Institute on behalf of the Tourism Ministry. The second most visited site is the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem, the survey added.

It also revealed 75 per cent of tourists visited Israel independently, while 13 per cent came on organized groups and 12 per cent bought package deals. According to the survey, 80 per cent of tourists said their trips to Israel were excellent, 95 per cent said they would encourage their friends to visit Israel, and 73 per cent said they had no security concerns during their visit to Israel.

MNA/Xinhua

US trade deficit hits new record in November

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan— The US trade deficit rose sharply by 7.7 per cent in November to a new monthly record of 60.3 billion dollars, the Commerce Department reported on Wednesday.

The figure surprised economists who had been expecting a slight decline in the deficit from the 56-billion-dollar gap in October.

The country's 2004 trade deficit through November totalled 561.3 billion dollars — already well above the 12-month record of 496.5 billion dollars set in 2003 — and the US looks set

to top the 600 billion dollar level for the complete year.

Total US imports in November increased 1.3 per cent to 155.8 billion dollars, an all-time high. The rise was led by a jump of 11.8 per cent in petroleum products which hit a monthly record of 19.4 billion dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

To build a discipline-flourishing democratic state based on lessons from history

Aung Moe San

Although the AFPFL won a landslide victory in the election, thanks to the unanimous support of the people soon after the regaining of independence, the party fell from power within a period of 14 years, despite its claim that it would exist for 40 consecutive years, because of its failure to ensure peace and stability, the rule of law and national solidarity and to materialize the market-oriented economy in the country. It was also the fall of parliamentary democracy system.

The cause of its fall was the result of giving priority to copying the western style democracy that was not in harmony with our social system. Another reason behind the cause was the deficiency in the social system that denies the flourishing of the democratic practices in the society.

Taking those failures and weakness of the past as lessons, the nation is now paying serious attention to restoring peace and stability and the ensuring rule of law and national consolidation, and making enough room for the Tatmadaw to play a national political leadership role, and this has been included in the already approved 104 basic principles of the National Convention.

Otherwise, the nation will experience an endless situation in which the Tatmadaw takes over the State duties again and again as long as the civilian governments, born of the immature society void of democracy knowledge, fail to run the State administrative machinery well.

And the Tatmadaw's assumption of the State duties whenever the nation faced economic hardships and deterioration of the political stability throughout history after regaining of independence, are living proof of the fact.

Multi-coloured armed insurgency was spreading in the nation soon after she regained independence, and so feeble was the authority of the then legitimate government that it was even called the Yangon Government. When the political parties failed to address the problem through political means, the Tatmadaw had to take over the responsibility of restoring the rule of law, community peace and stability and economic progress. Since then, the Tatmadaw has been playing a pivotal role in the politics of Myanmar.

The formation of deep cracks in the Union in 1962 resulting from the federal policy had created an unavoidable situation for the Tatmadaw to take over the responsibilities of the State. If the political leaders could solve the problem, for no reason, the Tatmadaw would take part in the political leadership role then.

As civilians had no power at all to control and stop the anarchy which ruled the nation during the 1988 unrest, it was again the Tatmadaw that saved the people from the dreadful situation and the nation from facing danger. There were always causes and effects behind the Tatmadaw's unavoidable assumption of the State duties. Because nothing in this world comes into existence without causes and effects. Hence, the launching of slanders against the Tatmadaw for taking over the State duties is the act

If they have the real wish to see the flourishing of democracy in the nation, which is in the process of developing the market-oriented economy and establishing democracy, all the political parties should join hands with the Tatmadaw and the people, with a view to developing the production sector, improving the social standard, and enhancing the intellectual level of the entire people to have more thinking power and knowledge.

opposing the objective conditions with no firm reason.

If they have the real wish to see the flourishing of democracy in the nation, which is in the process of developing the market-oriented economy and establishing democracy, all the political parties should join hands with the Tatmadaw and the people, with a view to developing the production sector, improving the social standard, and enhancing the intellectual level of the entire people to have more thinking power and knowledge.

Turning a blind eye to the objective conditions, the political parties, which want to copy the western model of democracy, have chosen the policy of making confrontations with the Tatmadaw. They are demanding a western model democracy, while

denying the democracy system that will work well in the nation. Relying on some western nations, the parties are opposing the existing Tatmadaw Government from the negative point of view. The US and its western allies are tightening their economic sanctions on Myanmar, and in the meantime, they are supporting those west-leaning parties unjustly. Thus, tension is high between the Tatmadaw and some political parties that back away from the process of national re-consolidation.

The US and its allies are totally wrong to think that a civil commotion will break out in the nation resulting from the economic hardships the people are facing because of the sanctions. The truth is that economic hardships of a society will only create an anarchy that is entirely against democracy. There cannot be any gaining of knowledge and moral development and discipline observance in a society gripped by economic difficulties.

The world at present is not the place where economic sanctions will work. Not any single country whether England or the US can dominate the global market as it could in the past. Continental industrial nations have emerged, and the world today sees the existence of three economic powers — the US, the EU and the Asian powerhouse including China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the ASEAN. The three economic powers are addressing the international problems on their own ways.

For instance, the US and some EU nations are imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar, but China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the ASEAN are increasing cooperation with the nation from the constructive point of view.

But the US and its western allies are applying multiple means including the use of force, interferences and instigation to put a nation under their domain. For example, the US has interfered in the internal affairs of Sweden in choosing the Nobel Peace Prize winner and other winners. Its CIA was manipulating the Nobel-prize-awarding programme for science, medical and economic fields in favour of the Americans, while denying the opportunities of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to win the awards, and especially at present, the spy agency is laying covert plans for the opposition members of the nations that are against the US and allies to win the Nobel Peace prize and literary prize.

Some political parties' opposition to the national re-consolidation drive of the Tatmadaw Government comes out from the one-sided interferences and sanctions of the US and allies.

But, in any way, the Tatmadaw Government will continue to cement the national consolidation in accord with the seven-point Road Map, while taking the lessons from history.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 14.1.2005.

e-Government Workshop Training Course opened

YANGON, 14 Jan—The e-Government Workshop Training Course (Part-time), sponsored by MyanmaPost and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, concluded at the training school at 9 am today.

It was attended by Vice-Chairman of e-National Taskforce U Aung Myint and members, heads of departments under the ministry, guests, course instructors and trainees.

Vice-Chairman of e-National Taskforce U Aung Myint made a speech on the occasion.

The 6-week part-time course was attended by 62 trainees from 32 departments. — MNA

Water treatment plant project inspected

YANGON, 14 Jan — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by officials, looked into the project of building water treatment plant implemented by YCDC in Botahtaung Township this morning.

The mayor gave instructions on the beautifying of the plant compound, the training courses for the staff and safety in the worksite.

Next, the mayor heard the reports and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Myanmar keeping constant...

(from page 1)

At present, Myanmar is conducting constant surveillance on the newly emerging infections. Although there is not a single occurrence of the infections in Myanmar till now, they can spread to the country at any time because of the swift transport means of the age. The role of laboratories is important in keeping the infections under constant observation. Thus, serious attention should be paid to the development of the laboratories and enhancing the efficiency of researchers.

In addition to surveillance programmes, probing on the infections should be made as a preparation to combat the infections. Thus, research to control and prevent the infections should be conducted in the nation.

Rural people make up around 70 per cent of Myanmar's population and rural development means that of the nation. So, the government is putting into motion the master plan for progress of rural areas, covering development in economic, education and health sectors, water supply and better transport, which are interdependent each other, he said.

At a time when the implementation of rural development tasks is in full swing, the participatory research method needs to be carried out right down to the grassroots level, which is aimed at helping rural people to be convinced of taking responsibilities for better health standard of their own regions as well as participation in disease prevention and control measures and relaying of educative talks on health among them. In this case, researchers are to cooperate with regional social organizations, he noted.

As the future of the nation is on the shoulders of today's youths, measures are well under way after designating the health care concerns of the youths as an important sector. The Secretary-1 said he has learnt that to take disease prevention measures after designating the youths as target group is the most beneficial and most effective strategy for developing countries. Nowadays, the Ministry of Health and social



Chairman of NHC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views health research posters at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Health Research Conference.—MNA

organizations are nurturing youths across the nation to become peer educators based on such strategy. The researchers should conduct such kinds of researches that can show better ways and means to maintain these work programmes for a long time in line with traditions, social norms, culture and customs, he said. The Secretary-1 urged the officials to abide by research ethics, to get a testimonial before doing a research, and to systematically form research ethics committees.

Now, the national goal is being implemented for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in the interests of the nation and the people. In doing so, intellectuals and intelligentsia are to be fully imbued with patriotism, nationalistic fervour, the spirit of national consolidation and Union Spirit and to contribute towards the process exerting their

invaluable knowledge and experiences for perpetual existence of the Union.

After the conference, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted local and foreign researchers. He observed posters on health researches and respective researchers conducted him round the conference. The Secretary-1 also viewed medicines and medical equipment of private-run Companies Ltd.

A total of 70 papers of the Ministry of Health and related ministries and local and foreign researchers will be read at the conference, which continues until 19 January. Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, NHC members, officials, social organizations, researchers, resource persons and guests. — MNA

CNG Filling Station opens in Ahlon



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, ministers and guests inspect filling of CNG to a car at CNG Filling Station No 003 (Ahlon).—MNA

YANGON, 14 Jan — The opening ceremony of the CNG Filling Station No 003 (Ahlon) of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy was held at the station on Strand Road in Ahlon Township yesterday morning.

Before the opening ceremony, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, together with deputy ministers,

heard reports on matters related to the station by Director (Offshore) of MOGE U Myint Htay.

Next, the two ministers formally opened the station. Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi unveiled the signboard of the station.

They inspected the filling station, where Director (Offshore) U Myint Htay briefed them on the gas storage system, functions of the compressor and dispenser.

After the ceremony, the ministers, the deputy ministers and party viewed the filling of Compressed Natural Gas into buses of Momakha-Yangon-Bago-Nyaung-lebin bus line, the bus lines from Yangon north and west districts and departmental vehicles.

The filling station is the first one of its kind for NGV vehicles to be used in Yangon. The station can sell CNG to about 300 NGV cars a

Meeting for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held

YANGON, 14 Jan — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held a co-ordination meeting at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters at 5 pm today.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Devel-

opment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address. The commander dealt with measures to be taken by members of the Supervisory Committee for the convenience of the people, faculty members and students travelling in Yangon or from the city to various regions and

vice versa.

Officials of the Supervisory Committee, Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing and officials from the universities and colleges participated in the discussions. Later, the commander gave the concluding remarks.—MNA

Technology Transfer to Mitigate Effect of Global Warming Meeting held

YANGON, 14 Jan — The First Joint Meeting of the project on "Needs Assessment on Technology Transfer to Mitigate the Effect of Global

day. It can fill CNG to four cars at the same time.

One hundred and sixty-five cubic feet of CNG, which is equal to a gallon of petro in driving a car, is priced K 100. Plans are under way to open more CNG filling stations in Yangon City. — MNA

Warming in Myanmar" co-sponsored by National Commission for Environmental Affairs and KPI, Inc of Japan was held at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel, here this morning.

Joint-Secretary of the Commission Daw Yin Yin Lay and Project Coordinator of NEDO of Japan Mr Yukihiro Koyama made opening speeches.

Matters related to climate change prevention activities, interna-

tional cooperation for reducing greenhouse-gases, global policy and response with respect to global warming, the cooperative organizations of Myanmar concerning the greenhouse gas emission and technology transfer to mitigate the effect of global warming in Myanmar were discussed.

Present on the occasion were representatives of various ministries, NGOs and industrial zones. — MNA

Priority being given to better transport for sector's vital importance for regional development

Sinkhan Bridge on Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina road in Kachin State opened

YANGON, 14 Jan—The Sinkhan Bridge on Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina road in Shwegu Township, Kachin State, built by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction was opened at a ceremony held at the pandal near the bridge yesterday morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Brig-Gen Soe Nwe of Bhamo Station and senior military officers, departmental officials, engineers and staff who took part in the construction of the bridge, members of social organizations and war veterans organizations, teachers of Nurses Training Schools and Basic Education Schools, students, members of national race cultural troupe, local people and others.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made a speech on the occasion. He said that the bridge is the first one that was opened in the early 2005; that the government has laid down the special 24-development zones and the five rural development tasks for bringing about harmonious development across the nation. Priority is being given to ensuring better transport for transport is of first and foremost importance for regional development, he added.

The Sinkhan Bridge is the 178th of its kind out of bridges with a length of over 180 feet in the nation and the 12th of its kind in Kachin State. Bridges such as the Dabart Creek Bridge, the Bala Min Htin Bridge, the Nanmyitkha Bridge, the

Maliyan Bridge, the Nansan Yan Bridge, the Molei Bridge, the Tanai Bridge, the Hopan Bridge, the Mogaung Bridge, the Monyin Bridge and Kyundaw Bridge were constructed in Kachin State, and the Tapein Bridge will be constructed as a two-way bridge, he stressed.

The construction of the Sinkhan Bridge started on 15-2-2003. With the emergence of the facility the Mandalay-Myitkyina journey has been cut from 417 miles to 375 miles. Moreover, there emerged the Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina road, the new Union Highway which lies on the east bank of Ayeyawady River, in addition to the Shwegu-Bhamo road.

The minister stressed the need for local people and departmental officials to make energetic efforts for socio-economic development of the region with the effective use of the new facility.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe spoke. He said that the government has been taking systematic measures for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation. In this connection, it has laid down and is implementing the special projects to be able to establish basic infrastructures.

The 24 special development region project and the five rural development tasks are being undertaken to ensure the balanced development of all parts of the nation, the commander said. Sinkhan Bridge is the one crucial for the regions on Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo Road on east bank of Ayeyawady River. Due to its emergence, the national people of

those regions can now travel easily. The commander said he would like to thank those including engineers and staff of the Ministry of Construction for their active participation in bridge construction. The State's efforts for building one bridge after another is aimed at helping develop the entire Union, he added. Construction tasks being carried out with the investments of the State are the foundation of building a new modern developed nation, he noted. The State today is implementing the seven-point Road Map to transform the nation into a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic one. That is why, the commander said, local people are to maintain the durability of the bridge and to lend themselves to the viable implementation of the Road Map.

Next, Bhamo Township USDA Secretary U Aung Hsan, on behalf of the local people, expressed thanks for the construction of the bridge. The commander, the minister and officials cordially greeted those present.

At the auspicious time, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and local Tactical Operations Commander Col Aung Nyein formally opened the bridge. After inspecting the bridge, they posed for a documentary photo together with local nationals.

Sinkhan Bridge is of reinforced concrete type. It is 460 feet long and 28 feet wide. Its clearance is 130 feet wide and 10 feet high. The bridge can withstand 60 tons of load and it cost K 850 million.

MNA

Dinner hosted in honour of participants of 1st SEA Archery C'ships

YANGON, 14 Jan — A dinner was hosted in honour of those who participated in the 1st South-East Asian Archery Championships in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony at Karaweik Palace of Kandawgyi Lake yesterday evening. Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address.

Daw Aye Aye, members of the Panel of Leading Patrons of MWSF, presented prize to Ma Yu Nanda Htaik for her outstanding performance in the women's compound event; Patron Daw Nilar Thaw, prize to Ms Anbarasi Subramanian of Malaysia in the women's recurve event; Chairman of the Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, prize to Paw Oo in the men's compound event; and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, prize to Nyi Nyi Tun in the men's recurve event.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded first, second and third championship trophies to host Myanmar team, Malaysia team and Indonesia team respectively. Next, Dr Khin Shwe gave gifts to officials. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented souvenirs to the teams. Later, those present were served with dinner.

Also present at the dinner were MOC member Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Members of the Panel of Leading Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, the Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department, Vice-President of Asian Archery Federation President of SEA Archery Federation Mr San Gun Kosavinta and officials, AAF Vice-President Myanmar Archery Federation President Dr Khin Shwe and officials, presidents of sports federation, judges, managers, coaches and archers of the respective teams and guests.—MNA

Livestock and Fisheries Minister receives GM of Waikai Suisan

YANGON, 14 Jan — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein received General Manager of Waikai Suisan Co Ltd of Japan Mr Yoshiaki Kimura and party at the ministry this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General of Directorate of the Livestock and Fisheries U Kyaw Lwin, Director-General of the Fisheries Department U Than Tun and the Head of Office. — MNA

Third place match of Myanmar vs Malaysia to be telecast live

YANGON, 14 Jan — The TV Myanmar will telecast live coverage of the match for the third place between Myanmar and Malaysia teams in the Tiger Cup Soccer Tournament to be held in Singapore beginning 5.50 pm on 15 January.

MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents championship trophy to Myanmar archery team.—NLM



Patron of MWSF Daw Aye Aye awards prize to outstanding archer Yu Nanda Htaik.—NLM



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe speaking at the coordination meeting for ensuring smooth and secure transport in Yangon City. (News on page 8)— YANGON COMMAND

MMCWA President meets Mon, Kayin MCWAs

YANGON, 14 Jan — President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win met members of Mon State MCWA at the State Hall in Mawlamyine on 11 January and made a speech.

Also present at the meeting were Central Executive members of MMCWA, Mon State MCWA Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Than Than Nwe and members, District Supervisory Committee members, Township MCWA members and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the MMCWA President said that after laying down twelve objectives, the State Peace and Development Council is making efforts day in, day out to establish a peaceful and developed nation by upholding our three main national causes. The Government is building a developed nation while implementing the State's Seven-Point Road Map for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing developed democratic nation.

The members of the MMCWA are to cooperate with the government in the drive for the development of mothers, the education of children, health, economy and social affairs. In this process, they are to take steps in accordance with the right principles and the guidelines of the MMCWA (Central).

Those present at today's meeting are ones who are responsible to take pragmatic measures for these activities. Moreover, they are also responsible to explain to their subordinates on the work programmes discussed here.

All the members are to work hard with goodwill and make the people known to the fact that what the association is taking is in the interest of the people, mothers and children.

This being the case, they are to make united efforts to raise the standard of health, education, economy and welfare of the mothers and children across the country in line with the MMCWA's objectives. MMCWA Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha explained the organizational setup of the association and the future work programmes.

MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win handed over medicines and medical equipment, stationery and ten bikes, donated by the MMCWA (Central). Mon State MCWA Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Than Than Nwe accepted the donations.

Next, the president and CEC members held group discussions with members of Mon State MCWA. After that, the meeting came to an end.

The president and CEC members proceeded to the new office of Mon State MCWA, where they inspected the delivery room. At Dawna Hall of South-East Command, they met with local MCWAs and gave necessary instructions.

On 12 January, they arrived at Hpa-an, Kayin State. At Zwegabin Hall, they met with Kayin State MCWA Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Ma Ma Lu and members, township- and district-

level MCWAs. At the meeting, the MMCWA President explained in detail the conditions in which the objectives of the Association can be implemented successfully.

CEC members Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt and Daw Thazin Nwe reported on the organizational setup of the association and future work programmes.

On the occasion, the MMCWA President handed over medicines and medical equipment, stationery and eight bikes, donated by MMCWA (Central). Daw Ma Ma Lu accepted the donations.

Next, the MMCWA president and party held group discussions with members of Kayin State MCWA, and they coordinated the functions of the association. At the meeting hall of Kayin State, they also met with members of the MCWA supervisory committees at state, district and township levels and chairpersons and officials of local MCWAs. At the meeting, coordination was made in connection with the requirements of the associations. — MNA

Myanmar to convert 5,200 cars...

(from page 16)

them are in Yangon. In 2005, 5,200 cars will be converted into CNG-run vehicles. More innovation will be made for CNG substitution of cars as CNG is an environment-friendly and cost-effective fuel. The petrol and diesel prices is rising higher at present. As Myanmar can produce enough gas for cars, the CNG substitution plans is in accord with the nation's requirements.

Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw explained the benefits of using CNG which is less harmful and cost-effective. Officials of the two ministries also explained the CNG substitution plan and the extension of gas filling stations.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi said that Myanmar obtained the gas substitution technology in 1986. The nation has an abundant supply of natural gas, and the government has invested about US \$ 550,000 for a gas filling station. The test run of cars has

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

14th Defence Services...

(from page 16)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win accepted K 200,000 to the funds of the Committee for Observance of the Band Competition donated by Myanmar Music Asiayon; K 500,000 by Managing Director U Khin Maung Htoo of American Service (Myanmar) Co Ltd; and K 500,000 by Managing Director U Saw Aung Naing of Moon Light Musical Instrument Co Ltd, and he presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented cash prizes to the leaders of the bands.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Committee for Observance of the Competition Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, departmental heads, members of the panel of judges, Union Solidarity and Development Association members, teachers, students and guests.

A total of 56 bands from the office of its Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), military commands, the LIDs and military training depots are taking part in the competition. —MNA

proved that the use of CNG is cost-effective. Private entrepreneurs can manufacture gas cylinders only with the permission of the Energy Ministry.

The meeting ended after a question-and-answer session.

The participants studied parts and engines of gas-run cars and CNG cars at No 1 Automobile Factory of the Industry-2 Ministry and visited a gas filling station of the Energy Ministry.

Also present at the meeting were Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, deputy ministers, officials, entrepreneurs and journalists.

MNA



Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin addresses the meeting on CNG substitution of cars and extension of filling stations.— MNA

Myanmar wins first SEA Archery Championships

Article & photos by Thaug Win Bo

Myanmar hosted the first SEA Archery Championships at Kyaik-kasan sports ground in Yangon from 10 to 13

achievement in a short time. It was made clear when Myanmar managed to leave all its rivals behind it in the world

standard student then. She was selected national archer in 2004 and secured two silver in Asian Archery Circuit in Vietnam, she said.

"I'm very happy to win four gold in the championships and it is indeed an honour beyond words, and I'm now undergoing intense training for the upcoming 23rd SEA Games," she said.

Paw Oo, another four gold medalist, said that he represented the Ministry of Defence at the National Sports Festival (1996).

He said he bagged three gold and one bronze in the Asian Archery Circuit held in Vietnam in 2004.

"Before that event, I

Ministry of Defence with the rank of Lance Corporal.

Dr Khin Shwe, President of Myanmar Archery Federation, said "It is my earnest desire to bring honour to my nation through archery. That is why I founded the Myanmar Archery Federation and am pouring a heavy investment into it.

I emulated the success of the world's greatest archery power Korea, and simply, I thought we could also achieve success in this sport because the builds of Myanmar's wins Koreans are similar, and then I took all the steps



Four gold medals winner Paw Oo holds up his prizes.

was very delighted that local archers could bag nine gold out of the 16 events of the championships.

South-East Asian Archery Federation President Mr San Gun

stay in Myanmar.

He expressed his gratitude to the nation for its friendliness and hospitality and admired its capability to hold the events without any hitches throughout the championships.

The MAF is training the archers constantly and making preparations to dominate the archery competitions of the 23rd SEA Games.

President Dr Khin Shwe, Vice-Presidents U Tint Hsan (ACE Construction) and U Maung Maung (Asia Express) and executives are taking all necessary measures systematically for ensuring success in the archery competitions.

I wish the Myanmar Archery Federation more all the success in future!

(Translation: MS)



Dr Khin Shwe presents a prize to Paw Oo.

January.

Myanmar team deservedly won the championship, securing nine gold, five silver and ten bronze.

Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam contended for the trophy in the championships. The hosts archers had to compete mainly with those from Malaysia and Indonesia, whose national archery federations were established many years earlier than theirs.

The Myanmar Archery Federation is still young but its archers have made great efforts with nationalistic and spirit adhering to the motto "Enhance prestige of motherland through archery", and securing

ranking Asian Archery Circuit held in Vietnam.

The opening of the first SEA Archery Championships was held on 10 January, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, which was a great encouragement to Myanmar archers.

In an interview with four gold medals winner Yu Nanda Htaik, she said she was from Mawlamyine, and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and MAF President Dr Khin Shwe eyed her and brought her to Yangon in 2003. The 17-year-old said she joined the Sports Plus Education Institute, and she was also a tenth



Myanmar women archers celebrate their victory with gold medals in their hands.

had never won a medal, but I kept on trying harder and harder with an indomitable spirit, so my dream came true," he said.

"And I'll have to try harder than ever before to maintain my success in sport to bring credit to my mother country," he said.

He works for the

possible. Now my wishes have been fulfilled to a certain degree.

As you know, Thi Thi Win and Thin Thin Khaing were qualified to advance to the World Olympic level.

Now I'm working hard to produce many world-class young archers for the World Olympics," He said he

Kosavinta said that he had found Myanmar peaceful and pleasant, adding that said he had no difficulties during the



Contestants in action in the women's 70-metre recurve event.



Four gold medals winner Yu Nanda Htaik poses with her medals.

Chinese relief goods arrive in Male

MALE, 14 Jan — A cargo plane carrying Chinese Government's relief goods amounting to 7.5 million yuan (about 910,000 US dollars) arrived here Wednesday evening.

The relief goods include four sets of 26 kilowatts diesel generators, 280 sets of 2 kilowatts gasoline generators, 950 sets of one kilowatts gasoline generators.

MNA/Xinhua

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V "SITTWE" VOY NO. ST113/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "SITTWE" Voy No ST113/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 18-01-2005 and will be berthing on about 19-1-2005 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

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

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B., DBL, Dip in Marine Affairs, (UK) Email: MYINT.A@netman.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Khin Sandi** (Identity Card No. 12/Ma Ya Ka (Naing) 137520, of 47(I), Shweman Myaing Lane, 7 1/2 Mile, Pyay Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon, hereby request to call me **Khin Sandi Kha** with effect from today.

Khin Sandi Kha

Abbas to be sworn in on Saturday

RAMALLAH, 13 Jan — The newly elected Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Chairman Mahmoud Abbas will be sworn in on Saturday, Palestinian officials said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials told Xinhua that the current government will continue its job until the new PNA Chairman authorizes Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei to form a new government.

Social Welfare Minister Intisar Al Wazir said

the government has not discussed the issue of the formation of a new government.

"We met today in a normal meeting, but we didn't discuss the issue of the new government, because we will wait until Abbas asks Qurei to form the new government," the minister said.

Agriculture Minister Ibrahim Abu Naja said, "I know this government will change, but not reform."

MNA/Xinhua

UNSG calls for global watch-out system for all hazards

PORT LOUIS, 14 Jan — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Thursday called for a global warning system covering all kinds of threats, not just tsunamis.

Speaking at a UN small island meeting on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, Annan said that "we need a global warning system — and one that covers not just tsunamis by all other threats, such as storm surges and

cyclones". Present at the meeting were heads of state and government from some 30 small island developing states and over 2,000 delegates from over 100 countries and international organizations.

The UN conference, set to ponder on the future of small island states, was engrossed in disaster preparedness and tsunami alert system both globally and most urgently in the

Indian Ocean, where over 150,000 lives were lost to the devastating tsunami 18 days ago.

"This tragedy has taught us once again the need for prevention and early warning. Last week's meeting in Jakarta called for the establishment of a regional early warning system for the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. But we should do even more," Annan championed.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil, Bulgaria sign cooperation agreements

BRASILIA, 13 Jan — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his Bulgarian counterpart Gueorgui Parvanov signed cooperation agreements Wednesday on diplomats training and sports between the two countries.

Lula received at the Planalto Palace the Bulgarian head of state, who is on the first-ever visit by a leader of the European country to Brazil.

A memorandum of understanding between Brazil's Rio Branco Institute for the Formation of Diplomats and the Diplomatic Institute of the Bulgarian Foreign Business Ministry was signed on

the occasion.

The agreement provides that professors, researchers and students from both nations will participate in the exchange projects.

On the other hand, a sports cooperation agreement, signed between the Brazilian Sports Ministry and Bulgaria's Youth and Sports Ministry covers cooperation in the areas of the handicapped affairs, sports medicine development and doping controls.

Parvanov expressed his sympathy with Brazil's bid for a permanent seat in the Security Council of the United Nations, and invited Lula to visit

Bulgaria.

Both leaders also pledged to stimulate trade missions between the two countries.

According to Brazil's Foreign Ministry, the South American country exported 149 million US dollars of goods to Bulgaria and imported 59 millions dollars from that country last year.

The main Bulgarian products exported to Bulgaria were sulphate, iron ore, beef and poultry, while the top Bulgarian products imported by the South American country were phosphorus, nitrogen and ammonium nitrate.

MNA/Xinhua

Top general comments on latest failure of US missile defence system

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — A top general on Wednesday blamed the latest major failure of the multibillion-dollar US missile defence system on a "very minor software glitch."

Lieutenant General Henry Obering, the head of the Pentagon's Missile Defence Agency, said the system — despite failures in four of its nine major tests — has been developed to the point that it can already offer some limited capability to protect against a ballistic missile attack.

He did not offer a timetable for declaring it operational.

Obering told reporters the latest failure would not get in the way of a series of tests planned for this year, including next month's scheduled repeat of the December 15 test. Another is set for April, two in July and one in September, he said.

The Pentagon failed to make good on plans by the Bush Administration to make the system — designed on the concept of using one missile to

shoot down another after a network of radars detects an enemy launch — operational by the end of 2004.

On 15 December, an interceptor missile, designed to destroy an incoming enemy missile, failed to launch on cue from the Marshall Islands in the central Pacific. A target missile carrying a mock warhead was successfully launched from Alaska 16 minutes earlier.

The previous test two years earlier also failed.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria plans to compel oil companies to refine crude locally

ABUJA, 13 Jan — The Nigerian House of Representatives Committee on Petroleum Resources on Wednesday proposed a bill to compel all oil companies in the country to refine their crude oil locally.

The bill, which seeks to amend the Petroleum Act was presented on Wednesday to the House and read for the first time.

Explaining the content and objectives of the bill to newsmen after the session, Cairo Ojougboh, chairman of the committee, said the bill proposed that oil companies operating in the country must establish refineries.

Rather than exporting crude and importing refined products, Ojougboh said if the bill was passed, Nigeria would be exporting only refined products in a few years.

The essence of the bill, he added, was to get value from the nation's crude oil and save the nation's foreign exchange used in importing refined products.

According to him, the bill, if passed, will also create job opportunities and eliminate petroleum shortage.

Ojougboh said the committee was expecting resistance to the bill by oil companies, but the com-

mittee would ensure that it was passed.

"We want to see that what is obtainable in other countries as regards to oil is also obtainable in this country. This is the only country where foreign oil companies do whatever they like and get away with it. This must stop," he stressed.

He cited Shell Petroleum Development Company which, he said, owned 10 refineries in some African countries, and lamented that "the company did not deem it fit to establish even one refinery in Nigeria which is its largest area of operation in Africa." — MNA/Xinhua



River traffic at the Crescent City Connection bridge which crosses the Mississippi River at New Orleans, approaches an air draft gauge that indicates the clearance from the river to the structure above, on 13 Jan, 2005. With the water running unusually high, large ocean-going vessels must keep a close eye on the clearance gauge.—INTERNET

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Bush making hard for poor to receive reproductive health services

NEW YORK, 13 Jan—Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Bush Administration was making it hard for the poor to receive the full range of reproductive health services by putting too much emphasis on abstinence to combat AIDS.

Speaking at a dinner to hundreds of women's rights and health activists on Tuesday night, the New York Democrat urged advocacy groups not to give up "despite the less-than-friendly atmosphere we currently face in Washington with the current administration".

President George W

Bush Administration is backing Uganda's policy on AIDS prevention, called ABC, which stands for abstinence, being faithful and condom use. But at international conferences the United States puts the emphasis on abstinence rather than contraceptives, especially among single people.

"ABC is a good strategy, but it has three parts to it and we need to remind the administration

of that," Clinton told the International Women's Health Coalition, which funds and helps women's health projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"There are so many strategies that we know work and we are not yet fully committed in our government to implementing those strategies," she added.

Clinton noted the administration had cut funds to any organization that

provided abortions or advocated counselling or legalization of abortion.

But she said that some 20 million women worldwide risked unsafe abortions every year and about 68,000 in poor countries die from the consequences of such unsafe procedures.

"So I hope we will do more to try to protect against these ill-thought-out policies by this administration," Clinton said.—MNA/Reuters

US Govt issues new eating guidelines

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan— New eating guidelines issued by the US Government on Wednesday stress that most Americans are overweight and need to eat more vegetables, fruits and whole grains.

The guidelines, updated every five years, recommend eating up to 13 servings of fruits and vegetables a day and specify that at least three of the daily servings of grains be whole grains such as whole wheat, oats or brown rice.

They also emphasize getting at least 30 minutes of exercise every day — an hour for children. And officials said the "food pyramid" may be replaced by something easier to understand.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the guidelines are meant in part to help Americans understand they are responsible for their own health.

"Let's face it. Everyone in America is looking to NIH (the National Institutes of Health) to come up with that (diet) pill. It's not going to happen," he told a news conference.

The guidelines, published on the Internet at <http://www.healthierus.gov/> dietary guidelines, set standards for US school break-

fasts and lunches and other federal programmes, but are also aimed at the average consumer.

The Centre for Science in the Public Interest, which lobbied to change the guidelines, praised them.

"They look to me like they are the strongest diet guidelines yet produced," said Michael Jacobson, the group's director. "There is a major emphasis on fruit, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products."

While not setting limits on processed sugar, the guidelines steer Americans away from sweetened foods in several places.

"Many of the recommendations are not significantly different from what has been recommended in the past, whether it is eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low-fat milk and dairy sources," Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman told the news conference.

MNA/Reuters

NASA launches "Deep Impact" spacecraft on comet probe

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan—NASA on Wednesday launched the *Deep Impact* spacecraft on a mission to smash a hole in a comet from which scientists hope to find frozen remains from the early years of the formation of the solar system.

The craft was launched at 1:47 pm EST (1847 GMT) from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

The spacecraft will release a 372-kilos projectile one day before the projectile will run into *Comet Tempel 1* at the speed of 37,000 kilometres per hours on July 4, about 132 million kilometres away from the Earth.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) scientists hope the 330-million-US-dollar comet probe mission could help them know better about the conditions in the early years of the formation of the solar system. Comets are believed to contain frozen remains from that period.

Scientists have estimated the force of the strike will be equivalent to 4.5 tons of TNT.

The collision is expected to create a hole into the surface of *Tempel 1*, about the size of a football field and 2-14 storey building deep.

Scientists stressed the strike will not break the comet, nor distract *Tempel 1* from its original orbit around the sun into a course to collide with the Earth.—MNA/Xinhua



The 'Deep Impact' spacecraft is launched by a Delta II launch vehicle at 1:47:08 pm EST from Space Launch Complex 17B, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, on 12 Jan, 2005. —INTERNET

Syria, Lebanon ink tourism accord

DAMASCUS, 14 Jan— Syria and Lebanon signed on Wednesday an agreement in efforts to boost tourism between the two neighbouring countries, the official SANA news agency reported.

The Executive Programme for Tourism Cooperation Accord from 2005 to 2007 lay down articles for qualification, training and exchanging expertise as well as making joint tourism, according to a statement by the Ministry of Tourism.

The agreement, which was reached at the end of the Joint Syrian-Lebanese Tourism Committee meeting, also included articles on tourism advertisements, the report said. The committee discussed a plan for an integrated tourist project between the two countries and building joint information centres on the border.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain rejects change of law to use extreme force against intruders

LONDON, 13 Jan— Britain has rejected calls to change the law to allow householders to use extreme force against intruders although the government insists it backs the public's right to use "reasonable" self-defence. Home Secretary Charles Clarke said on Wednesday a review had concluded existing legislation was "sound" but admitted people needed to be told what their rights were.

Calls for action gathered pace at the end of last year after a series of high-profile burglaries including the murder of financier John Monckton who was stabbed to death by intruders a his plush London home in November.

A review of the law was ordered by Prime Minister Tony Blair shortly afterwards.

"Concerns have been raised about the ability of householders to use reasonable force to defend themselves, their families, their homes and their property," said Clarke, who stressed the law remained on the side of the victim.

"I have concluded that the current law is sound but needs to be better explained to all concerned, especially to household-

ers." Householders' rights have been a hot topic in Britain since farmer Tony

Martin shot dead a teenage burglar at his remote farm in 1999. Martin was later jailed

for manslaughter despite receiving wide public support.

MNA/Reuters



A very large avalanche slides down the northeast chute of Elk Point on Mt Timpanogos, near Provo, Utah, on Wednesday, 12 Jan, 2005. The natural release had a fracture line length of over a half-mile and 4 to 8 feet deep, descending three different, major avalanche paths at once. The slide mowed down hundreds of mature pines over an area of two football fields and piled up snow 40 feet deep.—INTERNET

Lions hit by flu ahead of Tiger Cup final

SINGAPORE, 14 Jan — Singapore's preparations for the second leg of the Tiger Cup final on Sunday have been hit hard by an outbreak of influenza that has affected more than half of their 22-man squad.

A total of 13 players and four team officials are reported to have come down with a severe case of flu, just four days ahead of the crucial return match of the final, which Singapore currently leads 3-1.

Among the players who have been hit by the bug are goalkeeper Lionel Lewis and three members of the starting back four, Daniel Bennett, S. Subramani and team captain Aide Iskandar.

The Lions have been training in Singapore since early this week but there are added concerns with the team scheduled to check into the tournament hotel on Thursday morning.

MNA/Xinhua

Juventus signs former Chelsea striker Mutu

ROME, 14 Jan — Serie A leaders Juventus have signed former Chelsea striker Adrian Mutu on a five-year contract, the club announced on Wednesday.

The Romania forward, sacked by the west London club in October after testing positive for cocaine, is serving a seven-month ban but will be able to play in the last two rounds of Serie A matches when his suspension ends on May 18.

The 26-year-old played for 3-1/2 seasons in Italy's top flight after being signed by Inter Milan from Dinamo Bucharest in January 2000. He went on to play for Verona and Parma.

He was most successful in the 2002-03 season when, alongside Brazilian striker Adriano, Mutu formed the most prolific strike partnership in Serie A as Parma finished fifth.

His exploits brought him to the attention of Chelsea, who bought him for 15.8 million pounds (29.79 million US dollars) in 2003.

The huge promise suggested by his haul of four goals in his first three matches in England, however, was followed by a lean spell in which he scored only two more league goals all season.

By the end of the 2003-04 season, Mutu seemed to be on his way out of the club and in August Juve tried to sign him on loan but the deal collapsed when the clubs failed to agree terms.

Since being sacked by Chelsea, Mutu

has been training with former club Dinamo Bucharest.

The arrival of Mutu at Juventus, who lead Serie A by four points from champions AC Milan, reinforces an attack already bristling with internationals, including David Trezeguet, Alessandro del Piero and Zlatan Ibrahimovic. — MNA/Reuters



Adrian Mutu, sacked by Chelsea for using cocaine, has signed a five year contract with Juventus. —INTERNET

FIFA president Blatter receives S Africa's top civil award

PRETORIA, 14 Jan — Sepp Blatter, president of the world football governing body FIFA, accepted one of South Africa's highest awards Thursday in Pretoria during his visit to the host country of the 2010 World Cup tournament.

This is Blatter's first visit to South Africa since the country won the right to host the world soccer showcase in May last year. Blatter met South African President Thabo Mbeki before accepting the Order of the Companions of O.R. Tambo, a top civil award given to foreigners.

He said he accepted the honour on behalf of FIFA, and that he felt the "dynamism and vitality" of the South African people during his visit.

But his major goal is to meet members of the 2010 World Cup Organizing Committee and to settle down reported disputes inside the South African Football Association (SAFA) over the leadership of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). — MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian keeper anxious to return for Palmeiras

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Jan — Brazil's World Cup-winning goalkeeper Marcos is anxious to return for Palmeiras after being sidelined for over six months with a hand injury.

"It will be emotional for me," he said in a radio interview. "When you're playing, you complain about too many games and training sessions. But I have to admit, I miss all this."

Marcos, who had surgery on his left hand last June, is due to resume training on Friday. Marcos, 31, played in all seven games as Brazil won the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan, keeping four clean sheets.

Since then, he has had a roller-coaster ride and spent 2003 in the Brazilian Second Division after Palmeiras were relegated. They bounced back to the top flight at the first attempt. Even before the injury, Marcos had been relegated to the substitutes' bench for Brazil, with coach Carlos Alberto Parreira preferring AC Milan's Dida.

MNA/Reuters

Hewitt wins in Sydney International

CANBERRA, 13 Jan — Joachim Johansson of Sweden sustained a hamstring injury and abandoned his second-rounder in the Sydney International tennis tournament on Wednesday.

The big-serving Swede trailed Max Mirnyi of Belarus 4-1 before his retirement, leaving Australia's Lleyton Hewitt as clear favourite to win the tournament.

Hewitt, who has won the Australian Open warm-up event three times, made the quarter-finals with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Frenchman Arnaud Clement.

"I tried to go out there for a few games but I felt I couldn't give 100 per cent, and at this level there's no way you can win," said Johansson.

Johansson, one of the title contenders after winning last week's Australian hardcourt championship in Adelaide, was the latest high-profile casualty at the Australian Open warm-up event.

Former world number one Carlos Moya of Spain was knocked out by Czech Radek Stepanek on Tuesday, two days after winning the Chennai Open, while women's French Open champion Anastasia Myskina of Russia suffered an upset against Chinese qualifier Peng Shuai.

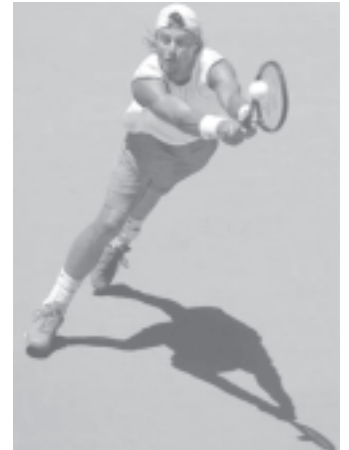
Another Russian, fourth seed Vera Zvonareva, went out on Wednesday after a 7-6, 6-3 loss to Fabiola Zuluaga of Colombia.

Hewitt will play Thomas Johansson

in the quarterfinals after the Swede beat Australian Wayne Arthurs in two tiebreakers.

Elena Dementieva, last year's French and US Open finalist, beat Greek Eleni Daniilidou 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 while fellow Russian Nadia Petrova thrashed Daniela Hantuchova 6-0 and 6-2.

Switzerland's Patty Schnyder and Australia's Samantha Stosur, also advanced along with Australia's Alica Molik. —MNA/Xinhua



Lleyton Hewitt of Australia. —INTERNET

Real's Morientes to join Liverpool

MADRID, 14 Jan — Spanish international striker Fernando Morientes said he was delighted to be joining Liverpool after Real Madrid had agreed to a fee of nine million euros (11.8 million US dollars) on Wednesday.

"I'm going to Liverpool with all the enthusiasm in the world," the 28-year-old told a news conference at Real Madrid's training ground in Las Rozas.

"This has been one of the most important decisions in my life and I'm very happy about it. I'm going there to work hard and become one of the team."

Liverpool said it had yet to agree personal terms with Morientes, who has been at Real since 1997.

The striker, who has won three European Cups and two league titles with Real, confirmed that he would be flying to England later on Wednesday and would undergo a medical with the Premier League side on Thursday.

He said he had mixed feelings about

leaving Real, but said he could not wait to join Liverpool after a frustrating period with the Primera Liga club.

"I've spent eight years at this club, including one on loan at Monaco, and they have given me everything in my career so I've only got words of thanks for them.

"I'm going with a cupboard full of trophies and for me that's the most important thing," said Morientes.

"It hasn't been a very pleasant few months at Real, but a lot of things have happened at the club that have contributed to that and now I'm very happy."

Morientes said that he hoped he would be able to make his debut against Manchester United at Anfield on Saturday.

"I can't wait to play my first game and if it was against Manchester United then it couldn't be any better. If the medical goes well and I get a few minutes in the game then that would be brilliant."

If the move is completed successfully Morientes will become the fifth Spanish player to join under coach Rafael Benitez after former Real Madrid teammate Antonio Nunez, Luis Garcia, Josemi and Xabi Alonso.

Though he is ineligible for the Champions League, having already played for Real in the qualifying round, Morientes should provide a much-needed boost to Liverpool's domestic form.

For Real, Morientes is surplus to requirements not just because of Michael Owen's arrival, but also because he has never been in the same bracket as the rest of the squad's "galacticos".

MNA/Xinhua



Real Madrid's striker Fernando Morientes speaks during a press conference in Madrid on 12 Jan, 2005. —INTERNET

Bush accused of nation's retirement programme

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — US Senator Edward Kennedy accused President George W. Bush on Wednesday of hyping concerns about the nation's retirement programme, just as he did on Iraq, and urged Democrats to stand up to the "politics of fear."

The leading liberal voice in the US Congress, Kennedy said Democrats, who lost the race for the White House for a second time in a row, must do a better job promoting their basic unifying values without mirroring Republicans in order to rebound from last November's elections.

"We have an administration that falsely hypes almost every issue as a crisis," the Massachusetts Democrat said in offering his party a political road map. "They did it on Iraq, and they are doing it now on Social Security."

"They exploit the politics of fear and division, while ours is a politics of hope and unity," Kennedy said in a speech at the National Press Club.

Kennedy helped John Kerry, Massachusetts' junior senator, capture the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, and a number of Kennedy aides joined Kerry's campaign.

Though Kennedy rallied the Democratic base, Bush won re-election with 51 per cent of the vote and his fellow Republicans increased their majorities in both the US Senate and House of Representatives.

With Democrats still seeking to regroup and debating whether they need to move toward the political right, Kennedy urged them to stand firm. "I categorically reject the deceptive and dangerous claim that the outcome last November was somehow a sweeping, or a modest, or even a miniature mandate for reactionary measures like privatizing Social Security, redistributing the tax burden in the wrong direction or packing the federal courts with reactionary judges," Kennedy said.

"Those proposals were barely mentioned — or voted on — in an election dominated by memories of 9/11, fear of terrorism, the quagmire in Iraq, and relentlessly negative attacks on our presidential candidate," he said.

Kennedy, 72, first elected to the Senate in 1962, offered his insights and advice as one of the party's elder statesmen. — MNA/Reuters

Outgoing envoy urges US to listen to different views at UN

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Jan — The United Nations is important to the welfare of the United States and it is particularly vital for the superpower to listen to and accept views of other countries it might disagree with, the outgoing US envoy to the world body said on Thursday.

In his farewell remarks at the Security Council, Ambassador John Danforth said his six-month experience of working at the UN has proved to him that "the United Nations is indeed very, very important".

The UN's role in ending the conflicts in Sudan, its peacekeeping efforts worldwide and its response to the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster "are instances where the United Nations has demonstrated its essential quality", he said. Danforth, who assumed the current post in June last year, announced resignation not long after President George W. Bush won re-election in November, saying he just wanted to return to his family and hometown in Missouri state.

He said a lot of people, including his countrymen, have criticized the United Nations over such issues as the corruption scandal in Iraq's oil-for-food programme and sexual abuses by UN peacekeepers.

"But those points of criticism did not detract, and do not detract, from

the essential value of the United Nations," Danforth stressed.

The US-UN relations have been strained in recent months as some congressmen called for the resignation of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, citing the oil-for-food corruption scandal. The call prompted many countries to rally behind Annan, accusing the US neoconservatives of retaliation because of Annan's opposition to the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

"Nobody likes opposition; and nobody likes criticism," Danforth said. "But simply because the US is big, and because the US is strong, it is important to be particularly open to the views of other people and the views that sometimes are different than our own."

MNA/Xinhua

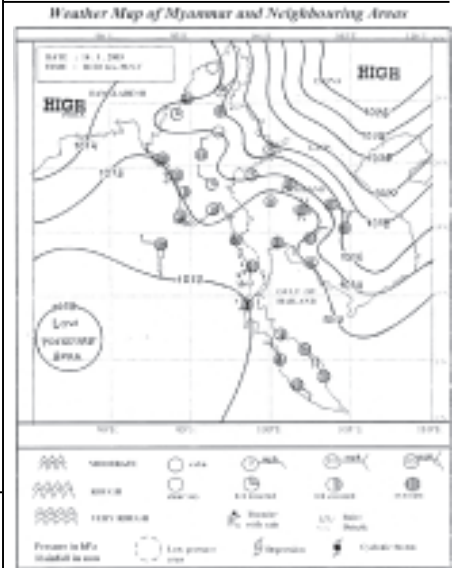
US fighter jet crashes into Indian Ocean

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — A US Marine Corps Harrier fighter jet crashed into the Indian Ocean off the west coast of Sumatra on Thursday but the pilot was rescued by a helicopter and sustained only minor injuries, the military said.

The jet, which was on a routine training mission, was based aboard the Navy helicopter carrier USS Bonhomme Richard. The ship is among about two dozen US military vessels taking part in tsunami aid efforts in the region.

The cause of the crash of the AV-8B fighter about 45 miles west of Sumatra was being investigated.

It was the second crash this week of a US military aircraft based on one of the ships providing relief support to millions of victims of the December 26 tsunami. — MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Friday, 14 January, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin State and Magway Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Mon and Kayin States, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (-1°C) in Hakha, (2°C) each in Namsam and PyinOoLwin.

Maximum temperature on 13-1-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 14-1-2005 was 55°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-1-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 13-1-2005 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 14-1-2005 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 7 mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 13-1-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over Southeast Bay still persist, Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in South, Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 15-1-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-1-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-1-2005: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for third weekend of January 2005: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 15 January

- Tune in today: 8.30 am Brief news 8.35 am Music: -Can you feel the love tonight 8.40 am Perspectives 8.45 am Music: -Colours of the wind 8.55 am National news/Slogan 9.05 am Music: -A whole new world 9.10 am International news 9.15 am Music (Spotlight on a star) -Toybox 1.30 pm News/Slogan 1.40 pm Request -Top of the world -I have a dream -Everyday I love you 9.00 pm ASEAN Review 9.10 pm Article Special Talk: -Kayah State 9.25 pm Myanma culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt 9.35 pm Souvenirs -True love -There's a gold mine in the sky 9.45 pm News/Slogan 10.00 pm PEL

- TV Myanmar Saturday, 15 January View on today: 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်စောင်ချုပ် အဘိဓမ္မေဂ္ဂမဟာရဋ္ဌတရား၊ အဘိဓမ္မေဂ္ဂမဟာသမ္ဗုဒ္ဓတော်တို့၊ တိပိဋကဓရဓမ္မဗျာနာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော် 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise 7:30 am 3. Morning news 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song 7:55 am 5. မြူးမြူးဖြူဖြူ လယ်ကျေးမှုအတ 8:05 am 6. Musical programme 8:20 am 7. ကံတော်ဘီးလင်းရေလှောင်တံခွန် 8:30 am 8. International news 8:45 am 9. Grammar made easy 11:00 am 1. Martial song

- 11:15 am 2. Musical programme 11:30 am 3. News 11:40 am 4. Games for Children 12:05 pm 5. Round-up of The Week's TV Local News 1:00 pm 6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရုစီဝန်းပေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂) 1:40 pm 7. ကံတော်ကြီးတံတား 1:50 pm 8. "မင်းမင်းဝင်းဝင်း" ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ဝန်းဖြူ၊ ကုသိုလ် ဒါရိုက်တာ- မြင့်မိုးရီဆွေ 2:15 pm 9. လေးကြောင်းကတ္တူတိုးမြှင့်ဖွင့်လှစ် ကတားလေးကြောင်းခရီးစဉ်သစ် 2:25 pm 10. Dance of national races 2:35 pm 11. မင်းလှရေလှောင်တံခွန် 2:40 pm 12. "မင်းမင်းဝင်းဝင်း" ဓရာ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ ချစ်စရာ၊ ကြူကြူသင်း၊ အေးအေးမိုင် ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဓမ္မစင်ထိုက် 2:45 pm 13. International News 4:00 pm 1. Martial song

- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit 4:30 pm 3. English For Everyday Use 4:45 pm 4. Musical programme 5:00 pm 5. အဝေးသင် တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတ်လနစ် (သမ္မုဒ္ဓါ) (သရုပ်) 5:15 pm 6. Musical programme 5:25 pm 7. "အသိစိတ်ကလေးအရမ်းတည်ညှိ" မြိုးစွန်း၊ ဖတ်ရူး၊ မိုးညိုညို ဝောင် ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး 5:40 pm 8. Musical programme 5:50 pm 9. Tiger Cup ဘောလုံးပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက် ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် တတိယရော့ပွဲ (မြန်မာနှင့် မလေးရှား) 8:00 pm 10. News 11. International news 12. Weather report 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၉) 14. The next day's programme

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Petronas President

YANGON, 14 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Thein Sein received Petronas Co President Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Hassan Marican and party of Malaysia at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyint-tha, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Petronas Co President Tan Sri Dato Sri Mohd Hassan Marican and party of Malaysia at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

MNA

MNA

14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition commences



Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win addresses opening ceremony of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition.— MNA

YANGON, 14 Jan — The 14th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at the People's Square on Pyay Road, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Train-

ing Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

First, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win took the salute of the bands. Next, they saluted the State Flag and fallen Tatmadawmen and recited the Four Oaths of the Tatmadaw.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win delivered an address. Afterwards, the bands marched past Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and left the People's Square.

After the opening ceremony, the band of Shwepaukkan Myothit Basic Education High School No 6 of North Okkalapa Township, that of Tamway BEHS No 4, the bands representing Fire Services Department and Myanmar Police Force, the Defence Services Guard of Honour and the Military Band performed skills demonstration.

(See page 10)



Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials view a CNG-fired engine at No 1 Automobile Factory. — MNA

Myanmar to convert 5,200 cars into CNG-run vehicles in 2005

YANGON, 14 Jan — Officials discussed CNG substitution of cars and extension of gas filling stations at a meeting held at the Industry-2 Ministry here today.

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin said that the Industry-2 Ministry and Energy Ministry are jointly carrying out the task of CNG substitution and extension of CNG filling stations. Sixty-four nations are using 3.5 million gas-run cars. Myanmar has over 940,000 petrol and diesel vehicles and 56 per cent of

(See page 10)

INSIDE

The truth is that economic hardships of a society will only create an anarchy that is entirely against democracy. There cannot be any gaining of knowledge and moral development and discipline observance in a society gripped by economic difficulties.

(Page 7)

AUNG MOE SAN