Ariyasaccana dassanam, to discern the noble-truth; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairman of Kayah State Special Region 1 U Htay Ko and party — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairman of Kayah State Special Region-1 and party

YANGON, 9 Jan—Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Chairman of Kayah State Special Region-1 U Htay Ko and party at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyitha here at 4 pm today.

Also present with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Col Than Swe, Director-General of Health Department Dr Wan Maung and senior military officers of the Office of Chief of Military Intelligence.

At the meeting, the national race leaders expressed their support for the seven-point future political programme of the State and pledged to take part in the tasks to successfully implement the programme under the leadership of the government.

The national race leaders also reported matters related to regional development, economy, education and health construction of roads and bridges.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Chairman of Kayah State Special Region 1 U Htay Ko and party. — MNA

Gravel roads opened to hail Independence Day

YANGON, 9 Jan — To hail the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day, a gravel road, 1470 feet long and 12 feet wide, undertaken by Kantbalu Township Development Affairs Committee was opened on 2 January. Some 1500 People including local authorities, departmental staff and members of social organizations attended the opening of the road.

Similarly, No 3 gravel road in Paunglaung Ward-1 was opened on 4 January by Pyinmana Township Development Affairs Committee with 3,000 people in attendance including Col Win Myint and Col Khin Maung Htu of Pyinmana Station. The road is 1302 feet long and 13 feet wide. Likewise, 1400 ft long and 12 ft wide Nawaday gravel road, undertaken by Kalaw Township Development Affairs Committee, was inaugurated on 3 January. Kalaw Station Commander Brig-Gen Mya Win, officials and locals totalling 2500 attended the opening of the road. Nyaungdon Township Development Affairs Committee opened Sartaik tarred road, 1220 feet long and 12 feet wide, on 3 January.

Prime Minister visits Myanma Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004 (Page 16)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives
— for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
— to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
— for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
— to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
— for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Efficient use of fuel
* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

Efficient use of electricity
* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others
There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Karatedo coach course to be conducted
YANGON, 9 Jan — Myanmar Karatedo Federation is gearing up for conducting a Karatedo coach course No 1/2004 at Aung San Gymnasium here from 20 through 24 January. Executive of MKF U Min Maw and wife Dr Mya Mya Win will sponsor two trainees each from the States and Divisions.

The Karatedo clubs that have joined the MKF and those from the Karatedo teams of ministries may attend the free course. Those wishing to attend the course are to enlist at the MKF (Aung San Gymnasium) by 17 January. Dial 01-379939 for further information. MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

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

PERSPECTIVES
Saturday, 10 January, 2004
For emergence of highly qualified human resources
The world today is changing and advancing at a high speed, with knowledge as the base. Not only the sciences and technologies are advancing with a wide range of subjects, but also the developments in the respective fields of knowledge are benefiting the areas of development, based on common interest, without taking a recess.
To provide opportunity to attend master’s degree and doctorate degree courses in multi-fields of knowledge, the Government has extended these courses in the whole nation. In addition, the whole nation is being covered by the programmes to install and run international level laboratories, electronic-based resource centres, e-libraries, Internet and Intranet that will provide assistance to research works.
A ceremony to honour the academics who got the doctorate degrees from the universities under the Education Ministry, Health Ministry and Science and Technology Ministry was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on 8 January, with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.
In his address the Prime Minister said that at a time when self-reliant efforts are being made with full confidence in the national forces, emergence of more academics in the respective fields of development amounts to reinforcing new strength to the national development drive.
The number of well-rounded doctorate holders, who are highly qualified resources produced in the country, has now reached 364. Moreover, over 2,600 persons are studying for their doctorates at universities under the Ministry of Education, some 180 persons at universities under the Ministry of Health, and about 470 persons at universities under the Ministry of Science and Technology, totalling more than 3,250. Therefore, the number of intellectuals with doctorates will rise in the not too distant future.
In this knowledge age, human resources with high qualification are invaluable for the State and they are the ones who will shape the future of the State. Emergence of human resources with high calibre that are capable of developing the international-level science and technologies in the country and speeding up the development momentum of the State effectively indicates the success gained in the implementation of the national education promotion programmes.
Doctorate degree holders are urged to uplift their qualifications while making efforts for constantly turning out the outstanding human resources and to make efforts for development of the Union of Myanmar through their know-how.

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects the band of the Fire Service brigade. — MNA

SWRR Minister inspects fire brigade band
YANGON, 9 Jan — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa this afternoon inspected the fire brigade band that will take part in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade. The minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duties Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung and senior officials of the Fire Services.
After viewing the demonstration of the band, he gave suggestions to officials. — MNA

Society of rehabilitation to tour Hinthada
YANGON, 9 Jan — A medical team led by President of the Society of Rehabilitation under Myanmar Medical Association Professor Dr Than Toe will give medical treatments to patients with pain syndromes, hemiplegia, paraplegia and amputees and give educative talks in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Division, on 11 January.
Patients can receive medical treatments at Hinthada People’s Hospital from 9 am to 12 noon on that day. — MNA

Get-together of doctors to be held
YANGON, 9 Jan — A get-together of doctors who graduated from the Institute of Medicine-1 in 1966-67-68 academic years will be held in conjunction with the ceremony to pay respects to faculty members at the Traders Hotel here at 4 pm on 17 January 2004, it is learnt. — MNA

Karatedo coach course to be conducted
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**Helicopter crash kills nine US soldiers**

Zobaa (Iraq), 9 Jan—A US Army helicopter crashed Thursday near this village in west-central Iraq, killing all nine soldiers on board, and a military transport plane carrying 63 people made an emergency landing in Baghdad after being hit by groundfire, according to US military officials.

Those officials declined to specify what caused the crash of the helicopter, a UH-60 Black Hawk used for medical evacuation, but witnesses said rocket fire brought it down.

“Two helicopters were flying together. We saw something shot at them, and then one went down and there was black smoke from its body,” said Majdi Mohammed Jumaili, a law student who resides in a house about 300 yards from the crash site. “It caught fire on the ground.”

Mahmoud Saif Jumaili, a farmer who was watering his fields, said: “It looked like it was hit in the tail. It flew for a while, and then dropped down fast.”

In Baghdad, a C-5 Galaxy transport plane made an emergency landing Thursday at the international airport shortly after takeoff because one of its engines exploded, a military spokesperson said. No one on board the plane was hurt.

The US Air Mobility Command from Scott Air Force Base in Illinois said in a statement that “initial reports indicate the incident is the result of hostile action from the ground, but the type of weapon and other details are unknown.”

Meanwhile, military officials said Thursday that an American soldier had died of wounds sustained Wednesday night in a mortar attack on a US base west of Baghdad. The soldier was not identified.

In addition to the fatality, 33 soldiers and one civilian were reported wounded in the attack on Logistical Base Seitz, which housed the Army’s 3rd Corps Support Command. Military officials said insurgents fired six 60mm mortar rounds at the base shortly after Thursday’s crash.

If Thursday’s Black Hawk helicopter crash was the result of ground fire, it would be the second US helicopter downed within a week near Fallujah, a town west of Baghdad that has been a flashpoint for anti-US violence since June. Zobaa is about 10 miles south of Fallujah.

On 2 January, a rocket downed an OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopter near Fallujah, killing the pilot. On 2 November, 16 soldiers were killed when a shoulder-fired SA-7 surface-to-air missile struck an MH-47 Chinook transport helicopter near Fallujah.

Since the end of major combat in Iraq was declared on 1 May, 10 military helicopters have crashed or been shot down, killing a total of 56 soldiers. The deadliest such incident occurred in November, in the northern town of Mosul, where two Black Hawks collided, killing 17.

The site of Thursday’s crash lies along a route frequently taken by US helicopters between Habaniyah air base west of Fallujah and Baghdad. Since on 2 November, when guerrillas downed a Chinook near Fallujah, US commanders said pilots would vary their routes and take other evasive action to reduce their vulnerability to ground fire.—Internet

**Troops in Iraq suffer huge risk of injury**

Washington, 9 Jan—Nearly as many US soldiers were wounded in Iraq last month as during the entire six-week period of major combat operations, according to Defense Department statistics tracked by a leading research organization.

The figures illustrate the ongoing danger of US forces. Even as the frequency of insurgent attacks appears to be declining and the number of soldiers killed has mostly held steady.

“Thats a lot of pain,” said John Pike, director of Global Security.org, a defense-focused think tank that compiled the figures. “It suggests that the level of intensity of operations over there is a lot higher than would be suggested by the ‘killed in action’ numbers. The ‘killed in action’ numbers suggest that we’re winning the war, and the wounded in action numbers suggest that we’re losing.”

Last night, in a more vivid reminder of the dangers facing US soldiers in Iraq, anti-American guerrillas fired mortar rounds at a military camp, wounding 35, the US command said.

Six mortar rounds exploded about 6:45 pm at Logistical Base Seitz west of Baghdad, a US military spokesperson said in a statement. The camp is in the so-called Sunni Muslim triangle that is a stronghold of resistance to the US occupation of Iraq.

The wounded soldiers were given first aid and have been evacuated from the site for further medical treatment, the statement said. The Pentagon added the soldiers were from the Army’s 51st Maintenance Battalion, based in Fort Riley, Kan., and part of the 3rd Corps Support Command.

The spokesman, Lt. Col. James Castella, said he did not know how many were seriously or slightly wounded.—Internet

**Second round of India-China border talks this month**

Beijing, 9 Jan—China Wednesday expressed confidence in resolving the boundary issue with India under a new framework with India to be discussed at the second round of border talks at the political level this month.

“The special representative of India will come to China this month,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told reporters and confirmed that the Indian national security advisor Brajesh Mishra would be visiting Beijing this week.

“The two countries will, proceeding from the consensus reached by the two leaders on the overall development of bilateral relations, seek to explore new ways to solve the border issue,” Kong said.

While Kong did not announce the dates of the second round of meetings, he said the two special representatives — Mishra and his Chinese counterpart, Dai Bingguo — will be meeting in Beijing in January after the first round in New Delhi on 23-24 October last year.

“This is not only the second meeting of the special representatives of the two countries but a new meeting of the two special representatives in the New Year. As to the specific agenda of the meeting, the two sides are finalizing it,” he said at a regular bi-weekly briefing.

Both India and China have described the first meeting between Mishra and Dai as “very constructive.”

India and China appointed a special representative to discuss the boundary issue during Vajpayee’s historic visit to China in June last year. A decision to appoint the special representatives was proposed by Vajpayee during his meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao.

**485 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq**

Baghdad, 8 Jan—As of Thursday, 8 January, 485 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 333 died as a result of hostile action and 152 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

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

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 347 US soldiers have died — 218 as a result of hostile action and 129 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department’s figures.

Since the start of military operations, 2,445 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 383. The latest deaths brought the total to 485.

— Nine soldiers died Thursday afternoon when a helicopter crashed south of Fallujah, Iraq.

A 3rd Corps Support Command soldier died Wednesday of injuries suffered in a mortar attack west of Baghdad.—Internet

**British flight to Washington delayed for fifth day**

London, 9 Jan—British Airways’ Flight BA223 from Heathrow to Washington was delayed for the fifth consecutive day, since the start of military operations in Iraq.

The plane took off at 3:05 pm (local time) but passengers were left waiting on board. The same flight was cancelled on January 1 and 2 and delayed by more than three hours on each of the three previous days. Passengers had to wait one hour and 45 minutes before taking off Tuesday. The latest delay came as the airline waited for clearance from US authorities. The fifth postponement came after French authorities announced they were hunting an al-Qaeda suspect who had booked an Air France flight to the US on Christmas Eve but failed to turn up.

**RPGs hit Baghdad hotel**

Baghdad, 9 Jan—A Baghdad hotel, popular with Western companies and left unscathed by the Iraqi resistance, was attacked by the Iraqi resistance early on Friday morning, but security guards on the premises managed to repel the intruders.

Two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) struck the Bourj al-Hayat in Central Baghdad early on Friday morning, but there were no casualties, said security guards at the hotel. The first and fourth floors were hit. No one was wounded,” said one of the guards from the companies.

The attack happened at around 06:00 GMT but security guards were not able to get to the site in time to deal with the attack. The hotel, which has cement barriers shielding it from the street. Of the Oxford Street and the San Domenico Hotel, the ruling party in the north- ern Iraqi provinces of Arbil and Dohuk, are in a neighbour- ing hotel.—Internet
UN has specific ideas about role in Iraq

SHANGHAI, 9 Jan — The United Nations has specific ideas about what role it might play in Iraq’s transition to self-rule, but wants to hear from the US-led coalition and Iraqi leaders at a Jan. 19 meeting before deciding whether to return to the country, officials said Thursday.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was set to meet Friday with John Negroponte, the US ambassador to the United Nations, to discuss Iraq and the Jan. 19 meeting, which will focus on the UN’s future there.

A new UN mandate could vary widely. The United Nations could be limited to humanitarian and refugee work, or it could play a direct role in Iraq’s political transition. It could, for example, help oversee a Nov. 15 agreement between the coalition and the Iraq Governing Council that calls for a legislature elected through balloting in each of Iraq’s 18 provinces.

Annan pulled UN international staff out of Iraq after a deadly suicide bombing in its Baghdad headquarters in August and has said it’s not safe enough to return. But he has suggested that the importance of the role the United Nations is given will help him decide on the risks of a large UN presence.

Annan met with Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on Thursday. Hagel, a leading backer of the United Nations, said they discussed the Jan. 19 meeting, and said getting US workers back into Iraq was crucial.

“I believe that the secretary-general does have some very specific ideas about how the UN could participate,” Hagel said.

A UN official speaking on condition of anonymity said Hagel’s statement “would not be wrong” but the UN wants to hear from Iraqis and the coalition during the Jan. 19 meeting about what role they want the UN staff to play.

A US official who spoke on condition of anonymity would not say what exactly Negroponte planned to discuss with Annan on Friday or how specific they would be about the Jan. 19 meeting.

Negroponte was to be joined by Kim Holmes, the assistant secretary of state for international organizations, and possibly other State Department officials.

Among the open questions is who the Coalition Provisional Authority will send to the meeting. Annan has said he expects the United States to participate, but US officials have made clear that the invitation was to the CPA, and not to the United States specifically. That raises the possibility that US officials may not attend at all, in what Annan would likely see as a major snub.

Annan said he hopes British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s top envoy in Iraq, Sir Juliet Greenstock, will also be there, but a council diplomat said that decision still had not been made.

Arab lawyers plan Saddam defence

BAGHDAD, 9 Jan — A group of Arab lawyers are planning to defend Saddam Hussein when the former Iraqi president stands trial for alleged crimes committed in office.

The Union of Arab Lawyers, of which Iraqi legal experts from Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan to Cairo on 4 January to discuss forming a defence committee.

At the end of the meeting, they concluded that Saddam should be treated as a prisoner of war, and his whereabouts must be disclosed.

They demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross be allowed to visit and help ensure proper imprisonment conditions.

And they agreed that as he is still the constitutional president of Iraq, the US cannot legitimately incarcerate him.

The lawyers also accused the US of breaching international law by occupying Iraq and arresting Iraqi citizens without a warrant from an international body.

Hasan Umar, the Egyptian international law counsel told Aljazeera.net that according to international law, US forces had kidnapped the Iraq president.

“In 1960 the UN criminalised occupation by military force, and considered occupation as a rights act. Resolution 3013 of the General Assembly considers any foreign forces on another country’s soil as mercenary units,” he added.

“Accordingly, such units are not allowed to take prisoners of war, so what they are doing is actually kidnaping people,”

Danieljoyner, an international law expert at Britain’s Warwick University, told Aljazeera.net that he agreed the Iraq war was illegal.

Indian Govt clears comprehensive legislation for SEZs

NEW DELHI, 9 Jan — Indian Government on Wednesday cleared a major Central legislation to provide duty free environment, single window clearance and more tax incentives to Special Economic Zones to make exports the engine of economic growth.

The SEZ legislation cleared by the Cabinet also aims at providing comprehensive fiscal package both at the Central and the State level with minimum regulatory regime and quality infrastructure, Commerce and Industry Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters here.

“Finance Ministry and Minister had extended to us a significant revenue regime which flows from within the law itself,” he said.

Existing incentives and facilitation like exemption from Customs and excise duty for development of SEZ and setting up of units, income tax, sales tax and service tax exemption would be incorporated in the new legislation to impart stability to the fiscal regime. Under the new legislation, SEZs would be treated as deemed foreign territory and supplies from domestic industry would be treated as exports.

Philippines to closely monitor new US visa rules

MANILA, 9 Jan — The Department of Foreign Affairs will closely monitor the implementation of the new US visa rules to ensure that the dignity and rights of Filipino travellers are not violated.

Although the Philippine Government understands why such rules are being implemented by the United States, the Philippines has to be vigilant to make sure the rights of Filipino travellers are respected, Foreign Secretary Delia Albert said in a statement.

“We will watch the implementation of this new procedure very closely and we will not hesitate to take the appropriate action if our travellers are subjected to arbitrary and inhumane treatment and if their dignity and rights are not respected,” Albert said.

Albert said the department will be coordinating with its counterparts in the US in monitoring this new procedure.

China, Japan join hands to train Chinese administrators

BEIJING, 9 Jan — China and Japan will jointly offer 166 million yen (about 13 million yuan) for a training programme for Chinese Government administrators.

Yi Xiaozhun, China’s Assistant Minister of Commerce, and Koreshige Anami, Japanese Ambassador to China, exchanged official documents concerning the “Human Resources Development Scholarship” programme here Thursday.

A new training targets of the programme are Chinese Government officials. Since the programme was first launched in September 2002, China has dispatched 40 officials to Japan for training.

On June 24, 2003, China and Japan jointly added 93 million yen to the programme, and under the new agreement both sides will put another 166 million yen into the programme.

The programme will play a positive role in raising the professional level of Chinese Government administrators, and promoting communication and understanding between the two countries, said an official from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

China announces new qualified tourism cities, scenic spots

ZHENGZHOU, 9 Jan — China National Tourism Administration announced here Thursday a new group of 45 qualified tourism cities and 57 top-grade scenic spots, including Longfang City in Hebei Province and Jeta Temple in Beijing.

The selection of these cities and scenic spots is aimed at boosting the development of tourism for local economic growth, said He Guangwei, director of China National Tourism Administration.

The administration has named 138 qualified tourism cities and 439 top-grade scenic spots since 1998.
Independent probe urged into Iraq civilian deaths

LONDON, 9 Jan—An independent ombudsman should be appointed to oversee investigations into the deaths of Iraqi civilians allegedly killed by coalition forces, an MP argued today.

But Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram insisted the current complaints procedure was sufficiently independent and robust.

He was responding to a raft of criticisms from Plaid Cymru’s Adam Price, a consistent critic of the war in Iraq.

Opening a Westminster Hall debate, Mr Price said he had estimated 200 Iraqi civilians had allegedly been killed by coalition forces since the end of major hostilities.

But no British or US soldier had so far been charged over civilian deaths, he said, adding: “We even refuse to keep count of the civilians our forces have allegedly killed.”

His comments came after it emerged that the Government has paid £125 to Iraqi families following alleged fatalities involving British troops since May 1, 2003.

The figure was given in a parliamentary written answer to the Carmarthen East and Dinefwr MP from Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram.

Mr Price called for accurate records of civilian casualties in areas under coalition control and an agreement to pay adequate compensation to victims of unlawful killing.

A proper mechanism must be introduced to ensure prompt, impartial and independent investigations into non-combatant deaths.

“The last point necessitates a civilian rather than a military internal investigation,” he said. “Military inquiries are not exhaustive because it was not always possible to ascertain the number of casualties from incidents such as ambushes or firefights.”

He continued: “When a confirmed civilian casualty has allegedly been caused by UK forces, and we are aware of it, we endeavour to inform relatives through the International Committee of the Red Cross.”

These records were not exhaustive because it was not always possible to ascertain the number of casualties from incidents such as ambushes or firefights.

He strongly denied that records of civilian casualties were not being kept, stressing: “All incidents of alleged or possible fatalities of which people are aware, are recorded by the unit involved.”

But Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram insisted they were operating in Iraq under the rule of law.

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Image

A US Army soldier guards Iraqi detainees, following one of a series of night raids, in Tikrit, Iraq, on early on Friday, 9 Jan, 2004. US forces arrested 13 Iraqis wanted in connection with planning and conducting attacks on coalition forces.

Internet

US soldier dies of wounds sustained in mortar attack

Baghdad, 9 Jan—One US soldier was announced dead early Thursday due to his wounds sustained in a fierce mortar attack west of Baghdad late Wednesday, according to a US military source.

Iraqi resistance fighters rocked a US logistical base west of Baghdad after sunset Wednesday with six mortar rounds, wounding 35 US soldiers, one of which was later announced dead of his wounds.

Mortars were frequently used by resistance fighters in Iraq, especially in the so-called Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad.

Wednesday night’s fresh assault appeared to be one of the most deadly in a series of unabated anti-US attacks following the capture of Saddam Hussein on December 13. A total of 331 US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire in Iraq since the US-led coalition forces launched the war on Iraq last March.

Also on Wednesday a British soldier was killed in an accident on a training range near Basra in southern Iraq, the British Ministry of Defence said.

He strongly denied that records of civilian casualties were not being kept, stressing: “All incidents of alleged or possible fatalities of which people are aware, are recorded by the unit involved.”

The ministry said the incident was under investigation.

Before the death of the Scottish soldier, the British military had reported 52 soldiers killed in Iraq.

Man pulled alive but in coma from Iran quake rubble

Bam (Iran), 9 Jan—A 56-year-old man has been rescued alive, but in very poor health, after spending 13 days beneath the rubble of Bam, which was razed by an earthquake on December 26, medics and aid workers said on Thursday.

The man was found by rescue workers on Wednesday afternoon trapped beneath a wardrobe which had apparently saved his life.

“When he arrived at the hospital his signs of life were very weak. He was frozen and now he is in a coma,” said medic Mehdi Shadnoush, part of a Ukrainian-Iranian medical team treating the man at a field hospital in the quake-ravaged city.

“Experts say it is very rare for people to survive for more than 72 hours in such conditions. Aid workers said the rescued man, whose first name is thought to be Jafar, had travelled from a nearby village to stay with his sister and had sought shelter in a building, said Iranian aid minister Mohammad Reza Tahmasb.

HK constitutional development to follow “One Country, Two Systems”

Hong Kong, 9 Jan—Hong Kong’s constitutional development will need to safeguard the “One Country, Two Systems” and follow the Basic Law requirements, said Chief Secretary of Administration Donald Tsang on Wednesday.

Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Tung Chee Hwa has in his policy address Wednesday outlined the government’s considerations in dealing with constitutional development after 2007.

He also asked Tsang to set up and chair a task force to examine in an in-depth manner the relevant principles and legislative process of the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, and to consult the relevant departments of the central government.

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Tsang told a news briefing later on that the task force will make preparations as soon as possible to start work with the relevant departments of the central government.

He said that Hong Kong’s future constitutional development affects every member of the society.

“This issue is not just about the running of the government, it is also intricately linked to our economic and social development,” he said.

At the same time, he noted, Hong Kong’s future constitutional development also involves the relationship between the SAR and the central government.

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Hong Kong, 9 Jan—Hong Kong’s constitutional development will need to safeguard the “One Country, Two Systems” and follow the Basic Law requirements, said Chief Secretary of Administration Donald Tsang on Wednesday.

Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Tung Chee Hwa has in his policy address Wednesday outlined the government’s considerations in dealing with constitutional development after 2007.

He also asked Tsang to set up and chair a task force to examine in an in-depth manner the relevant principles and legislative process of the Basic Law relating to constitutional development, and to consult the relevant departments of the central government.

Tsang told a news briefing later on that the task force will make preparations as soon as possible to start work with the relevant departments of the central government.

He said that Hong Kong’s future constitutional development affects every member of the society.

“This issue is not just about the running of the government, it is also intricately linked to our economic and social development,” he said.

At the same time, he noted, Hong Kong’s future constitutional development also involves the relationship between the SAR and the central government.

Internet
WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—The failure to find Iraqi weapons of mass destruction looks set to dog the Bush administration in an election year amid persistent accusations it exaggerated evidence in making a case for war.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a liberal-leaning U.S. think tank, issued a report on Thursday that compared public and declassified intelligence information with statements made by administration officials.

It concluded that the administration made the threat from Iraq sound more dire than the underlying information. “We have found and have gone to some length to define and lay out serious misrepresentation of the facts over and above what was in the intelligence findings,” Jessica Mathews, president of the think tank and one of the authors, said.

In one example, she said U.N. weapons inspectors said the amount of biological growth medium that Iraq had could produce three times as much anthrax as it had declared if it used all that growth medium to produce anthrax.

President Bush in an Oct. 7, 2002, speech in Ohio, said: “The inspectors, however, concluded that Iraq had likely produced two to four times that amount. This is a massive stockpile of biological weapons that has never been accounted for and is capable of killing millions.”

Mathews said this was an example of how a possibility cited by the inspectors became a likelihood and then a stockpile in Bush’s speech.

“The administration defined and turned into weapons” which would require highly sophisticated delivery systems if they were capable of killing millions, she said. —Internet

**Missile may have hit US jet over Baghdad**

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—A big U.S. military cargo jet may have been hit by a missile in Iraq Monday before it made an emergency safe return to Baghdad airport with 63 passengers and crew on Thursday, a U.S. military official said.

We have reason to believe that it may have been hit by a missile. But the investigation is continuing,” the official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters hours after the four-engine Air Force C-5 jet landed at Baghdad International Airport.

The official said the crew was caught off guard as the plane approached Baghdad International Airport.

“Some of the crew thought they were hit, and they proceeded to fly to Baghdad,” the official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. “But by the time they got there, they were sure they were hit.”

Another official said it appeared that the crash was likely a result of an air strike.

“We believe that it may have been hit by a missile before it made an emergency landing,” the official said.

**Iran urges Japan not to let US influence policy**

Tehran, 9 Jan—Iran urged Japan on Tuesday not to let its “third parties” influence its foreign policy, a reference to Washington which has urged Tokyo not to deal with Tehran because of US concern about Iranian nuclear ambitions.

At a meeting with visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, Iran’s Supreme National Security chief Hassan Rohani said Tehran was interested in expanding its ties with Japan.

But he said Tehran’s first need was to ensure that Tokyo would not sign the deal because it believed Iran was developing nuclear arms.

Tehran denies it has plans to develop such weapons and signed an agreement last month under which international inspectors can carry out snap inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi told a news conference in Tehran that re-solving misunderstandings was one of the goals of Bush’s one-day trip to Japan.

He welcomed Iran’s signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty’s additional protocol, but said Tokyo would not lift its ban on exports of dual-purpose equipment until the International Atomic Energy Agency had released its next report, due next month.

Kawaguchi also met President Mohammad Khatamari, Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karroubi and Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrati.

Japanese imports almost all its oil needs and Iran is its third largest supplier of crude oil.

Takashima denied rumors in some Iranian media that the minister was carrying a message for Tehran from US officials but said: “Any rapprochement between Iran and the US will be very good for peace and stability in the world.”

**530 US troops in Iraq wounded in December**

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan—According to the Defense Department figures that Pike’s group compiled, 530 U.S. troops were wounded in December, only slightly fewer than the 550 wounded during combat operations last spring.

It was impossible to track month-by-month wounded statistics before December.

John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a defense-focused think tank, said the Pentagon only started releasing daily tabulations of them in late November.

But he said that according to previous news reports of Pentagon figures, 570 U.S. troops were wounded in combat from May through August, while from September through November, 1,052 soldiers were wounded.

The number of U.S. troops killed in action has held fairly steady each month since the end of major combat was declared in May, varying from 29 to 46.

The exception came in November when successful attacks on U.S. forces, especially on helicopters, resulted in 81 deaths. U.S. military officials and national security specialists said the high number of injuries could reflect December’s stepped-up anti-guerrilla activities.

Military specialists said that explanation seemed plausible given the lack of a corresponding rise in the number of troops killed, as insurgents would have been more deadly in ambushes prepared against U.S. troops than if they were caught by surprise.

**British soldier dies in training incident in Iraq**

LONDON, 9 Jan — A British soldier died on Wednesday in an incident at a training range in Iraq. Britain’s Ministry of Defence said, giving further details.

“We regret to confirm that a British serviceman died following a tragic incident on a training range near Basra on January 7,” a spokesman said. “His family are being informed and no further details will be published until this is complete.”

The spokesman said the incident was under investigation.

At the height of last year’s war in Iraq Britain deployed some 45,000 troops in the Gulf, its largest deployment since the Korean War 50 years ago. It currently has about 9,500 troops in the Gulf. — MNA/Reuters

**Number of road deaths down in S Africa**

JOHANNESBURG, 9 Jan — Initial data indicate that 36 fewer people died on South African roads last month than in December 2002, the transport department said on Wednesday.

This represented a decrease of 3 per cent. Deputy Director-General Sipho Khumalo said in Pretoria.

**Ugandan youth urged to avoid attracting HIV/AIDS**

KAMPALA, 9 Jan — Ugandan youth have been urged to take measures to avoid contracting HIV/AIDS. The call was made by Mrs. Janet Museveni, wife of President Yoweri Museveni, on Wednesday when opening this year annual Uganda Youth Conference under the theme “the Hidden Pearl” at the International Conference Centre in Kampala.

She said that the cheapest and safest way for the youth to avoid contracting HIV/AIDS is abstinence from premarital sex and faithfulness in marriage.

She called upon all stakeholders in the fight against the HIV/AIDS scourge to package correct information that will empower the youth to remain pure and avoid the dangers of engaging in premarital sex that could result into loss of their lives.

Mrs. Museveni urged the youth, especially the vulnerable girls, to resist cheap gifts from men that can ruin their future upon contracting HIV/AIDS, saying that “stand up and say no to premarital sex or say yes and die.” — MNA/Internet

Questions about Iraq weapons haunt US election year

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“The administration defined and turned into weapons” which would require highly sophisticated delivery systems if they were capable of killing millions, she said. —Internet

Iraqi women react while they wait outside Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib prison for loved ones to be released on 8 Jan, 2004. —Internet

A US Army soldier takes his position during a night raid, in Tikrit, Iraq on early Friday, 9 Jan, 2004. —Internet
Angolan Government approves $500m water plan

UN, Red Cross set $73m appeal for Iraqi quake

Chirac urges rapid power transfer in Iraq in New Year message
Diploma students discuss role of private sector

YANGON, 9 Jan — After studying the industrial zones and socio-economy of the locals, a group of students from advanced diploma courses read papers on their visits at the institutions of higher learning in Meiktila and Monywa.

Led by Professor Daw Aye Aye Myint of Yangon Institute of Economics, and accompanied by their supervisor teachers, the students of applied economics diploma course and applied accounting course of YIE conducted their study tour in Meiktila, Monywa and Mandalay from 29 December 2003 to 1 January 2004.

On 30 December, Tutor Daw Mya Mya Thet of YIE from the group read the paper — The role of Myanmar economic sector — at Meiktila Institute of Economics, in which Pro-Rector U Tha Than Soe of the host institution, faculties and students were the active participants discussing the paper from different points of view.

Ma Khin Nyein Soe, a student of the applied economics diploma course, presented the paper — The economics of the public sector — at Monywa Institute of Economics the next day. Her paper was discussed by Rector of U Aung Myint, teachers, and students of the host university. During their tour of Mandalay, Monywa and Meiktila, they also studied the private enterprises in addition to the industries. — MNA

Mayor inspects water supply tasks for Yangon City

YANGON, 9 Jan — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, together with committee member Col Tin Soe and officials, this morning inspected arrangements for water supply for Hlawga Dam through Ngamoyeik Dam, construction progress of the control tower and intake structure and flow of water through the sluice channel. Col Tin Soe and engineers reported on daily supply of water for Yangon City and storage of water. The mayor gave necessary instructions. He also looked into the recreation camp in Uto Region in Taikkyi Township. — MNA

YANGON Trade Fair 2004 on 30 Jan

YANGON, 9 Jan — Sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and organized by Quartz International Co Ltd, Yangon Trade Fair 2004 will be held on a grand scale at Yangon Trade Centre on Paukdaung Road here from 30 January to 2 February.

On display at the fair will be local and foreign cosmetics and consumer goods, textiles, plastic wares, food-stuff, electronics and electrical appliances, construction materials, household utensils, stationery, small machines, traditional medicines and medicines. — MNA

As Myanmar literature is of high standard with substance and good style of writing, those in the literary world are striving to penetrate the world with Myanmar literature

Minister for Information addresses Seminar on Publishing

YANGON, 9 Jan — A ceremony to open a seminar on publishing sponsored by the Ministry of Information was held at the hall of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association at Sarpay Beikman Building in Kyauktada Township this afternoon with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, heads of department under the ministry, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaung (Ko Hsaung), and CEC members, Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the Seminar U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and committee members, Chairman of Myanmar Artists and Artisans Association (Central) U Thaung Han, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Publishers Association U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thaukkya) and resource persons and guests.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the Ministry of Information has been holding the paper reading sessions and the seminars since 1965 for literary development and the present seminar being the 25th. The seminar was held to exchange views among compilers, graphic designers and publishers, he added.

In the course of Myanmar literary history, he said, quality books full of knowledge for the people emerged owing to concerted efforts of the literati and publishers, uplifting the national prestige and integrity. There were literary works worthy of praise in Myanmar literature in the course of history. Therefore, modern printing techniques are needed to be applied for continued development of Myanmar literature.

As Myanmar literature is of high standard with substance and good style of writing, those in the literary world are aiming to penetrate the world with Myanmar literature.

International reading of the new generation of Myanmar literature is of great importance as it helps Myanmar literature to gain the recognition it deserves and results in the emergence of high quality books full of knowledge. The Ministry of Information has been holding the reading sessions and the seminars for the last 25 years, he said.

He expressed his belief that the seminar would create goodwill, making Myanmar literature penetrate the world.

The MWJA chairman extended greetings.

The chairman introduced those present to the novels and papers included in the writers’ sector, Daw Khin Khin (Kalaya Weikza/Theikpan) and Daw Khin Khin Sein (Yowady Khin Sein Hlaing).

The chairman introduced those present to the novels and papers included in the writers’ sector.

Daw Khin Sw Min and U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) read their papers and assessed the discussions of those present.

Daw Cho Cho Tin (Ma Sandar) and member of Mingala Taungnyunt Township WJA U Kyaw Niyint (Kyaw Niyint Y), K 50,000 each; and U Chit San (Chit San Win)-Daw Maw Maw (Lamin Ein) and Dr Tha Tun Oo (Today Publishing Centre), K 40,000. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan speaks at the seminar on publishing. — MNA
Chinese businessmen to invest $10m in Maluku province

JAKARTA, 9 Jan — A number of Chinese businessmen will invest 10 million US dollars in fishing industry in Indonesia’s Maluku Province, a provincial official said Wednesday.

“The Chinese investors from Xinjiang Province will materialize the project initially by setting up a cold storage and dockyard this year,” Zidik Sangadji, head of Maluku maritime and fishery office, was quoted as saying by the official Antara news agency. The investors made the decision after Sangadji and the provincial investment coordinating board chairman, Jopi Patty, visited China in December. They will team up with local entrepreneurs to set up the cold storage and dockyard, Sangadji said.

He also said Xinjiang’s provincial administration plans to make Maluku one of its main investment destinations.

Sangadji expressed hope that the project would improve people’s welfare in Maluku, especially those living in coastal areas, which are rich in marine resources but remain underdeveloped.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a gift and a certificate of honour to Dr Than Than Aye on 8-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA

Chinese Armed police urged to pledge loyalty

BEIJING, 9 Jan — Zhou Yongkang, the first political commissar of the Chinese People’s Armed Police, Wednesday urged officers and men to be loyal to the Party and people and create a safe and stable environment for the national endeavour to build a relatively affluent society in an all-round way.

Zhou, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of China Central Committee and a state councillor, said the armed police force should improve combat capacity and fulfill various tasks centred on carrying out routine duties, handling emergencies and fighting against terrorist activities. Officers at all levels should make new and greater contributions to safeguarding national security and maintaining social stability, Zhou said at a meeting of the Party Committee of the Armed Police Force.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a gift and a certificate of honour to Dr Tin Tin Myint on 8-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA

Zimbabwe urges people to go for malaria tests

HARARE, 9 Jan — The Zimbabwean Government has urged people who travelled to malaria zones during the festive season to go for malaria tests to know whether or not they contracted the disease, according to the Herald on Thursday.

The government also urged people to take preventive and control measures.

Some of the malaria zones in the country include Binga, Nkayi, Hwange, Lupane, Kariba, Gokwe, Uzumba-Maramba-Fangwe, Centenary and Gwede. The report said that one should also consult a doctor if they suspect that they have contracted malaria.

Some of the malaria symptoms include headaches, fever, vomiting and general body aches particularly in the joints.

Malaria symptoms can be detected during a period of between 10 days and six weeks. The Minister of Health and Child Welfare David Parirenyatwa last month assured the public that the country has enough malaria drugs. More than two million people in the country suffer from malaria every year while half of the country’s population is also at risk of contracting malaria.

Ways of preventing malaria include draining drenched pools or stagnant water where mosquitoes breed and pouring paraffin or light oil in water to destroy the mosquito larvae.

Minister for Commerce Maj-Gen Pyi Sone, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President U Win Myint and Myanmar Rice Millers Association Chairman U Tin Win formally open Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004 on 8-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA

Beijing hosts CEPA Promotion Week

Beijing, 9 Jan — A series of activities aiming to strengthen economic ties between China’s Mainland and the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions (SAR) started here Wednesday, and will last for ten days.

The activities will move to Shanghai and Guangzhou shortly. The Promotion Week for the Mainland-Hong Kong and Mainland-Macao Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is jointly organized by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Macao SAR Government.

The CEPA promotion activities aim to show Mainlanders Hong Kong and Macao’s service trades, tourism resorts and products.

In addition, a seminar will be held to study the CEPA’s impact and influence on the development of trade between the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, attracting over 400 experts in finance, real estate, insurance and services from Hong Kong and Macao.

92 million new mobile phone users expected in China in 2004

BEIJING, 9 Jan — As many as 40 million new fixed line phone users and 52 million new mobile phone users are expected in China this year, according to a conference on national information industry development held here Wednesday.

Income of the communications industry for 2004 will be targeted at 575 billion yuan (69.3 billion US dollars), of which 519 billion will come from the telecommunication sector, said Wang Xudong, Minister of Information Industry.

According to Wang, the information industry should work on a coordinated improvement in the network, business, and service quality, to boost national economic growth.

In 2003, the added industrial value of the information industry in China was 709 billion yuan, and income was 515 billion yuan. China saw 112 million new phone users in 2003.

Minister for Commerce Maj-Gen Pyi Sone, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President U Win Myint and Myanmar Rice Millers Association Chairman U Tin Win formally open Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004 on 8-1-2004. (News reported) — MNA

Dominica’s Prime Minister Charles dies

MUSON, 9 Jan — Prime Minister Pierre Charles, who had led the eastern Caribbean nation of Dominica since 2000, has died, the government said on Wednesday.

He died Tuesday evening at Princess Margaret Hospital in the island’s capital, Roseau. The government did not disclose the cause of death, but Charles had recently returned to work after heart surgery — MNA/Reuters

Donate blood
Minister meets members of work committee for all-round renovation of Shweephonewpint Pagoda

YANGON, 9 Jan — Chairman of the central committee for all-round renovation of the Shweephonewpint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Huan held discussions with committee members and discussed the construction of Phayagyi Koea Stairway this morning. Engineers and Chairman U Ko Ko Gyai of the pagoda board of trustees and members also attended the meeting. First, the minister paid homage to the pagoda and looked into construction tasks. After paying obeisance and offering lights and water to the Buddha images, the minister inspected the site chosen for construction of the stairway and scale models. He then left necessary instructions there. MNA

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspects Paunglaung Hydropower Project on 8-1-2004. (News reported) — ELECTRIC POWER

Cuba learns from Chinese farmers

HABANA, 9 Jan — Cuba is making use of Chinese experience in the cultivation of vegetables to raise the yield of its agricultural production, a senior Cuban official said on Wednesday.

In a statement to the local Press, Sio described the Chinese ability to feed nearly 1.3 billion people by only 22 percent of the world’s arable land as an achievement worth emulating. Cuban producers make full use of agricultural harvests, he said. Besides consuming agricultural products, they also feed them to animals and use them for industrial production.

He referred to studies by the Research Institute for Yams, in Shanghai, China. Sio said that cultivation of short-cycled yam vegetables would be of interest to Cuba, as shown by the nearly 100-ton-per-hectare output secured by Chinese agricultural producers in three consecutive years.

The Chinese research institute was collaborating with the Cuban Food Research Institute, in the central province of Villa Clara, exchanging experiences and expertise in agricultural production. MNA/Xinhua

Guatemala, UN sign unprecedented crime probe pact

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Jan— Guatemala and the United Nations signed an unprecedented agreement on Wednesday that would allow a UN-appointed commission to prosecute perpetrators of organized crime.

The pact, still to be approved by Guatemala’s Parliament, was signed by Edgar Gutierrez, Guatemala’s Foreign Minister and Kieran Prendergast, the UN undersecretary-general for political affairs. It has a two-year life span.

The new commission investigates an investigative body that could arrest and prosecute “illegal groups and clandestine security organizations”.

US scientists assemble honeybee Genome

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan— The honeybee has joined the growing collection of animals whose gene maps are available for anyone to see. US researchers said on Wednesday.

The sequence of the bee, known scientifically as Apis mellifica, is published on the Internet for researchers in biology and agriculture to use, the National Human Genome Research Institute reported.

The sequence shows the bee genome is about one-tenth the size of the human genome, containing about 300 million DNA base pairs, or matching rungs on the ladderlike double helix that makes up DNA. Now scientists have to decode where the genes lie in all this information, and what they do. Among the many databases where the sequence can be found is GenBank at Genbank.

Richard Gibbs of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston led the effort. The honey bee, used not only to produce honey but to pollinate, is studied by biologists keen on finding out about human health issues such as allergies. MNA/Reuters

Quake hits national forest in Wyoming

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.7 rattled Jackson, Wyoming early on Wednesday, according to a report from the US Geological Survey.

The tremor, which occurred at 12:51 am MST (0751 GMT) was centred 20 miles northeast of Jackson in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, said Butch Kinney, a spokesman for the USGS.

“It was felt in Jackson,” said Kinney. “A 4.7 is enough to wake people up, but we don’t expect any damage. There may be some dishes rattling, that kind of stuff, but it’s not enough to do any structural damage.”

“It’s a resort area, mostly used for skiing,” he said, adding that seismic activity was not unusual in the area of Yellowstone National Park, also in Wyoming. MNA/Reuters
WHO experts visit Guangdong again

GUANGZHOU, 9 Jan — The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Chinese Health Ministry (MOH) dispatched another joint team of experts to south China’s Guangdong Province Thursday to assist the local health authorities in their probe for the origin of the SARS virus.

Five of the 10-member joint team arrived in the capital of Guangdong Thursday night, including two WHO epidemiologists, WHO China office spokesman Roy Wadia, an MOH official and an interpreter.

Robert Breiman, who is heading the WHO team, told Xinhua at the Guangzhou Airport that the joint mission will look into the recent occurrence of the diagnosed SARS case in Guangdong, and their major concerns will centre on the potential human, animal and environmental sources of the SARS infection.

Sources at the Guangdong provincial health bureau told Xinhua that three Chinese experts and one WHO expert of the joint team were already in Guangdong, and another WHO environmental expert from Canada will join the team Friday. The team is scheduled to stay in Guangdong for one week. — MNA/Xinhua

Matsushita to cut S-E Asian units by 40%

TOKYO, 9 Jan— Matsushita Electric Industrial Co will reduce the number of production and sales subsidiaries in Southeast Asia by 40 per cent by the year end, a major Japanese newspaper said Thursday.

The move is part of the Japanese consumer electronics giant’s efforts to reorganize its overseas subsidiaries in the Asian region, said the Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

The reorganization is aimed at making Matsushita’s Southeast Asian operations specialize in producing value-added products for the US and European markets and at bolstering the output of inexpensive products in China, the newspaper said.

Official urges to make China a big “IT” power

BEIJING, 9 Jan — A senior official has called for making China a major power in the IT industry, as it is a fundamental, guiding and pillar industry, and plays a decisive role in the country’s reform, opening and modernization drive.

Huang Ju, a vice-premier and member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau, made this call at a meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Information Industry.

Summer English Courses at MRA

YANGON, 9 Jan — Myanmar Royal Academy English Language Centre opens intermediate level English grammar, spoken English in business, writing and reading, GCE English and medical courses including special English 3-month and 6-month courses for summer.

Post-Intermediate English in business, TOEFL English and Chinese speaking courses will be opened in the second week of January.

English grammar, speaking, writing and reading courses at 10 varying levels for basic education students, undergraduates and post-graduates will also be opened at the end of February. Interested persons may contact the language centre at No 57, Ground Floor, 9th Street (Middle), Lanmadaw Township (Ph: 222121).

Independence Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 9 Jan—The 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition continued for the seventh day at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road today.

Chairman of the Committee for Organizing the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and departmental heads of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information visited the exhibition today.

Pictures and photos depicting the tours of border areas by the Head of State, tasks for development of border areas and national races, international cooperation in elimination of narcotic drugs, six objectives of the development of border areas and opium-substitute agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in border areas were on display at the booth of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

At the booth of Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation of the Ministry Health, pictures and photos depicting the objectives of the Ministry of Health, three strategies for success of the objectives, 15-point national health policy, development of hospitals and dispensaries, guidance of the Chairman of the National Health Committee, health development projects for rural regions, development of traditional medicine, treatments for cleft lip and palate patients were demonstrated.

Students visit the 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition. — MNA

142.7 acres of poppy plantations destroyed

YANGON, 9 Jan — A combined team comprising members of local Tatmadawmen, members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force, departmental personnel and local people destroyed 142.7 acres of poppy plantations in the valleys near Bawran Village in Gaungyi Village-tact, Peking Village in Yene Village-tact and Lanalon Village in Yomyikan Village-tact from 24 to 29 December 2003. Up to 29 December 2003, a total of 4765.37 acres of poppy plantations have been destroyed. — MNA

The combined team destroying poppy plantation in Pekhon Township. — MNA
**SARS case**

South China reports another suspected SARS case

Guangzhou, 9 Jan — A waitress was confirmed Thursday to be China’s Mainland’s another suspected SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) case since July in Guangzhou, capital of southern China’s Guangdong Province, local health authorities said.

The newly found suspected SARS patient, a 20-year-old restaurant waitress, was sent under quarantine and receiving treatment in the Guangzhou No. 8 People’s Hospital.

The waitress from central Henan Province reported symptoms of fever on 26 December, 2003 and she went to the doctors at the Yuexiu District Bone Setting Hospital on 31 December. She was transferred to Yuexiu No 1 People’s Hospital after further testing and X-ray scanning.

She was confirmed to be the suspected SARS case by the province’s virus-detecting medical team according to the SARS diagnosis programme defined by the Ministry of Health.

The temperature of the suspected SARS patient have remained normal for seven consecutive days and authorities have stepped up protective measures for the medical staff, local health officials said.—MNA/Xinhua

**Study says demand for herbal remedies threatens plants**

**LONDON,** 9 Jan — Worldwide demand for herbal remedies is threatening natural habitats and endangering up to a fifth of wild medicinal plant species which are being harvested to extinction, a leading science magazine said on Wednesday.

A study to be published later this year by the conservation organization, which warns that between 4,000 and 10,000 plants may be at risk.

"It’s an extremely serious problem," said study author Alan Hamilton told New Scientist magazine. According to the report, the market for herbal remedies has risen by 10 per cent a year for the past decade in North America and Europe and is now thought to be worth at least 11 billion pounds (20 billion US dollars).

The findings are based on an analysis of the number of species at risk on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List of threatened plants. Two-thirds of the 50,000 medicinal plants being used are harvested from the wild. Hamilton, a member of the IUCN’s Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, also contributed to a report which will be unveiled by the conservation organization PlanitFire International next week.

"Among the threatened plants are tetu lakha, a tree found in south India and Sri Lanka and used for anti-cancer treatments in Europe; an Indian root called saw-wort which is used for skin disorders and tendrilled frilly, a Chinese plant used for respiratory infections."

"With demand and commerce growing for the future of the wild plants which have helped most of humanity for centuries is now more uncertain than it has ever been," Martin Harper, of PlanitFire, told New Scientist. The group, which says the problem has been looming for years, blames the herbal medicinal industry for not guaranteeing the sustainability of supplies.

"It is time for the industry to join forces with environmental organizations to ensure that herbal harvests have a sustainable future," Harper added.—MNA/Reuters

**Indonesian airplane makes emergency landing**

JAKARTA, 9 Jan — A passenger plane belonging to Indonesia’s Merpati Airlines made an emergency landing at Juanda Airport in the city of Surabaya one hour after taking off Wednesday morning, Metro TV reported.

The plane carrying 46 passengers had trouble in its hydraulic system on the way to Makassar, South Sulawesi Province, and the pilot decided to return to Surabaya.

**US scientists study comet data from spacecraft**

Pasadena (California), 9 Jan — A first look at photos and data collected during a US spacecraft’s encounter with a comet last week suggests that astronomers’ text books may have to be rewritten to reflect new discoveries about the breaking mases of rock and ice, scientists said on Tuesday.

The Stardust spacecraft, launched two years ago, 708 million mile trek back to Earth, where it will drop off a capsule containing particles that could hold clues to how the solar system, and even life on Earth, began.

Scientists at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, spent the weekend poring over the size of an open umbrella, also failed.

**“Beagle 2” Mars probe still lost in space**

London, 9 Jan — Latest efforts to contact a British-led mission to Mars from its orbiting mothership failed on Wednesday, confirming fears the Beagle 2 probe crashed during a Christmas Day touchdown.

Gloom surrounding the first all-Euro-

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO 489

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MANDALAY” Voy No 116/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 10-1-04 and will be berthing on about 11-1-04 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared to be the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

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**New Scien**

**Study says screen parents of attention-deficit children**

WASHINGTON, 9 Jan — The parents of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder may also be at risk of learning or mental disorders and should be screened too, a study says.

Earlier attempts by radio telescopes and other equipment to image the nucleus of comet Tempel 1. The photos of the comet’s 3.1-mile wide nucleus also showed an unexpected variety of formations—from crescents to the bottomed depressions lined by sheer cliffs to mountains — that scientists had come to learn how comets are formed, Don Brownlee, Stardust’s principal investigator, said.

"Scientists all over the world are desperately waiting for these samples to arrive," Brownlee said, adding that tests to analyze the composition of the particles were still being developed. —MNA/Reuters
UN warns world missing lower child mortality targets

GENEVA, 9 Jan — Fewer than one-in-five developing countries are on track to meet UN targets for sharply reducing child and maternal mortality by 2015, the World Health Organization and the World Bank warned on Thursday.

The targets are part of the “Millennium Development Goals” set by the United Nations in 2000, which call for the death rate for under-fives to be cut by two-thirds and for a 75 per cent drop in maternal deaths.

But according to the World Bank, progress on cutting child mortality has been so slow that no sub-Saharan country will reach the goal. For developing countries as a whole the success is likely to be only 16 per cent.

One in 11 children in low income countries dies before reaching five, most from preventable diseases and health problems, compared with one in 143 in rich states. Some 500,000 women die from complications in pregnancy and childbirth.

“When these kinds of targets are set, it seems too soon to take urgent action, and then, after a few short years, it seems too late,” said WHO Director-General Dr Lee Jong-wook.

The World Bank and the UN health agency issued their statement ahead of a two-day meeting of government and development agency officials on how to remedy the situation. “It is going to be a question of money, political commitment and human resources, they are all intertwined,” he said.

The slow progress on health, which accounts for half the eight targets the UN set for development in the world’s poorest countries, was particularly disturbing because many of the means for improving the situation — drugs and health techniques — were both available and affordable.

British Queen’s names cruise liner “Queen Mary 2”

LONDON, 9 Jan — Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II formally named the one-billion-dollar Queen Mary 2 cruise ship, the world’s biggest ocean liner ever built, on Thursday in Southampton, England, ahead of its maiden transatlantic voyage to the United States.

“I name this ship Queen Mary 2. May God bless her and all who sail in her,” the British monarch said, before a hefty jero-boam of Veuve Clicquot champagne smashed against the spotlit starboard side of its black bow.

Some 2,000 invited guests were present at the naming ceremony for the ship, which was built in France for Cunard, the venerable British shipping line now owned by Carnival Corporation of the United States.

This is the first time the Queen has named a Cunard ship since the launch in 1967 of the Queen Elizabeth II, whose Southampton to New York service will be taken over by the Queen Mary 2 in April.

The Queen Mary 2, the first transatlantic liner to be built in over 30 years, arrived at Southampton on December 26.

The liner is longer than the largest US aircraft carrier, at 1,132 feet and over 236 feet high with 14 decks and it will be able to carry 2,620 passengers with 1,250 crew to pamper them.

The mammoth 150,000-ton vessel is scheduled to begin its 14-day maiden voyage, to Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Monday. Cunard said the trip had sold out months ago.

Experts say shipping vulnerable to pirates, terror

SINGAPORE, 9 Jan — Piracy is increasing, particularly in the busy, narrow waterways of Southeast Asia, and international shipping presents a vulnerable target for terrorist groups bent on mass damage, maritime experts said recently.

Pirate attacks in the first nine months of last year hit a record high, underscoring the need for more action to protect shipping amid signs militants want to launch attacks from the high seas, the experts told the Regional Outlook Forum 2004 organized by Singapore’s Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Given the vast scale and vulnerability of the global shipping and cargo container industry, better security is vital when the risk of weapons of mass destruction reaching international terrorists is rising,” said Michael Richardson of the ISEAS.

Over a quarter of the world’s trade, half of its oil and much of its liquefied natural gas pass through the Straits of Malacca that divides Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia and scene of operations for the most dangerous and numerous pirates in the world.

In the first nine months of last year, the International Maritime Board (IMB) recorded an all-time high of 344 attacks, of which the highest number — 87 — were in Indonesia, IMB director Captain Poggengal Mukundan told the conference.

Malaysian PM to pay short visit to Philippines

MANILA, 9 Jan— Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi will arrive in Manila for a short official visit on 20 January, officials said Wednesday.

Badawi’s five-hour visit is part of his traditional call to Southeast Asian heads of state since he replaced Mahathir Mohammad as prime minister in October last year, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Badawi is expected to meet with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during his trip to Manila.

During their meeting, Arroyo is also expected to seek Malaysia’s support in the Philippines’ bid for an observer status in the Organization of Islamic Conference and discuss anti-terrorism cooperation and the issue of thousands of Filipino undocumented migrants in Sabah, Malaysia, officials added.

Cambodian CPP hails government’s achievements in 2003

PHNOM PENH, 9 Jan — Chea Sim, president of the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), Wednesday spoke highly of the achievements made by the royal government headed by Prime Minister Hun Sen in 2003.

Chea Sim said that during the 1998 and 2003, the royal government achieved remarkable successes in its second term on various fields, such as the implementation of the policy of sustainable development, reforms on state structure, poverty reduction and steadily improvement of social stability and security.

In the economic field, Chea Sim said, Cambodia managed to ensure a stable economy and an annual steady growth. Between 1999 and 2001, the annual GDP growth increased by 7 per cent on average.

Another great success, Chea Sim men-

Singapore’s middle-aged bachelors on the rise

SINGAPORE, 9 Jan— The number of middle-aged bachelors in Singapore is on the rise, especially in the 35-39 age group, and the figure is catching up with the number of single women in the same cohort, said local Press on Wednesday. Channelnewsasia, a local English-language TV station, reported on its website, quoting the Social Development Unit (SDU), a marriage promoting organization, that of the SDU’s 30,000-odd members who are single, about a quarter are between 35 and 39 years old.

SDU Director Tan Shuo Mei was quoted

Graphic showing a profile of the civet cat, being mass-slaughtered in China due to suspicions it spreads the SARS virus.

Australia saw record motor sale in 2003

CANBERRA, 9 Jan— Australia saw a record sale of new motor vehicles last year, according to the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) Wednesday.

A total of 909,811 cars, trucks and buses were sold last year, 10.4 per cent more than the previous record set in 2002.

It was the first time Aus-

Drive safely
Brazil goalie Marcos injured in motorcycle accident

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 Jan—Brazilian World Cup goalkeeper Marcos suffered cuts and bruises in a motorcycle accident and might miss the start of the new season, according to his club Palmeiras on Wednesday.

Team doctor Mauricio Bezerra spoke of Marcos’ injury as nothing serious on the Sao Paulo-based club’s official website. “They are superficial injuries but do not heal overnight. He suffered cuts and bruises to his back, right leg and right foot and they will take seven to 10 days to heal,” he said.

The accident was said to have happened on December 24 during the close season, but no further details were released.

Marcos, who has lost his place in the Brazil team to AC Milan’s Dida but is still a regular in the squad, played in all seven matches for Brazil at the 2002 World Cup as the South Americans won the tournament for the fifth time.

He helped Palmeiras win promotion to the Brazilian championship first division at the first attempt last year.

Brazil’s 2004 season starts next week with regional championships such as the Paulista and Carioca. The Brazilian championship does not begin until April.—MNA/Xinhua

Spectre of relegation haunts former English giants

LONDON, 9 Jan—Leeds United, Tottenham Hotspur, and Wolverhampton Wanderers were once among England’s elite clubs but a dismal run of form has left them battling for survival in the increasingly competitive Premier League.

Leeds won the First Division title in 1992, just two years after the launch of the Premier League, and reached the Champions League semifinals as recently as 2001 but after “living the dream” under former chairman Peter Ridsdale times are now hard.

Transfer speculation continues to swirl around international strikers Mark Viduka and Alan Smith and keeper Paul Robinson, who are constantly linked with moves away from Elland Road as the club tries to avoid going into administration.

They could sell players in the transfer window to help pay off debts but would likely lose their top flight status for the first time since 1990. If they do not find a buyer for the club by January 19 any events will be out of their hands.

Tottenham’s deepening troubles cannot be blamed on a lack of resources. On the contrary, the club has spent millions of pounds in recent years on players, many of them internationalists, who have simply failed to live up to expectations.

With Mido, Acimovic, Goran Bunjevic, Karayuki Toda, Mbulelo Mobia and Jonathan Woodgate, the sales of top players including Harry Kewell and Jonathan Woodgate, each club has enjoyed a legion of signings failing to perform.

Crispese out due to injury

LONDON, 9 Jan—Chelsea’s Hernan Crespo will be sidelined for at least a week after being forced out of Wednesday’s Premiership clash with Liverpool due to a calf strain.

The 28-year-old Argentine striker had been in fine form before the match and was on the field for 79 minutes.

Crespo, who was replaced by Iceland’s Eidur Gudjohnsen, is now certain to miss Chelsea’s away match at Leicester on Sunday.

The Argentine has scored eight for Chelsea since he moved from Milan giants Internazionale with a fee of 16.8 million pounds (26.28 million US dollars) last summer.

Marco Simone ready for ‘swansong at Nice’

PARIS, 9 Jan—Former Italian striker Marco Simone has agreed to join Nice on a six-month contract, the French Ligue 1 club said on their website on Thursday.

The 35-year-old, who won four league titles with AC Milan before moving to France in 1997, has been without a club since he left Monaco in November 2002.

He has played 133 matches and scored 50 goals in the French First Division with Paris St Germain and Monaco.

“I am delighted to have a player of such quality in my team,” said Nice coach Gernot Rohr.—MNA/Reuters

Liverpool loan defender Vignal to struggling Espanyol

MENEN, 9 Jan—French defender Gregory Vignal has joined Espanyol on loan from Liverpool until the end of the season, the struggling Primera Liga club said on Thursday.

“Know that I am now in the best league in the world and will have to show what I can do,” the 25-year-old was quoted as saying on the Espanyol website.

“I will have to adapt quickly to make sure I can do my bit to help out the team.” Vignal joined Liverpool in 2000, but was loaned out to Coruscan club Bastia last January and spent the first half of this season on loan at Rennes.

He is the second reinforcement to join the Primera Liga basement club during the winter transfer window.

Argentine defender Mauricio Pochettino, who played for Espanyol for seven years up until 2001, rejoined the Catalan club on loan from Gironinas Bordeaux at the end of last month.

Espanyol, who are coached by former Paris St Germain boss Luis Fernandez, are rooted to the bottom of the table with just 11 points from 18 matches. — MNA/Reuters

Chris Perry, Les Ferdinand and Teddy Sheringham have all left the club.

Long-term injuries to Jamie Redknapp, Christian Ziege and Simon Davies plus the inexperience of young strikers Helder Postiga and Bobby Zamora, who joined Spurs in the close season, have also hindered the club’s progress this season.

Tottenham’s share of honours has slowed to a trickle as the 1999 League Cup triumph standing as their only success in 13 years. Acting manager David Pлет, who led them to the 1987 FA Cup final, faces a tough job.

Wolves are in a different situation as they bid to hang on to the Premier League status they secured through the player-buyer window. Manager Dave Jones has collapsed to a glove of youngsters and professionals but they are struggling.

Players such as 36-year-old Paul Ince and 38-year-old Denis Irwin, who both played for Manchester United in their prime, are feeling the pace of the Premier League and close season signings like Oleg Luzhny from Arsenal have only just settled into the team.

After their dismal start Wolves already have one eye on a return to the First Division and carry the burden of having been bottom of the league at Christmas—a statistic that has always been followed by relegation since the days of “The Dream Team”.

The 90-year-old Jack Hay, who has invested 70 million pounds in the club, dropped last month to be replaced by his elder son Rick having realized his dream of promotion after 19 years out of the top flight. He acted to follow. MNA/Reuters

London soccer star Rivaldo of Cruzeiro FC waves to supporters after at his presentation to the press at the Toca da Raposa II in Belo Horizonte, on 8 Jan, 2004. Rivaldo has signed a three-year contract with the Brazilian club.

Rivaldo, who won the 1999 Champions League with Barcelona’s 1-0 success against Paris St Germain at Nou Camp, will be reunited with former team mates Carles Puyol and Javier Zanetti. — MNA/Reuters

Ranieri not worried by Chelsea slump

LONDON, 9 Jan—Claudio Ranieri is not worried about the slump in form that has threatened to derail the big-spending London club’s Premier League challenge.

Chelsea suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat at home to Liverpool on Wednesday to slip seven points off the title pace set by champions Manchester United.

They have three of drawn one of their last six league games and were held to a 2-2 draw by First Division Watford in the third round of the FA Cup.

However, Ranieri is refusing to panic despite continuous speculation linking England coach Sven Goran Eriksson with a move to Stamford Bridge.

“I am not worried about this run. Of course, I am not happy but there isn’t a team who can stay at this level for 11 months,” Ranieri told the club’s website.

“When we were at the top of the league, I said it’s not important now. We must continue to build. It’s easy for me to say that I want to fight for the title but it’s not true. I am fighting to build a team.” Ranieri met with Chelsea’s billionaire owner Roman Abramovich immediately after Wednesday’s match but the Italian said this was “normal” procedure.

“Don’t worry, you will see me for a long time yet. You will see me also tomorrow (Thursday),” he said after emerging to speak to the media long after the final whistle.

“After every match, we have a meeting.”

Injuries to key midfielders Damien Duff and Juan Sebastian Veron have hindered Ranieri’s bid to halt Chelsea’s slump but the coach, who said he was unlikely to add to the 111 million pounds (199.6 million US dollars) spent on players in pre-season.

“No. We need only to go through this bad period,” he said after their match on Saturday with money tight and a host of injuries hindering the side’s ambitions to live up to expectations.

In the inexperience of young players, many of them internationals, who have simply failed to live up to expectations.

Chris Perry, Les Ferdinand and Teddy Sheringham have all left the club.

Long-term injuries to Jamie Redknapp, Christian Ziege and Simon Davies plus the inexperience of young strikers Helder Postiga and Bobby Zamora, who joined Spurs in the close season, have also hindered the club’s progress this season.

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The 90-year-old Jack Hay, who has invested 70 million pounds in the club, dropped last month to be replaced by his elder son Rick having realized his dream of promotion after 19 years out of the top flight. He acted to follow. MNA/Reuters

Ranieri was not worried about Chelsea’s slump.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Saturday, 10 January, 2004

WEATHER

Saturday, January 10

View today:
7:00 am  Recreation of Parittas by Missionary Saw U Ottama Tharya
7:15 am  Registration of marriage by Ottama Tharya
7:25 am  Three to be healthy exercise
7:30 am  Gaming news
7:40 am  Nice and sweet song
7:55 am  Delicacies
8:05 am  News
8:15 am  News
8:30 am  News
8:45 am  Games made easy

11:00 am  1. Martial song
11:10 am  2. Musical programme
11:30 am  3. News
11:40 pm  4. Games for children
12:00 noon  5. Round-up of the week’s TV local news
12:10 noon  6. [presumably news]
12:10 noon  7. [presumably news]
12:50 noon  8. [presumably news]
1:00 noon  9. [presumably news]
1:10 noon  10. [presumably news]
1:30 noon  11. Evening news
1:40 pm  12. Weather report
1:50 pm  13. Discovery
2:00 pm  14. [presumably news]
2:35 pm  15. Dance of national races
3:00 pm  16. Bay news
3:50 pm  17. International news
4:00 pm  18. [presumably news]
4:10 pm  19. Musical programme

5:00 pm  1. [presumably news]
5:10 pm  2. Musical programme
5:30 pm  3. Dance variety
5:50 pm  4. Musical programme
6:10 pm  5. News
6:30 pm  6. Musical programme
7:10 pm  7. [presumably news]
7:45 pm  8. Musical programme
8:05 pm  9. Games for children
8:20 pm  10. Delicacies
8:30 pm  11. Evening news
8:40 pm  12. Weather report
9:00 pm  13. Discovery
9:10 pm  14. [presumably news]
9:30 pm  15. News
9:50 pm  16. International news
10:00 pm  17. Weather report
10:20 pm  18. International news
10:30 pm  19. Next day’s programme

20:30 pm  1. National News
20:35 pm  2. Talent show on a flute of Xylophones
20:40 pm  3. Myanmar Cuisine
20:45 pm  4. National News
20:50 pm  5. Moyinjung Wildlife Sanctuary
20:55 pm  6. Scenic Beauty of the Arakan and Cultural Dance
20:58 pm  7. Village of Palaung
21:00 pm  8. National News
21:05 pm  9. Mogok, the Ruby Land
21:10 pm  10. Song “Shadow of Love”
21:12 pm  11. Wall - hant giant
21:15 pm  12. Weekly News Highlights
21:20 pm  13. Fabulous Banquet (V) Song Myanmar Cuisine
21:25 pm  14. Weekly News Highlights
21:30 pm  15. Weekly News Highlights
21:35 pm  16. Weekly News Highlights
21:40 pm  17. Headline News
21:45 pm  18. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
21:50 pm  19. National News
21:55 pm  20. Kachin Dance
22:00 pm  22. Art of Carving on Fruits
22:20 pm  23. National News
22:25 pm  24. Kachin Dance
22:30 pm  26. Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
22:35 pm  27. Weekly News Highlights
22:40 pm  28. Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
22:45 pm  29. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:00 pm  30. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:05 pm  31. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:10 pm  32. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:15 pm  33. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:20 pm  34. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:25 pm  35. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:30 pm  36. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:35 pm  37. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:40 pm  38. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:45 pm  39. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:50 pm  40. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
23:55 pm  41. Kachin Dance
23:58 pm  42. Paper Toys
24:00 pm  43. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
00:15 pm  44. Art of Carving on Fruits
00:20 pm  45. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
00:25 pm  46. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
00:30 pm  47. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
00:35 pm  48. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
00:40 pm  49. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
00:45 pm  50. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
01:00 pm  51. Glimpses at Myanmar Movies
01:05 pm  52. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
01:10 pm  53. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
01:15 pm  54. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
01:20 pm  55. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"
01:25 pm  56. Myanmar Modern Songs in "Treasure Land"

Wednesday, January 7

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24-hours, weather has been scattered in Kachin and Shan States, isolated in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperature were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Chin States. Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Shan State and Mandalay Division, and about normal in the remaining areas.
Maximum temperature on 1-10-2004 was 35.4°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 9-10-2004 was 16.6°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 9-10-2004 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 8-10-2004 was (8 hrs approx). Rainfall on 8-10-2004 was not at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was not at Yangon Airport. Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon Kaba-Aye was 7 mph from Northeast at (10:45) hours MST on 8-1-2004.
Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in Southwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 10-1-2004: Isolated rain (or) showers are likely in Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Mon States, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).
State of the area: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of night temperatures in the whole country.
Prime Minister visits Myanma Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004

YANGON, 9 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, viewed the booths of the Myanma Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004 organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Fazundaung Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, this afternoon.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, departmental heads, members of the leading committee for organizing the fair, the president of the UMFCCI, the chairman of Myanma Rice Millers Association and executives, experts from the nation and abroad, and entrepreneurs.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the 10-ton rice mill of Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading, 10-ton rice mill of Mandalay Industrial Zone, rice reprocessing plant of the Nexus Agricultural Resources Sdn Bhd of Malaysia, 25-ton rice reprocessing plant of Thaung Win Industry, rice milling process booth and rice mill parts production booth of Myanmar Rice Millers Association, quality rollers produced by local and foreign companies, sieves, rice reprocessing machines, paddly threshers, paddly cleaning machines, rice mills, rice mill parts, quality electronic apparatus booth, rice mill spare parts booth and paddly/ric e weighing machines booth of Trust & Development Co Ltd, and the booth of the UMFCCI.

Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the fair, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented a gift to mark the fair to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister left the fair later in the afternoon. — MNA

Rural road opened

YANGON, 9 Jan — A rural road was opened in Meiktila Township on 4 January hailing the 56th Meiktila Township on 4 January.

The earth road linking Galon and Kyankphyungon villages was built by the Township Development Affairs Committee. Officials formally opened the road. — MNA

Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee for organizing Fourth World Buddhist Summit meets

YANGON, 9 Jan — A coordination meeting of the Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee for organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit took place at the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Kabacha Road here at noon today, with an address by Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Religious Affairs.

Those present at the meeting were Secretary of the work committee for organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyi, department heads, members of the subcommittee, officials and guests.

First Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addressed the meeting. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko reported on matters related to invitations and accommodation. Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin on arrangements being made to send out invitations to attend the summit. Director General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint on discussions with the Japanese group for holding the summit; and Managing Director of Myanma Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and Chairman of Myanmar Hospitals’ Association Dr Khin Shwe on invitations, reception and accommodation.

Those present also took part in the discussions. Later, the minister made concluding remarks and the meeting ended. — MNA

Cash donated to medical funds for cleft lip and palate patients

YANGON, 9 Jan — A ceremony to donate cash to the medical funds for treatment of innate cleft lip and palate patients organized by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Hui, patrons of the supervisory committee, took place.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Hui, patrons of the supervisory committee.

The donation was accepted K 4,887,500 donated by wellwishers including K 1 million by Central Development Co Ltd, K 1 million by Bokalpa Industrial Zone, Dr Zaw Tun of Olympic Construction, U Than Aung of Fresh Aircon, K 350,000 by U Zaw Naing of May Thar Win Co Ltd, K 300,000 each by Annawa Trade Park Co Ltd, U Hla Thein and group of Kyedaw Ward, North Okkalapa Township Peace and Development Council, U Tin Win of 45th Street, U Aung Aung of Shwe Family, U Aung Aung of Olympic Construction, U Tin Win of Olympic Construction, Top Star Co, Shwe Gaba Maung Maung Co Ltd, Daw Khin Ohn Myint of Pwintphyu Restaurant, Chairman U Kyaw Tin of Thakayta Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee, U Aung Kyi of Fresh Aircon, U Thein Tun of Unicolour Exercise Book, U Sein Hla Win of Thangangyuni, Propalities Fish and Prawn Trading, U Nyeyin and Daw Ohn Kyin of OK Rice Broker House, U Myo Lwin and Daw San San Win and presented certifi cates of honour to the wellwishers.

Next, Daw Khin Thet Hui handed over operation expenses for cleft lip and palate patients and K 300,000 medical funds for hospital to specialists, medical superintendents and officials.

Afterwards, the commander and wife viewed round the cleft lip and palate patients who had undergone surgery and comforted them. — MNA