Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects all-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park

YANGON, 12 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the tasks being carried out for all-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Park and its surrounding areas this morning and gave necessary instructions to officials.

The commander arrived at the Relaxation Zone in the park at 4 pm, where he was welcomed by Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo and officials. The commander and party inspected upgrading of Mahamyaing Kyun in the Relaxation Zone. Later, the commander went to the Education Zone, where he oversaw the progress of constructing flower shops, landscaping, the planting of flowering plants, and vegetation patches at Mypadetha Kyun. The commander also inspected the construction of a freshwater fish garden by the Fisheries Department.

Ministry of Health striving to raise health standard of the nation and to ensure highest attainable level of health for entire nation

YANGON, 12 Jan — The South-East Asia Constituency Meeting on Global Fund, hosted by Myanmar was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this morning with an opening address by Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May May Yee, directors-general from the ministry, the Project Managers of AIDS/STD, Malaria and TB Elimination Projects, resident representatives of UN agencies, delegates from Myanmar, Indonesia, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, India, the Maldives and East Timor and invited guests.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an opening address. He said: "In Myanmar, the CCM was formed in March, 2002, with 19 members from or- ganizations including UN agencies and NGOs, and later expanded to 29 members. The 29 members include nine from the Ministry of Health, one from the other related government ministries, nine from the NGOs and three from the private sector, one from HIV/TB/Malaria patients group, four from the UN and two from religious/faith groups, he explained.

He continued to say that the existing health development plans are “Myanmar Health Vision 2030”, “Special Four-Year Plan for Promoting National Education (Health Sector)”, “Rural Health Development Plan”, “Project for Upgrading Hospitals”, and “National Health Plan”. With these plans, the healthcare infrastructure of the country along with access to health care has been improved by the establishment of more (See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, 13 January, 2004

**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 everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

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**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.

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**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

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**Armed Forces Day Exhibition Organizing Committee meets**

**Chairman of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition Organizing Committee Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe addresses the committee meeting. — MNA**

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**Chess Championship qualifiers open**

**Yangon, 12 Jan —** The National Chess Championship Qualifiers (Second Stage), organized by Myanmar Chess Federation, was held at Ayung San In-door Stadium, here, this afternoon.

Altogether 36 players are taking part in the competitions that continue till 21 January. — MNA

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**Seminar on Publishing continues**

**Yangon, 12 Jan —** The Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association continued for the fourth day today at the hall of MWJA in Sarpay Beikman building this afternoon.

It was attended by MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaing), Vice-Chairmen News and Periodicals Enterprise Managing Director U Tin Kha (Takathao Tin Kha) and U Than Maung (Than Maung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twintawt) and CEC members, Chairman of the work committee for holding the seminar U Myo Thant (Maung Hsa Shin) and members, Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Maung Maung, resource persons and guests. At the seminar, resource persons submitted their papers.

The seminar continues tomorrow. — MNA

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**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

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**Successful realization of seven-point roadmap calls for active and united cooperation**

The Tatmadaw Government, since its assumption of State responsibilities, has been working for the emergence of a peaceful and developed nation through the implementation of the twelve political, economic and social objectives. And on 30 August, 2003, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt declared the seven-point roadmap to a peaceful and developed democracy. The declaration of the roadmap manifested the genuine goodwill of the Government.

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, in his meeting with departmental personnel in Kengtung of Shan State (East) on regional development on 9 January, said that the most important things for the State are security, peace and prevalence of law and order, that the development of the nation would be impossible without them and that the entire people are now able to enjoy the fruits of security, peace and stability as the seventeen armed groups have returned to the legal fold.

The Government is striving for the all-round development of other sectors of the economy based on the development of agriculture. And it is working for the development of the industrial sector by establishing 18 industrial zones and by investing the profits of other sectors in the industrial sector. Moreover, the development plan for border areas and national races, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks are being implemented for the parallel development of various regions across the Union.

Now the Government is spending a lot of funds on the construction of universities, computer colleges, technological colleges, 200-bed hospitals, nurses training schools and communication facilities in the special development regions. At the same time, the Government is fighting against the danger of narcotic drugs as a national duty.

Now the time has come for the entire national people to uniteedly work, hand in hand with the Government, for the successful realization of the seven-point roadmap so that the emergence of a peaceful and developed democracy is ensured.
US casualties in Iraq more than first three years of Vietnam

Dover, 12 Jan—In November 2003, US casualties in Iraq surpassed the number of Americans killed in the first three years of the Vietnam War, according to a Reuters analysis of Pentagon statistics.

For a time, growing casualties threatened President Bush public approval ratings as he prepared for re-election amid fears that Iraq could turn into a quagmire for American forces.

Heritage Foundation senior policy analyst James Carafano said casualties appear to have become less of an issue for the public and the media since Saddam’s capture.

“The American people will accept casualties as long as they see progress toward the setting up of a legitimate government in Iraq,” Carafano said.

“Look at the headlines. Casualties were on page one every day. Now they’re drifting back to page four or page five.”

Back at Dover Air Force Base, the media are not allowed to see silver caskets arrive on the tarmac because of a Pentagon blackout first implemented in 1991 under Bush’s father, former President George Bush. It was reissued in March.

Pentagon officials say the policy is meant to protect the wishes and privacy of the soldiers’ families.

But policy experts say military officials are also driven by fear that news images of American casualties—at Dover or in Iraq—will erode public support for US policy.

“The general assumption is that if people see the casualty visually, they will not any longer support the war,” said retired Air Force Col Sam Gardiner, a vocal critic of the Bush administration.

“The fear of images is a left-over Vietnam thing. However, the notion of controlling them is a modern thing,”

US Navy says jet fighters attacked Iraq on 9 January

Manama, 12 Jan—The US Navy said on Sunday two of its fighter jets had attacked Iraqi guerilla bases north of Baghdad two days earlier and dropped 2,000 pounds of precision-guided bombs.

The F/A-18 Hornet strike fighters took off from the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise in the Gulf and struck “enemy mortar positions” near Balad, north of the Iraqi capital, a US Navy Forces Central Command statement said.

“It was the carrier’s first use of precision-guided munitions since the beginning of the new year,” it said, adding that both planes had safely returned to their bases.

Early this month, one US soldier was killed and two others were wounded in a mortar attack on a US base near Balad. Enterprise fighter jets last struck a target in Iraq on November 28, the statement said.

Enterprise is the US Navy’s only aircraft carrier deployed in the Gulf. The US Navy’s Fifth Fleet’s headquarters is in Bahrain.

Report says Bush planned Iraqi invasion pre-Sept 11

New York, 12 Jan—Former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill charges in a new book that President George W Bush entered office in January 2001 intent on invading Iraq and was in search of a way to go about it.

O’Neill, fired in December 2002 as part of a shake-up of Bush’s economic team, has become the first major insider of the Bush Administration to launch an attack on the President.

He likened Bush at Cabinet meetings to “a blind man in a room full of deaf people”, according to excerpts from a CBS interview to promote a book by former Wall Street Journal reporter Ron Suskind, The Price of Loyalty.

To go war, Bush used the argument that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and had to be stopped in the post-September 11, 2001, world. The weapons have never been found.

“From the very beginning, there was no evidence that Saddam Hussein was a bad person and that he needed to go,” O’Neill said in the “60 Minutes” interview scheduled to air on Sunday.

“For me, the notion of preemption, that the US has the unilateral right to do whatever we decide to do, is a really huge leap.”

CBS released excerpts from the interview on Friday and Saturday.

The former Treasury secretary and other White House insiders gave Suskind documents that in the first three months of 2001 revealed the Bush administration was examining military options for removing Saddam Hussein.

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“The fear of images is a left-over Vietnam thing. However, the notion of controlling them is a modern thing,”

A US Army soldier keeps watch at a vehicle checkpoint in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, on 11 January, 2004.—INTERNET

Protest in Amara after killing of five Iraqis

Amarah (Iraq), 12 Jan—Crowds of Iraqis gathered outside provincial government offices in the southeastern city of Amara on Sunday to protest the killing of at least five people by Iraqi police and British troops a day earlier.

Police and soldiers opened fire on demonstrators in Amara on Sunday morning demanding compensations.

The protest began peacefully and Iraqi police and British troops were watching the protest from a distance but there were no immediate reports of violence.

A number of protests over lack of jobs have been staged in Iraq since Saddam Hussein was toppled in April. On Tuesday, police opened fire in the southern city of Basra on former members of Saddam’s military demanding payment of a promised stipend. At least four people were wounded.

A joint United Nations/World Bank report issued in October put the number of unemployed and underemployed people in Iraq at 50 per cent of the country’s 26 million population. Of those, some 400,000 are Iraqi soldiers who lost their jobs when US administrator Paul Bremer abolished the Army.

Witnesses said that scores of Iraqis, many of them relatives of those killed on Saturday, staged another protest in Amara on Sunday morning demanding compensations.

The protest began peacefully and Iraqi police and British troops were watching the protest from a distance but there were no immediate reports of violence.

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Thaksin orders crackdown as cocaine usage soars

Bangkok, 12 Jan—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra Saturday said that he had ordered the police to launch an urgent crackdown on cocaine usage after finding that the government’s successful war against methamphetamine had been accompanied by a rise in cocaine abuse.

Addressing the public on his weekly radio show, Thaksin said that the Thai Government is continuing its war against drugs, albeit at a low-key level, the Thai News Agency reported.

Stressing that the government still had a tight control on the border situation, and was working closely with neighbouring countries, Thaksin noted that the government’s methamphetamine suppression policy had won widespread public acclaim.

Nonetheless, he expressed concern that cocaine abuse is on the rise.

“A few days ago, I called on metropolitan police and narcotics suppression division officers to show that cocaine usage was now soaring. I know who’s importing it and how. The police will deal with the situation,” he said, warning that action was already being taken against foreign cocaine smugglers.

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MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

A US soldiers searches for weapons inside an Iraqi home as a child sleeps on Sunday, 11 Jan, 2004 near Ar Ramadi, Iraq.—INTERNET
In the nearby city of Basra, an Iraqi-born US citizen working for the civilian administration in southern Iraq was found shot dead, a spokesman for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) said.

"An Iraqi-born American citizen working with CPA South was found shot dead in Basra Saturday," spokesman Dominic d’Angelo said. "His body was found together with that of another man, who was not associated with CPA South."

There were no further details on the killings. Guerrillas fighting the US-led occupation in Iraq have often targeted Iraqis cooperating with the civilian administration.

Mainly Shi’ite southern Iraq has been far more peaceful than the restive Sunni Muslim areas around Baghdad.

Three Gorges to generate 30 billion kwh of electricity in 2004

YICHANG, 12 Jan— The China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation said Friday that the Three Gorges hydropower plant is expected to generate 30 billion kilowatts hour (kwh) of electricity in 2004.

Four more generators, with an installed capacity of 700,000 kilowatts each, are expected to be installed and go into operation in 2004, which will help ease the shortage of electricity across the country, especially in the central and eastern regions.

The gigantic water-control project will have 26 generators and will have an annual generating capacity of 84.7 billion kwh of electricity when it is completed in 2009.

China has worked actively with ASEAN in the field of fighting non-traditional crimes including terrorism, money laundering, cyber crime and international economic crime, many of which alrimes, the first of its kind.

The participation by China, Japan and South Korea in the meeting had significant meaning for the region to explore a holistic, comprehensive and integrated approach to address the issue of transnational crime, said Thai Justice Minister Phongthep Thepkanjana.

Tensions flare in south Iraq; Mosul Kurds shelled

AMARA (Iraq), 12 Jan—Scores of angry protesters gathered Sunday in Amara in southern Iraq, demanding compensation for at least five Iraqis killed when police and British troops opened fire to quell a violent demonstration.

In the nearby city of Basra, an Iraqi-born US citizen working for the civilian administration in southern Iraq was found shot dead, a spokesman for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) said.

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Iraqi-born American shot dead in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Jan—An Iraqi-born US citizen working for the civilian administration in southern Iraq has been found shot dead in the city of Basra, a spokesman said on Sunday.

The man’s body was found Saturday along with the body of another man, said Dominic d’Angelo, spokesman for the Coalition Provisional Authority in southern Iraq. There was no further information immediately available.

Australia rushes aid to cyclone-hit Niue

CANBERRA, 12 Jan—An Australian plane carrying medical staff and equipment has landed on the cyclone-hit South Pacific island country of Niue Saturday, the Defence Department said.

The C-130 Hercules, carrying Prime Minister John Howard and the first of its kind in the region, will provide there for 60 days.

The aircraft carried about 115,000 US dollars in aid committed to the immediate crisis, including water purification equipment, first aid supplies and food and shelter.

Australia will also help provide for the installation of a new satellite dish to restore the country’s com-
Iraq threat reported exaggerated

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan—Three experts at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said in a report Thursday that the Bush administration systematically misrepresented a weapons threat from Iraq, and US strategy should be revised to eliminate the policy of unilateral preventive war.

“It is unlikely that Iraq could have deployed, hidden or sent out of the country the hundreds of tons of chemical and biological weapons, dozens of Scud missiles and facilities engaged in the ongoing production of chemical and biological weapons that officials claimed were present without the United States detecting some sign of this activity,” said the report by Jessica Mathews, Joseph Cirincione and George Perkovich.

Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged Thursday that he had seen no “smoking gun, concrete evidence” of ties between Saddam Hussein and the al-Qaida terror network, but insisted that Iraq had dangerous weapons and needed to be disarmed by force. Iraq’s nuclear program had been dismantled and there was no convincing evidence it was being revived, the report said.

Danish and Icelandic troops have uncovered a cache of 36 shells, containing a liquid blaster agent, buried in the Iraqi desert, the Danish military said. The 120mm mortar shells are thought to be left over from the war between Iraq and Iran, which ended in 1988.—Internet

East China boosts agricultural development on line

SHANGHAI, 12 Jan—East China’s six provinces and Shanghai municipality have established an agricultural information platform to promote agricultural development in the area, said Zhang Xuying, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture, Saturday. Zhang said east China’s agriculture was highly developed, but the provinces lacked communication because there was not a unified information platform.

The web site — www.hdagi.gov.cn — is established by the six provinces and Shanghai municipality and would fully utilize of the area’s agricultural information resources, creating conditions for the formation of a single agricultural market in east China, he said. MNA/Xinhua

Bush painted as “blind man”

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan—Former US Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill likened President George W Bush at Cabinet meetings to a “blind man in a room full of deaf people,” according to excerpts on Friday from a CBS interview.

O’Neill, who was fired by Bush in December 2002, also said the President did not ask him a single question during their first one-on-one meeting, which lasted an hour.

“As I recall it was just a monologue,” he told CBS’ “60 Minutes”, which will broadcast the entire interview on Sunday.

In making the blind man analogy, O’Neill told CBS his ex-boss did not encourage a free flow of ideas or open debate.

“There is no discernible connection,” CBS quoted O’Neill as saying. The President’s lack of engagement left his advisers with “little more than hunches about what the President might think,” O’Neill said, according to the program.—MNA/Reuters

US soldier critically injured in road accident in Kabul

KABUL, 12 Jan—A US soldier was critically injured near the Afghan capital city when his vehicle rammed onto an Afghan tanker overnight, a US military spokesman said here on Saturday.

“The incident took place in a suburb west of Kabul on Friday evening and the soldier was badly injured,” Colonel Bryan Hilferty told reporters.

“He had been taken to the hospital in critical condition for treatment,” the soldier’s father added, referring to the headquarters of US-led coalition forces about 60 kilometres north of Kabul.

Afghan sources here said that the US soldier was on his way back from a military operation in the volatile Zabul Province of south Afghanistan when he met the accident.

Another US soldier was wounded when his van came under enemy fire in the south-east province of Pakita Province early this week, according to the spokesman.

Soldiers of the US-led coalition and their local allies in Afghanistan have been frequently under attacks from suspected fighters of the ousted Taliban militia since last summer, especially in south Afghanistan where the Taliban’s leader Mullah Omar is believed to be hiding. According to the US military spokesman, US troops on Friday conducted an operation near a border town of south Afghanistan.

“The operation in Spin Boldak has concluded but no one was arrested in the operation,” Hilferty said.—MNA/Xinhua

Bank of China cuts ties with economic entities

BEIJING, 12 Jan—The Bank of China, a leading state-owned bank, said Saturday it has cut ties with 1,155 economic entities it set up at least five years ago, and disposed of 72.4 billion yuan (8.8 billion US dollars’) worth of non-performing assets by the end of 2003.

Sources with the bank said the Bank of China recovered 28.9 billion yuan (3.5 billion US dollars) in cash from its domestic non-performing assets and 337 million US dollars from its overseas non-performing assets.

The bank has cancelled 35.8 billion yuan (4.3 billion US dollars) worth of bad loans and disposed of 9.6 billion yuan (1.1 billion US dollars) worth of assets used by its debtors to pay back its bank loans, a leading bank official said.

The official said the bank has lowered the ratio of non-performing assets to total assets, part of the efforts by the bank to restructure. The State Council, China’s Cabinet, has ordered to allocate 45 billion US dollars of the nation’s foreign exchange reserve to supplement the capital of the bank and China Construction Bank in a bid to make them modern banking companies, featuring sufficient capital, strict internal control, safe operation, good service and good economic returns.

The two banks are required to launch financial restructuring, solve the problem of bad assets, increase the ratio of capital sufficiency, lay a solid financial foundation, and set strict financial standards under the government’s plan.

The two banks, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and the Agricultural Bank of China are China’s four solely state-owned commercial banks, which have dominated the country’s banking sector during the past several decades, but they have a high ratio of bad assets and low capital sufficiency, due to structural flaws and historical factors.

Controlling up to 70 per cent of domestic market shares, the four banks were forced to take average measures to enhance their competitiveness, focusing on reducing their average non-performing loan (NPL) ratio to less than 15 per cent by 2005, or an annual drop of 3–5 percentage points.

A 495 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Jan—As of Sunday, 11 Jan – 495 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Defence Department. Of those, 342 died as a result of hostile action and 153 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 55 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

Since the start of military operations, 2,461 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department as of Friday.

Non-hostile injured numbered 388.—Internet

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Chinese firm to build power plant in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 12 Jan—The provincial government in Indonesia’s West Nusa Tenggara and China Metallurgical Equipment Corporation (CMEC) on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the construction of a power plant in the province.

The MOU was signed by Governor Serinata and CMEC representative Zhou Guang with regional legislative council leaders witnessing the ceremony, reported the Antara news agency.

Serinata said a new power plant would be crucial for the province’s efforts to attract investors in tourism and mining sectors.

He said power supply had prevented foreign direct investments while the state-run electricity company, PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN), was facing limited capacity.

On the occasion, Zhou Zhong promised to supply the province with the sophisticated equipment for a new steam power plant.
Malaysia to work closely with China to enhance bilateral ties

Melaka, 12 Jan — Malaysia hopes to work closely with China so that the bilateral relationship is always on the best of terms, feelings and solidarity, Minister of Culture, Art and Tourism Abdul Kadir said on Saturday.

“We want to always have very, very special relationship with China,” Abdul Kadir said at the launching ceremony of Malaysia-China Friendship Year (2004) in the ancient town of Melaka, central Malaysia.

The cooperation between the two countries in the culture and tourism sectors will further strengthen the bilateral diplomatic relations, he added.

The Sino-Malaysian Friendship Year is held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of diplomatic relations between the two countries and Admiral Cheng Ho’s arrival at Melaka in the mid 1400s.

Cheng Ho, born in 1371, was a towering figure by fifty-fold in a little over the weekend,” Giles said. — Internet

Shanghai to provide 500,000 new jobs in 2004

SHANGHAI, 12 Jan — Shanghai plans to create one million new jobs in 2004 in a bid to reduce the city’s unemployment rate under 4.6 per cent, the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Labour and Social Security said Friday. Most of the new jobs will go to workers laid off from state-owned enterprises, said Director Zhu Junyi of the bureau at a meeting on employment and social security in 2004. Zhu said the government will try to develop a number of projects this year, which are expected to provide about 10,000 new jobs each.

Indians are encouraged to start their own businesses, and the government will make incentive policies concerning taxes and loans to support the venture.

Minister says Indonesia cannot meet Internet use target

JAKARTA, 12 Jan — The Indonesian Government has admitted that it would be impossible for the country to meet the target of Internet use set at the recent World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), The Jakarta Post reported Saturday.

The UN-sponsored WSIS, the first global conference on the Internet held in Geneva in December, set the target that over 50 per cent of the citizens in each country should have access to the Internet by 2015. “At the moment, only about 1 per cent of Indonesia’s population has access to the Internet. It would be impossible to increase this figure by fifty-fold in a little over 10 years,” State Minister for Communications and Information Syamsul Maarif was quoted as saying.

Members of the political party Partido de Trabajo (Workers Party) join a protest against the war in Iraq and the US government’s focus on terrorism during a march in Monterrey, Mexico, on Sunday, 11 Jan, 2004. The Special Summit of the Americas, where more than 20 heads of state will be attending, begins on Monday, 12 Jan, 2004.— Reuters

HKSAR government to improve governance

HONG KONG, 12 Jan — Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) said Saturday his government needs to promote comprehensive community development, to get closer to the people, to improve governance and to properly plan political arrangements for the future.

In his “Letter from Hong Kong” delivered on Radio and Television of Hong Kong, Tung said the HKSAR Government fully understands the aspirations of the people and will seriously and properly handle all matters concerning the constitutional review in strict accordance with the Basic Law. The central government is seriously concerned about the development of Hong Kong’s political structure, he added.

The HKSAR Government

The first case of mad cow disease in the United States may encourage carnivores to consider putting meat from bison, the largest land mammals in North America and beloved symbols of the West, on their dinner tables, meat industry officials said. The bison historically played a large economic role in the lives of American Indians on the Great Plains who used every part of the animal for food, shelter and fuel. A farmer feeds a bison at the B and B Bison Ranch in Ellitsville, New York in this 18 March, 2001 file photo.— Internet

US decision to consider Saddam POW condemned

AMMAN, 12 Jan — The Jordanian Lawyer Union on Sunday said that the US decision to consider former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein a prisoner of war (POW) would not change the fact that the US occupation of Iraq is illegal.

Hussein Majalli, chief of the union, stressed to reporters that Saddam is Iraq’s “legitimate president” and the US occupation of Iraq is illegal, thus “any action or decision stemming from it should be considered null and void”.

One month after Saddam’s falling into the hands of the US forces, the Pentagon said Friday that the Defence Ministry had decided to consider Saddam a POW because of his former position as the general commander of the Iraqi Army.

Majalli condemned the criminal actions of the US occupation forces in Iraq, saying that any trial of Saddam would not be right according to International Law.

“Our union is working to transfer Saddam to Switzerland,” he added, saying that he has sent a telegram to Swiss President Jacques Deiss to follow up the matter, because Switzerland is the site where the Geneva accord was signed, which provisions different human rights of POW.

It was reported that since Saddam was captured last December, about 600 Jordanian lawyers have signed up to defend Saddam, and the number is increasing.

MNA/Xinhua
Exposing unscrupulous avaricious businessmen

Maung Waing

In accord with the objective calling for uplift of health, fitness and education standard of the entire people, the government is taking systematic measures to enhance the health care services of the people. In so doing, the government has always been exposing fake medicines hazardous to the health of the people while opening and upgrading more hospitals and health care centres across the nation.

There were altogether 617 hospitals in 1988 and there are now 757 in total including 13 hospitals and 37 station hospitals in border areas. For enhancement of health care services in rural areas, 429 dispensaries, 1414 rural health care centres, 348 maternal and child health care centres, 84 primary health care centres and 214 traditional medicine clinics were opened and 80 school health teams formed.

To produce medical professionals, more institutes of medical sciences and institutes of traditional medicine and two institutes of dental medicine at present when compared with three institutes of medicine and one institute of dental medicine in 1988. In addition, three institutes of nursing, two institutes of pharmacy, two institutes of paramedical science and one university of primary health were opened. Likewise, there were 28 nurses training schools in 1988 and there are now 43 nurses training schools in states and divisions. At the same time, seven more doctoral courses on medicine plus 20 courses on M.Med.Sc, six courses on diploma in medicine and four courses on diploma in medical and paramedical science were opened.

To ensure development of medical treatment, medical specialists majoring in six specialised subjects were appointed in the district hospitals while medical specialists majoring in 12 specialised subjects were appointed in the state and divisional hospitals.

With advanced hospital equipment, surgical operation on hearts and kidney transplant have been successfully performed in the general hospitals. Progress has been made in the health of Myanmar with the improve of medical science. Surgical operation on conjoint twins were successfully performed for four times, on kidney transplant for nine times and on amputated crushed distal forearm twice.

The government has been exposing fake medicines hazardous to the health of the people while striving for enhancing the health care services of the people. In the process, the National Intelligence Bureau, acting on information, in August 2001, searched the Golden Crown Phamacetical Ltd that obtained the licence issued by the Ministry of Health to produce MOM brand carminatives. No 64, Sittoung Street, 64 Ward, Dagon Myothit (South) and found fake medicines—Vit B, B6, B complex, Burmiton (pink and yellow colour), Sulphur and Paracetamol, and apparatus and equipment used in producing the fake medicines in the factory of the company. The seizure of the fake medicines led to the arrest of four persons who distributed the medicines. As a result, the authorities have been able to expose and destroy the fake medicines hidden in other places.

Likewise, the National Intelligence Bureau, acting on information that some private medical stores were selling counterfeit medicines, on 12 December 2003 searched the medicine stores and seized 2,392,680 capsules of counterfeit Amoxicillin; 128,540 capsules of counterfeit S-MOX (Amoxicillin); 236,700 capsules of counterfeit Amoxicillin; 1,261,340 capsules of counterfeit Clocloxacin-250; 36,280 capsules of counterfeit C-Clox; 2,440 capsules of counterfeit AMCLOX; 290 capsules of fake AMPICLOX; 862,200 capsules of counterfeit CIPROFLOX-250; 65,067 tablets of counterfeit DEGECID and 27,080 tablets of counterfeit ZINETAC totalling 5,012,167. Action has been taken against those who were involved in the system of distributing the drugs. The drugs were smuggled into the country from India and China. Those smuggled from India are the ineffective ones produced by the companies that did not hold the license to produce medicines in China. The fake drugs were smuggled into the country from China were produced by a company which belongs to a fugitive wanted by the authorities in China for running the illegal business.

In an effort to successfully implement the objective calling for uplift of health, fitness and education standard of the entire people, the government has accepted that the exposing of fake medicines hazardous to the health of the people is a task of paramount importance. Thus, the government has been always exposing the production and distribution of the fake medicines by unscrupulous avaricious persons. The task amounts to protecting the lives of the people as well as safeguarding the interests of those who are engaged in the drug industry. Those engaged in the drug industry are needed to realize this. It is incumbent upon those engaged in the drug industry to market the authorized medicines only. The businessmen, on their part, are to market medicines at reasonable prices, realizing mutual benefit between buyers and sellers. Otherwise, both buyers and sellers will be in danger. Therefore, the entire national people are required to expose the fake medicines hazardous to the health of the people.

Still no signal from “Beagle 2” Mars probe

LONDON, 12 Jan — The latest attempt to contact a British-led mission to Mars from its orbiting mothership failed on Saturday, compounding the growing fears that the Beagle 2 probe crashed during its landing on Christmas Day.

A spokeswoman for the mission said that no signal had been detected when the mothership, the Mars Express, passed above the probe’s presumed landing site at 1404 GMT.

“The mission has increased fears that the probe, no bigger than an open umbrella, has suffered the same fate as many craft before it and ended up as scrap metal strewn across Mars,” she said.

But Professor Colin Pillinger, the lead scientist on the mission, has repeatedly refused to resign.

Four dead, 10 injured in Nepal bus accident

KATHMANDU, 12 Jan — At least four people died and 10 others were seriously injured Saturday evening when a passenger bus plunged into a river in western Nepal. Radio Nepal reported Sunday.

The passenger bus plunged into the Seti River in Doti District, some 700 kilometres west of Kathmandu, the state-run radio quoted a local police officer as saying.

The other passengers who were travelling in the vehicle are still missing, the officer said on condition of anonymity. “It is not yet known how many passengers were travelling on the bus,” he noted, adding that those on board the bus were returning from a temple after performing religious rites—MNA/Inhun

Pakistan court convicts two French journalists

KARACHI, 12 Jan — A Pakistani court has sentenced two French journalists to six months in prison and fined them about 1,700 US dollars each after they pleaded guilty of unauthorized travel into the country, court officials said on Saturday.

Chief Nazir Ahmad Ali convicted Marc Epstein and Jean-Paul Guilleateau, both from the French weekly, Express, of visiting the southwestern city of Quetta without a visa, the officials said.

Quetta, about 375 miles northwest of the port city of Karachi, is the provincial capital of Baluchistan Province, which borders Afghanistan.

Court officials said the two French men, arrested on December 17 in Karachi, had pleaded guilty of unauthorized travel in the country. However, their lawyer told reporters after the judgement that the two would appeal the sentence.

MNA/Reuters

Translation: TS

(Myanma Alin, Kyemon 11-1-2004)
Meeting …

South-East Asia Constituency Meeting …

health care facilities, and training and deployment of more health care professionals and workers.

The ministry is also closely collaborating with UN agencies, local and international NGOs and other partners in the country as well. One of the outstanding achievements in disease prevention aspect for the year 2003 was the success achieved in the "First Exhibition on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Activities" at national level that was held in Yangon during November 2003, he said.

In 2003, Myanmar was able to declare itself free from Leprosy and Polio, indicating the success of an integrated and well-coordinated effort involving communities, NGOs, public and private sectors as well as international agencies. The commitment, enthusiasm, competency of health care providers and strong partnership among all the stakeholders were also major contributing factors.

The Ministry of Health of Myanmar and the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand are also preparing to apply for the Global Funds to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria along border areas. Preliminary meetings on development of a "Joint Proposal for Myanmar-Thailand Cross Border Disease Control Programme" were already conducted during 2003 in Bangkok and Yangon.

Since the establishment of GFATM in last two years ago, or our member countries from South-East Asia region have submitted successful proposals to the GFATM Board and many have been approved. This meeting will provide us with a very good opportunity to clarify certain modalities in handling GFATM funds and to exchange countries' experiences in implementing GFATM funded projects. It will also enable us to understand current situation of the GFATM funds. Besides, member countries will have a chance to discuss possibilities of technical support arrangements and mechanisms for the forth coming round four.

In conclusion, the minister thanked the member countries for allowing Myanmar to host such an important meeting in Myanmar, and UNAIDS for supporting this meeting. He said he is sure the discussions and deliberations that took place during the meeting period will not only be fruitful and valuable for the member countries, but also further strengthen the existing friendship among the member countries.

Afterwards, Global Fund Board Member Dr. Suwit Wibulpolprasert made a speech and the opening ceremony came to a close. The Global Fund Meeting, organized by the ministry and Global Fund Board, was held in March, 2003. Delegates from eight countries from Southeast Asian region, representatives from UN agencies attended the South-East Asia Constituency Meeting on the Global Fund that continues tomorrow. — MNA
**Yangon, 12 Jan** — The sovereignty and revenue agency of the Myanmar government, headed by the minister, visits Yangon City Development Council Chairman Aung Htay, who presented the fourth day of the seminar on publishing in Myanmar. Some 44 trainees are attending the course.

**Yangon, 12 Jan** — Minister of Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Director-General of Internal Revenues Department U Win Naing, gives an overview of the projects in Myanmar. The minister and party inspected Yangon Economic Bank Branch 3 on 26th Street, where officials reported on measures to increase the family income. The minister gave necessary instructions.

**Minister visits Myanmar Economic Bank branch in Mandalay**

**Yangon, 12 Jan** — Minister of Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Director-General of Internal Revenues Department U Win Naing, gives an overview of the projects in Mandalay Division. The minister and party inspected Myanmar Economic Bank Branch 3 on 26th Street in Aungmye Thazan Township where officials reported on measures to increase the family income. The minister gave necessary instructions.

**Drug dealers get prison terms**

**Yangon, 12 Jan** — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Yangon Special Anti-drug Squad searched Pale Yadana Guest House at No. 51, Ledasun Street, Thingangyun Township on 26 August 2002. In the search, the authorities found 140 grams of heroin and arrested Myint Sae, Tint Naing, Polon (a) Myo Min Tun, Paik Phaw, Aung Htay, and Koi (a) Zaw Min Oo. The police filed a lawsuit against the defendant against the Yangon District Court on 24 November 2003. The defendant is sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (a).

**Soccer tournament continues**

**Yangon, 12 Jan** — The soccer tournament organized by the Myanmar Football Federation continued here afternoon at Aung San Stadium. In the match between Development Affairs team and Taung, the former beat the latter 3-2. The man of the match award went to Aung Zaw Myo of Development Affairs team.
ITF 14 and Under ASIAN... 

Menon and official of ITF, President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd), Secretary Dr Tin Aung Lin (Aung Mingalar Co Ltd), executive committee member Major Tin Saw Naing (Ministry of Defence), tennis players and guests, managers, coaches and players of Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Laos and Mongolia took the designated places and saluted the State flag. Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Min Gen Kyaw Win and officials presented flowers to the players.

The commander, the minister and Mr Suresh Menon formally opened the championships. They then posed for documentary photos and watched the events.

The tournament will continue till 20 January. Admission is free. — MNA

Commander meets officials, departmental personnel, national race leaders in Hkamti Township

YANGON, 12 Jan—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with chairmen of Ward and Village Peace and Development Councils, national race leaders in the region and social organizations at the town hall of Hkamti on 8 January.

Chairman of Hkamti Township Peace and Development Council U Mya Oo reported on regional data. Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Tin gave a supplementary report.

Next, town elders and national race leaders reported on requirements. The commander fulfilled the requirements and presented exercise books for basic education schools in the township.

The commander visited People’s Hospital and presented cash to patients.

The commander inspected the library, basic education high school and border areas and national races training school.

In the afternoon, the commander attended the opening ceremony of Township Court Office and Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Lat formally opened the office.

Hkamti District Justice U San Lwin reported on construction of the office. Commemorative pennants were presented to the commander and officials.

On 9 January, the commander presented offers to Agga Maha Saddha Majotikada Bhuddanta Kesara of Hkamti and members of the Sangha and supplicated on religious matters. The commander and party went to Kalaymyo and donated provisions to members of the Sangha.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhuddanta Tejavamta. The commander and party donated provisions to members of the Sangha, followed by sharing of merit gained. — MNA

Rice Milling Industry Fair up to 14 Jan

YANGON, 12 Jan—Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair 2004 has been extended up to 14 January

Young Women Work Committee meets

YANGON, 12 Jan—The work coordination meeting for Young Women Work Committee of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at the meeting hall of Social Welfare Department here on 9 January.

It was attended by Vice-President Professor Dr Daw May May Yi, advisers Daw Myint Myint Ko and Profes- sor Dr Daw Than Nu Shwe, leader of the committee Daw Khin Myo Myint and others.

At the meeting, Vice-President Professor Dr Daw May May Yi discussed matters related to work to be carried out by the committee, followed by a general round of discussions. — MNA

Rehabilitation and Resettlement Work Committee meets

YANGON, 12 Jan—The Rehabilitation and Resettlement Work Committee of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Social Welfare Department on 2 January, attended by Vice-President of the Central Executive Committee Professor Dr Daw May May Yi, advisers, leader of the work committee and members.

At the meeting, Professor Dr Daw May May Yi made a speech and those present dealt with future tasks. — MNA
Tun Razak to work for enhancing Malaysia-China ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 Jan — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Sunday he would work for enhancing Malaysia’s relations with China, first established by his late father, former Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, 30 years ago.

"I will personally push for a closer and deeper relationship with China" he said at the signing of the Second Executive Program for the Agreement on the Cultural Cooperation between Malaysia and China at the National Art Gallery and launching of the Contemporary Art Exhibition From China here.

Najib said this was not only due to personal reasons arising from his late father’s role in the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1974 but also in line with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi’s foreign policy.

Describing the event as a special occasion for him since it was part of the year-long programme to commemorate "Malaysia-China 30 years of friendship", Najib said the bilateral relationship had benefitted both countries economically and culturally.

Malaysia was China’s largest trading partner within ASEAN and seventh globally while China was Malaysia’s fourth largest trading partner, he said.

The bilateral trade between China and Malaysia was estimated at 20 billion US dollars last year. Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), set up in 1967, now groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Malaysia hoped to attract one million Chinese tourists to Malaysia this year, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

India, Pakistan to hold 3 rounds of high-level talks in Feb

ISLAMABAD, 12 Jan — Ruling out chances of Islamabad accepting Line of Control as border to resolve Kashmir issue, Prime Minister Pervez Musharraf has indicated that India and Pakistan would be holding three rounds of talks at Foreign Secretary-level, beginning from next month to work out a step-by-step approach to discuss Kashmir and other matters.

"We have neither accepted the idea of making the LoC a permanent border nor is there any question of accepting it in the future talks with India," he reportedly told leaders of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) while apprising them of his meeting with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Musharraf also admitted that the methodology for the talks agreed by the two countries in the meeting between him and Vajpayee was "a re-enactment of the Lahore process," according to the resume of the President’s meeting on Thursday with PoK leaders, published in the local daily Dain Turen.

Musharraf told the Kashmiri leaders from PoK that as per the understanding reached during the recent political contacts between leaders of the two countries at the highest level, India and Pakistan have agreed for a "step-by-step approach" under which there would be "three crucial Foreign-Secretary-level rounds of talks" between the two countries starting from next month.

In the run-up to the proposed composite talks in February, different groups will be set up at the lower officials level to discuss matters pertaining to trade, people-to-people contact, etc. — MNA/PTI

Three arrested

CHONGQING, 12 Jan — Three workers at the gas well that blew out and killing 243 people in Chongqing Municipality last month have been arrested in connection with the accident.

The natural gas well operated by the China National Petroleum Corporation, in Kaixian County, southwest China, blew out on December 23 last year, sending out a poisonous cloud of sulfurred hydrogen that spread through nearby villages.

A special panel was set up immediately to investigate the cause of the accident. Investigations showed that the accident occurred after safety regulations were violated, said Wen Qiang, deputy director of Chongqing Municipal Public Security Bureau, on Sunday. Both technical workers and patients at the gas well, Wang Jiandong and Song Tao, are alleged to have removed the back pressure regulator to save the drill, which was strictly forbidden under the production regulations. Xiang Yiming is alleged to have injected less than the required amount of drilling fluid into drilling tools, leading to the gas build-up and the blowout. — MNA/Xinhua

APPF meeting to promote friendship in Asia-Pacific region

BEIJING, 12 Jan — The 12th annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) will promote understanding and friendship between countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, Youshiro Nakasone, former Japanese Prime Minister and current APPF chairman, said here Sunday.

At a meeting of the APPF executive committee presided by Youshiro Nakasone, Lu Congping, director in charge of organization of the annual meeting and vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People’s Congress outlined preparations.

Lu said 232 participants from 23 APPF member countries had registered for the annual meeting, including four presidents, four deputy speakers, 75 members of Parliament, over 100 consultants and parlementary staff and 42 diplomats from the 19-member countries.

By Sunday evening delegations from 12 countries had submitted 39 draft resolutions and five amendments on issues such as international and regional security, Lu said.

The executive committee meeting also discussed the selection of a new APPF chairman and the agenda of the annual meeting scheduled to open on January 12.

Youshiro Nakasone has been chairman of the forum since January 1993 when the APPF was established in Tokyo.

MNA/Xinhua

Latam nations resist US efforts at regional summit

MONTRELLY (Mexico), 12 Jan — Latin American nations resisted US efforts on Sunday to push trade issues and tough sanctions against some governments at a regional summit this week.

US officials want leaders throughout the Americas to commit to reaching a 34-nation free trade pact by January 2005, and they are proposing that the region’s corrupt governments face possible exclusion from regional meetings.

Several Latin American nations insisted the two-day Summit of the Americas, which starts on Monday in Mexico’s northern city of Monterrey, stick to the issues it was originally called to discuss — poverty, economic and social development.

“There is a lot of opposition,” a senior Latin American delegate said. “The summit is about reducing poverty. We shouldn’t allow it to lose that focus.”

Brazil led the opposition to making trade talks a central part of the summit agenda and several nations, while backing anti-corrup tion measures, criticized the US proposal aimed at punishing the region’s corrupt governments.

The US proposal is not clear, because who will decide which government is corrupt? We think there would be a risk that this mechanism could be used as political retaliation against any government,” Jorge Valero, Venezuela’s ambassador to the Organization of American States, or OAS, told Reuters.

OAS Secretary-General Cesar Cervanz said there was “no consensus” on the US corruption proposal but that most of a summit declaration had been agreed. Delegations were locked in informal talks on Sunday in the search for accord before the region’s presidents meet.

Assertive new leaders in Latin America are in a growingly questioning US leadership of the Western Hemisphere, saying the economic policies pushed by Washington have failed to generate growth and done even less to ease poverty levels. — MNA/Reuters

Iranian President talks to Vajpayee over phone

NEW DELHI, 12 Jan — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Friday spoke over phone to India’s Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who New Delhi is prepared to give further assistance for relief and rehabilitation as required for the earthquake devastated southeastern port Iranian city of Bam.

Khatami conveyed his thanks for the assistance provided by India for relief to victims of the quake that took a heavy toll.

The Iranian President also congratulated the Prime Minister for his successful visit to Islamabad, officials sources said.

India was among the first countries to send relief supplies to Bam. As part of its assistance, India despatched 20,000 blankets and high protein biscuits and set up a field hospital with doctors and paramedics.

An Army spokesman here said a field hospital had become operational outside Bam, where 16 doctors and 47 paramedics have carried out 101 surgeries and had treated more than 1,265 patients. Four medium IL-76 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force have so far ferried over 20 tons of medicines and relief for the earthquake victims. — MNA/PTI

Japanese women splash ice water onto themselves during a cold-endurance festival, at Tokyo’s Kanda Moroin shrine, on 10 Jan, 2004. A group of 30 applicants attended the annual New Year’s festival as temperatures reached 7 degrees Celsius (45 degrees Fahrenheit) in Japan’s capital. — Internet
Suspect murderer of Japanese industrialist killed in Colombia

BoGOTA, 12 Jan — A member of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), who was suspected of murdering Japanese industrialist Chikao Muramatsu, was killed in clashes with government troops on Friday, Army Commander General Martin Carreno said.

The rebel, who was only identified as Jeremia, was killed together with another co-fighter, near Villeta, in the central Colombian state of Cundinamarca. Other arrested rebels said Jeremia was one of “the individuals who shot dead the Japanese businessman” on November 24, 2003 when the Armed Forces were about to rescue Muramatsu near San Juan de Rioseco, a place also situated in Cundinamarca, said Carreno. — MNA/Xinhua

Don't smoke

MARRIAGE

Myat Min Zaw
Diploma in Architectural Technology (Sydney TAFE)
second son of (U) Lay Myint (Director, Yuzam Co. Ltd) - Daw Yadana, residing at No.2 Bayinnaung Main Road, Hlaing township, Yangon.

The New Light of Myanmar

EC offers winter assistance to Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 12 Jan — The European Commission (EC) on Friday decided to channel 6.27 million euros (about 8.03 million US dollars) as winter assistance to vulnerable population in Afghanistan.

The executive arm of the European Union (EU) said the aid would go to those Afghans who are in the greatest need, that is, “providing them with the means to survive during the harsh winter months.”

“More than 20 years of civil war in Afghanistan has led to massive population displacement, hunger, ill-health, and widespread food shortages,” a Press release issued by the EC said.

The EC noted that it offered the humanitarian aid because “the vulnerability of the affected populations in the country becomes more acute due to difficult climatic conditions in winter” — MNA/Xinhua

THE UNION OF MYANMAR
YANGON CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,
PROCUREMENT & SALES COMMITTEE

Dated 7 January, 2004

INVITATION TO TENDERS

1. Tenders are invited by the Yangon City Development Committee for the supply of the following materials for Construction of Multi Purpose Hall -

(a) Air-Conditioning & Ventilation 3 Lots Equipment
(b) Tempered Glass Door, Reflective 4 Items Glass
(c) Clear Glass & Aluminium Cladding 5 Items Sanitary Equipment
(d) Tender documents will be available at the office of Budget & Accounts Department, Procurement & Sales Section, City Hall, Yangon, during office hours by cash at Kyat 500/- to be paid to the above office for each set of documents. Tender closing date is 21-1-2004 at 16:00 hours. 3. Tenders shall be accepted only from Tenders who have officially purchased the Tender documents.

Chairman, Procurement & Sales Committee

Austrian changes ice plates after Munich jet scare

VIELEN, 12 Jan — Austrian Airlines is changing the Rolls-Royce-made ice protection equipment on eight of its nine Fokker 70 planes because of doubts over its safety after one such jet made an emergency landing in Munich on Monday.

Austrian said in a statement released on Friday it had decided to change the Rolls-Royce-made equipment, which protects the plane’s engines from ice damage, after inspections led to complaints about safety.

The airline has said a preliminary investigation showed that the emergency landing, in which eight people were slightly injured on Monday, was probably caused by so-called “ice impact trays” breaking off.

“New ice protection equipment will be installed by the manufacturer’s specialists in all engines in which the strength of the ice protection equipment’s mounting could not be established beyond doubt,” Austrian said in a statement.

“Avoid any risk, the ice protection equipment will be changed on eight aircraft.” Austrian said it had inspected all Fokker 70s with Rolls-Royce: “These (inspections) led to complaints,” it added, without giving details.

An official investigation into the Munich accident is ongoing. — MNA/Reuters

Spain to grant Iran $20m in aid

MAORED, 12 Jan — The Spanish Government announced on Friday it will donate 20 million US dollars to the Fund of Development Assistance (FAD) to help tackle the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that flattened the southeastern Iranian city of Bam on December 26, 2003.

This donation is the first one issued to FAD by the Spanish Government after the application of the 2004 budget law, which sets terms for relief aid for natural disaster scenarios.

These resources will be channelled into assistance and reconstruction projects of the affected areas, giving priority to the sectors of infrastructure, health, potable water, sanitation and electricity supply. — MNA/Xinhua

EC offers winter assistance to Afghanistan

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS,
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

Sr No. Tender No Description Qty:
1. 12(T) 20MR (ML) Round Noise Tools 200-Nos.
2. 12(T) 21MR (ML) Insert Tools 480-Nos.
3. 12(T) 22MR (ML) Spare Parts for Locomotives 1-Lot.
4. 12(T) 26MR (ML) DC Air Compressor Motor 10-4Kw

Closing Date: 27-1-2004 (Tuesday) (2:00) Hours
Opening Date: 27-1-2004 (Tuesday) (1:00) Hours

For S No (1) and (2)
For S No (3) and (4)
2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botaung, Yangon starting from 13-1-2004 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291962, 201555 Ext: 602, 605, 612.

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botaung, Yangon.

Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

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EC offers winter assistance to Afghanistan

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MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS,
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

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Read Junior Leader to improve your English.
Panama captures top Colombian drug lord

**Panama City, 12 Jan—**Panamanian police and US Drug Enforcement Administration agents have captured a man they believe is one of Colombia’s most important cocaine lords, Arcangel de Jesus Henao Montoya, authorities said on Sunday.

Henao Montoya, accused of being second-in-command of the Norte del Valle cocaine cartel and wanted by the United States, was captured in the Cali-based Norte del Valle region, after authorities said they had been tracking his movements for months, Panama police chief Carlos Bares and Colombian police said. He is still in Panama to be extradited, but police don’t know where to,” a Panama police official told Reuters. Colombian Attorney General Luis Camilo Ordoñez said Henao Montoya could be extradited to Colombia or be deported to Colombia or extradited to the United States as the ultimate punishment for drug lords, whose power and money have in the past bought them many privileges in Colombian jails.

Small industries critical to poverty alleviation in Nigeria

**Ajara, 12 Jan—**The development of small industries is critical to the success of poverty alleviation in Nigeria, a high-ranking Nigerian official said here on Friday.

Minister of Information and National Orientation Femi Adesina made the remarks when meeting with Modupe Adelaja, director-general of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria. He explained that the conclusion was based on the premise that small and medium-sized enterprises served as a means of showcasing entrepreneurship of Nigerians. The Information Minister reiterated the federal government’s commitment toward the growth of the manufacturing sector, saying that it would also serve as a means of saving Nigeria from being a dumping ground for foreign goods and services.

“The government must continue to import everything in this country. We have to start manufacturing,” he said. He therefore urged the manufacturing sector to utilize the opportunity provided by the federal government in creating jobs for Nigerians. — MNA/Xinhua

Environmental condition of Three Gorges dam improved

**Chongqing, 12 Jan—**The environmental condition of the area at the Three Gorges dam on the Yangtze River has improved, according to Liu Fuqin, director of west China’s Chongqing municipality. Speaking at a recent meeting of the municipal people’s congress, Liu said the local government had made achievements in environmental protection of the area and prevention of geological disasters.

Liu said the government of Chongqing municipality had constructed 19 sewage treatment plants on the Three Gorges’ Chongqing section and 13 refuse dumps. The government also increased forestation around the Three Gorges, converting 911,000 hectares of over exploited farmland into forest, said Liu.

WFP launches drive to feed 100,000 Iraqi quake survivors

**United Nations, 12 Jan—**The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) launched on Friday a three-month emergency operation to feed 100,000 victims of the earthquake that devastated the southwestern Iraqi city of Bam two weeks ago.

“Most people have lost family members, their homes and all their belongings,” said WFP Representative in Iran, Marius de Gau Fortman, quoted by a Press release issued here from Tehran. “The food WFP is sending will fill their immediate needs while they get to the immense task of rebuilding their lives and securing other sources of support,” he noted.

The 2.9-million-US dollar package is part of the 31.3 million dollars UN urgent appeal launched Thursday and will ensure that each beneficiary receives a daily ration of bread, rice, lentils, vegetable oil, sugar, nutritional biscuits and salt. WFP has already airlifted 35 metric tons of the biscuits, which provide each person with 470 calories, to Bam. Some 200,000 people were affected by the earthquake, which struck one of Iraq’s poorest regions, already hit by severe drought in recent years. The quake killed more than 30,000 people, left 30,000 injured and destroyed 85 percent of buildings in the city, including hospitals and schools.

“The overwhelming devastation caused by the earthquake magnifies the existing poverty in the region and will certainly affect most of the population’s ability to feed themselves,” Fortman said.—MNA/Xinhua

British pair cleared in NY child endangerment case

**New York, 12 Jan—**A New York court said on Friday it would dismiss child endangerment charges against a British couple who left their baby in a car, if the two avoid being arrested in the next six months.

Yisroel Singer, 26, and his wife, Golda, 25, could have faced up to a year in prison for leaving their six-month-old baby in a car outside a Long Island shopping centre while they took their two older daughters to the bathroom. On Friday a judge told them that if they do not get arrested again in the next six months their record would be wiped clean. Their lawyer told the court the incident was due to a cultural misunderstanding and the needs of their other children.

“The American mentality holds very strongly not to leave a baby unattended,” the Singe r’s lawyer, Meir Mora, told reporters. “The British system wouldn’t have been a little bit more len, a little bit more liberal.”

The Nassau County District Court in Long Island ruled that the passports of Canadian-born Golda, who was brought up in New York, and British-born Yisroel after agreeing to dismiss the case on the condition that the couple avoid new charges.

The Singers, who were arrested on 23 December, said they left Rosie in the locked car with a slightly opened window as their other daughters Rochel, three, and Chaya, two, had to use the bathroom. — MNA/Reuters

90% of Beijing's university graduates find jobs in 2003

**Beijing, 12 Jan—**The latest statistics show that 89.68 per cent of last year’s graduates from schools of higher learning in Beijing, the national capital, had found jobs by 31 December, 2003.

The number of graduates from schools of higher learning topped 103,000 last year, up 26 per cent over the previous year, according to statistics from local educational authorities.

The employment rate of postgraduates reached as high as 96.27 per cent and the employment rate of university graduates was 89.78 per cent.

The municipal education committee, together with local personnel and labour departments, took a series of effective measures to help graduates to find jobs as the sudden outbreak of SARS in the country early last year plus the increase in the number of graduates added more difficulties and inconveniences in job seeking. — MNA/Xinhua

Scientists sees more long, hot European summers

**London, 12 Jan—**Extreme summers and scorching heatwaves similar to the one that killed an estimated 20,000 people across Europe last summer could become more frequent in the future, climate scientists said on Sunday.

In summer’s scorching temperatures were very unusual but global warming and an increase in climate variability means more heatwaves are likely in years to come.

“It is likely that these types of events will become more common,” said Hans von Storch, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zurich, told Reuters.

“Our simulations show that, roughly speaking, every second European summer is likely to be as warm, if not warmer, than the summer of 2003.”

Summer temperatures change slightly from one year to another but they have become more variable with stronger fluctuations in temperature making it more difficult to predict changes and more likely they will be extreme.

Schar and scientists at the Swiss meteorological service
Troubled Parma get boost with win over Inter

Milan, 12 Jan — Crisis-stricken Parma gave themselves a much-needed boost on Saturday with a 1-0 home win over Inter Milan in Serie A.

A 41st minute goal from Emanuele Filippini settled the match for Parma, whose future has been clouded by the scandal that has hit their owners Parmalat. The win moved them up to fifth in Serie A — a point behind Inter. Filippini slotted into an unguarded goal after a mix-up between Inter defender Javier Zanetti and goalkeeper Francesco Toldo, who raced out of his area but failed to intercept a Marcello Castellini cross.

Under intense pressure from Inter, Parma's French goalkeeper Sebastien Frey pulled off a series of saves to defend his team's lead.

Parma's president Stefano Tanzi and the club's entire board resigned on Friday ending the 14-year control of the club by the Tanzi family, founders of Parmalat. Tanzi, whose resignation takes effect from Wednesday, attended the game and witnessed a determined display from Cesare Prandelli's team.

Inter struggled to find a pattern to their play but went close to taking the lead when Christian Vieri struck the crossbar with a header from a Giovanni Pasquale cross. After Filippini gave Parma the advantage at the break, the home side had an Alberto Gilardino effort disallowed for offside in the 58th minute.

Five minutes later Vieri also had a "goal" disallowed after he was ruled to have been offside, but that prompted a heavy spell of possession from Inter as they searched for an equalizer.

Frey was down well to keep out a low header to quickly restore parity. Ormerod, only for a Stephen Clemence header to quickly restore parity. Verrone fined his fifth time from the same side of the field.

The Parma player's run over to the main stand to applaude their supporters at the end of the match was clinched an away victory thanks to a Jorge Lopez penalty after nine minutes.

The win, which gave Arsenal 49 points and identical goals scored and conceded to United, was a setback for third-placed Chelsea, who are now seven points adrift of both their title rivals ahead of their match against Leicester City on Sunday.

But the spotlight was inevitably turned to Highbury, where Arsenal played the first of four games in 19 days against the same opponents. Arsene Wenger then also gave Boro in the FA Cup fourth round and a two-legged League Cup semifinal.

The outcome was a good omen for the home side, whose fluid attacking football was interrupted only when Boro's Italian substitute Massimo Maccarone converted an eighth minute penalty.

"It was a complete team performance, defensively and offensively," Wenger told Sky Sports. "Until 75 minutes, we were really good. What killed the game was maybe the 2nd goal just after halftime...but today we could have scored more."

Birmingham City 2 Southampton 1

Former Southampton defender Jeff Kenna hit the winner against his former club in a 2-1 win that could not prevent the club from dropping to 19th in the Premier League with seven points.

Southampton, who have gone five games without a win since they went fourth last month, went ahead early on through Brett Ormerod, only for a Stephen Clemence header to quickly restore parity. Kenna's fine finish on 67 minutes from Clinton Morrison's cross proved decisive, the left back was forced out of the game soon after with a gashed eye after being elbowed by Southampton midfielder David Prutton, who was sent off.

Blackburn Rovers 3 Bolton Wanderers 4

Bolton staged a thrilling comeback at Ewood Park to leave Rovers in relegation trouble, fighting back from 3-1 down to win a seven-goal thriller.

Latecomers missed an explosive start with two goals inside the first three minutes. Bolton midfielder Kevin Nolan scored after just 14 seconds, the fourth fastest Premier League goal ever, but Slovakia midfielder Vratislav Gresko equalized almost immediately.

Goals from Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole put Rovers in control, then Youri Djorkaeff, just before halftime, and Stylianos Giannakopoulos, on 73 minutes, made it 3-3. Nolan hit the winner five minutes later.
Tuesday, January 13

2:00 To be healthy exercise
7:30 Morning news
7:40 Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
8:00 Song of Yester year
8:15 ..

8:30 am
8. International news
9. Newsgram made easy
4:00
1. Martial song
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:55 pm
5  
6. Dance of National races
5:10 pm
7. Reading and Enjoying
5:20 pm
8. Reading and Enjoying
5:30 pm
9. "Clyde Easy Cooked Tasty Dishes (Featherback Cake Salad)"
5:40 pm
10. "Clyde Easy Cooked Tasty Dishes (Featherback Cake Salad)"
6:00 pm
11. Myanmar Cuisine

Weather

Monday, January 12, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

Temperature at Yangon International Airport at 09:30 hours on 12-1-2004 was 34.5°C (94°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-1-2004 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 12-1-2004 was 8.9 hours approx. Rainfall on 12-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kahwe and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kahwe and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kahwe) was 15 mph from Northeast at (11:45) hrs MST on 11-1-2004. Forecaster: Weather is partly cloudy in Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal and other parts of the country.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Delphi, Gulf of Motamna, off and along Mon-Taninthayi coasts. Surface wind speed in Squalls may reach (35) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-1-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers in Yangon and surrounding areas. Expect rainfall exceeding (50%) for the Mandalay and surrounding areas for 13-1-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty (80%)

Unintentional Rainfall warning

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**ITF 14 and Under ASEAN Championships 2004 Zone-2 commences**

YANGON, 12 Jan— The opening events of the ITF 14 and Under ASEAN Championships 2004 Zone-2 jointly sponsored by International Tennis Federation and Myanmar Tennis Federation was opened at Theinbyu tennis court this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present were Chair- man of Yangon Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Vice- Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, General Secretary of MOC Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Huak and members, leading patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, presidents of sports federations, ambassadors and embassy staff, international tennis development officer Mr Suresh (See page 10).

**Myanmar tennis players advance into quarter final**

YANGON, 12 Jan— The Myanmar tennis players advance into quarter final. Five Myanmar players advanced into quarter final. Phyo Mintha and Babar of Pakistan, Aik Kyauk and Shannagum of Malaysia, Zin Bo and Kwang of Malaysia and Win Htet Paing and Dinesh Kanthan of Sri Lanka will play in the quarter final. In women’s singles event of the quarter final, Moe Chit Phyo Mintha and Babar of Pakistan, Aik Kyauk and Shanmugam of Malaysia, Zin Bo and Kwang of Malaysia and Win Htet Paing and Dinesh Kanthan of Sri Lanka will play against Arudpragasam of Sri Lanka. The events will continue on 13 January. — MNA

**Special Refresher Course No 13 for police officers of Myanmar Police Force opened**

YANGON, 12 Jan— The Special Refresher Course No 13 for police officers of Myanmar Police Force was opened at the Nawarat Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning with an address by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and members, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khan Yi and senior police officers. Rector of the CICS Col Win Maung, the directors-general and deputy directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs, departmental officials, course instructors and trainees.

In his address, Minister Col Tin Hlaing said that altogether 2,982 trainee officers have already been trained and taught from course No 1 to course No 12 adding that subjects on current political, economic, social and manage ment conditions in Myanmar as well as functions of the police force, Bureau of Special Investigation and Prison Department will be taught at the present course. In building a new modern developed nation personnel of departments under the ministry are to strive to their utmost, realizing the prevailing situation of the nation, he stressed. The four-week course is being attended by 250 trainees. — MNA

**Military band contest continues**

YANGON, 12 Jan— The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative military band contest of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) continued for the second day today at the People’s Square on Pyay Road here. Before the contest, students’ band troupe of Dagon Township BEHS No 2 and Hmayaw Township BEHS No 1 performed their skill demonstration. The band troupe of Central Command, the band troupe of Coastal Region Command, the band troupe company-2 of Eastern Command, the band troupe of Officers' Training School, the band troupe of North-West Command and the band troupe of No 55 LID participated in the contest.

Chairman of the committee for organizing the military band contest Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe presented cash awards to the students’ band troupes. Among the spectators were Director of Resettle ment Maj-Gen Aung Thein, senior military officers, invited guests, Tatmadawmen and their families and students. — MNA