Nibbanasacchikiriya ca, to realize the Nirvana; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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

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

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

---

Prime Minister inspects regional development in Launglon and Dawei Townships

YANGON, 13 Jan—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the entrepreneurs and officials, left here by air on 11 January morning and arrived in Dawei, Taninthayi Division, at 8.30 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed at Dawei Airport by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and military and civilian officers and members of social organizations.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Kyauknimaw Affiliated High School and inquired about the academic matters of the school and attended to the needs for upgrading the school.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported on matters related to construction of Hnyawbyin deep sea port to be used by the 50,000 ton-capacity ocean-going liners, which was 43 miles away from Dawei, conditions for construction of warehouse and the industrial zone.

Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported on matters related to construction of Hnyawbyin deep sea port and regional development tasks in cooperation with the neighbouring countries and organizations in the region.

---

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Let's put our energies into national development endeavours

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has been taking systematic measures for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and therefore it is necessary for the entire national brethren to actively take part in the nation-building endeavours hand in hand with the Government.

Obviously, a nation will endure only if it is built basing on its past history and according to its national values. All the national brethren of the Union unitedly took part in the fight against the colonialists and fascists, sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat. It was due to unity of the nationals of the Union that we regained our independence. Therefore, the Government, taking lessons from the past, has given a top priority to national unity in building the future State.

Nowadays, nation-building tasks are being carried out through unity and mutual friendship and understanding of the national people. The 24 development regions have been designated and development work is being carried out for the parallel development of various regions. In doing so, various limitations have been able to be overcome because of the strength of internal forces.

Basic infrastructures such as roads and bridges, dams and embankments and health, education and communication facilities are being constructed wherever necessary the length and breadth of the Union.

And these tasks have been able to be successfully implemented in so short a time and that also because of the strength of the national people.

We would like to urge the entire national people to try as hard as they can in preserving peace and stability as these are the sine qua non for national development and put all their energies into all the nation-building endeavours.

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

Gold Uni Golf Classic

YANGON, 13 Jan — The Gold Uni Golf Classic event is scheduled to be played from 27 to 30 January 2004. It is sanctioned by the Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golf Federation and jointly sponsored by Gold Uni and Xie family with Imperial Jade joining in as the official water supplier.

Gold Uni will serve as a tune-up and final test for all the local players taking part in the prestigious Myanmar Open to be held from 12 to 15 February 2004. With the official venue Yangon Golf Club upgraded to top conditions the challenge for the 800,000 kyats winners cheque promises to be exciting.

The event is open to all Myanmar Professional Golfer Association members. Special invitations will be given to the top 6 Myanmar Golf Tour order of merit amateurs. Last date for registration with event organizer Han Event Management will be 25 January 2004.

Stimulant tablets, arms seized in Tachileik

YANGON, 13 Jan — A combined team comprising of local intelligence unit and Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, on 29 December 2003, searched the house of Ah Be of Ahdee Village, Loitawkham Village-tract, Tachilek Township and arrested him together with 40,000 stimulant tablets hidden under a bed, one America-made Rimintan shotgun and its 18 rounds of ammunition, one Czech-made .22 gun, one America-made 9mm pistol and its 50 rounds of ammunition and one shotgun.

In a similar incident, a combined team comprising of local intelligence unit and Tachilek Special Anti-Drug, acting on information, on 29 December 2003, searched the house of Soe Naing (a) Ah Gwan of Ahdee Village, Loitawkham Village-tract, Tachilek Township and arrested Ah Je (a) Zaw Tun who was at the house together with 550 stimulant tablets.

Action is being taken against the two under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police stations concerned. — MNA

Hockey competition begins

YANGON, 13 Jan — The National Hockey Championships sponsored by the Myanmar Hockey Federation was opened with ceremony held at Theinbyu hockey ground yesterday morning.

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, YCDC Chairman Yangon City Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin watch the hockey match on 12-1-2004. — MNA

Stimulant tablets, arms seized in Tachileik

YANGON, 13 Jan — A combined team comprising of local intelligence unit and Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, on 29 December 2003, searched the house of Ah Be of Ahdee Village, Loitawkham Village-tract, Tachilek Township and arrested him together with 40,000 stimulant tablets hidden under a bed, one America-made Rimintan shotgun and its 18 rounds of ammunition, one Czech-made .22 gun, one America-made 9mm pistol and its 50 rounds of ammunition and one shotgun.

In a similar incident, a combined team comprising of local intelligence unit and Tachilek Special Anti-Drug, acting on information, on 29 December 2003, searched the house of Soe Naing (a) Ah Gwan of Ahdee Village, Loitawkham Village-tract, Tachilek Township and arrested Ah Je (a) Zaw Tun who was at the house together with 550 stimulant tablets.

Action is being taken against the two under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police stations concerned. — MNA

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.
Spanish, Iraqi ministers urge UN return to Iraq

Baghdad, 13 Jan — The foreign ministers of Spain and Iraq called on Monday for the United Nations to return to the US-occupied country as soon as possible and to assist with overseeing the handover of power to Iraqis. The United Nations has to play, and the fact is you cannot play at a distance — the presence of the UN in Iraq is crucial," said Palacio, who is also visiting Spanish troops stationed in Iraq.

"We would like them to have a real presence here."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan pulled international staff out of Iraq in October amid an upsurge in attacks against civilian targets. He has said he still considers the security situation too precarious to risk allowing staff to return.

Zebari said the UN was used to working in war zones and with countries in crisis and Iraq should be no exception.

Annan and other senior UN officials argue that the United Nations can do a lot from outside Iraq, and say they want firm security guarantees and a clear idea of what the US-led administration expects it to handle before returning.

A delegation from Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council is to meet with Annan in New York on 19 January to discuss various issues, including the process of transferring power to Iraqis.

UN staff redeployment is also expected to be on the agenda. — MNA/Reuters

Troops wound seven Iraqis in shooting

Baghdad, 13 Jan — Ukrainian soldiers have shot and wounded seven Iraqi civilians in a suburb of Baghdad after troops on their convoy in the tense town of Ramadi, residents said.

Witnesses said US soldiers fired randomly after their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. The soldiers then raided houses in the area. A spokesman for the US-led coalition said Ukrainian soldiers in the area had fired warning shots when protesters started to move toward the troops, but did not report any casualties. "There was a demonstration," he said. "They started to be offensive and moving forward and shooting, so the Iraqis fired some warning shots in the air," said Polish Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Strzelkevicz, local police chief.

Ukrainian soldiers and two Iraqi civilians were lightly wounded, while another police officer said a demonstrator had been taken to hospital for treatment. — Internet

US soldier killed in bomb explosion

Baghdad, 13 Jan — An US soldier was killed and two wounded in a roadside bombing yesterday in Baghdad, a US military spokesman said.

"One 1st Armoured Division soldier was killed and two were wounded when their convoy was attacked by an IED (Improved Explosive Device) in central Baghdad," the spokesman said.

In Tikrit, US soldiers shot dead seven members of an armed gang allegedly trying to steal oil from a pipeline in central Iraq.

A group of 40 men armed with AK-47 assault rifles in 10 to 15 vehicles were spotted at the pipeline by the troops who were led to the area by an Iraqi informant, said an army spokesman, Master Sgt Robert Cargie. US troops, armed with M-16 rifles and 125mm cannons mounted on Bradley fighting vehicles, shot at the alleged thieves, killing seven of them in a gunfight, he said.

The remaining people escaped, he said. The incident occurred in an area 100km north of Baghdad.

The delegation comprises manufacturers and exporters who will represent diverse sectors, including hand tools, pharmaceuticals, electronic goods, cotton and synthetic yarns and fabrics. FIEO will also sign MoUs with leading chambers of commerce there. — MNA/PTI

Gulf War Syndrome linked to vaccines

London, 13 Jan — A leaked British Army medical report has provided the first official backing that vaccines given to British soldiers before the 1990 Gulf War caused illnesses associated with Gulf War Syndrome, the Times reported on Monday.

It said Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Howe, clinical director of psychiatry with the British Forces Health Service in Germany, made the link after the War Pensions Agency asked him to look at the case of former Lance-Corporal Alex Izzet, who now suffers from osteoporosis and acute depression, the paper said.

The Times quoted Howe as saying in his unpublished report, dated September 2001, that "secret" injections given to the soldiers "mostly probably led to the development of autoimmune-induced osteoporosis".

Howe came to that conclusion because in the end Izzet was diagnosed with a bone disease, the Times said. The paper added that Izzet won a landmark ruling at a war pensions tribunal last summer which awarded him a 50 percent disability pension. — MNA/Reuters

Languages and topics:
- English
- Iraq
- United Nations
- Spain
- Pakistan
- India
- Germany
- Ukraine
- United States
- Iran
- China
- Russia
- Afghanistan
- Australia
- Mexico
- Switzerland
- Japan
- France
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Portugal
- Indonesia
- South Korea
- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Greece
- Italy
- South Africa
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- Indonesia
- Pakistan
- United States
- Vietnam
- Egypt
- France
- Germany
- Iran
- Iraq
- Japan
- Lebanon
- China
- Russia
- Spain
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
War college report says Iraq war an ‘error’

MONTGOMERY, Ala., 13 Jan—A report published by the Army War College calls the Bush administration’s war on terrorism unfocused and says the invasion of Iraq was “a strategic error.”

The research paper by Jeffrey Record, a professor at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, said the President’s strategy “promises much more than it can deliver” and threatens to spread US military resources too thin. Record also wrote that Saddam Hussein’s Iraq did not present a threat to the United States and was a distraction from the war on terrorism.

Record is a visiting professor at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. The paper was published last month by the Army War College’s Strategic Studies Institute.

Lt Col Merideth Bunch, public affairs officer for the Army War Col-
lege, said Monday it is not unusual for students, mostly higher ranking offi-
cers, at the war college to be exposed to critical thought that might be contrary to current national policy. She said stu-
dents are often exposed to speakers with varying views.

The director of the Strategic Studies Institute, Douglas Lovelace Jr, said it was originally founded by Presi-
dent Dwight Eisenhower to take a critical independent analysis of military issues from an academic per-
spective.

“Dr Record is a national security secu-
riety specialist. It’s not at all odd for
us to analyze a given mission and arrive at a conclusion that seems at odds with national policy,” Lovelace said.

He said in the past the institute has
released studies analyzing US policy in
Haiti, Afghanistan and other hot spots.

Record could not be reached im-
mEDIATELY for comment through Army public affairs offices and he did not immediately respond to e-mails from The Associated Press.

He is the author of six books and is a
former legislative assistant for national
security affairs to Senator Sam Nunn, D-Georgia, and former Senator Lloyd
Bentsen, D-Texas.

Record’s report concludes that the
war on terrorism is too widespread and
should focus on al-Qaeda and other
terrorist threats to the United States.

“The United States may be able to
defeat al-Qaeda, but it cannot rid the
world of terrorism, much less evil.”

Record writes.

Russia denies claims of arms sales to
Iraq

MOSCOW, 13 Jan—A Russian official Monday rejected US claims that Rus-
sian firms had supplied Saddam Hussein’s regime with sophisticated military technology and that the equipment was used to try to thwart the US-led invasion of Iraq. Information, fed to some American and British media, of supposed ‘secret’ deliveries by Russia to Iraq of military goods is no more than a broken record that was used in the first days’ of the war in Iraq, an unnamed government official told Russian news agencies.

On Saturday, a senior US official said that discoveries made during the war, as well as in the months since Bagh-
dad fell in April, “corroborated” US allegations that Russian firms sold satellite jamming devices as well as night-vision goggles to Baghdad in violation of UN sanctions. And that official said Moscow’s denials of the allegations — made in the early days of the war — had been inadequate and had done considerable damage to US-Russia relations. —Internet

4,500-year-old city excavated in NW China

XI’AN, 13 Jan—Archaeologists in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province have unearthed the ruins of an ancient city dating back 4,500 years on a mountain in Jiaxian County.

The ancient city consists of a 3,000-square-metre inner city, built on top of a hill, a 600-square-metre outer city, which encircles the middle and lower part of the same hill, and a moat, 10 metres wide and 6.4 metres deep.

The walls of the inner and outer cities were built with stones and loess, said Zhang Tian’en, a research fellow with the Shaanxi Provincial Archaeological Research Institute.

Archaeologists have been excavating in a site of the late Neolithic period, known as the Shihsuo Mountain Ruins in Jiaxian County, which covers 100,000 square metres and was found in 1978. —MNA/Xinhua

Vajpayee says Pakistan “clutched” his hand of friendship

NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said Sunday that Pakistan has, through its ‘clutched’ hand of friendship and this has opened a new chapter to usher in peace and prosperity between the two neighbours.

“The accord in Islamabad (to resume a com-
promise dialogue) has opened a new chapter for peace and promotion of trade between the two countries,” he said.

Vajpayee also the information pro-
vided not only by journalist Ahmed Mohammad Hussein al- Badrani and driver Sattar Ijab al-
Badrani.

They said US troops fired in their direction as they were covering the aftermath of the heli-
copter crash west of Bagh-
dad, and then detained them later.

MNA/Reuters

“Reuters” protests about detention of staff in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Jan— Reuters said on Monday it had made a formal complaint to the US military about the arrest and treatment of three of its staff after a helicopter crash near the town of Fallujah.

Asked about the com-
plaint at a news conference in Baghdad, it was still in-
vestigating the incident and would announce no conclu-
sions until that inquiry was complete.

The three Iraqis were detained on 2 January and released around 72 hours later.

A Reuters spokesman said the global news and information firm had called on the US military swiftly to complete its investigation and provide a detailed re-
response to the complaint.

He declined to give further details pending a response from US authori-
ties.

“The investigation is ongoing,” Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for the US Army in Iraq, told re-
porters in Baghdad.

“We are going to hold a full and thorough investiga-
tion on the basis of informa-
tion provided not only by our troops on the ground but also the information pro-
vided by the Reuters jour-
nalists. It would be premature to make any conclusions before that investigation is complete,” Kimmitt said.

“I can confirm that we have received the com-
plaint. I can also confirm an investigation is ongoing as well.”

The detained Reuters staff were Baghdad-based cameraman Salem Urebi and Fallujah-based free-
 lance television journalist Ahmad Mohammad Hussein al-Badrani and driver Sattar Ijab al-
Badrani.

Indonesia may become net oil importer in 10 years

JAKARTA, 13 Jan—Indonesia could become a net oil importer in 10 years if there are no new finds and the public continues its lavish consumption on fuel oil, a senior official at a governmental agency warned.

Rahmat Suddibyo, chair man of Oil and Gas Upstream Regulatory Body (BP Migas), said last in order to prevent the nation from becoming a net oil im-
porter, exploration should be intensified and the public should switch to natural gas from oil.

The country needs new discoveries of between 400 million and 500 million barrels annually, which is the amount of crude oil currently produced by the nation each year, Rahmat said.

“Every year, we need new crude oil discoveries equal to our current produc-
tion rate to extend the life span of our oil reserves,” Rahmat said.

Rahmat was quoted Monday by The Jakarta Post as say-
ing.

Indonesia is the only Asian member of the Organi-
zation of Petroleum-Export-
ing Countries (OPEC) who pro-
duces 1.081 million barrels per day.

MNA/Xinhua

Actress Amber Tamblyn, star of the drama series, ‘Joan of Arcadia’ poses with the Favourite New Dramatic Television Series award at the 30th annual People’s Choice Awards in Pasadena, California on 11 January, 2004. —Internet

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
Demonstrators shout near a British Army soldier guarding the administration headquarters in the southeastern city of Amara on 11 January, 2004. Demonstrators gathered in Amara to demand compensation after at least five Iraqis were killed when police and British troops opened fire during violent protests on Saturday. —INTERNET

An Iraqi woman waits in a room with other women and children as Iraqi police officer Mohammed Abid Mohammed stands guard at the door on Monday, 12 Jan, 2004 while US soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division search the house near Ramadi, Iraq. —INTERNET

US soldiers question an Iraqi family about the whereabouts of one of their relatives on Monday, 12 Jan, 2004 near Ramadi, Iraq. The wanted man is suspected in several attacks on coalition forces. —INTERNET

An Iraqi woman waits in a room with other women and children as Iraqi police officer Mohammed Abid Mohammed stands guard at the door on Monday, 12 Jan, 2004 while US soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division search the house near Ramadi, Iraq. —INTERNET

US soldiers survey the surroundings while stuck in traffic in Baghdad. A US soldier died in a roadside bombing in Baghdad after seven Iraqis were killed in a firefight with US troops on 12 Jan, 2004, near Samarra. —INTERNET

United States soldiers with the 1st Infantry Division patrol through a palm grove while looking for a site that was used to fire mortars at their camp earlier in the Monday morning, 12 Jan, 2004, near Ramadi, Iraq. —INTERNET

Demonstrators run from British soldiers guarding the administration headquarters in the southeastern city of Amara. British troops said they opened fire on Iraqi protesters in a clash in which at least five people were killed on Saturday. —INTERNET
New Iraq contractors to be in place by April

ASSAM, 13 Jan—The US official overseeing 18.6 billion US dollars in US-funded contracts to rebuild postwar Iraq said on Monday he hoped to have the first set of contractors on the ground by early April.

The United States opened up bidding last week for the first string of lucrative new contracts, worth five billion US dollars, after months of a month’s delay.

Retired Admiral David Nash, in charge of the Pentagon-run Programme Management Office, said at an Iraq reconstruction conference in Jordan that he did not see major delays in future.

“Hopefully we’ll have contractors on the ground at the latest in late March, early April,” Nash told reporters. “The next set of contracts are set for us encouraging them to mobilize very quickly because we need to get to work very quickly.”

The bids for prime reconstruction contracts covering electricity, water, buildings, security and justice and transportation and communication are due in February and Nash has said he expected them to be awarded by early March. He said it was too early to say when the next batch of contracts would be put out to bidders.

The RPs (Requests of Proposals) for the large nature like we’re putting out now I really don’t know (when),” he said. “That remains to be seen by how these go and how quickly we can get people in place and how quickly the construction goes.”

The first round of Iraq contracts were heavily criticized, with US lawmakers alleging favouritism over the award of work to well-connected firms such as Halliburton, an oil services company once run by US Vice-President Dick Cheney.

The new Iraq contracts, which must now be competitively bid, are being closely watched by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of US Congress.

US troops wound six Iraqis after convoy attack

RAMADI, 13 Jan—US soldiers shot and wounded six Iraqi civilians on Monday in response to an attack on their convoy in the town of Ramadi, residents said.

The US military had no immediate comment.

Witnesses said US soldiers fired randomly after their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. The soldiers then raided houses in the area.

Reuter's television footage showed cars and front doors pierced by bullets. One man showed bullet holes in his kitchen pots and pans as well as a shattered television screen.

“There were only innocent children here,” he said.

“What did they think, that Saddam Hussein was here?”

Ramadi is one of the flashpoint towns west of Baghdad in a region known as the Sunni Triangle. US convoys regularly come under attack and soldiers often carry out raids looking for insurgents in the town.—MNA/Reuters

Turkey-Syria-Iraq railroad to be more active

ANKARA, 13 Jan—The railroad connecting Turkey, Syria and Iraq will be more active in the future as a result of trade expansion in the region, Turkish Daily News quoted a senior trade official as saying on Saturday.

Foreign Trade Undersecretary Tunçer Kayalar had said he discussed the matter with Syrian Prime Minister Mohamad Naji Otun and Industry Minister Mohammed Safi Abu Dan during his recent visit to Syria.

They agreed that an accord on preventing double taxing and supporting investment, which was signed by Syrian Prime Minister Bashar al-Assad during his visit to Turkey, would benefit both countries.

Both sides agreed that the signing of a free trade agreement would boost the trade between the countries, said Kayalar, who had attended the second Turkish-Malaysian Commodities Fair in Syria.

He said that he had told Otun about Turk-

key’s desire to establish trade centres near the borders of the two countries.

The Syrian Prime Minister promised to consider the Turkish request and stressed his country’s interest in Turkey’s development process, Kayalar said.

He noted that he had also told Dan that regional stability and peace are very important for trade, and that Turkey has been implementing a policy of trade expansion with neighbouring countries since 2000.

Singapore Airlines to launch flight services to Shenzhen

SINGAPORE, 13 Jan—Singapore Airlines (SIA) announced here on Monday that it will start thrice-weekly services to Shenzhen in southern China on Friday.

With the launch of the new service, the Singapore national carrier will be operating a total of 43 weekly flights to three Chinese cities—Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

The airline company also said on Monday that SIA travellers will be allowed to return to Singapore from any of these cities with no extra charge, which means they can fly from Singapore to Shenzhen and return from Hong Kong.

The launch will also make SIA the only international carrier to fly to Shenzhen so far.

Global fund calls for new proposals for funding

NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—Amidst initiatives to provide drugs to HIV/AIDS patients from world over, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has issued a call for a new round of proposals for funding from countries.

This would be the fourth round of proposals. In three previous rounds, the Global Fund had committed 2.1 billion US dollars over two years to 224 programmes in over 120 countries to combat the three diseases, a release from the Global Fund said on Monday.

India was approved nine million US dollars in the first round, 130 million US dollars in the second and 14 million US dollars in the third round.

The fourth round was significant in view of recent government announcement to provide free AIDS drugs through public hospitals, experts said.

WHO and UNAIDS had also announced an initiative to provide anti-AIDS treatment to three million people by the end of 2005.

“This is the fourth round of proposals of the highest quality, particularly from partners that include the private sector and local non-governmental organizations,” the release said, quoting US Secretary of Health and Human Services and chair of the Board of the Global Fund Tommy Thompson.

China has also expressed a desire to provide anti-AIDS treatment to three million people.

The deadline for submission of proposals is April, 2004, the release said adding that the fourth round also represents a major opportunity for public sector companies to expand their efforts to prevent and treat these diseases among their workforce and in the surrounding communities.

The Global Fund, established as an independent private foundation, is a unique global public-private partnership involving governments, civil society, private sector and affected communities.—MNA/PTI

1,000 families displaced by fire in Manila

MANILA, 13 Jan—A huge fire razed a slum area in a district of Manila after midnight Sunday, leaving more than 1,000 families displaced, a local television reported.

There were no reported casualties in the fire, which reached the highest alert level for firefighters, the ABS-CBN news channel quoted Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Maria Corazon Soliman as saying.

Soliman said evacuation centres were being set up to assist the victims and appealed to the public to donate food, potable water and sleeping mats, adding that “many were affected, we have to help each other.”

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly inspected evacuation centres and condoled the vict-ims.—MNA/INPI

India has the ability for manned space mission soon

NEW DELHI, 13 Jan—India would soon have the ability to carry out manned space missions, Indian Space Research Organization Chairman Dr Madhavan Nair said here Monday.

“We have launch vehi-
cles Monday, the PSLV and GSLV. It can carry three to five tons into lower Earth orbit and soon we will be having the GSLV Mark III about 2006-2007 timeframe, which will have the capability of taking a 10 ton module into the orbit,” he told NDTV 24X7.

“This module is more than sufficient to take a manned mission for such an objective.”

Singapore, Malaysia agree to improve strained relations

SINGAPORE, 13 Jan—Singapore and Malaysia agreed to improve their strained rela-
tions through joint efforts following the successful talks between the leaders of the two neighbouring coun-
tries here on Monday.

Addressing a joint press conference Monday afternoon, Singapore Prime Min-
ister Goh Chok Tong and visiting Malaysian Premier Abdullah Badawi said that they had a “good and frank” discussions and agreed to explore ways to put Singa-
apore-Malaysia relations back on track.

Both leaders said they considered their meeting a “good start”. Abdullah is here on a one-day working visit to Singapore, and this is his first visit to the city-state since he became Malaysia ’s Premier last October.

During the short stay, Abdullah also called on Sin-
apore President S R Nathan and met with Singapore Sen-
i tor Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Queen Mary 2, the world’s biggest cruise liner carrying 2,600 passengers, left its home-
port of Southampton in southern England for the United States on its maiden voyage on 12 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET
Patriotism revitalized since the independence struggle

The national races of the Union have safeguarded the independence generation after generation. The national races sacrificed a lot of lives, blood, sweat and tears for many years to restore independence. The national races have been protecting the independence and sovereignty hand in hand with the Tatmadaw for their perpetuation.

After the disintegration of the GCBA, that was like the front of the anti-colonialist struggle, in 1930, the following were some of the slogans of the independence struggle that appeared during the time.

Let’s face the danger.
Show courage and endurance in times of emergency.
Ready to die for the nation’s glory.
Abhor the life to live as a slave.
This is our land and our country.
And they were the slogans of the independence struggle that was gaining momentum. It was in 1925-26, five years before the outbreak of the independence struggle led by Saya San that a drama troupe staged a performance in Thanlyin. The play was staged for many days in the town. The famous writer, Nandaw Sheh Saya Tin was the leader of the troupe. He was short, with a hooked nose. He wore the uniform of a high level military commander of the Myanmar Royal Army. In his right hand was a large sword for his size. He sang a beautiful song, he pierced the sword into the mat laid on the stage floor. His action made me vitalized with patriotism and nationalistic fervour.

As soon as I reached the age of earning my own living the whole Myanmar was reverberating with the clarion call to fight for independence. The call made us to be alert, and see and hear the oppressions of the colonialists against the workers. Saya San was the one who further strengthened our patriotism and nationalistic fervour. Saya San led Myanmar peasants in launching a resistance against the colonialists. When his peasant’s uprising failed, he went around the country trying to mobilize various national races of all walks of life for the resistance. During the mobilization campaign, he felt ill with malaria. Thus, the colonialists were able to capture him easily. They tried him at the court and hanged him. We were angry when we heard the colonialist minions saying how they had humiliated Saya San after he was captured. So, Myanmars were thinking about how to avoid facing the same fate of Saya San, and came to know the importance of having the awareness and stamina in times of emergency.

The act of seeing the happiness and the suffering from the political point of view is a profound matter. There could not be happiness, but only sufferings in the absence of independence; that the nation and the people would be free from sufferings only if there is liberty. Thus, the slogan during the time was “Independence is the first priority”. At present, the world is in the process of globalisation. The world has become a ruthless place in which all nations are vying with one another to gain supremacy in running the market-oriented economic system.

In this regard, I would like to urge the entire national people to preserve the patriotism and nationalistic fervour we have vitalized and keep in our heart since the independence struggle and firmly join hands in striving for the successful realization of the seven-point future political programme, modernization and development of the production forces, and perpetuation of independence and sovereignty. (Translation: TMT)


Minister inspects Factories in Hline, Mayangon Townships

YANGON, 13 Jan — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, inspected the products at the leather factory under the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries in Hline Township and gave instructions this morning.

Next, the minister inspected Gauze and Cotton Wool Factory No 26 under Myanmar Textile Industries in Mayangon Township and gave instruction on extended distribution of the goods.

The minister also looked into Soap Factory No 1 of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries in Hline Township and Kuntikaya Shop in the compound of the ministry at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Sethmu-1 Street.

MNA
Prime Minister inspects…

(from page 1)

Giving instructions, the Prime Minister said that although Taninthayi Division had railroads linking to neighbouring countries during the Second World War, the railroads fell into ruin due to various reasons in later periods.

But now, as the communication between neighbouring countries and Myanmar improved, there arise opportunities in which reconstruction of these railroads linking with other countries could be made.

Myanmar is in the hub of the Southeast Asian region and South Asian region. Therefore, at a time when further cooperation has been enhanced in economic, trade, social and cultural sectors among regional countries, arrangements are under way to be able to construct roads linking with regional countries.

Moreover, steps are being taken to enhance cooperation in economic, trade, social and cultural sectors, especially in tourism industries among regional countries Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

Likewise, India, Myanmar and Thailand have made arrangements for further strengthening cooperation including construction of the main road linking the three nations.

He said that he was there to witness the conditions for construction of the deep sea port in Dawei region, construction of the main road to link the neighbouring nation and establishment of the industrial zone in Dawei region.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on ministers and local authorities to make integrated and coordinated efforts for regional development and for successful realization of the national objectives.

Next, the Prime Minister greeted the local people and inquired about education, health and economic conditions of the region and made arrangements for upgrading of Hnyawbyin Village Basic Education Primary School.

After that, the Prime Minister and party left the village and viewed round Tawkye waterfall and lake in Tawkye Village, Launglon Township.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers robes to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Launglon Township Hospital where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Hla Hla Kyi and hospital staff.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected the ward, medical store, laboratory and operation theatre and fulfilled the needs to upgrade the 16-bed hospital into a 25-bed one. On arrival at Maungmakan Beach development site in Dawei Township, Dawei District, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by members of the Township PDC, departmental staff and social organizations.

At the briefing hall, Dawei District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Kywe reported on location and area of the beach, land utility, three separate parts of Maungmakan Beach, Kyaukhsin Beach and Hnyawbyin Pagoda’s environs and transportation.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu on arrangements for hotel services by hoteliers; and Chairman of Maungmakan Developers Group Dr Khin Shwe and Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association U Khin Zaw on arrangements for hotel services at the beach.

Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung also reported on tourism services to be carried out in Myanmar in cooperation with local organizations and neighbouring countries.

In response to the reports the Prime Minister said Maungmakan region is a beach resort blessed with natural beauties.

Encouragement is being given to the development of Myanmar’s tourism to catch up with global tourism industry, which has now become so popular, he said.

Dawei region tends to be an international sea port, and therefore, upgrading tasks are needed for the beach compatible with global tourism industry, he added.

Departmental officials, local authorities and national entrepreneurs are to cooperate closely in the promoting the beach, he said.

(See page 9)
The Prime Minister and party arrived at Dawei railway station where they were welcomed by officials. Officials reported on running of Mawlamyne-Dawei Road and gave instructions. The Prime Minister inspected Dawei railway station.

The Prime Minister and party stayed at Heinda Yeiktha.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects multimedia teaching rooms of No 3 Basic Education High School in Dawei, Taninthayi Division, on 11-1-2004. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the chosen site for construction of the main building of Dawei University in Taninthayi Division. — MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a set of computer for the school to Headmistress Daw Myint Myint.

Chairman of Zaykabar Co Ltd U Khin Shwe and Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd U Htay Myint presented K 500,000 each and Managing Director of Tour Mandalay Co Ltd U Khin Zaw K 200,000 to Headmistress Daw Myint Myint.

The Prime Minister presented cash for all-round renovation of the pagoda and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe donations to the board of trustees.

The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to the pagoda and inspected the renovation works.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects multimedia teaching rooms of No 3 Basic Education High School in Dawei, Taninthayi Division, on 11-1-2004. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the chosen site for construction of the main building of Dawei University in Taninthayi Division. — MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a set of computer for the school to Headmistress Daw Myint Myint.

Chairman of Zaykabar Co Ltd U Khin Shwe and Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd U Htay Myint presented K 500,000 each and Managing Director of Tour Mandalay Co Ltd U Khin Zaw K 200,000 to Headmistress Daw Myint Myint.

The Prime Minister presented cash for all-round renovation of the pagoda and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe donations to the board of trustees.

The Prime Minister and party stayed at Heinda Yeiktha.
ITF 14 and Under ASIAN Championships 2004 Zone-2 continues

YANGON, 13 Jan — The matches of the ITF 14 and Under ASIAN Championships 2004 Zone-2, jointly organized by International Tennis Federation and Myanmar Tennis Federation, continued at Theinbyu Tennis Court here this morning.

MFTP Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, President U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd), Secretary Dr Tin Aung Lin (Aung Mingalar Co Ltd) and executives, ambassadors, ex-president and ex-secreataries of MTF, ex-selected players and tennis enthusiasts watched the matches.

Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004 goes on

YANGON, 13 Jan — Myanmar Rice Milling Industry Fair-2004, co-organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, continued today at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here.

Rice mills and spare parts are on display at 150 booths of 36 local companies and foreign companies of China, Japan, India, Malaysia and Thailand. In addition, industrial zones of the states and divisions also put their rice mills and parts on display.

The fair continues tomorrow. — MNA

Myanmar Police Force... (from page 16)

actively charge the duties to smoothly operate the State’s administrative mechanism.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Police Force Management Reform Committee Minister for Home Affairs Lt Col Tin Hlaing took part in the discussions. He said he would present the main points of the work done by the committee in the year.

Myanmar Police Force Reform Committee was formed ten years ago. Achievements were made due to the guidance of the Head of State and

suggestions and cooperation of six sub-committees. According to the guidance of the Head of State, Myanmar Police Force is making efforts to possess three capabilities—patriotism, efficiency and modernization. Moreover, he said members of MFP are trying to become qualified members loved by the people. In connection with crime reduction measures, he said, public cooperation plays an important role in crime reduction. Five crime reduction tasks are now being undertaken. In implementation of the functions of the police force, regional outposts were opened. As a result, outbreak of crimes decreased.

Members of MFP discharging their duties with five outlooks are participating in regional development and administration tasks. They also discharge their security duties on farming, industries and freight transport effectively.

In conclusion, he said tasks on MFP management reform are gaining momentum and MFP is making efforts to become modern, patriotic and loyal ones.

Next, Secretary of MFP Management Reform Committee Director-General of MFP Police Brig-Gen Khin Yee reported on implementation of the resolutions of the previous meeting.

Chairmen and officials of intelligence sub-committee, management sub-committee, work implementation sub-committee, judicial sub-committee, legal sub-committee and training sub-committee reported on work done and tasks to be undertaken.

The Secretary-2 took part in the discussions. The meeting came to a close after concluding remarks given by the Secretary-2. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Oo and Managing Director U Maung Maung formally open the Cooperative Products Exhibition and Market Festival. (News on page 16) — MNA

Traditional medicines including heavy metals unfit for consumption

YANGON, 13 Jan — The Ministry of Health examined some traditional medicines used in treatment and prevention of disease. It is found that ingredients of the medicines include much more heavy metals than permitted. These medicines are harmful to the public and are unfit for consumption.

The traditional medicines are Yathayana medicine powder, Thanyapya medicine powder, Kyaukkyaydan medicine powder, Baythрита Shwepyа powder, Yathayana Seinyadana tablet and Shwepyayay. The ingredients include more amount of heavy metals such as lead, arsenic and mercury than it should be.

Don’t Smoke
National Convention Work Committee meets

YANGON, 13 Jan — The National Convention Convening Work Committee held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Work Committee in Kyakkaasna Grounds here this morning.

Present were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, Joint-Secretary-1 U Khin Maung Myint, Joint-Secretary-2 Dr Thaung Nyunt and members.

Chairman U Aung Toe delivered an opening address. Next, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt discussed matters relating on the national convention.

The meeting came to a close after concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA

Military band contest continues

YANGON, 13 Jan — The 13th Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Contest to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 continued at the People’s Square on Pyay Road this morning.

Bands of the students representing Kamayut Township No 2 Basic Education High School and Dagon Township No 1 BEHS presented skill demonstrations.

Next, No 88 LID band troupe, Eastern Command band troupe, Northern Command band troupe, Yangon Command Company 1 band troupe, No 77 LID band troupe and Yangon Command military band troupe took part in the contest.

Chairman of the Committee for Organizing the contest Vice-Adjointant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe presented cash awards to the band troops of the students.

Also present on the occasion were Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, senior military officers and members of the panel of judges, guests, students and others.

MNA

Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar concludes

YANGON, 13 Jan — The Seminar on Publishing in Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association concluded today at the hall of MWJA at Sarpy Beikman building here today.

Present on the occasion were MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Haung), Vice-Chairmen News and Periodicals Enterprise Managing Director U Tin Kha (Takakhao Tin Kha) and U Than Maung (Than Maung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) and CEC members. Chairman of the work committee for holding the seminar U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and members, Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Maung Maung, resource persons and guests.

At the today’s seminar, resource persons submitted their papers and it concluded in the evening.

MNA

Cash donated to Social Welfare Department

YANGON, 13 Jan — Wellwishers donated cash to the Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at a ceremony held at Kyimyindine School for the Blind on Panighbry Street in downtown Yangon, this morning. It was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Maung, officials, wellwishers and students.

In charge (Business) of Shan State (South) Special Region-6 PaO National Organization Central Committee Thiri Thadhama U Manjoathuda U Nay Win Tun (Chairman, Ruby Dragon Jade and Gems Co Ltd)-Daw Nan Aye Aye Myint and family presented K 1 million to the trust funds of Kyimyindine School for the Blind, and K 3 million to Mandalay School for the Deaf and other teaching schools through the min- ter, who next presented a certificate of honour to them and expressed words of thanks. After the ceremony, the minister and guests and wellwishers viewed the lecture rooms of the school.

MNA

U Thein Kaung introduces those present to papers at the Seminar on Publishing. — mna
President would visit the cated in the Mediterranean
the Richter Scale shook an area close to the Algerian
state Sports Minister Yunus
Sunday arrived at the Sanganer airport, 15 kilometres

Guiana President arrives Rajasthan
Jagdev was received by state Sports Minister Yunos Khan and the Chief Secretary R K. Nayar at the airport. During his visit, the President would visit the Amber Fort and City Palace

Tremor jolts Algeria
Algiers, 13 Jan — An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale shook an area close to the Algerian capital on Saturday evening, official media reported.

The epicentre was located in the Mediterranean village of Zemmouri, the same area as a devastating quake that killed 2,300 people last May. Zemmouri is located 32 miles east of the capital Algiers.

The official APS news agency quoted a state geological studies centre as saying that the strong tremor was an after-effect of the May 21 quake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale.

Residents contacted by telephone said frightened locals fled their homes.

Widespread infections reported on HIV“AIDS” in Nigeria
Lagos, 13 Jan — Widespread infections have been reported on HIV/AIDS in the various social strata, age groupings and regions of Nigeria, a leading official from Nigeria’s non-governmental organization said here at the weekend.

Stella Osufili, coordinator of the Family Planning and Support Group involved in adolescent health, told a public seminar on “Youth Health and Development” in Nigeria’s commercial capital Lagos that “there is an urgent need to check the disease which is fast spreading in the country.” — MNA/Xinhua

Guiana President arrives Rajasthan
Jagdev was received by state Sports Minister Yunos Khan and the Chief Secretary R K. Nayar at the airport. During his visit, the President would visit the Amber Fort and City Palace

Tremor jolts Algeria
Algiers, 13 Jan — An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale shook an area close to the Algerian capital on Saturday evening, official media reported.

The epicentre was located in the Mediterranean village of Zemmouri, the same area as a devastating quake that killed 2,300 people last May. Zemmouri is located 32 miles east of the capital Algiers.

The official APS news agency quoted a state geological studies centre as saying that the strong tremor was an after-effect of the May 21 quake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale.

Residents contacted by telephone said frightened locals fled their homes.

Widespread infections reported on HIV“AIDS” in Nigeria
Lagos, 13 Jan — Widespread infections have been reported on HIV/AIDS in the various social strata, age groupings and regions of Nigeria, a leading official from Nigeria’s non-governmental organization said here at the weekend.

Stella Osufili, coordinator of the Family Planning and Support Group involved in adolescent health, told a public seminar on “Youth Health and Development” in Nigeria’s commercial capital Lagos that “there is an urgent need to check the disease which is fast spreading in the country.” — MNA/Xinhua

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED
INVITATION TO TENDER
EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM
MICL invites sealed Tender from suitable Drilling Contractors to perform an Exploration Drilling Program at the Srebrana and Kyesintaung Mine Site, west bank of Monya, Myanmar.

The program shall be 21 drillings of approximately 1485 linear meters of drilling HQ and RC holes.

Quotation shall be on a linear meter drill basis and be inclusive of all costs associated with the program including consumables. Mobilization and De-mobilization shall be separate items in the quotation.

Bidding documents will be available on payment of FEC 100-00 (FEC one hundred only) from the following address during office hours between 9:30 am and 5:30 pm with effect from 19-1-2004.

Tender closing date is 30-1-2004 at 4:00 pm

Application for bidding to rental of light vehicles
70(1), Bo Chein Street
Pya Road, Hlaing Township
Yangon

Phone: 951-514196 to 951-514197.
Fax: 951-514208

General Manager,
Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited.

APPF annual meeting opens in Beijing
BEIJING, 13 Jan — The 12th annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) opened here Monday, attended by over 100 parliamentary leaders and members from 27 Asia-Pacific countries.

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, said at the opening ceremony that the meeting would enhance cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region and promote parliamentary exchanges and cooperation between countries.

During the three-day meeting, the participants will discuss international politics and security, the global and regional economies, and promoting regional stability and prosperity through cooperation. As an influential organization in the Asia-Pacific Region, the APPF aims to enhance understanding and trust, expand consensus and promote cooperation in the region. This is the first time that China, one of the founding members, has hosted such a meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

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

Sr No. Tender No. Description Qty.
1. 14/T 8 MR (S&T) V.H.F Transceiver 26-Sets
2. 14/T 9 MR (S&T) Magnetron Telephone, Switch Board, Cable, Steel Rope and Air Conditioner which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:

Closing Date: 17-2-2004 (Tuesday) (12.00) Hours
Opening Date: 17-2-2004 (Tuesday) (14:00) Hours

Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 13-1-2004 during the office hours.

For further details please call 319052, 201555 Ext: 602, 605, 612.

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.
Bush economic policies come under fire

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — President George W Bush is facing growing criticism that his economic policies, including a planned push to make his tax cuts permanent, amount to land mines in the US economy’s path.

Economists widely credit the 1.7-trillion-US-dollar in tax cuts Bush has won during his tenure with helping lift the economy out of the doldrums, but many say the care he has gone to on getting the budget back into balance.

Analysts say the President’s budget plan, due in early February, must offer compelling evidence that the administration is serious about getting spending and, failing that, driving deficits under control or risk damaging market confidence.

The Bush tax cuts helped fuel a record 374-billion-US-dollar budget gap last year, and about 3.5 per cent of US gross domestic product, the highest proportion since 1993. The White House expects that to hit about 4.5 per cent this year.

President Bush is expected to announce a serious shift to tax cuts when he presents his economic policies, including a planned push to make his tax cuts permanent, during his economic policies, including a planned push to make his tax cuts permanent, $600 billion more than the $450 billion promised in his January budget.

Bush was quoted on mahatma gandhi.

Analysts say the widening current account gap has contributed to a fall in the dollar, which hit record lows against the euro on Friday after a report showed a dump of 1,000 US jobs were created last month.

Economists had expected a rise of 130,000. Economists at the International Monetary Fund, the global economy’s watchdog, warned last week that the greenback was likely to stay under pressure as US debts mounted.

China, US, Russia begin global research network

BEIJING, 13 Jan — China, the United States and Russia began Monday a global network for scientific research, the first of its kind in the North Hemisphere connecting major scientific centres such as Chicago, Moscow and Beijing.

Experts with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the Chinese sponsor of the trilateral project, said the Global Ring Network for Advanced Applications Development (Gloriad) is expected to be an important platform for research for the Next Generation Internet (NGI).

Gloriad’s chief coordinator, Quan Huanli, chief coordinator of Gloriad, said that the new links enable research institutes in the three countries to communicate with each other and share scientific data. It might also take a step more in basic research. Gloriad is proposed as a 10-gigabit-per-second optical network around the Northern Hemisphere.

The ring begins in Chicago at the Starlight facility, funded by the US National Science Foundation, crosses the Atlantic Ocean to the Netherland facility in Amsterdam, continues to Moscow and the Russian science city of Novosibirsk, goes on to Beijing and Hong Kong, and then crosses the Pacific Ocean to complete the circuit in Chicago.

Minister Somkid Jatusripitak as saying.

At a meeting of economic ministries and trade ambassadors asked trade ministers to agree by the middle of the year to terms for a fresh start to talks that broke down in September in Cancun, Mexico, over agricultural issues.

The period after Cancun was a necessary collective catching of breath, and now we must all recommence to pushing forward. We have a chance to surprise the naysayers, the official said.

Many developing nations are trying to farm products to industrialised nations by trade obstacles aimed at shielding farmers and ranchers in those countries from being driven out of business by cheap imports.

Thailand sets ambitious target for exports

BANGKOK, 13 Jan — Thailand is striving to increase its export values during the next two years by some 20 per cent to turn the country into the world’s 10th largest exporter, local Press reported Monday.

In three years, Thailand must become one of the key exporters in the world,” the Bangkok Post quoted Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkit Jatsrisritip as saying.

Under the government’s plan, Thai exports were expected to grow from about 18 per cent to 20 per cent annually to reach 100 billion US dollars in value by the Year 2006, the paper said.

The improvement would help Thailand jump from its current 20th largest exporter to the 10th largest of the world.

The Commerce Ministry, currently projecting Thai export value this year rising 13 per cent from last year, a slight decline from the 16 per cent growth posted in the Year 2003. Total exports in 2003 were 72.9 billion US dollars.

At a meeting of economic ministries and private industry groups held on Sunday, Somkit said the exports of 90 billion US dollars achievable this year, assuming continued progress in opening new markets.

He said, by the Year 2006, exports to markets such as China, India, Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe would represent 40 per cent of Thailand’s total exports compared with 38 per cent last year.

Meanwhile, market share to traditional trading partners including the United States, Japan, European and ASEAN needed to be maintained.

While trying to keep economic development by stimulating domestic consumption and investment, the Thai government also stepped up its efforts to improve the country’s international trade sectors.

The government has been active in holding talks with neighbouring countries and major trade partners on free trade initiatives. Last year, the kingdom reached out for free trade agreement negotiations with many countries including China, India and the United States.

MNA/Reuters

Indian-American Republican Council deplores Mahatma Gandhi’s remarks

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — The Indian-American Republican Council Saturday asked Senator Hillary Clinton to apologize directly to the Indo-American community for the “outrageous” comments she reportedly made on Mahatma Gandhi.

It is simply outrageous that the Hillary Clinton used the venerable Mahatma Gandhi to perpetuate racial stereotyping, the Council’s co-chairman Sudhakar Shenoy said.

Hillary had joked that Mahatma Gandhi used to own a gas station in the US, while speaking at a fund-raiser for Senate candidate Nancy Farmer. She had regretted the comments in the same speech saying Gandhi was a great leader of the 20th Century. ‘Hillary Clinton said she was just making ‘a lame attempt at humour’. This is truly shameful. I assume that the Indian-American community is not laughing. Humour based on racial slurs has no place in public discourse. We call on Hillary Clinton and Nancy Farmer to apologize directly to Indian Americans,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Mars rover stands up to full height

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — The Mars Spirit rover has fully unfolded itself and stretched up to its full height, and may be unfolding itself and stretching up to its full height, ready to drive off its landing platform on the Martian surface as early as Wednesday, NASA said recently.

“It now stands at full height and all six wheels are in their final position,” mission manager Jennifer Trosper told reporters at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The Spirit rover, which landed on Mars on January 3, was set to begin a three-month search for evidence that the Red Planet may once have been a wet world conducive to life. On its seventh Martian day, Spirit carried out one of the most complex deployments ever performed by a robotic spacecraft to morph from its tetrahedron landing shape into a six-wheeled, golf cart-sized vehicle like a four-petal flower.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
Referee getsbrickbacks from Ferguson, Shearer

LONDON, 13 Jan.—Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson and Newcastle captain Alan Shearer joined in criticizing match referee Paul Durkin after a controversial 0-0 draw on Sunday.

Durkin came under fire after admitting Shearer should have had a penalty when he was tripped by United keeper Tim Howard, but sticking by a later decision to disallow a strike by United defender Mikael Silvestre.

“She’s a team player and he showed that today.”

The Welshman added: “I’m keeping Louis here. Louis had the chance to go one of the best clubs in the world and we understand that, but it’s my choice and I’ve said ‘no’.

‘He’s too important to us... He’s terrific guy and I sympathize with him wanting to go on but the time is not right for us.”

Arsenal face striker crisis after Aliadiere injury

LONDON, 13 Jan.—Premier League Leaders Arsenal face a striker crisis after young Frenchman Jeremie Aliadiere hobbled off in Saturday’s 4-1 win over Everton.

Aliadiere will be out for three to four weeks with a knee ligament injury after being hurt shortly before halftime at Highbury, joining forwards Dennis Bergkamp and Sylvain Wiltord on the treatment table.

Nigeria’s Nwankwo Kanu, who came on as substitute in the second half against Boro, is due to depart for the African Nations Cup next week, leaving France’s Thierry Henry as the only man fit and ready to lead the Arsenal line.

Manager Arsene Wenger does not want to buy replacements in the transfer window although there are funds available. Ironically, he has allowed forwards Jermaine Pennant and Frances Jefferson to leave on loan this season to Leeds United and Everton respectively.

“Jeremie’s injury is a blow for us,” said Wenger. “I have good young players and at some stage you have to give them a chance and I’m glad today I gave Jeremie a chance, despite his injury.”

The African Nations Cup starts on January 24 but Wenger hopes Kanu will be available to play against Aston Villa in the Premier League next Sunday.

“It’s a big blow that he plays... he wants to play,” said Wenger, who plans to rest Henry soon so he can be fit for the closing stages of the season.”

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said Fulham were at fault for the controversy over striker Louis Saha (pictured) after the London club accused him of wanting to go on but the time is not right for us.”

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said Paul Durkin, who later regretted having denied Newcastle skipper Alan Shearer a first-half penalty, though he had no second thoughts after a goal he disallowed for Unit-ed’s France defender Mikael Silvestre.

But the draw was good news for both Arsenal, the overnight leaders on alphabeti-cal order, and Chelsea, who hammered Leicester City 4-0 earlier on Sunday and reduced the gap separating them from United to five points.

The result in Manchester was a setback for United, who had won their six previous league games and had also been 5-3 winners in this fixture last season.

Newcastle put on a battling performance and were unlucky in the 26th minute when Shearer burst into the area and TV pictures showed him being tripped by Amer-i-can keeper Tim Howard.

Durkin told Sky Sports afterwards he had been too far away to be certain of Howard’s contact but admitted, after seeing a video replay, that a mistake had been made.

Asked if he would have given a spot-kick having seen it from the camera angle, he said: “Absolutely... obviously I’m a little bit disappointed from a personal point of view because we like to get the big ones right.”

Shearer’s team were no luckier in the second half when midfielder Jermaine Jenas hit the bar with a header.

But the wheel of fortune turned against United after 65 minutes when Silvestre’s effort was disallowed for pushing on New-castle defender Andy O’Brien.

Chelsea get back on track at Leicester

LONDON, 13 Jan.—Champions Manchester United went top of the Premier League on Sunday, but only by a point after being held to a 0-0 draw by Newcastle United at Old Trafford.

Both sides rued decisions by referee Howard, who has been outstanding as United’s first-choice keeper, maintained another clean-sheet on Sunday in a 0.0 draw with Newcastle — a result that sent the champions back to the top of the League.

In a statement issued before their Pre-mier League game with Newcastle on Sun-day, United said: “All our transfer deals are approved by the board of Manchester United plc and are conducted in accordance with FIFA and FA rules.

“Details of payments involved in those deals are sent to the football authorities as required under their regulations.”

Howard signed a four-year contract from the New York/New Jersey MetroStars in a 2.3-million-pound (4.2 million US dollars) deal.

United deny any wrongdoing in Howard transfer

LONDON, 13 Jan.—Manchester United have denied any wrongdoing in the transfer deal that brought goalkeeper Tim Howard to the club from the US last July.

The English Football Association (FA) has been sent documents by Britain’s Sun-day Times newspaper, which carried a front page story saying the FA was to investigate the deal.

The Sunday Times reported Monday money was passed from one agent to another after the deal was completed.

In a statement issued before their Pre-mier League game with Newcastle on Sun-day, United said: “All our transfer deals are approved by the board of Manchester United plc and are conducted in accordance with FIFA and FA rules.

“Details of payments involved in those deals are sent to the football authorities as required under their regulations.”

Howard signed a four-year contract from the New York/New Jersey MetroStars in a 2.3-million-pound (4.2 million US dollars) deal.

The Sunday Times said it had passed on leaked documents to the FA’s compliance unit which looks at soccer transfers.

The FA’s executive director David Davies was quoted as saying: “They will be studied carefully and any breach of the rules and regulations that they show will then be dis-cussed as a matter of urgency.”

An FA spokesman confirmed on Sunday the material would be looked at.

Howard, who has been outstanding as United’s first-choice keeper, maintained another clean-sheet on Sunday in a 0.0 draw with Newcastle — a result that sent the cham-pions back to the top of the League.

The win enabled Chelsea to shrug off their mid-week home loss to Liverpool and keep the pressure on champions United, who were playing later on Sun-day at home to Newcastle United.

It will also have settled a few nerves at Stamford Bridge, with Claudia Ranieri’s men at risk of be-ing left behind in the title race after losing three of their previous five games.

“Today we showed char-acter, skill — every-thing,” Ranieri’s told Sky Sports. “This match was im-portant for getting our confi-dence back... we really wanted to win.”

Hasselbank summed up the mood in the Chelsea changing room, saying: “I was up for it and I think everybody else was because we had a point to prove.”

With Argentine striker Hernan Crespo injured, Ranieri reverted by his tried and tested strike pairing of Hasselbank and Iceland’s Eidur Gudjohnsen. Hasselbank responded by neatly backheeling his first after only 12 minutes, beating his marker Nikos Dabizas to Joe Cole’s low cross from the right.

Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbank (4L) acknowledges the crowd after scoring his second. Chelsea stayed in touch with the title race after an emphatic 4-0 drubbing of Leicester ended a poor week for the big-spending club.

United go top after Newcastle draw

LONDON, 13 Jan—Champions Manchester United went top of the Premier League on Sunday, but only by a point after being held to a 0-0 draw by Newcastle United at Old Trafford.

Saha, who has been quoted in papers as being “disgusted” by Coleman’s refusal to accept a United bid, put Fulham ahead from the penalty spot and gave an all-round performance which delighted his manager.

“For Louis Saha to put in a performance like that, consid-ering what’s going on and what’s been said in the newspapers, is a testament to Louis’ professionalism and the way he ap-proaches his football,” Coleman told Sky Sports.

‘He’s a team player and he showed that today.”

But the Welshman added: “I’m keeping Louis here. Louis had the chance to go one of the best clubs in the world and we understand that, but it’s my choice and I’ve said ‘no’.

He’s too important to us... He’s terrific guy and I sympa-thize with him wanting to go on but the time is not right for us.”

The win enabled Chelsea to shrug off their mid-week home loss to Liverpool and keep the pressure on champions United, who were playing later on Sun-day at home to Newcastle United.

It will also have settled a few nerves at Stamford Bridge, with Claudia Ranieri’s men at risk of be-ing left behind in the title race after losing three of their previous five games.

“Today we showed char-acter, skill — every-thing,” Ranieri’s told Sky Sports. “This match was im-portant for getting our confi-dence back... we really wanted to win.”

Hasselbank summed up the mood in the Chelsea changing room, saying: “I was up for it and I think everybody else was because we had a point to prove.”

With Argentine striker Hernan Crespo injured, Ranieri reverted by his tried and tested strike pairing of Hasselbank and Iceland’s Eidur Gudjohnsen. Hasselbank responded by neatly backheeling his first after only 12 minutes, beating his marker Nikos Dabizas to Joe Cole’s low cross from the right.

Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbank (4L) acknowledges the crowd after scoring his second. Chelsea stayed in touch with the title race after an emphatic 4-0 drubbing of Leicester ended a poor week for the big-spending club.

INTERVIEW

Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbank (4L) acknowledges the crowd after scoring his second. Chelsea stayed in touch with the title race after an emphatic 4-0 drubbing of Leicester ended a poor week for the big-spending club.
Tuesday, 13 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rainband have been widespread in Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Kayin, Mon States and Bago Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperature were 3°C above normal in Ayeyawady Division, 6°C above normal in Tanintharyi Division, 7°C above normal in Mon State, 4°C below normal in Magway Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myek (2.72) inches.

Maximum temperature on 12-1-2004 was 33.9°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 13-1-2004 was 17.4°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 13-1-2004 was 92%. Total rainfall hours on 12-1-2004 was 6.4 hours approx. Rainfall on 13-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall in 2004 was 15 mph from East-Northeast at 1830 hours MST on 12-1-2004.

Bay Influence: Weather is partly cloudy in Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast until evening: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagraing and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining. Degree of certainty: Medium.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Gulf of Montana, off and along Mon-Tanintharyi coasts. Surface wind speed in squally may reach (35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent 2-3 days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain (or) thundershowers in Southern Myanmar area.

R 485 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable: Newslight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296664, Circulation 297039, Advertisement 296843. Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) 297028 (Press).
**Myanmar Police Force Management Reform Committee meets**

YANGON, 13 Jan — The Myanmar Police Force Management Reform Committee held its 14th coordination meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were the minister for Home Affairs, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the vice-chief of Military Intelligence, officials and departmental heads.

In his address, the Secretary-2 said that the committee has been laying down future tasks after reviewing progress made by the MPF and weak and strong points.

The MPF has to mainly form the MPF established in 1948 and so it is important to reform the MPF in the colonial period for its modernization, he noted. The Head of State has given guidance to reform the police force to become the State’s reserve force with good discipline. In this regard, the police force must be a patriotic, skilled and modern one. That is why the management reform committee has been formed, he added.

The 13th coordination meeting passed resolutions for members of the MPF:
- to fully discharge national, justice and sympathy duties if necessary
- to make efforts for accomplishment of the project for prevention against trafficking in person and elimination of narcotic drugs, and
- to strive to become skillful force in form and essence.

It is incumbent upon the MPF members to make efforts for cent per cent accomplishment of the resolutions. At such an opportune time when the MPF is carrying out reforming tasks, all are to endeavour at full capacity for emergence of the police force with full essence, he urged. He invited the members to make suggestions for reforming the management systems.

In conclusion, the Secretary-2 called on the MPF members to make collective efforts in reforming tasks in the interests of the nation and the MPF; to become disciplined, fine, brave and competent one; and to (See page 10)

**Drug culprit handed over to China**

YANGON, 13 Jan — Acting on a tip-off, members of local intelligence unit searched Kyinpaing Hotel in Sarawmi Myothit, Laukkai, at 11.30 pm on 24 December 2003 and seized drug abuser Kyauk Kum Myin (a) Kyauk Kaung Myin of China together with 17 grams of heroin and 80 stimulant pills.

A ceremony to hand over the drug culprit to China was held at Kyinthu Hotel, Yanlonkyaing Station in Laukkai on 31 December afternoon, attended by Lt-Col Aye Lwin of Laukkai Station and officials, Deputy Head of Drugs Control Unit of Kyinekhmait District Police Force of China Police Lt-Col Pekwumshi and members.

The leaders of Myanmar delegation and Chinese delegation made speeches.

Head of Laukkai District Police Force Police Major Khin Maung Myint presented the documents relating to the culprit, Kyauk Kum Myin (a) Kyauk Kaung Myin, 47, son of U Kyauk Paung Chan.

Afterwards, the culprit was handed over to the Chinese officials on Yanlonkyaing Bridge.