Remedial measures still need to be taken for prevalence of law and order and administration of justice

Prime Minister meets judges and law officers

In the process, measures are being taken in the judicial sector for ensuring law enforcement, public security and all the people to live in the legal fold with peace of mind.

At such a time, the responsibility to develop the law enforcement sector, covering the administration of justice, in accord with the national goals depends on the morale, skill and work efficiency of experts and administrators including judges, law officers, attorneys, police officers, inspectors, forensic experts and doctors, and management officials.

The Prime Minister continued to say that he has to give instructions to officials as the government acknowledges the important role of officials of the law enforcement sector.

He also recounted the instructions that were given to officials—judges are to judge a case in accord with the seven principles of judicial system; to be free from bribery for correctness of judicial pillar; to strive for exposing the truth in order to win the trust of the people and ensure that the ones who break the law could not disrespect the court.

(See page 9)

Prime Minister attends demonstration of basic Maha Gita CD-ROM

YANGON, 17 Jan—A demonstration of basic Maha Gita CD-ROM was held at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Hline Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association and guests.

Next, Ma The Myat Soe, a third year student majoring in music of University of Culture (Yangon) presented singing of Maha Gita songs with the help of musical instruments played by Assistant Lecturer U Zaw Win Min of University of Culture (Mandalay).

Managing Director of Inforithm Maze Co Ltd U Thaung Su Nyein presented CD-ROMs purchased by the Ministry of Education to Distributors and Computer Technicians in Yangon.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives CD-ROMs from Inforithm Maze Co Ltd Managing Director U Thaung Su Nyein. — MNA
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.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint pay homage to Phayagyi Taik Naya Monastery Sayadaw

YANGON, 17 Jan — The second round matches of the ITF 14 and Under Asian Championship 2004 Asia Zone-2 continues.

In the men’s singles events of the second round quarter finals, Phyo Min Tha of Myanmar beat Kwan of Malaysia 6-2, 6-4; Babar and Nazir of Pakistan beat Rijal of Nepal 6-0, 6-3; Vythina Than of Malaysia beat Jaya Wickrema of Sri Lanka 6-2, 7-5; Arudp Raga Sam and Hilmy of Maldives 6-0, 6-0; Khine Nyein Tha and Moe Chit Thee of Myanmar 6-2, 6-4 and moved to the semi finals.

In the men’s doubles events, Win Htet Paing and Phyo Min Tha of Myanmar beat Kapki and Sherpa of Nepal 6-2, 6-3; Kwang and Shanmu Gam of Malaysia beat Aung Ko Ko of Myanmar and Raza of Pakistan 7-5, 6-4; and Babar and Nazir of Pakistan beat Munkhaatar and Munkhisaikhan of Mongolia 7-6, 6-3.

The second round finals will be held at the same venue on 18 January morning. — MNA
Landmine destroys packed bus in Iraq, as tens of thousands demonstrate

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan— A bus packed with Iraqi youths was blown apart by a landmine leaving three dead near Saddam Hussein’s hometown Tikrit in northern Iraq as a new post-war currency began circulating and tens of thousands demonstrated in Basra for elections.

The attack on the Tikrit university vehicle, described as “cowardly” by the US military, came as Shiite Muslims filled the streets of the southern city of Basra to support their spiritual leader’s call for elections.

Preparations meanwhile were underway for talks at the UN on Iraq’s future.

Paul Bremer, the US civilian overseer in Iraq, was due for talks at UN headquarters in New York on Monday accompanied by Iraqi Governing Council president Adnan Pachachi.

Pachachi told reporters that he, Bremer, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan would hold “three-way discussions.

“I am confident the talks will have positive results,” he said. “We will clarify from Secretary General Kofi Annan and his aides what the UN can provide over the next months as Iraq regains its sovereignty.”

US officials said Bremer would stop in Washington en route for talks at the White House.—Internet

Bush booted in visit to Martin Luther King’s grave

ATLANTA, 17 Jan—Several hundred protesters loudly booted US President George W Bush on Thursday as he laid a wreath at the grave of Martin Luther King on the anniversary of the latter’s birth.

“Bush go home” and “peace not war” the protesters shouted from behind a barrier of parked buses across the street from King’s grave.

Bush was accompanied by King’s widow Coretta Scott King, and sister Christine King Farris.

MNA/Reuters

France has no plans to send troops to Iraq

PARIS, 17 Jan—France is interested in helping to train an Iraqi police force, but sending in a military contingent is not on the agenda now, the foreign minister said Friday.

France wants to contribute to Iraq’s security by helping to train the nation’s next generation of police officers — once power is transferred to a sovereign Iraqi government, Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said.

“There are a number of domains of possible cooperation,” de Villepin said in his annual address to the news media. “France wants to give its contribution in the face of this Iraq crisis.”

France has offered to share expertise with Iraqi police after the US-led coalition hands power to an Iraqi transitional government on 1 July. But he said the question of sending in French troops is “not a current topic.”

France will continue holding a dialogue with the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, de Villepin said.

President Jacques Chirac and de Villepin were among the leading voices against the US-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein and have called for the US occupation forces to turn power over to Iraqis themselves.

France has refused to participate in the multinational force responsible for security and did not pledge new aid at a donor’s conference in Madrid in October, holding back because it says the United States is moving too slowly to restore Iraqi sovereignty.—Internet

Survey shows Israelis smoke less, but grow fatter

JERUSALEM, 17 Jan—A just released survey shows that although Israelis smoke less and are becoming more aware of their health problems, they grow fatter, Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported Thursday.

The survey, conducted between April and October last year, showed that the number of Israeli smokers dropped from 29 per cent in 1998 to 24 per cent in 2002, while the average weight of Israelis rose significantly.

The average weight of men rose from 75 kilos in 1998 to 78 kilos four years later, and the average weight of women rose from 63 kilos to 66 kilos during the period, according to the telephone survey, which is taken every two years.

The result of the survey, which polled 3,500 Israeli residents aged over 18, was released earlier this week by Dov Tamir, director of the health promotion department with the Israeli Ministry’s Education.

The main purpose of the poll is to locate risk factors for illness and death among Israelis, in order to better educate the public on good health habits. Tamir said.

“Most Israelis deaths are to a great extent connected to behaviour, such as lack of physical activity, poor nutrition and smoking. Therefore, educating the public in these areas is very important, sometimes more so than building another hospital or hiring more doctors,” he said.

According to the Health Ministry’s statistics, of the 35,000 people who die every year in Israel, some 40 per cent died of cardiovascular diseases, and some 20 per cent died of cancer.

Tamir said that the survey also indicated that the plague of obesity currently affecting the United States and other Western countries, has spread to Israel.

In 1998, 8 percent of the men and 12 percent of the women reported that they were overweight, while in 2002, the figure rose to 13 per cent among both men and women.

Low body weight was also on the rise. In 1998, 8 per cent of the women polled reported that they were underweight, while four years later that number had doubled.—MNA/Xinhua

Bush booted in visit to Martin Luther King’s grave

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Bush was accompanied by King’s widow Coretta Scott King, and sister Christine King Farris.

MNA/Reuters

South Korean Samsung to close company in Britain

LONDON, 17 Jan—South Korean electronics giant Samsung announced Thursday it would close its sole company in Britain because of fierce competition from cheaply-produced cars in Asia and Eastern Europe.

Samsung’s facility in Billingham, northeast England, which produces micro-wave ovens and computer monitors, would close in April with the loss of 425 jobs, Samsung said in a statement.

The company blamed low worldwide prices for making it “impossible” for the plant to compete with the equivalent products manufactured in Eastern Europe and the Far East.

Trade union officials said that the news illustrated that Britain was unable to compete with less developed economies, irrespective of moves to free up employment restrictions. “This is a wake up call to the government that it can no longer pretend the economy is in rude health,” said Davey Hall from the Amicus union, which represents workers from several industries. — MNA/Xinhua

Brazil wins big cuts in prices for AIDS drugs

BRASILIA, 17 Jan—Brazil said on Thursday it had won the biggest price reductions in five years for drugs used in its anti-AIDS programme, which has been acclaimed as a model for the developing world.

The discounts won in talks with big drug firms will save Brazil $299 million reais (107 million US dollars) on AIDS treatment this year and allow 20,000 new patients to receive the health ministry’s cocktail of free drugs in 2004, which is the main element of its programme.

Brazil negotiated deals with major makers of AIDS drugs in recent weeks and months which led to price discounts of between 10 and 76 per cent for five of the most expensive 15 drugs used in the cocktail, usually a combination of protease inhibitors and antiretroviral drugs.

One coup for Brazil was a deal with Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche Holding AG to agree to a five per cent discount for nelfinavir after long and hard negotiations. Roche will also donate the drug for children who receive the cocktail.

MNA/Reuters
**US lawmaker says intelligence wrong on Iraq WMD**

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan— Pre-war US intelligence assessments were wrong about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction and President George W Bush should offer fixes in his State of the Union speech, the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee said on Friday.

Representative Jane Harman of California said there were good reasons to support regime change in Baghdad, but better intelligence on Iraq could have allowed more time for diplomacy and to build international support for military action.

“But if 9/11 was a failure to connect the dots, it appears that the intelligence community, in the case of Iraq’s WMD, connected the dots to the wrong conclusions,” Harman said in a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, a copy of which was released here.

Democrats have started the election year by criticizing the Republican White House for justifying the war on Iraq on threats from chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programmes, even though no solid evidence of such arms has been found.

“The President should lead the effort to improve his intelligence on weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. I urge him in his State of the Union address next Tuesday to acknowledge the problems and outline specific steps to fix them,” Harman said.

If David Kay, chief US weapons hunter in Iraq, does not resign, Harman forecast, “It would be the verge of uncovering large stockpiles of weapons,” Harman said.

She criticized a pre-war report, the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq, as a “significantly flawed document” for its assessment that Iraq possessed agency for chemical and biological weapons, and was reconstituting its nuclear weapons program.

“We are being told that Saddam Hussein was the chief of that program,” Harman said. “But if 9/11 was a failure to connect the dots, it appears that the intelligence community, in the case of Iraq’s WMD, connected the dots to the wrong conclusions,” Harman said.

She criticized a pre-war report, the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq, as a “significantly flawed document” for its assessment that Iraq possessed agency for chemical and biological weapons, and was reconstituting its nuclear weapons program.

“Three Iraqis killed in mine blast near Tikrit”

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan— Three Iraqis were killed and two others wounded when an anti-tank mine exploded near Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit on Thursday, the US military said.

The powerful mine struck a bus carrying university students at about 6:30 pm (1530 GMT) west of Tikrit, 160 kilometres north of Baghdad. US Captain Craig Childs told reporters in the restive city.

The spokesman said the bomb blast mangled half of the bus and the casualties were probably all students from Tikrit University.

Tikrit remained a stronghold of Saddam, who was captured by US forces in an underground hole south of the city on December 13.

**China bans pigs, wild boars from S Korea**

BROOKLYN, 17 Jan— China began to forbid imports, pigs, wild boars and any pig and wild boar product from South Korea, which reported hog cholera cases early January.

China’s State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (SAQSIQ) and the Ministry of Agriculture jointly issued the circular Thursday.

All pigs, wild boars and their produce that have been transported to China from South Korea will be returned or destroyed, the SAQSIQ source said.

The circular also forbade pigs, wild boars and their produce from South Korea to be sent by post or carried by passengers. These produce from the South Korea will be sealed up if they are found on international ships, airplanes and trains going through China, the SAQSIQ source said.—MNA/Xinhua

**Thailand, Malaysia to develop border area for stability**

BANGKOK, 17 Jan— Thailand and Malaysia were determined to jointly develop the two countries’ border area so as to maintain the region’s stability, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his visiting Malaysian counterpart Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said here on Friday.

“Thailand and Malaysia have to extend and deepen the bilateral relations and coordinate more and together in order to help economic development of the two states especially developed along the border,” Abdullah told reporters at a joint Press conference held after his two-hour meeting with Thaksin.

He said that both sides believed that joint development in southern Thailand and northern Malaysia would improve the region’s stability and bring local people more opportunities.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint mechanism in charge of development of the two countries’ border area. Thaksin told reporters.

The initiative named Joint Strategy Development would be headed by the two countries’ foreign ministers to study how to jointly develop the economy of the border area, said Thai Government spokesman Fakrapob Penkair after the joint Press conference.

During their meeting, the two leaders also reiterated their willingness to work on intelligence and information sharing and exchange so as to fight “terrorists existing in the region”, Thaksin said.

To prevent assailants with both Thai and Malaysian nationalities to flee hunt by entering Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur had ordered to tighten border check along bilateral border.

The Malaysian authorities also handed over a couple of suspected separatists to Thailand for investigation of the violence.—MNA/Xinhua

**Geoff Hoon urged to quit over soldier’s death in Iraq**

LONDON, 17 Jan— The British Government on Thursday rejected calls for the resignation of Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon over the death of a soldier whose widow was killed in Iraq because he had to hand back his body armour.

Samantha Roberts, widow of Sergeant Steve Roberts who was shot in the chest last March, earlier on Thursday released an audio diary made by her husband in which he complained about the poor level of supplies available to British soldiers.

He had described the lack of equipment as “disgraceful”.

“We know we are going to have to go to war without the correct equipment,” he said just before the US-led invasion of Iraq and his own death in Basra on March 23.

The Ministry of Defence has acknowledged difficulties in ensuring frontline forces received equipment supplies.

The opposition Conservative Party said body armour would have saved the 33-year-old. His widow believes that makes the ministry responsible for his death.

“Clearly the report that came out, to me suggests that they are responsible... for him not having a flak jacket being originally issued, and then withdrawn because there were not enough to go around,” she told BBC television.

Conservative leader Michael Howard said Roberts’ death amounted to a “grave dereliction of duty” and called on Hoon to quit.

IRAQ UNDER US OCUPATION

US soldiers secure the area where a bomb exploded, killing a 15-year-old and wounding five other people as US soldiers and Iraqi police tried to defuse it.

INTERNET

Fawziyah Khalaf, left, and her son Jassim Mohammed sit on a Baghdad street on Friday 16 Jan, 2004 where they say they have lived since losing their home to US bombing during the war. Across the city, Iraqis left homeless by US bombing, take shelter in abandoned homes and beg for food and money on the streets.

INTERNET

A US soldier watches from his vehicle as Iraqi families protest from the roadside in the Arasat al-Hindia neighborhood of Baghdad on Friday 16 Jan, 2004. The family members, who have been squatting in abandoned homes in the area after being left homeless since the war in 2003, claim that American troops have given them a three-day deadline to leave because there is a US military base adjacent to them.

INTERNET

Two US soldiers react after an improvised explosive device detonated next to them in Baghdad in this image taken from TV on Friday 16 Jan, 2004. The soldiers were uninjured but two Iraqi children were hurt in the incident.

INTERNET

Demonstrators carry pictures of the former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during a rally in the center of Jordanian capital Amman on January 16, 2004. Several thousands protesters were shouting anti-American slogans in support of the anti-US resistance in Iraq.

INTERNET

Iraqi families watch from the balcony of their apartment building as a US soldier stands guard after a roadside bomb exploded in the area injuring two Iraqi children on Friday 16 Jan, 2004. The explosion occurred after US soldiers approached a suspicious device to inspect it.
Top Iraqi Shiite holds talks with tribal leaders

Najaf (Iraq), 17 Jan — Thousands of people flocked to Friday prayers in Iraq’s Shiite heartland as the sect’s most senior clerical met tribal leaders to discuss his opposition to a US plan for transferring power to Iraqis.

Residents said attendance was higher than usual at mosques in Najaf, the holiest Shiite city in Iraq, reflecting growing support for Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and his demand for an elected government to replace the US occupation authorities.

US administrators in Iraq have said it is impossible to hold elections before a June 30 deadline to hand over power and have proposed instead that a government selected by regional caucuses take over and hold polls next year.

Sistani is one of the most revered men in Iraq, where Shiites are a majority, and his opposition to the US blueprint is a major blow to Washington.

The top US representa
tive in Iraq, Paul Bremer, was to meet President George W Bush in Wash
ington on Friday to discuss options.

Sistani remained in his rooms during the day in Najaf, within 500 yards of the gold domed tomb of the sect’s most revered Imam Ali. Aides said he was meeting tribal leaders from around Iraq to discuss the transfer of power.

“We are with Sistani, whatever he does,” said Hassan-Mosssawi, a youth selling swathes of cloth by the side of the shrine. “We agree with all his demands.”

An aide said on Thurs
day that Sistani could issue a fatwa, or edict, banning Shiites from cooperating with any authority installed by Washington unless direct elections are held.

The move could pit the country’s majority Shiite community squarely against the coalition forces, but there was no immediate sign that Sistani was plan
ing such a step.

On Friday, another of Sistani’s aides told Reuters Television there was still time to find a compromise and that people would come to stage peace
demonstrations to show their oppo
tion to the US plan.

“There is still room for dialogue and meetings to reach the solution that will allow the Iraqi people to express their will,” Sheikh Ab al Mahdi al Karbalai said. — MNA/Reuters

UNSC promises to help complete Afghan apeace proc process


The Council made the promise in a statement issued after hearing a final briefing by the outgoing UN special representative for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi.

Meanwhile, the Council stressed that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the Central Asian country resides with the Afghans themselves.

The creation of a secure environment and the provision of sufficient funding remain important conditions for national elections mandated by the Bonn peace agreement, the 15-nation Council emphasized.

“Credible provincial and district elections in 2004 as well as the reconstruction and development in all parts of Afghanistan will be essential for the lasting stabilization of Afghan
istan,” it added.

In his opening address to the Council’s special meet
ing, United Nations Secre
tary-General Kofi Annan re
called his call for Afghans to improve the fragile security in their country.

Currently, a multinational peacekeeping force numbering more than 5,000 is stationed in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

“The NATO-led force is prepared to expand its opera
tion zone beyond Kabul to other major cities, but the process has not yet begun.” — MNA/Xinhua

Uganda earns more from coffee export

KAMPALA, 17 Jan — Uganda earned 10 million US dollars from export of 228,407 60-kilo bags of coffee last month, representing an increase in both volume and value of 65.4 per cent and 68.2 per cent respectively over November of 2003.

The monthly report from the Uganda Coffee Develop
cement Authority issued on Friday said that the average realized price at the export level for December stood at 72 US cents per kilo, up from 72 cents received in the pre
erious month, local media reported.

The drop in price was attributed to coffee with dis
ease which has destroyed over 45 per cent of the old red and productive trees since 1993, and low prices that led to reduce care at farm level. Robusta coffee ac
counted for 74.3 per cent of total exports, up from 60.4 per cent realized in November. — MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows Old City of Jerusalem most at risk if quake strikes

JERUSALEM, 17 Jan — The Old City would be the worst hit part of Jerusalem if a serious earthquake were to strike the holy city, a survey published by Israel news
paper Haaretz on Friday said.

Initiated by city engineer Uri Sheitr at a cost of 93,023 US dollars in order to help draw up the city’s fu
ture construction plans, the survey was commissioned by Jerusalem municipality and carried out by Israel Geolo
gical Institution.

According to the survey, some southeastern regions of Jerusalem, including towns of Einuk Refaim, Abu Tod, Bakaa and East Talpiot, were described as high risk areas.

Several Arab villages on the outskirts of the holy city were also included in the dangerous zones, the survey said, adding that these areas have a high sensitive geological location as well as problematic infrastructure that could destabilize the land during an earthquake.

“As city engineer, a seis
mological survey is very im
potent to me, as well as for the planners and contractors who are building in the city,” said Sheitr.

US military probes reports of Iraqi detainee abuse

BAGHDAD, 17 Jan — The US military said on Friday it was investigating reports of detainees being abused at one of its detention centres in Iraq, but gave no details of the allegations.

An investigation has been initiated into reported incidents of detainee abuse at a Coalition Forces detention facility. “The Army’s public affairs office said in a statement. “The release of specific information con
taining the incidents could hinder the investigation, which is in its early stages.”

The (US-led) Coali
tion is committed to treating all persons under its control with dignity, respect and humanity. The Army gave no further details and it was unclear where the reports of abuse originated.

The United States is holding an estimated 9,500 detainees in Iraq on security grounds. Others have been detained and released since Saddam Hussein was ousted last April. US-led forces are battling to stamp out guerilla attacks they blame on Saddam’s supporters and foreign Islamic militants.

Relatives of some de
tainees have accused the US military of holding them without justification, or solely for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Human rights groups have been pressing the mili
tary to introduce a more transparent system for deal
ing with Iraqis detained on raids. Last week, US forces freed scores of Iraqi prison
ers after announcing a planned amnesty for some 500 low-threat detainees.

One man, who declined to give his name, said he had been poorly treated by the Americans in the Abu Ghirab jail, west of Baghdad, where Saddam’s once kept his worst enemies. On 5 January, the US Army said a commander had found that three US sol
diers had abused Iraqi pris
oners while transporting them to a confinement facil
ity at Camp Bucca in southern
eral Iraq last May. It said the soldiers had been discharged.

The commander found one detainee had been kicked repeatedly in the groin, ab
dominal and head. The sol
diers said they were acting in self-defence after being as
saulted by prisoners. In an
other incident, the Army said an officer had greed to leave the service after a case in which he was found to have committed aggravated as
sault on an Iraqi detainee.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia to be free from leprosy by 2020

JAKARTA, 17 Jan — Indonesian Minister of Health Achmad Sujadi said on Fri
day the country will be free from leprosy by 2020. “Cur
tently, the ratio of lepers to the country’s population is still 1:10,000,” the minister was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

Sujadi said on the sidelines of the 51st world leprosy day that such a ratio was found in some 111 districts in 13 provinces. The 13 prov
inces are: Aceh, Jakarta, East Java, South Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, North Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, Papua, North Maluku and Gorontalo. — MNA/Xinhua

Culture Ministry workers remove an ancient column from the Parthenon during a renovation on the ancient Acropolis hill in Athens, on 16 Jan, 2004. Archaeologists are restoring and cleaning the 2,500-year-old Parthenon and plan to complete the project before Athens hosts the Olympic Games in August. — Xinhua

A US soldier from the 16th Engineer Battalion stands guard at the entrance of the Bab Muzam campus of Baghdad University recently. About 60 US soldiers will be flown home from Iraq via Turkey. — Xinhua
The prosperous future of a nation rests largely on the potential of its human resources. There were times when communication was simply one of many stand-alone sectors of a country’s economy. However, those days of isolation are no more.

Inventive combinations of current technologies are being tried as ways to overcome limitations on electronic devices and send information to the right place at the right time on the right device in the right mode. With the explosive emergence of electronic devices around the world, communication is becoming more and more wirelessly in this rapidly changing world.

It is therefore safe to assume that in such an Information Age of the 21st century, communication is the invisible hand that pushes every enhanced transaction forwards.

With the aim of keeping pace with the development of the information and communication technology, the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has been hammering away at developing human resources by producing well-rounded individuals in various sectors.

In that role, the Third Annual Myanmar ICT Week 2004 will be launched by the e-National Task Force and the Myanmar ICT Development Corporation at the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park (MICT Park) on Hilme University Campus in Yangon from 21 to 27 of this month.

I was granted an opportunity to meet U Aung Zaw Myint, Managing Director of MICTDC. When asked about the purposes of holding the third ICT Week, he said it was held to make everyone know all the latest developments of information and communication technology in Myanmar, to ensure widespread use of ICT applications in industries, and to attract the public interest to ICT.

He also said arrangements were being made to open courses on ICT, adding that invitations had been sent to foreign nations to introduce new products.

Social Security Board celebrates golden jubilee

Manager of Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd U Tun Thura Thet.

No doubt that online education has the potential not only to change the way of learning but also to make well-rounded education more accessible to a broader spectrum of students.

In an interview with U Tun Thura Thet, Managing Director of Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd, he explained to me that his company was set up in 1997 with a total strength of 130 employees in order to help promote the ICT industry in Myanmar.

I found him to be a man of great ambition. MIT is one of a few leading software developers in Myanmar in a relatively short space of time as it is efficient and capable of providing reliable and trustworthy solutions with the application of highly innovative state-of-the-art technology when it comes to ICT.

I also had an opportunity to meet U Tin Myint, General Manager of Suntac Technologies.

According to him, the company mainly engages in a wide range of spatial data services, specialising in Geodetic Surveying, Engineering Survey, Data Capture, Satellite Image Processing, Aerial Photo Processing, Geological Mapping, Orthophoto Mapping, Geographic Information System, and Remote Sensing technologies in respect to forestry, mining, agriculture, engineering, and environmental preservation, and other related fields.

In providing these services, the company receives assistance from ministries concerned.

It is encouraging to see the Myanmar ICT industry reach a new height as a result of concerted efforts made by the governmental organisations and respective private companies.

Therefore, now is the time for the only chance of living a lifetime to build the future of our country that will promise bright prospects to our generations to come.

The possibilities are unlimited should we strive in tandem for translating our dreams into reality in an unyielding spirit.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends tasks for upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Yangon Zoological Gardens. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects tasks for upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens and Yangon Zoological Gardens. — MNA

Commander inspects vegetable plantations

Yangon, 17 Jan — Commander of the Defence and Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe visited and inspected the vegetables plantation of Lanmadaw Township Peace and Development Council in front of the Institute of Nurses in the township this morning.

The chairman of the CBANRs, subcommittees, ministries and local national races under the correct policy guidelines of the Leading Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, the Prime Minister said.

In the transport sector, the Government constructed 201 miles at earthen roads, 1683 miles of gravel roads and 309 miles of tarred roads and upgraded 3030 miles of roads in border areas spending K 27.248 million. In addition, a total of 43 large bridges, 661 small bridges and 16 suspension bridges were built in the border areas. The roads and bridges facilitated the transport of border areas and strengthen the friendship between the national brethren, the Prime Minister said.

In the education sector, the Government had constructed 627 primary schools, 61 middle schools and 62 high schools, spending K 3,288 million. Number of students pursuing education in border areas reached 69,204 in primary school level, 32,036 in middle school level and 7,381 in high school level. Border regions were able to enjoy the high standards of education, the Prime Minister said.

In the health sector, the Government had a policy to give priority in providing health care services in border areas. As the Government constructed hospitals in border areas, 1461 million, there were a total of 52 hospitals, 82 dispensaries, 29 the authority health centres, and 40 rural health care centres (branch) in border areas.

In the public relations sector, a total of 97 TV transmission stations had been established at a cost K 280 million in border areas.

In the energy sector, the Government spent a total of K 999 million in development of energy sector in border areas. Small and medium size hydel power plants had been constructed in 8 townships in border areas. A total of 251 generators had been installed in 166 towns and villages. In the agriculture sector, the Government was rendered service for cultivation of the habit of opium-substitute crops. It had set up 31 agricultural offices and 115 agricultural camps in border areas and spread 90 million K-grams and the campaign. The Prime Minister stressed the need for border areas to help organize local people for the realization of the school enrolment of all the school aged children. A total of 19 border areas national races youth development training schools and 13 domestic science training schools in border areas and two nationality youth human resources development zones had been established in Yangon and Mandalay. In addition, the State has opened training in seven Technik regions where the policy was grown in the past.

As regards drug elimation programme, the government is implementing the 15-year plan with own resources and as a national duty to terminate the poppy cultivation which has flourished since the time of colonialists. To take measures with added momentum, the New Destiny Project was added to the plan and is being implemented since 2002-2003 fiscal year. With the active participation of local people in endeavours for drug elimination under the leadership of the policy of the government, the projects meet greater success than expected.

Myanmar is chosen to implement the projects meet greater success than expected. Anyhow, the State will carry out the drug eradication tasks according to the farm reso- nulation on elimination of drugs. Under the 15-year narcotic drugs elimination plan, it is aimed at becoming drug free nation by the year 2014. But with the aim of taking young drug free regions by the year 2005, local national race groups in Wa and Kokang regions are endeavoring for realizing the goals. It is necessary for the respective sub-committees to coordinate the border areas national races development projects and social needs of rural people in living in own country. Thanks to the efforts for taking care of the young women in border areas, their view and conviction have changed and they have put their trust in the State.

The Prime Minister urged the officials to pay atten- tion to correct statistics as projects for regional develop- ment are being implemented on the border areas. The Secretary and officials gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister made concluding remarks. After the meeting, the Prime Minister, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the area and visited Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens. The area is categorized at 4 pm. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Com- mander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin welcomed the Prime Minister. According to the Prime Minister inspected the upgraded tasks of the gardens, construction of ponds, the aquariums and the water plaza. The com- mander and the mayor conducted the Prime Minister round the gardens.

The Prime Minister left the garden at 5 pm. MNA
Remedial measures still need ...  

(from page 1) 

Judges, officers and staff in the judicial sectors are to perform their duties with uprightness to realize the goal of the existing reforms. The truth, fairness and sympathy for ensuring law enforcement; although the lawyers, in the end, are strictly bound by the law, rules and regulations and directives in their judgements in order not to go against the law; and officials are to be aware of the fact that acts of some immoderation of personnel who take bribes and their misbehaviour are detrimental to the nation-building endeavours of the government.

Regarding the directives, personnel in the judicial sectors are to constantly review their own performances as well as their court environment and the whole judicial sector. The Prime Minister called on the officials to take measures for the betterment of the judicial sector to make the people to voluntarily abide by the existing laws, realize and enjoy the value and community of laws.

The Government has prescribed necessary laws, rules and regulations and is constantly preparing them so as to pass judgements by legal experts to safeguard the interest of the people in accord with laws and regulations. The judicial officials are to be aware of the fact that their endeavours for correctness in passing judgements on the cases amounts to laying the foundation for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and disciplined democratic nation. The Prime Minister again urged them to actively discharge their duties with national awareness and outlook in line with the conviction.

There are still successes as well as weaknesses in carrying out the tasks in the judicial sector. According to the tables presented, there is no delay in delivering judgements on the cases thanks to the implementation of the plans that there are weaknesses in the courts.

In conclusion, he urged judicial officials and law officers to take part in the tasks of administration of justice.

The number of lawyers who broke the codes of conduct increased and action had to be taken against them by the Supreme Court. He urged the lawyers to help the courts, particularly in area of work to alleviate their sufferings. They will suffer when administration of justice is wrongful and improper. To enable the people to enjoy the benefits of the rule of law, the courts are to hear cases properly within the framework of law. If so, the courts can stand prestigiouly and with dignity in the eyes of the public.

In evaluating the performances of courts, it is found that, there are weaknesses in some judges. For instance, some judges have relied on the examinations of the lawyers for most of the cases; and some judges have paid serious attention to the biased statements of witnesses in passing judgement. In some gambling cases, cash and valuable items which had no connection with the case were considered as evidence. In some cases, evidences were not recorded and kept properly. In some cases, decisions were made without proper observation of the evidences. Some judges did not understand evidences systematically when transferred. Such weaknesses must be remedied. As regards the courts, the accused are to be brought before the court under the instruction of the judge when his case is ready to be heard. However, in some cases, the accused were brought before the court under the instruction of a person other than the judge. In this way, some accused persons fled. In some cases, they were not examined properly as appointed at courts and those witnesses had to suffer losses. In some cases, there were delays in photo-copying the court’s judgement and statements of witnesses. In some courts, statements of witnesses were not read out and confirmed by signature. Hence, it is found that in some cases, statements of witnesses recorded in courts were not the same as actual statements. Concerning the case of the accused in custody, their cases were heard later in the day and there emerged security problems involving the need to send them back to jail in time. In some cases, when the accused was to be sentenced, and as he was on bail, he absconded due to lack of coordination with the court. In some cases, although deterrent punishments were to be meted out, the court handed down minimum punishments. In some cases, although old cases were submitted, it was difficult to make a decision of the judge to give deterrent punishments. Continued efforts must thus be made to reform such loopholes and weaknesses. Likewise, law enforcing organizations which are to cooperate with courts in accordance with the law.

In conclusion, he urged judicial officials and members of the Myanmar Police Force. He warned local authorities not to interfere in administration of justice. He urged the courts before making a decision at the court. They transferred these things to another one illegally. In conclusion with the appeal cases made by the Attorney General’s Office to the Supreme Court, it was found that there were pending cases because the accused could not be arrested, he said.

He said there are still weaknesses and he called for cooperation with local authorities. Justice and uprightness of the judges are needed in administration of justice. He spoke of the need to hold cooperation and to carry out cooperation with related organizations such as local authorities and law officers and members of the Myanmar Police Force. He warned local authorities not to interfere in administration of justice. Personal interference in cases by some local authorities is against the seven principles of fair administration of justice. He said only when judges, practicing organizations and local authorities discharge their duties through coordination among them with correct constructive support and mutual understanding in accord with laws and procedures will upright administration of justice emerge. Regarding the civil cases, he stressed the importance of making decision without delay by judges and law officers at different levels of courts. He said the lawyers who play a part in administration of justice are those who are regarded as officers to make decision in accord with the law at the courts at different levels. It is necessary for them to discharge their duties conscientiously and to preserve their procedures and dignity, he said.

He also spoke at length on persuasion of clients in a wrong way, making false accusations to mislead the course of administration of justice, delaying the cases deliberately, making false documents, taking bribes and violation of code of conduct.

He said the number of lawyers who broke the codes of conduct increased and action had to be taken against them by the Supreme Court. He urged the lawyers to help the courts, particularly in area of work to alleviate their sufferings. They will suffer when administration of justice is wrongful and improper. To enable the people to enjoy the benefits of the rule of law, the courts are to hear cases properly within the framework of law. If so, the courts can stand prestigiouly and with dignity in the eyes of the public.

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Secretary-1 attends 2004... (from page 16)

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council, accompanied by the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and a score of other officials, was welcomed by the Naga traditional dance troupe in Leshi.

Next, Meeting Chairman U Hsan Khar Naung made an opening speech. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye made a speech. He said that various national races have been living in Myanmar in the course of history, preserving and safeguarding traditions, cultures and lineage and forging mutual understanding. The fine traditions reflect the national capability able to build a society of high culture.

The new year festival was held with the aim of enabling the Naga traditional festival to become a platform for national unity, safeguarding the customs, traditions and cultural heritage, and of enabling the national races to actively take part in realization of the 12 national objectives, upholding The Three Main National Causes. In the past, the traditional festivals were held in separate places as Naga national races live in different places. Under the guidance of the State, the Naga Traditional Cultural Committee was formed in 1989.

Starting from 15 January 1992, the festival was held at a place, attended by the representatives from various Naga regions.

The government has been making all-out efforts for national development after laying down the short-term and long-term plans. Thus, significant progress has been made with added momentum in various sectors and the states and divisions have developed. In the process, priority is being given to development of Naga regions, especially in transport, education, health and social sectors.

In the transport sector, the Thetkckeyin-Homialin-Hkami road linking Naga region with the mainland was upgraded year by year, spending a large amount of funds. Bridges large and small on the road were built. More vessels were added to ply along Chindwin river while airports were upgraded.

In addition, under the guidance of the government, the 53 miles long Hkami-(Hsinthay)-Lahe road and the 41 miles long Hkami-Leshi road were being tared, spending millions of kyats. Arrangements have been made for upgrading the 53 miles long Lahe-Kyanwin road, the 78 miles long Lahe-Kyanwin road, the 58 miles long Lahe-Ponnyo road, the 32 miles long Lush-Ponnyo road, the 28 miles long Abyikseen-Haanpawkhwe road, the 8 miles long Yaungkon-Kyanwin road and the 39 miles long Lush-Pansat-Swanarwa road which link different parts of the whole Naga region.

With better transport, the Naga traditional festivals that are held annually could be organized on a grand scale and the national races have been able to exchange views and change exchanges on economic, social and cultural sectors.

For development of Naga region, K 219.4 million have already been spent on building the bridges, K 6.2 million on the transport sector, K 10.6 million on education sector, K 10.3 million on energy sector, K 9.1 million on information and public relations sector, K 10.6 million on communications, K 18.7 million on housing, K 30 million on religious affairs and K 8.6 million on others totalling K 323.8 million.

To ensure regional development, the entire national races are needed to be united. Head of State Senator General Than Shwe gave guidance saying that the nation lagged behind in development due to the internal conflicts which emerged together with the independence and it is an unforgettable lesson; that significant progress has been made in the nation in the time of the State Peace and Development Council as concerted efforts were made by the Government and the people, forging the national reconsolidation; that therefore, it is needed to cease the internal conflicts perpetually.

In conclusion, the commander called on the Naga national races to strive together with the Tatmadaw for regional development and safeguard peace, unity and development that have already been achieved while efforts are being made for bringing about harmonious development across the nation.

Next, USDA CEC member (in charge of Sagaing Division USDA) Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint spoke on the occasion.

Naga national Ma Hsan Sit Shee of Leshi (second year, Monywa Government Computer College) presented facts about the festival.

Next, Naga national race leader U Hla Pe presented a Naga traditional blanket as the gift of the festival to the Secretary-1. Chairman of the Naga Traditional Culture Central Committee U Hsin Kawt presented a Naga traditional blanket to Lt-Gen Ye Myint. Naga ethnic leaders also presented Naga traditional blanket to Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and the deputy ministers.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented cash donations for construction of a 1,500-gallon tank in Toche Ward, Lahe Township, and purchase of corrugated zinc sheets for nine primary schools to Commanding Officer of local region Lt-Col Rusan Kyu.

The Secretary-1 presented blankets, exercise books, TV sets, satellite dishes and blankets for local national people. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented exer-posts and related accessories for water supply project to Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Hla Tun.

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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Bhamo, Homalin and Leshi

YANGON, 17 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Kachin State SPDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental officials inspected Hsinkhan Bridge construction project in Bhamo Township on 14 January morning.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintendent Engineer of Public Works U Win Kyi reported on progress in construction works and future tasks and requirements. Managing Director of Public Works U Nay Soe Naung gave a supplementary report, and Senior Engineer U Aye Naung Tun reported on construction of Tagaung-Katha road.

Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the bridge and meeting the set standard. They next inspected the bridge construction tasks.

To the regions on the eastern bank of the Ayeyawady River, Manda- lay-Taung-Katha-Bhamo-Mibyotkya Road and Shweli Bridge along the road had been opened. Hsinkhan Bridge lies on Mandalay- Taung-Katha-Bhamo-Mibyotkya Road. The bridge across Hsinkhan Creek is 460 feet long and 28 feet wide. It can bear 60 tons of loads and is of reinforced concrete. Next, they also inspected the TV satellite telephone station in Leshi.

The Secretary-1 inspected the site for the construction of the school building.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Bhamo, Homalin and Leshi

In meeting with local au- thorities and townselders at the township PDC office, the Secretary-1 heard reports by Chairman U Hla Tun on conditions of motor roads linking between Homalin Township and other regions, construction of village-to-village roads, education, health, agriculture and requirements. Next, township level departmental staff submitted their requirements and the sports minister, deputy ministers and departmental heads reported on measures being taken for the development of the region.

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Aye gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. The Secretary-1 then enquired about the conditions of Leshi region, duties and responsibilities of the department staff and construction of Leshi-Lahe-Namyon Road, and fulfilled the needs.

On 15 January morning, the Secretary-1 and party inspected Leshi Township People’s Hospital and gave instructions to officials on construction of a new hospital building. After that, the Secretary-1 and party paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sudhasana and Sayadaws and members of the Sangha of Naga hill region at Leshi Monastery and presented offerings. They next inspected the electrical audio visual room, computer room, e-education learning centre and learning of students at Leshi BEHS. The headmaster reported on building of new school building and Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min gave a supplementary report. After giving instructions, the Secretary-1 inspected the site for the construction of the school building.

Member of Panel of Pa- trons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with USDA CEC member (Sagaii Divi- sion in charge) Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint at 2 pm met with USDA secretaries and members of Sagaii Division, Hkamti District and Hkamti, Leshi, Lake and Namyon Townships at Leshi Township USDA Office, and gave instructions on active participation in rural development works. Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented cash assistance to USDA members.

Then, the Secretary-1 and party looked into dining rooms and hostels where tourists will put up in Naga Traditional New Year Festi- val, and restaurants. Later, they also inspected the TV retransmission station and satellite telephone station in Leshi.

The Secretary-1 next gave instructions on arrangements for development of Homalin and turning out of outstanding youths in the region.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Bhamo, Homalin and Leshi

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 18 January, 2004

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders in Homalin Township. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win holds a meeting with members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders in Homalin Township. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the Sinkhan Bridge Project in Bhamo Township. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win holds meetings with Homalin Township officials. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win visits Leshi. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders in Homalin Township. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders in Homalin Township. — MNA
India for more FTAs with other nations in the region

New Delhi, 17 Jan.—Bought by the success of signing the South Asian Free Trade Agreement, India Thursday committed to participate in similar pacts with other nations in the region and asked the Indian auto industry to play a pivot role and seize the global opportunity.

Giving call for greater regional cooperation, Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani also sought greater synergy between government and the private sector to capitalize on domestic confidence and global respect for India to convert the prevailing “feel-good” factor into “feel-great” sentiments in the national endeavour to be a developed nation by 2020.

Inaugurating the Seventh International Auto Expo, Advani said: “SAFTA, Indo-ASEAN and Indo-Thailand FTAs must be reviewed as an opportunity for India’s automotive industry to become truly global player to invest worldwide and grasp the global business opportunity.”

“India is committed to participate in the free trade agreement with several countries in the region,” Advani said adding the global rush towards low cost components outsourcing provide the Indian auto industry with “window of opportunity like never before”.

Exuding confidence that auto show would encourage more regional original equipment manufacturers around the world to use India as a platform for outsourcing as well as the global R&D hub, Advani said, “May I say that it is time to see yourself as partners not only to Indian auto manufacturers but to global Original Equipment Manufacturers as well. Deemed as Asia’s largest automotive show, the Auto-Expo, jointly organized by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, Auto Component Manufacturers Association and Confederation of Indian Industry has attracted by 960 participants from 26 nations and about a million visitors are expected to visit the show.

Noting that auto majors like DaimlerChrysler are using India for detailed engineering and R&D, Advani said that India industry would have to increase its attention and expenditure on research for making India a platform for “outsourcing as well as a global R&D hub.”

He said that the key challenge to the auto industry related to environment and the bar was being raised constantly and the challenge was getting stronger making it necessary for individual company to stand the test of public scrutiny on the compatibility of the products.

Remarking that the Prime Minister’s Golden Quadrilateral project of road connectivity sought a suitable response from the auto industry in the form of good intercity and inter-state people and goods carriers, he said that challenge for the industry was to come out with better, more comfortable and energy efficient public transport vehicles.

Mongolian PM confident of further strengthening ties with India

New Delhi, 17 Jan.—Mongolian Prime Minister Nambaryn Enkhbayar Thursday said his six-day visit to India would further strengthen bilateral ties.

The Mongolian leader was given a ceremonial welcome here by Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Minister of State for Science and Technology Satyabrata Mukherjee.

He would call on Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat besides meetings with External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha and Communications and Information Technology Minister Arun Shourie, according to a news release from the Indian External Affairs Ministry.

The two sides are expected to sign agreements for cooperation in the fields of animal health and dairy, space science, technology and applications and bio-technology, it said.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1955, the momentum of bilateral relations between the two countries has been maintained through regular exchange of high-level visits. The visit will provide an opportunity for the two sides to review bilateral relations and have discussions on regional and international issues of mutual interest, said the release.

India, Sri Lanka hold talks on bilateral defence agreement

New Delhi, 17 Jan—India and Sri Lanka on Thursday held high-level talks to discuss a bilateral defence agreement between the two countries covering military training and arms sales.

The talks were held between a three-member Sri Lankan delegation headed by Defence Secretary Cyril Heaths, which also includes the country’s Chief of Defence staff and commander of the Island nation army Lieutenant-General L.P. Balagatle and Indian Delegation led by Defence Secretary Ajay Prasad.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said both the sides also discussed the regional security scenario and fight against global terrorism. The discussions are to be continued after which the Sri Lankan team will meet the Defence Minister George Fernandes.

Though Sri Lanka and India already have a bilateral agreement on intelligence sharing, training of Armed Forces personnel and supply of life saving equipment, Colombo wants the cooperation to be broadened to include sale of non-offensive weapons systems by New Delhi.

Australia Mull building centre for fighting terrorism

Jakarta, 17 Jan—Indonesia and Australia have been engaged in intense talks on the establishment of a centre for combating terrorism, an Indonesian official said Thursday. “We hope the centre will be established before the Bali conference,” said Makmur Wudodo, director general of political, social and security cooperation under the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

He referred to the regional ministerial meeting on fighting terrorism co-hosted by Indonesia and Australia, which is scheduled for February 4-5 in Bali.

The centre will be based in Jakarta and it will be funded jointly by Indonesia and Australia, he added.

Trade mark caution

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (057)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (057) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-1-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.Twhee it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Agent For: M/S Interasia Shipping Corp.

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (401)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “GEE HONG Voy No (401) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-1-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Agent For: M/S Eagle Corporation

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Arrival/Claims Day Notice

MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG 760/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG 760/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 18-1-04 and will be berthing on about 19-1-04 and cargos will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Container Feeder Service

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South Korea has new Foreign Minister

SEOUL, 17 Jan—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun on Friday named his chief foreign policy aide Ban Ki-Moon as new Foreign Minister, according to official sources.

Ban Ki-moon, chief presidential aide for foreign affairs, will replace Yoon Young-kwan, who resigned Thursday after a rift over Seoul's alliance with the United States divided the South Korean Government.

"We expect Mr. Ban will smoothly deal with the pending issues for the country, based on trust with our allies," Roh's office said in a statement.

Ban's appointment came at a critical time as South Korea and the United States argue with North Korea over nuclear weapons programmes and discuss sending South Korean troops to help the US-led coalition in Iraq.

President Roh accepted Yoon's resignation on Thursday, saying the Foreign Ministry was not fully backing his administration's policy of "independence" from Washington.

Ban, a 60-year-old career diplomat with a reputation as a moderate, served as Vice Foreign Minister during the government of former President Kim Dae-jung, who initiated the "sunshine" policy of seeking reconciliation with North Korea. Ban became Roh's chief foreign affairs adviser when the President took office in February last year.

Study finds Ebola may come from "bush meat"

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan—The deadly Ebola virus, which emerged mysteriously from African forests, probably attacks people who butcher and eat infected animals, researchers said on Thursday.

The virus, which most recently killed 29 people in the Congo Republic, seems to break out when people slaughter chimpanzees, gorillas and small antelopes called duikers, the scientists said.

"Humans and duikers scavenging for meat probably became infected by contact with dead apes," they wrote in their report, published in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

"Almost all human Ebola outbreaks in Gabon and the Republic of Congo have been linked to the handling of dead animals by villagers or hunters, and increased animal mortality always preceded the first human cases," added the international team of researchers, led by Eric Leroy of the Development Research Institute in Gabon.

They said health workers may be able to get a warning of Ebola outbreaks when large numbers of dead animals start appearing in forests.

Ebola first appeared in 1976 and causes a particularly frightening and deadly form of hemorrhagic fever that can kill within days of onset but may bleed internally and externally.

Depending on the strain of virus, it kills between 50 and 90 per cent of patients.

Lenny and colleagues studied several outbreaks in central Africa and villagers, and they themselves, found many dead ani- mals just around the time of an outbreak.

They also found that great apes such as chimps and gorillas could be infected, although the original source of the virus remains unknown.—MNA/Reuters

German police make record opium seizure

BERLIN, 17 Jan—German police said on Friday they had made the biggest opium haul in the country's history, securing some 600 pounds of the banned drug.

State prosecutor Alfons Geveker told Reuters a total of seven men from Italy and Iran aged between 28 and 47 were arrested and 600 pounds of opium was recovered...—MNA/Reuters

EU floats more plans to save fish from extinction

BRUSSELS, 17 Jan—The European Union executive presented long-term plans on Thursday to prevent more fish species disappearing from EU waters, calling for some areas to be closed and trawlermen to limit the days they spend at sea.

"Almost all human Ebola outbreaks in Gabon and the Republic of Congo have been linked to the handling of dead animals by villagers or hunters, and increased animal mortality always preceded the first human cases," added the international team of researchers, led by Eric Leroy of the Development Research Institute in Gabon.

The method of calculating the "day limits" has proved controversial in the past and has been left open for EU ministers, who must agree to any plan before it can become law.

In a press release, for example, FishPac had proposed using a vessel's engine size as the basis for its length in a month that it could go to sea — but this was so unpopular among ministers that it was withdrawn from the final agreement.

Stocks of all three species are close to collapse after years of overfishing, say scientists, who have called for a total ban on harvesting southern hake until stocks can recover.—MNA/Reuters

Central Park is covered with snow in this view from the Mandarin Oriental New York hotel in the new Time Warner Center looking east along Central Park South from Columbus Circle on 15 Jan, 2004. With temperatures hovering around nine degrees, about five inches of snow had been measured in Central Park by 9 am. —INTERNET

OPEC to maintain output at 27 million bpd

JAKARTA, 17 Jan—Oil ministers of countries grouping in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have agreed to maintain oil output at 27 million barrels per day until the end of February, OPEC's Secretary General Y hamstringed said Friday.

"In the meantime, we prefer to maintain output. We consider that OPEC does not need to increase production because the current figure already exceeds the ceiling rate," Y hamstring was quoted by Detykon online news service as saying.

OPEC in December set the ceiling output at 24.5 million bpd Purnomo said in the West Java town of Bogor that the cartel is approaching Russia, a non-OPEC oil producer whose output is the world's second largest after Saudi Arabia.

Russia reportedly welcomed OPEC's proposal to set oil price at the range of 22 to 28 US dollars a barrel, said Purnomo, who is also Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources.

He said OPEC would not make any decision until its members meet in Algeria on February 10.

OPEC groups Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

Ten die in heavy rains in Rio de Janeiro State

Rio De Janeiro State (Brazil), 17 Jan—Ten people were killed and 450 left homeless by landslides and flooding following heavy overnight rains in the state of Rio de Janeiro, the state's Civil Defence Department said on Friday.

It said in a statement that the dead included builder Sergio Murilo da Silva, 32, and his daughters, Evelyn and Ana Carolina, aged 10 and 3, who were killed when a landslide smashed into their home in Xerém on the outskirts of Rio. In Santo Antonio de Padua, in the northeast of the state of Rio de Janeiro state, four people drowned when their house was swept away by a flooded river.

The worst-affected towns are on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, which is Brazil's largest city and one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world.ニュス
Portugal’s Viana still wants loan move from Newcastle

NEWCASTLE (England), 17 Jan — Portugal midfielder Hugo Viana believes his prospects of playing at Euro 2004 are receding due to his lack of opportunities with Newcastle United in the English Premier League and still wants a loan move.

“Euro 2004 is slipping away from me as my chances of playing at Euro 2004?”

“It is so important that I play there and I cannot imagine that will happen if I am denied the chance. It is in my home country and an opportunity to play a major tournament in your own country comes around once in your career if you are lucky.

Viana was signed by Newcastle manager Bobby Robson from Sporting Lisbon for 8.5 million pounds (15.53 million US dollars) in July 2002 but his first team prospects of playing at Euro 2004 are receding due to his lack of opportunities with Newcastle.

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11:35 am
4. Round-Up of The Week’s International News
11:45 am
5. Musical programme

12:15 pm
6. Mile Success In Soccer
12:30 pm
Myanmar Video Feature: "World's tallest"
14.1 pm
1. International news
14:00 pm
2. Martial song
16:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
16:30 pm
3. English For Everyday Use
16:40 pm
4. Song of National Happiness
17:05 pm
6. Song of National Happiness
17:20 pm
Beauty & Scenic Sights "Min gy i la" of Myanmar: "Art of Polity"
20:45 pm
National News
20:50 pm
Myanmar Movie Impact: "Dark Green Coloured Moon"
21:00 pm
National News
21:05 pm
Laocawrewe in Bagan
21:10 pm
Myanmar Modern Song "Let go for my motherland"
21:15 pm
National News
21:20 pm
Myanmar Traditional Food "Pone Ye Gi"
21:25 pm
Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
21:30 pm
Myanmar Art of Pottery
21:40 pm
National News
21:42 pm
Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Dishes garnished with Asparagus)
21:50 pm
Fossilized Wood Garden
21:55 pm
Myanmar Theatrical Royal group dance
22:00 pm
National News
22:05 pm
Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
22:10 pm
Song of Every Child Counts (A Polo Free World)
22:15 pm
National News
22:20 pm
Strengthening of Polio Free Status in Myanmar
22:25 pm
Song "The Smooth Moon with beautiful White Flowers"
22:30 pm
National News
22:35 pm
Myanmar Green Tea
22:40 pm
Myanmar Cuisine "Steamed Eggplant with Tomato Sauce"
22:45 pm
National News
22:50 pm
Fabulous Glassware Decoration
22:55 pm
Wararya Dance
23:00 pm
National News
23:05 pm
Dat Taung Gyiak Waterfall
23:10 pm
Song "The Beautiful Taninchi"n"
23:15 pm
Electronic Library (Myin Mu)
23:20 pm
National News
23:25 pm
Golden Plum Job of Central Myanmar
23:30 pm
Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
19-21-2004 (Monday)
Morning Transmission (9.30 - 11.30) 03:30 pm
Signature Tune
03:30 pm
Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
19-21-2004 (Monday) 08:00 pm
04:00 pm
National News
04:05 pm
Pictureque Views in Southern Shan State (Part-II)
04:10 pm
Song "Mesmerize You Longing Wish"
23:35 pm
National News
23:40 pm
Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

18-21-2004 (Sunday) & 19-21-2004 (Monday)
Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 13:30)
3.50 pm
Potato Pudding

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Sunday, 18 January, 2004
15

WEATHER

Saturday, 17 January, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Upper Myanmar Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin and Kayah States, Magway, Bago, Yangon Warwaddy and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was (-1°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 16-1-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 17-1-2004 was 12.7°C. Relative humidity on 16-1-2004 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 16-1-2004 was 8.9 hours approx. Rainfall on 17-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Central Yangon Division since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 32 knots at 08:00 hours on 17-1-2004. Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 18-1-2004: Possible light isolated rain in Kachin, Northern Shan States and upper Sagar Division and weather will be generally fair in the central and south- eastern divisions of the region. Deluge County is (40%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in the middle and outer waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in upper Myanmar Forecast for 19-1-2004 and neighbouring area for 18-1-2004: Generally fair.

Sunday, January 18
View today:
7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayawad Wardawali
7:25 am
2. To the healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. News and sweet song
7:55 am
5. Song of Every Child Counts (A Polo Free World)
8:10 am
6. News & Sweet Song
8:20 am
7. "Super Special" Song
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Say it In English
11:00 am
1. Martial song
11:15 am
2. Musical programme
11:25 am
3. Musical programme

R-499 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: Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296664, Circulation 297903, Advertisement 296643, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) / 297028 (Press).
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends Work Coordination Meeting (1/2004) of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races

YANGON, 17 Jan — Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Work Coordination Meeting (1/2004) of the Work Committee held at the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs this afternoon. Also present were Vice-Chairman of the WCDBNR Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Maung Bo, ministers, deputy ministers, members of WCDBNR and subcommittees, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

First, the Prime Minister made a speech. He said the purpose of the meeting was to review the work done and future tasks for the development of border areas and national races. Since its assumption of the State duties, the government, with the conviction that only after national solidarity had been strengthened, would it be possible for the government to implement development tasks of the country, had been striving to strengthen the national solidarity based on mutual understanding and forgiveness. As national race armed groups, realizing the goodwill of the State, had returned to the legal fold and was taking part in the regional development tasks, border regions of the country witnessed peace, stability and progress like cities. Moreover, there were prospects for further development of border regions, the Prime Minister added.

In order to prevent misunderstanding and disunity fostered by the instigation of aliens among the national brethren, the Government had laid down border areas and national races development projects contributing towards the national unity and was implementing them for the harmonious development of the Union.

In accord with the national policies emerged from the fine traditions in the course of Myanmar history, the Government has laid down the seven-point future policy programme of the State that ensures the strengthening of national solidarity, consolidation of the Union, perpetuation of the national independence and sovereignty of the State and emergence of a peaceful, modern and discipline flourishing democratic nation, and started implementation of the programme. (See page 8)

Secretary-1 attends 2004 Naga Traditional New Year Festival

YANGON, 17 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win on 15 January attended the 2004 Naga Traditional New Year Festival held at the sports grounds in Leshi, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division and presented gifts to the heads of Naga national races.

Also present were the Sports Minister Tha Aye, Chairman of Agenda Committee for Organizing the Festival and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tin Nyein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Sae, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, Tactical Operations Commander Col Min Sae, members of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, local authorities, members of Naga Traditional Cultural Central Committee, members of the Committee for Organizing the Festival, heads of Naga national race, the representatives of Naga national race from Hkamti, Homalin, Leshi, Nanyon, Lahe and Tamu Townships and local Naga national race, guests, tourists who were there as observers and others numbering about 7500.

First, the master of ceremonies declared the opening of the new year festival. (See page 10)