Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards successful realization of ASEAN Vision 2020

The ASEAN, a strong and united association in the international arena, is changing and developing in parallel with the time. As the association has become more and more consolidated, the relations between the leaders of the member nations have become closer and closer due to frequent contacts among them and mutual respects towards each other.

The ASEAN Steering Committee Meeting 1/2004 was held in Yangon on the afternoon of 15 January and Chairman of the Steering Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting and delivered an address. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that, at the 9th ASEAN Summit Meeting held in Indonesia, the leaders of the ASEAN nations supported the seven-point future policy programme of Myanmar.

As the ASEAN has become stronger and stronger, various organizations and nations including those from the West and Europe have become interested in it and tried to strengthen their relations with it. At the ASEAN Summit Meeting in Cambodia, South Africa, on behalf of the other African nations, explained that they were keen on increasing cooperation with the ASEAN. In the same way, China, Japan and Korea are also increasing their cooperation with the association. At the summit in Indonesia, India also came to cooperate with the ASEAN.

Nowadays, due to rapid international developments, no nation can stand alone. Realizing this, various nations are trying to establish organizations or extending the existing ones. For example, Myanmar is not only a member of the ASEAN but it is also actively participating in the BIMST-EC, the organization that will bridge South Asia and South-East Asia.

As the Union of Myanmar is actively cooperating with nations in the region and participating in the regional organizations, its political, economic and social conditions are improving.

We believe that the Union of Myanmar will continue to actively participate in the activities of the ASEAN for the successful realization of the ASEAN Vision 2020 — harmonious development of the member nations and strengthening of their political, economic and social infrastructures.

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 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.

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

Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association meets

YANGON, 20 Jan — the first plenary meeting of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association was held at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs’ Association at 3 pm today.

Meeting chairman retired Ambassador U Hla Maung delivered an address. Next, Dr Khin Shwe explained matters on formation of the association.

The new 31-member Executive Committee was formed with Brig-Gen Khin Maung as chairman, Dr Khin Shwe, Lt-Col Myint Shwe, U Win Myint and U Hla Maung as vice-chairmen and U Than Win as general secretary.

All-round discussions were then held. Cooperation in social, economic and cultural fields will be enhanced between the two countries. — MLN

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 20 Jan — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the committees. — MNA

Wellwisher U Maung Maung Naing of No 2/2, Bodhi Yeiktha, Thanlwin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently to mark his 44th birthday. Trustee Board Chairman U Maung Tin and Secretary Maj Aung Than (Retd) accept the cash donation. — MNA


21-1-2004 to 27-1-2004
MICT Park, Yangon.

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Hundreds of Japanese protest as advance troops arrive in Iraq

TOKYO, 20 Jan—Hundreds of Japanese lawmakers, activists and trade unionists protested as an advance unit of Japanese ground troops arrived in Iraq, local media said.

As the 30-strong unit arrived in southern Iraq for Japan’s first deployment of forces to a hostile region since World War II, about 200 opposition lawmakers and activists protested in central Tokyo. Kyodo News said.

The Japanese deployment may “accidentally kill Iraqis and it might suffer combat casualties,” Tadayoshi Ichida, the chief secretary of the Communist Party, told the rally outside the offices of House of Representatives members. Earlier in the day, some 600 protesters marched around the nearby Parliament building and the headquarters of Koizumi’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Meanwhile in Okinawa, about 50 members of Japan’s biggest labour federation Rengo staged a sit-in front of the Okinawa prefectural administration building, Kyodo said. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a policy speech at the start of a regular session of Parliament on Monday, vowed to push ahead with the full troop deployment, which is to take part in humanitarian operations.

Parliament must still formally approve the dispatch of a total 1,000 Japanese troops to Iraq announced on 9 December. Participants at the Tokyo rallies said they will try to halt the dispatch.

“We must not turn this Diet (Parliament) session into one that gives approval to war,” said Seiji Mataichi, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, according to Kyodo.

Japan’s postwar constitution bans the use of force in settling international disputes.

Best foreign stamps announced in Beijing

Beijing, 20 Jan—Three sets of stamps from Britain, Malaysia and Canada were announced here Monday to be the most popular foreign stamps selected by thousands of stamp fans in China and abroad.

The candidate stamps were all issued in 2002 in 35 countries and regions, and the organizing committee received 3,071 valid votes, said Wang Yuxian, secretary general of the Foreign Stamp Lover’s Association in China.

In the meantime, three small souvenir sheets from North Korea, Canada and South Korea turned out to be the best ones among relevant candidates.

Chen Haosu, President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, awarded prizes to the postal representatives from the above-mentioned countries. — MNA/Xinhua

Britons outnumber Indian tourists in Sri Lanka

Colombo, 20 Jan—The number of Indians traveling to Sri Lanka increased by almost 23 per cent last year, but the number one tourist generating market for the island was pushed to the second place by Britain, according to official figures released here.

Though the number of Indians arriving in the island increased to 90,693 last year, up from 69,960 in 2002, they were slightly behind Britons who numbered 93,278, up from 67,333 in 2002.

A spokesman for the Tourism Ministry said they were working on several proposals to make Colombo an attractive destination for Indian holiday makers. — MNA/PTI

Blast leaves UN wary of Iraq return

NEW YORK, 20 Jan—Pressure from the US is unlikely to sway the UN into making a quick decision to return to Iraq.

Sunday’s bombing at the gates of the US-led Coalition headquarters in Baghdad, which killed 44 people, expected to reinforce UN views that Iraq is not yet safe enough.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan met Paul Bremer, the US-appointed administrator in Iraq, and Iraqi officials at a meeting overnight on the role sought for the UN in Iraq as the country regains its sovereignty and moves to establish a democratic government.

While the US is pressing for the speedy return of UN staff, Mr Annan has stated repeatedly that the security conditions in Iraq are still too dangerous. He ordered all international staff to leave Iraq in late October following two bombings at UN headquarters—including one on 19 August that killed top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 others—and a spate of attacks on humanitarian targets. Although Mr Annan has not ruled out sending some staff back if they had important tasks, he has called for “much greater clarity” on what the Iraqis and the Coalition expect of the UN in order to gauge whether the job is worth the risk.

“Whether to go back or not is primarily a security assessment, taken in connection with an assessment of the significance of the role we are being asked to play,” UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said. — Internet

Matsushita to relocate battery factory to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 20 Jan—Matsushita Battery Industrial Co Ltd, producer of Panasonic battery, plans to relocate its lithium coin battery production base from Japan to Indonesia in the company’s efforts to boost output, an economic daily reported Monday.

The new factory will be built in Bekasi, some 20-kilometres east of Jakarta, to be handled by its local unit PT Matsushita Gobel Battery Industry (MGBI), reported the Bisnis Indonesia newspaper.

When the relocation is completed, the production output of coin lithium battery in MGBI is expected to increase to 30m pieces a year, MGBI President Kazuo Ishimoto was quoted as saying. He said the relocation will be completed in May to help boost Matsushita’s competitiveness in the global market. — MNA/Xinhua

Carol City soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Jan—A 26-year-old Carol City man was one of three US soldiers killed Saturday in a tanker explosion in Iraq.

US Army Sgt Edmond Lee Randle Jr attended American High and graduated from Miami Central High in 1995, relatives said Sunday. He was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, before he was shipped to Iraq, they said.

Randle is the third US service-member from Miami-Dade to die in Iraq. A US Marine from Hialeah was the first; he was killed in a vehicle accident. Another Miami man drowned during a short leave. Randle was part of an artillery unit and was inside a Bradley Fighting Vehicle that struck an explosive device on a road near Taji, north of Baghdad. — Internet
Bomb exploded at soldier’s feet in Iraq
LAGRANGE, 20 Jan—Sgt First Class Joseph Mosner woke up in the United States after a roadside bomb in Iraq exploded and burned his face.

Mosner, 35, a native of St. Paul, Minn., will undergo a year of at least five cosmetic surgeries to fix the damage of the injury, but last week he was reunited with his family in Lagrange, where his wife, Rhonda Mosner, is from.

On the morning of Dec. 16 on the south side of Baghdad, Mosner’s tank crew set up patrol at an abandoned house. He decided to take his troops to patrol nearby Highway 10, which is notorious for roadside bombs. As Mosner’s driver and gunner left the tank to tell another crew they were leaving, a bomb exploded at their feet.

“We had been there the whole time,” Mosner said. “We don’t know when or how the bomb got to the house.”

He stayed conscious and went to check on the rest of his crew. Then his gunner said him down by the house to tell him he was wounded.

Mosner had two holes in his head and had to hold his flesh onto his skull. Another bomb that didn’t go off was found nearby.

“If they would have both exploded, we would have been dead. They told us we weren’t supposed to live,” Mosner said.

Doctors put Mosner in an induced coma, and the next thing he remembers is waking up at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. In the meantime, he had traveled from Iraq to Germany to America.

“When I walked into the hospital I saw and didn’t recognize him,” Rhonda Mosner said. “I said, ‘That’s not my husband.’ She eventually came to accept the accident and now is her husband’s chief caregiver.”

Developing countries call for continuing trade talks
DELUCA, 20 Jan—Participants at a two-day international business conference that ended here Sunday urged the international community to go on with the multinational trade negotiation after Cancun setback.

They stressed that consideration must be given to the interests of the developing countries if differences between rich and poor countries are to be solved.

The conference, which drew more than 400 representatives from 37 countries, was hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce.

It came after the multilateral trade negotiations collapsed in Cancun, and was regarded as a move to protract the round for the multinational trade negotiation.

Speaking at Sunday’s session, Turkish Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Coskun described differences over the farm subsidy issue as a key factor leading to the failure of Cancun talks.

This view was echoed by Zimbabwe’s Minister of Industries SC Mumbengegwi who noted that the developed countries spend an estimated one billion US dollars per day on agriculture subsidies, six times as much as their spending on aid to developing countries.

Mumbengegwi said these subsidies had generated large surpluses and led to agricultural dumping, pushing millions of small farmers in the developing countries out of market.

He stressed that if rich countries continue to preach free trade while practicing protectionism, export effort of the poor countries would go nowhere.

Another focus of the conference was capacity building for promotion of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Chinese Vice-Premier highlights importance of industrial safety
BEIJING, 20 Jan—Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju has called for making substantial efforts to ensure industrial safety, by implementing a State Council resolution on further stepping up the work in this area.

Huang, who chairs the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made this call at a national conference on the work of industrial safety, which was held in Beijing on January 17-18.

In his speech, the Vice-Premier said that industrial safety is connected with the safety of people’s lives and property as well as the general situation of reform, development and stability.

China still faces a stark and grave situation in the field of industrial safety, though the situation was improving as a whole last year, featuring less incidents and casualties, he noted. In 2004, 128.9 billion yuan ($15.71 billion US dollars) in loans in 2003, an increase of 36 percent per year-on-year, an executive of the bank said.

The bank, the second biggest state-owned in China, offered 11.45 billion dollars in housing loans to about half a million individual clients, and 4.26 billion dollars in auto loans to 250,000 buyers.

The bank said it had made great progress in corporate governance, cutting ties with 1,155 economic entities it set up years ago, and disposing of 8.8 billion dollars worth of non-performing assets by the end of 2003.

It also recovered 3.5 billion dollars in cash from its domestic non-performing assets, 337 million dollars from its overseas non-performing assets, and cancelled 4.3 billion dollars worth of bad loans.

Bank of China sees soaring loans in 2003
BEIJING, 20 Jan—The Bank of China provided 128.9 billion yuan ($15.71 billion US dollars) in loans for housing and automobile purchases in 2003, an increase of 36 percent per year-on-year, an executive of the bank said.

India revives AEWACS programme to boost surveillance
NEW DELHI, 20 Jan—India, after a gap of five years, has revived its efforts to indigenous-develop the Automatic Early Warning and Control System (AEWACS) with the defence scientists expressing optimism that they can make a breakthrough.

Announcing revival of the programme, the country’s top defence scientist and Secretary, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Dr V K Agarwal told PTI that the radar system being developed would be a shade less advanced than the US system mounted on Boeing-727s or the Indo-Israeli Russian under development Phalcon system.

Though the DRDO officials were tightlipped, the go ahead for the programme was given by the government to boost up surveillance capability to detect incoming missiles. India has already in place the balloon mounted Aerostat radars as well as high altitude unmanned aerial vehicles, but DRDO scientists feel that developing AEWACS technology would give it means for ample surveillance.

The system being proposed by the DRDO would be relatively less modest in terms of performance and command functions and more in the line of Ericcson’s Erieye system mounted on the Embraer EC-145 and SABRE 340B platforms for the Italian and Swedish Air Force, top DRDO sources said.

DRDO is eyeing the Brazilian Embraer Legacy 135 executive jets as the platform to mount the indigenous AEWACS system, which would give India a capability of panning 300 to 350 kilometres of airspace beyond its immediate borders. — MNA/PTI

Bank of China sees soaring

Chinese Vice-Premier highlights importance of industrial safety

US troops kill Syrian, two Yemenis in Iraq fight
BAQHDAD, 20 Jan—US troops killed two Yemenis and a Syrian who opened fire on them on Monday during a raid on a house in Baghdad, police at the scene said.

They said US soldiers were shot at as they raided the house around 1:30 am searching for weapons.

Pools of blood were visible on the ground around the house, and the walls were pockmarked with bullet holes. A car in the garage had also been hit by several bullets.

A US military spokesman said he had no information on the incident.

US officials have said they believe foreign Islamic militants have been entering Iraq attack to help Iraqi guerrillas mount attacks on occupying troops and international organizations. — Internet

Children of three Arab fighters stand in the yard of the house where the fighters were killed by US troops in Al-Moallem district near Baghad, Iraq, on 19 Jan. 2004.

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Bank of China sees soaring loans in 2003

Children of three Arab fighters stand in the yard of the house where the fighters were killed by US troops in Al-Moallem district near Baghad, Iraq, on 19 Jan. 2004.
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

Iraqis use a bulldozer to remove destroyed cars from the scene of a car bomb which exploded outside the main gate to the headquarters of the US-led coalition in Baghdad on Sunday, 18 Jan, 2004 killing nearly 20 and injuring more than 60. — Internet

An armed American security officer shouts and pushes back a crowd of Iraqi men who marched near the Iraq Governing Council headquarters in Baghdad on Monday, 19 Jan, 2004 calling for security in Baghdad. Several dozen marched calling for security. — Internet

Lt Col Marshall Hagen, left, listens to the interrogation of an Iraqi man, with the assistance of Iraqi translators, about the whereabouts of the man’s brother who is suspected of attacks on coalition forces, during a raid on his house by the 82nd Airborne Division on Sunday, 18 Jan, 2004 near Fallujah, Iraq. — Internet

A US Army soldier holds his pistol ready while checking vehicles after a blast outside the headquarters of the US-led administration in Baghdad on January 18, 2004. Iraq’s precarious security situation was highlighted by the suicide bomb blast on Sunday at the gates of the US-led administration which killed at least 20 people. Picture taken on 18 January. — Internet

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US Army paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division’s 3rd Brigade ‘Rakkasans’ drive south to the Kuwaiti border point of Safwan on 19 January, 2004 after their deployment to northern Iraq ended. — Internet

While being questioned about the whereabouts of his brother who is suspected of attacks on coalition forces, an Iraqi man is asked to identify subjects in a photograph during a raid on his house by the 82nd Airborne Division on Sunday, 18 Jan, 2004 near Fallujah, Iraq. — Internet
First Iraqi policewoman killed in attack

BAKU, 20 Jan — A female member of the Iraqi police forces has been shot dead in the southern Iraqi city of Diwaniya, local Al Taqah newspaper reported on Monday.

It was the first killing of an Iraqi policewoman since the beginning of the US-led occupation of the country, the paper said, quoting the city’s police chief.

“The three of the Diwaniya police force female members were shot by unidentified assailants on their way to work,” Major-General Sa-lamaa Jumaa Hashim said.

“One of them was killed and the other two were se-verely injured,” he said, adding that the three women were sisters working with police force. One of the assailants had been caught and the in-vestigation was still underway, Hashim said, but did not give the name of the killed police-woman or the date of the inci-dent. — MNA/Xinhua

Assad says US pressure not isolating Syria

DUBAI, 20 Jan — President Bashar al-Assad said in remarks published on Monday that Syria was not a pariah nation despite US charges that it holds weapons of mass destruction and supports militant groups.

“We don’t see ourselves as isolated. Perhaps there are differences of opinion with some, but we have good rela-tions with various regional and international parties and ties have even improved with countries with which perhaps we had some problems in the past,” the Syrian President said.

He was speaking to London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper.

Syria denies it has any nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, but says arch-foe Israel has them and so it should be allowed to defend itself.

“It is not reasonable to ask Arab and Muslim states to allow inspections when there is no proof that they own such weapons, and at the same time ignore the Israeli arsenal brimming with weapons of mass destruction,” Assad said.

“If they are really serious, then let them rid the whole region.”

The Syrian President said Washington was biased towards Israel, a stance which had robbed it of “clear vision” in the Middle East. — MNA/Reuters

Three US soldiers wounded in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 Jan — Three US soldiers were wounded in a southern Afghan province when suspected Taleban fighters attacked a US military base there, a military spokesman said here Monday.

“In a sign of our enem-ies’ desperation, the anti-coalition militia attacked our firebase in Deh Rawood of Uruzgan Province on Sun-day morning, injuring three US soldiers,” said Bryan Helferty, spokesman of the US-led coalition forces in Af-ghanistan. According to him, one of the attackers was killed when coalition soldiers re-turned fire.

All the three wounded sol-diers were in stable condi-tion and had been evacuated to a military hospital at the Bagram Airbase, headquar-ters of the coalition forces some 60 kilometres north of Kabul. Another US soldier died of his wounds earlier this month after being injured in a road accident in an east-ern Kabul suburb, becoming the 100th American death since the United States launched its military cam-paign in Afghanistan in Oc-tober, 2001. There are over 11,500 US-led coalition forces currently in Afghan-i-stan, hunting down remnants of the ousted Taleban militia and their al-Qaeda allies. Guerilla fighters of the hard-line movement have intensi-fied their hit-and-run warfare against US forces and the US-backed government tar-gets in recent months, espe-cially in the southern east-and-est mountainous areas. — MNA/Xinhua

Neolithic earthenware uncovered in N-W China

XI’AN, 20 Jan — Two farmers in the northwestern China province of Shaanxi have uncovered two earthen jars in white and brownish red that are confirmed by experts to be at least 5,000 years old.

Wu Tao and his wife Zhao Caining, natives of Sunjacun Village in Meixian County, discovered the two jars when digging in their farmland.

One of the jars was intact with a white coating and brownish red patterns on its upper part, and the other had been broken, with similar patterns still visible on its pieces, said Wu. Liu Huaqian, a cultural heritage expert with the county’s museum, assumed the two jars could have been sacrificial objects that had been buried with the dead during the Yangshao culture period, 5,000 to 7,000 years ago.

“Sunjacun Village borders Bajianjia Village, where archaeologists have discovered ruins of the Yangshao culture over the past years,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor meets British Secretary of State

BRITISH SECRETARY OF STATE

BELING, 20 Jan — Chinese State Councillor Chen Zhili met here Monday with Tessa Jowell, British Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Chen voiced her appre-ciation for the continuous development of Sino-British exchanges and cooperation in culture, science, technology and education. She said the peoples of both China and Britain have the desire to know more about each other as the two countries boast long histo ries, and hoped both coun tries would make positive contributions to the mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq plans to increase oil production to 3 million bpd

BAKU, 20 Jan — Iraq’s Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloom has said the ministry plans to increase oil production to three million barrels per day (bpd) by the end of this year.

“We currently produce about 2.35 million bpd and plan to make it 2.8 million bpd by the second quarter of this year,” al-Uloom said, quoting by Monday’s local Al-Nahrain newspaper.

Iraq was hit by an acute fuel shortage last month, which forced the Oil Ministry to import large quantities of petroleum products from neighbouring countries.

Iraq’s oil industry suffered huge destruction by the wars and the shortage of spare parts due to the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations after Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Experts estimate that the oil sector need more than 30 billion US dollars to reconstruct its infrastructures.

Iraq used to produce 3.5 million bpd before 1990 in line with the quota allocated by the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Under the UN oil-for-food programme which ended last year, Iraq was allowed to sell an amount of three million bpd to provide food and medicine for the Iraqi people. — MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.
Kissapanadi stands witness to border area development in Rakhine State

Myint Soe (Na-Ta-La)

When I was an adolescence, one evening I met with three men at the entrance to my village. They were carrying guns. They looked very tired and were sweating. The three men accosted me to give them water. Without thinking anything, I ran back to my house and took some water for them.

Since then, I had known that there were BCP insurgents in Rakhine area. People from my village, usually a shooting broke out. From that time, I had heard that battles often took place in the surrounding areas of the upper reaches of Kyeyintali Creek. Thus, I came to know that Rakhine State was also facing the problem of insurgency. In reality, it seemed that the BCP insurgents in Rakhine State and those in the Ayeyawady delta region were launching armed operations in harmony. Thanks to the Tatmadaw’s four methods to stop all supply lines to the insurgents, the BCP insurgency met its end in the Delta region. Since then I have not heard of any BCP existence in Rakhine State.

UN continues delivery of humanitarian aid in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Jan — The United Nations is carrying out a wide range of assistance to Iraqis through its local staff and Iraqi contractors despite limitations imposed by the security situation there, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Monday.

At a meeting with officials of the Iraqi Governing Council and the US-led occupation coalition, Annan said several hundred UN international staff were supporting their Iraqi colleagues in humanitarian and rehabilitation activities from outside Iraq.

Through its several regional offices, the UN has been assisting voluntary repatriation from Saddam Hussein’s regime and is patrolling in areas of the country where it can.

The UN has been providing rehabilitation materials for families suffering from the war, and is supporting reconstruction efforts.

Several hundred UN humanitarian workers have been working in the country, providing assistance to victims of the war and their families.

In 2004, the UN was to deliver over 300,000 tons of humanitarian aid to Iraq, including food, water, medicine, and clothing.

Visiting Dutch Queen receives golden key from Thailand

BANGKOK, 20 Jan— Visiting Dutch Queen Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard on Monday was presented a gold key as proof of friendship by Bangkok Governor Samak Sundaravej.

A gold key, six-inches long and 90-granne heavy was presented to the Queen at a brief ceremony on her arrival.

The key inscribed with the image of an Indra riding on an elephant was the symbol of the capital of Bangkok, according to the state-run Thai News Agency.

The Queen is on her four-day official visit to Thailand at the invitation of the King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The Queen’s visit aims to- to celebrate the 400-year anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Thailand. Her visit is also believed to improve bilateral royal relations.

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UN agencies are also bringing in potable water, delivering medical supplies, providing fertilizer and seeds, dredging ports and helping to rehabilitate health centres, water treatment plants, pumping stations and power supply systems.

The UN will continue to support the ration system, which remains an essential lifeline for a majority of the Iraqi population, with about 2.3 million tons of food to be delivered by mid-2004.

UN agencies are also providing nutritional support — including high-energy biscuits — for primary schools, kindergartens and social centres.

On refugee returns, the UN has been assisting voluntary repatriation from Saudi Arabia and Iran, as well as providing protection and assistance to refugees inside Iraq. It is also developing ways to facilitate the return and reintegration of displaced people in non-contested areas in the north.

The UN is preparing to expand these activities when security conditions permit and has drawn up plans to come back for further humanitarian and reconstruction activities for 2004 and beyond in areas such as education, health and infrastructure.

Preliminary undertakings

* Without peace prevailing
Where to find one’s food
And shelter and clothing
To assess and manage
Is not possible.

* In peace and with sufficiency
Lacking, ‘is impossible to gauge
Right from wrong, to seek knowledge
To look for such, to always look forward
‘Would not be possible.

* For peace and tranquility to prevail at home
For all education, to be available
Only if implement after due thought
To be adequately modern, for long-term development
For enhancement of beauty, to pre-arrange and strive
‘Would be possible, truly.

* For peaceful modern and ever-developing
Progressive and strong democratic nation
To be built, three priorities
To be fulfilled, prioritized
Advance foundation that’s indispensable
To be built, firm and strong
Let’s, all of us, strive.

Shoona Maa Aung (Trs)
Chinese Spring Festival means big family spending

BEIJING, 20 Jan — Chinese Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, due to fall on January 22 and the most important traditional occasion for family reunion in China, means really big family spending. Tuesday’s China Daily reported.

Urban Chinese will spend 1,500 to 3,000 yuan (183 to 366 US dollars) per household on average on festival costs, the national English-language newspaper quoted a survey conducted by the Beijing-based Sociology Survey Institute of China.

Most of the money will be spent on gifts for family, relatives, friends and business associates, and on “yunnian,” money given to children as a New Year gift in a unique Spring Festival tradition of Chinese wishing prosperity for their children, the paper said.

The survey also shows that 63 per cent of China’s urban population will travel for fun during the holiday this year.

Some 2,000 people took part in the survey, which was conducted in 10 major cities across China, such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, the paper said. "MNA/Xinhua"

Zimbabwe to earmark funds for toilets, clinics

HARARE, 20 Jan — A Zimbabwean official has said that the government will this year spend about 12 million US dollars on sanitation and conversion of farmhouses to clinics.

The development of infrastructure will be done in all resettlement areas where people were resettled under the land reform programme. "By the end of the month, we would have disbursed the money to the provinces so that they can start improving the infrastructure in their respective provinces. We are committed to this programme, especially the construction of toilets and clinics because people have a right to health care facilities and proper sanitation," he said. — MNA/Xinhua
Shwe Naing-ngan Journal comes out

YANGON, 20 Jan — Shwe Naing-ngan Journal No 20, Volume 2 published by the Union Solidarity and Development Association Headquarters came out today. The issue features news on the dinner hosted to hail the 56th Anniversary Independence Day by State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaying Kyaying, the news on skill demonstrations of outstanding students to mark the School Family Day attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the news on participation of the USDA members in regional development tasks and other interesting works. — MNA

Hospital equipment donated to Defence Services Hepatitis Hospital

YANGON, 20 Jan — Wellwishers donated cash and kind to the Defence Services Hepatitis Hospital in Mingaladon at the hospital on 2 January morning. At the ceremony, Maj Thaung Shwe (Red)-Daw Win Kyi and daughter Daw Moe Moe Shwe donated hospital equipment worth K 400,000. U Soe Naing-Daw Moe Seint Seint Lin and family K 400,000. Lt-Col Kyaw Zin Han Dr Hla Hla Khaing and family K 300,000. U Win Aung- Daw Khin Than Swe and family, K 200,000. U Kyaw Min Aye, K 100,000; and Maj Mya Hla-Daw Kyu Kyu Swe and family, K 100,000. Lt-Col Kyaw Zin Han of the hospital accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to them. — MNA

Cooperative Products Exhibition and Market Festival continues

YANGON, 20 Jan — The Cooperative Products Exhibition and Market Festival sponsored by the Ministry of Cooperatives continued at the Co-operatives Trade Centre (Saya San Plaza) at the corner of University Avenue and Saya San Road in Bahan Township for the eighth day today. The exhibition and fair was packed with visitors. A sale contract worth over 1.10 million Euros was made between Cooperative Export and Import Enterprise, and Vihalar Global Trade Pte Ltd of Singapore for purchase of green grams, black pulse, pigeon peas, lentils and Longphyu. Managing Director of Shwe Theichnan Co-operatives Society Ltd U Aye Min presented prizes to winners of entertainment programmes.

Booths of cooperative societies from the states and divisions were displayed while consumer products, food-stuff and regional products, cosmetics, garments and textile, home decorations, furniture and import-substitute items were on sale. — MNA

Myanmar Perspectives volume VIII comes out

YANGON, 20 Jan — The Myanmar Perspectives Magazine Vol VIII 2/2003 has now been published. It carries topics about Myanmar’s nation-building efforts, her roadmap to democracy and her standing and achievements at the Ninth ASEAN Summit together with articles on Myanmar culture, traditions, flora and fauna and other aspects of Myanmar life. — MNA

Salone Festival 2004

(Sea Gypsy Festival)
Ma Kyone Galet Village, Myeik Archipelago
Union of Myanmar
14 to 17 February 2004

Say No To Drugs

The volume 1 No 2 of Seinle Shwepyi Journal.
Updated law makes cornea collection difficult in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 20 Jan — An updated organ grafting law has made posthumous cornea collection difficult in Bangladesh as it stipulates that organs of unclaimed bodies can only be collected 24 hours after the death, while cornea damages within six to eight hours after the death of a human body.

Professor Abul Kalam Azad from Dhaka Medical College told Xinhua Sunday that the restriction has created serious crisis of cornea for eye patients, as over 99 per cent of the total corneas collected in the country come from the unclaimed bodies.

Under the updated organ grafting law passed in 1999, a body lying in hospitals, prisons, nursing homes or other institutions will be declared unclaimed if no claim is made within 24 hours.

The law was updated from an old rule passed in 1975, which prescribed the dead body would be considered unclaimed within only half an hour, making the corneas collecting possible.

Professor Azad, also vice-president of Shandhiani (Look For), an organization working on posthumous cornea collection and grafting since 1987 in Bangladesh, said in Bangladesh only a small amount of cornea came from volunteer posthumous donation.

Quoting data from Shandhiani, Azad said they had collected 1,692 corneas in recent years, and 1,624 were collected from unclaimed bodies, while the rest were donated by volunteers.

"Some 560,000 people are cornea-related blind in Bangladesh, but the posthumous cornea collection is very poor due to lack of enthusiasm and motivation among the people," said Azad. To make things worse, though 34,663 people have made commitment with Shandhiani to donate corneal after they pass away, the relatives of the dead usually do not contact the organization for cornea collection, said an official at the Shandhiani.

He said that the organization is going to introduce a new motivation programme on March 1, 2004 targeting the relatives of the potential donors. Shandhiani will try its best to persuade these relatives to fulfill the commitment of their dying beloved ones, he added.

Organs from families to sue British Health Service

London, 20 Jan — Relatives of dead children who had body parts and organs removed without consent are taking Britain's National Health Service to court to demand proper compensation, their lawyer said on Monday.

The families are some of tens of thousands of people across Britain who have discovered in recent years that hospitals had removed body parts—including heads, eyes, hearts and brain parts—from their dead loved ones without consent.

Mervyn Fudge, lead solicitor for the group action, said more than 2,000 families will take their case to the High Court after turning down an offer of compensation which he described as "inconsequential, considering how much they have suffered.

The relatives say the compensation offered is far less than that offered to parents of children at the Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool, which was at the centre of a high-profile organ retention scandal which shocked the nation in the late 1990s.

"We need to be treated fairly. Other families in other areas have been offered substantially more than we were offered and it just seems unfair that they are saying their children were worth more than ours," said Ruth Webster, whose baby's organs were removed by a hospital in Leeds, northern England.

Freighter capsizes off Norway, at least two dead

Oslo, 20 Jan — A freight vessel capsized off southwestern Norway on Monday and at least two crew were killed and 18 were missing in chilly waters, Norwegian rescue officials said.

Boats and helicopters picked up nine survivors and were scouring the sea around the upturned vessel Rocknes near the western port of Bergen, a spokeswoman for the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre for southern Norway said.

"There are nine persons registered at the hospital, two dead and 18 still missing," spokeswoman Cecilie Wanne said. Coast Guard and other vessels in the area were taking part.

The Norwegian news agency NTB said the Rocknes was a 166-metre cargo vessel owned by Jepsen Management AS and said it was carrying rock. It said there were fears that some survivors were trapped inside the upturned hull.

It was not clear what had caused it to capsize.

Saudi King Abdullah orders reforms in health

Riyadh, 20 Jan — King Abdullah, the Saudi king, said Monday he had ordered a broad overhaul of the kingdom’s health care system, which is heavily criticized for its lack of services.

"The health services system has not met the needs of the kingdom’s population,

Checks prove ‘space station’ has no more leaks

Moscow, 20 Jan — Astronauts on the International Space Station have determined a pinhead-sized hole in a hose was the only leak aboard the Station that caused a three-week drop in air pressure, Interfax news agency reported on Monday.

NASA astronaut Michael Foale and Russian Alexander Kaleri sealed off two modules of the orbiting Station at the weekend to check air was not seeping from anywhere else.

"The check of the Station’s modules at the weekend showed that all modules...are airtight," Interfax quoted a mission control spokesman as saying.

"This check was necessary to make sure that none of the modules had any other leaks and our investigations fully confirmed this."

Air pressure around the Station started steadily dropping last month, but stabilized after the crew found and removed a defective hose in a US laboratory last week.

Russian and US space officials said the leak had not endangered the crew at any time because there were adequate air supplies on board. A Progress cargo ship, scheduled to blast off to the station on January 29, will deliver a replacement hose.

No surrender to press from Churchill’s old parrot

London, 20 Jan — British war leader Winston Churchill’s foul-mouthed 104-year-old parrot refused to surrender to newshounds on Monday after a British newspaper tracked the bird down and discovered it was still alive.

"They’ve been trying to get him to talk all day, but he’s not saying much," said Sylvia Martin, who manages Heathfield Nurseries where parrot Charlie has lived for the last 12 years.

Charlie, who kept Churchill company during World War II, was famous for occasionally squawking four-letter obscenities about Hitler. But Martin told Reuters the bird had mellowed.

"He doesn’t say very much anymore — usually just hello and goodbye. But he does get so excited about music and dances to it. He’s very fit.

Charlie — invariably referred to as ‘he’ despite being female — is now owned by Peter Oram, the garden centre’s owner, Martin said. Oram’s father-in-law sold Churchill the bird and was asked to take it back after the Prime Minister died in 1965.

Mittal poised to become world’s No 1 in owning steel plants

London, 20 Jan — The LNM Group, owned by Indian steel baron Lakshmi Mittal, is poised to become the world’s largest steel producer after investing 100 million US dollars in a new plant in China.

Mittal’s Group, which now occupies the number-two spot with annual output of 35 million tons, will overtake Luxembourg’s Arcelor when it completes its one-billion-dollar acquisition of Poland’s biggest steelworks next month.

Polskie Huty Stali will add six million tons to LNM’s production while Arcelor is cutting 10 per cent of its annual 44 million tons output.

An Iraqi worker lies crying on the curb side at the scene of a car bomb which exploded in Baghdad, Iraq outside the main gate to the headquarters of the US-led coalition on Sunday, 18 Jan, 2004. — Internet

Mittal, who has invested heavily in post-Communist Eastern Europe with substantial state aid, including almost 500 million pounds in Poland, has said a handful of global players with annual output of up to 100 million tons will dominate steel within ten years.

NTERNET
Russian DPM to co-chair Indo-Russian defence commission

MOSCOW, 20 Jan — Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Alyoshin has been appointed new co-chairman of the Indo-Russian inter-governamental commission on military-technical cooperation. Russian Government has decided to appoint Alyoshin replacing former co-chairman Ilya Klebanov, who was appointed presidential envoy in Northwest Federal District of Russia in October last, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said on the eve of his three-day visit to India beginning Monday. MNA/PTI

Putin web site targets Russia’s younger generation

MOSCOW, 20 Jan — Russian President Vladimir Putin, launched a charm offensive on the younger generation on Monday with his own web site for schoolchildren.

Three virtual kids, whose voices have echoes of Russian fairy tale heroes, take visitors of the site www.urauz-prezidenta.ru on a Kronlea tour, give them basic facts about the state, and lead them to a photo gallery of Putin, his family and pets.

A former KGB spy, Putin has usually distanced himself from shows of admiration, such as a pop song praising his virtues, a school book about his childhood published in his home city of St Petersburg and a cafe named after him.

But late last year, Putin, 51, whose portraits hang in Russian offices and school rooms, said he did not mind his image being used as a state symbol. Putin, Russia’s most popular politician with around 70 per cent support ensuring him an easy re-election in March, is not planning to stage an election campaign, his aides have said.

He said in televised remarks on Monday the web site was not meant to publicise him personally.

“Frankly speaking, I do not think that anything connected with my personality dominates the site,” Putin said. “After all, it is the information about our state, the rights and duties of its citizens that are paramount.”

Texts for the site have been provided by a popular children’s author Grigory Oster, renowned for his mischievous book for children called Bad Advice.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted the site’s creators as saying they did their best to avoid controversial interpretations of history in an interactive game, which allows children to offer their own follow-up to historical events.

Putin’s site was launched at a time when Russian education authorities are reviewing school history textbooks. MNA/Reuters

Tanzanian NGO provides education to child dropouts

DAE-BE-SALAAM, 20 Jan — More than 7,000 child dropouts will be able to receive primary education this year thanks to the help of a Tanzanian non-governmental organization, the EDC.

EDC public relations officer, said on Sunday that the education will be provided to these children through radio and centres that have been built in different parts of the country.

This step is part of a special plan designed to eradicate children from child labour and help them receive education, he said.

According to him, the programme will be carried out among 11 districts in collaboration with the Ministry of Work, Youth Developments and Sports, Ministry of Education as well as the International Labour Organization.

Radio Tanzania is to broadcast the EDC teaching programmes from Monday to Friday.

The survey conducted recently in the East African country shows that more than four million children aged between five and 14 years dropped from school.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

Myanmar ICT Week 2004

MICT Park, Yangon.

(From 9 am to 5 pm daily from 21 to 27 January)

21 January 2004
7:30 am — Opening Ceremony + Projects Launching
1 pm — Professional Certification (seminar & ceremony)
1 pm — Capability Maturity Model Integration (workshop)
22 January 2004
9 am — Role of women in ICT industry (workshop)
9 am — PKI application (CA)
1 pm — Myanmar language implementation (workshop)
1 pm — Hardware Trend for software developers (seminar)
23 January 2004
9 am — Database Trend Technology (workshop)
1 pm — Object oriented software development with unified modeling language (workshop)
24 January 2004
9 am — Software products for SME (presentation & promotion)
1 pm — Software products for SME (presentation & promotion)
25 January 2004
9 am — Security issues and related products (seminar)
1 pm — e-Procurement (seminar)
26 January 2004
9 am — Wireless and broadband application (seminar)
1 pm — Myanmar National Counter-Strike C’ship Final

Avalanche kills two aid workers in Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 Jan — Two Afghan aid workers were killed when an avalanche struck a key highway linking the capital Kabul with the country’s north, a United Nations spokesman said on Sunday.

Manool Alimeda e Silva said the Salang tunnel on Hindukush mountains was closed after the blizzard caused by snowfall hit the area earlier this week.

He told a news briefing that the two Afghan employees of the French aid group, ACTED, were killed while patrolling the tunnel, some 75 miles north of Kabul.

Hundreds of Afghans use the Kabul-Salang Highway every day and the tunnel is often blocked by snowfalls in winter, which also cause some damage and casualties. Last year several people were killed by an avalanche, which led to the stranding of hundreds of passengers. — MNA/Reuters

Italian police arrest first banker over Parmalat

ROMA, 20 Jan — Italian Police on Monday arrested the first banker in connection with the multi-billion euro fraud scandal at dairy and foods group, Parmalat.

Franco Gorreri, head of Parmalat’s leading bank Banca del Monte di Parma, was detained by police at his home in Parma, police said.

Gorreri, a close friend of Parmalat’s jailed founder, Calisto Tanzi, sat on the board of Parmalat and served as treasurer for the Italian operation of the multinational.

Gorreri, 51, was charged with fraudulent bankruptcy, making false corporate statements and membership in a criminal association.

He temporarily suspended himself as chairman of Parmalat’s leading bank a few days ago, judicial sources said. Tanzi’s son Stefano told prosecutors on December 30 that Gorreri also handled relations with the group’s banks.

Stefano Tanzi said: “Since I joined the group... I’ve seen Gorreri involved in the financial side because he handled relations with the banks. I don’t know whether he formally held the title of financial officer because in 2003, Parmalat did not have formal management roles.”

Meanwhile, a court in Milan on Monday rejected another request by Calisto Tanzi to be granted house arrest, saying he could escape or tamper with evidence in the multi-billion-dollar fraud scandal. — MNA/Xinhua

Building collapse kills three, injures two in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 20 Jan — Three people were killed and two others injured in a building collapse at a construction site in Crown Mines, Johannesburg on Sunday morning.

Emergency spokesperson spokesman Malcolm Migeley said that two people were killed instantly and two were seriously injured after a wall collapsed at the site around 8 am on Sunday morning. The police said that the death toll rose to three after the body of a missing man was found by police and rescue dogs under the rubble in the morning.

Some modifications had to be made to the building behind the Nedcor building in Crown Mines. — MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier from the 4th Infantry Division’s 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment leaves his base in former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit, some 180 kilometres north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad. — IE

A foreign journalist looks at a US helicopter hovering at a low altitude on the way to the Iraqi-Saudi border point of Arar, some 350 kms southwest of Baghdad. — IE
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ADVANCE PESCADORES VOY NO (8)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ADVANCE PESCADORES Voy No (8) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-1-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up 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: Eastern Car Liner Co Ltd, Japan
Phone No: 256924256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MAS SUTRA VOY NO (051)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAS SUTRA Voy No (051) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-1-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.P.I. 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 up 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: MS PREMIER SPECTRUM
Phone: 256908/378316/376797

CAUTIONARY NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that O. Mustad & Son A/S, a joint stock company duly organized under the laws of Norway of 2800 Gjovik, Norway, are the Owners and Sole proprietors of the following Trade Mark in Myanmar.

The said mark is used in respect of ‘Fishhooks’. The said trade mark is the subject of Declaration of Ownership recorded with the Registrar of Deeds and Assurances, Yangon, Myanmar, in Book under No IV/7801996 dated 3rd September, 1984.

Any infringement or colourable imitation thereof or other infringement of the rights of the said Corporation will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win, B.Com., B.L., for O Mustad & Son A/S, by its Attorneys REMFRY & SAGAR INDIA
Dated: 21st January 2004

TRADE MARK CAUTION
ARMADIS, a company incorporated in France, holder of the above mentioned trademark.

Used in respect of:-
“Sanitary napkins, panty liners (sanitary), sanitary pads, menstruation tampons, napkins for incontinents, pads for incontinents”.

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

TIN OHN MAR TUN
B.A. (Law) L.L.B.
LL.M (UK) P.O Box 109
Ph:244(08)7272043
(F) Mark’s Inc., Japan
Dated: 21st January 2004

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Reg. No. 4/1213/2000

In respect of “Leagues”.
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for ARMADIS
P.O Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 21 January 2004

DONATE BLOOD

Third French factory shuts as Legionnaires’ kills 10

LENS (France), 20 Jan.—A food factory in northern France closed on Sunday after bacteria linked to an outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease nearly was detected in the cooling system.

Two other factories have already been shut in the area since the outbreak of the disease, which has killed 10 people. Health Minister Jean-Francois Mattei, visiting the Pas-de-Calais area, said the region had been hit by an epidemic “never before seen, neither in France, nor elsewhere, so vicious is this strain of Legionnaires’.

The authorities were excising maximum caution, he said.

Cyril Schott, prefect of Pas-de-Calais, said he had decided on Sunday close the Mc Cain factory, which processes potato chips, after Legionsnaires’ was detected. Some 700 people work in the factory.

MNA/Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar

Read Junior Leader to improve your English.
Three new cities established in Xinjiang

UNILP, 20 Jan — Approved by the State Council, three new cities were officially established Monday in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The county-level cities of Tumushuke, Alar and Wupu are under the jurisdiction of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, which was organized in 1954 to strengthen the country’s northwestern frontier and promote local economic development.

The establishment of the three cities is a remarkable event which will help boost the region’s economy and social stability, said Ma Dazheng, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Tumushuke City is located on the southern slope of Tianshan Mountains and northwestern rim of Tarim Basin. It is used to be an important pass from China to the Central East and Central Asia. The central government at that time began to station a garrison there in 75 AD. Ancient relics can still be found.

Tumushuke covers 1,500 square kilometers and has a population of 113,500 people of various ethnic groups. “Alar” means “green island” in the Uyghur language. It is located at the northern rim of Taklimakan Desert and the upper reaches of Tarim River. Covering 4,196 square kilometers with 168,000 residents, Alar is a booming town and China’s largest long-fluff cotton production base.

Malaysia, Hungary to enhance coop in communications technology

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Jan — Malaysia and Hungary agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of information and communications technology, broadcasting and multimedia.

Such cooperation would further strengthen existing ties between Kuala Lumpur and Budapest, visiting Hungarian Information and Communication Minister Kalman Kovacs told a media conference Monday after calling on Malaysian Information Minister Khalil Yaacob.

The duo believed that Hungary could benefit a lot from such cooperation as Malaysia had good experience in these areas.

Kovacs said that Hungary would also like to learn from Malaysia’s experience in undertaking the initiative to develop the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), where many well-known multinationals were operating.

He said that Hungary is a good partner and also a stable country in the Asian region.

Malaysia’s Telecommunication Ministry is located in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.

 WTO deals new blow to Canada in US lumber dispute

GENEA, 20 Jan — The World Trade Organization ruled on Monday that Canada was providing some state support to its softwood industry, dealing a second successive setback to Ottawa in a dispute over US import duties.

The WTO’s Appellate Body, whose verdicts are final, also partially overturned a previous decision by WTO trade judges that the way Washington calculated its countervailing duties was unfair.

“Many of the major players in US forestry were concerned that the WTO’s decision would curtail the industry’s ability to obtain countervailing duties.”

The WTO rulings were the latest in a series since May 2002, when the United States slapped permanent anti-subsidy duties, or countervailing, and anti-dumping duties totalling 27.2 per cent on softwood imports.

Unidentified bodies found washed ashore on Malaysian beach

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Jan — The decomposed bodies of eight men, believed to be foreign fishermen, have been found washed ashore on Pantai Melawi in Kelantan State between Sunday night and Monday evening.

Local police officer Mohd Sohaimi Rahim told reporters that the first body was found at 10.30 pm on Sunday night and the second at 8 am in Monday morning and the rest between then and 3 pm.

He believed that the men were foreigners because so far no reports had been received about any local fisherman being missing. He said there were no documents on them and this made it difficult to identify them.

Sohaimi said the bodies had been brought to the Bachok Police Headquarter and from there would be sent to the University Hospital in Kubang Kerian for forensic examination.

Meanwhile Kelantan State Deputy Police Chief Roslan Ahmad said based on the condition of the bodies, they could be aged anywhere between 30 and 40 and could have been dead for a week.

He said even though it could not be confirmed, police suspected them to be Thai nationals. Police at this point had classified the case as sudden death.

According to villagers, some of the bodies had no limbs while others were headless and there were also injuries probably caused by fish.

122-year-old Chechen could be world’s oldest woman

Russia’s Chechen Republic is one of the world’s most crowded, with its capital Grozny one of the most densely populated cities in Europe.

The Republic of Chechnya had a population of 1.1 million in 1995, and its borders had been the site of a war with Georgia for control of the region.

Chinese, Arab nations cooperation forum to be set up

BEIJING, 20 Jan — A cooperation forum between China and Arab countries is likely to be set up during Chinese President Hu Jintao’s upcoming four-nation tour, an official with China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said here Monday.

Hu will pay a state visit to France, Egypt, Gabon and Algeria from January 26 to February 4. During his visit to Egypt, Hu will meet the League of Arab States (LAS) headquarters and meet with LAS Secretary-General Amr Mahmoud Moussa.

The two sides will probably announce the establishment of the forum after a consensus on the founding declaration is reached, said Zhai Jun, director of the ministry’s Department of West Asian and North African Affairs.

He said China and Arab countries enjoy good cooperation in economic and political affairs. Trade volume between the two sides topped 25 billion US dollars in 2003.

Zhai said future cooperation under the forum is likely to cover a broad range of fields including politics, economy and trade, culture, education, health and sports.

“China hopes the cooperation forum will serve as a new platform to further upgrade the mutual relationship between China and the Arab countries,” he said.

He said China’s new leadership attaches great importance to promoting the traditional, friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation with Arab countries as well as other developing nations.

This type of relationship is based on mutual understanding and support and has deep political foundation, he said.

He said the Chinese President will also announce China’s policies on developing relations with Arab countries and developing nations during his visits to Egypt and Algeria.

It will be Hu’s first visit to Africa as Chinese President. — MNA/Xinhua

WTO’s epic fantasy has won several major criticisms awards so far this year, including best film award from the New York City film critics and a best director award for Jackson from the Los Angeles critics.

The “Ring” trilogy is rapidly becoming one of the most successful works in film history with the first two installments bringing in about 1.8 billion US dollars worldwide and the third expected for release about 710 million US dollars since its Christmas time opening.

In other PGA awards, “Six Feet Under” was named best TV dramatic series, “Sex and the City” the best comedy series, “Made in Umbria” best TV movie or mini-series and “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” best reality or game show series. — MNA/Reuters
Celtic stay clear with battling win over Hearts

GLASGOW, 20 Jan— Unbeaten leaders Celtic stayed on course to regain the Scottish Premier League title after Stilian Petrov secured them a 1-0 win at Hearts on Sunday.

Third-placed Hearts matched Celtic for the majority of an absorbing contest at Tynecastle but Petrov’s 27th minute strike was enough to keep the visitors 11 points clear of champions Rangers, who beat Motherwell 1-0 on Saturday.

Celtic have 58 points after their 19th win in 20 games.

O’Neill reserved praise for Slovakian Varga, who joined last year for nothing from English First Division side Sunderland.

Ten players were booked, five from each side, in a match that was fiercely contested without ever being bad tempered.

However, Hearts could be in trouble with the Scottish Football Association after Celtic goalkeeper Robert Douglas was struck by a coin from the home crowd.

Scott Severin was unlucky with a few long-range efforts for Hearts early on, while Paul Hartley should have netted with a header for the home team. They were made to pay when Petrov fired a venomous strike through the keeper Craig Gordon’s legs.

Deportivo make up ground with emphatic 4-1 win

MADRID, 20 Jan— Deportivo Coruna made up ground at the top of the Primera Liga after they came from a goal down to claim a bruising 4-1 win at home to Real Zaragoza.

Midfielder Juan Carlos Valeron made an unfortunate start to the match when he hit the post from five metres out and then bundled into his own net at the other end after Zaragoza defender Savio had curled a free kick into the area after five minutes.

But the Spanish international atoned for his early error when he had a hand in Diego Tristan’s equalizer midway through the first half and then put his side ahead with a fine glancing header from a corner six minutes into the second.

Tristan completed his double when he got his head to an accurate cross from Albert Luque in the 76th minute and midfielder Sergio wrapped up an easy win over their relegation-threatened opponents when he finished off a slick counter-attack four minutes from time.

The result means that Depor remain in third place in the table, but are now only four points behind leaders Valencia, who were held to a goalless draw at Valladolid on Saturday.

Champions Real Madrid, who are two points behind Valencia, can recapture top spot if they win Sunday’s late match at Real Betis.

Atletico Madrid retained the fourth Champions League spot after extending their unbeaten run to six matches with a fiercely disputed 2-1 win over Sevilla at the Calderon.

Fernando Torres notched his 12th goal of the season three minutes before the break and Greek striker Demis Nikolaidis added a second with a brave header on 71 minutes.

Arsenal go top after controversial win at Villa

LONDON, 20 Jan— Arsenal surged back to the top of the Premier League with a comfortable, though highly controversial, 2-0 away win over Aston Villa on Sunday.

A quickly-taken free kick and a penalty, both by Thierry Henry and both hotly contested, decided the match after Villa had made an encouraging start.

The victory extended Arsenal’s unbeaten start to the season to 22 games and took them top on 52 points — two ahead of AC Milan, who play Brescia on Sunday to ensure his side maintained top spot at the halfway point of the Serie A season.

The result gave Roma four points — a new half-season record in Serie A — three ahead of champions Juventus, who beat Siena 4-2 after an Alessandro del Piero hat-trick, and six ahead of AC Milan, who play Brescia later on Sunday.

Fourth-placed Inter Milan slipped 11 points behind the leaders when they lost to an injury-time goal by Empoli striker Tommaso Rocchi.

Inter striker Christian Vieri, who was fined earlier in the week for missing an Italian Cup match and was rumoured to be on the brink of a move to England or Spain, was sent off, fuelling rumours of a falling out between himself and the club.

Roma came back from a goal down to secure their victory over Sampdoria, and Fabio Bazzani quickly showed the deadly finishing that has made him side the most feared of the promoted teams.

Clijsters to play in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan— Kim Clijsters will play in the Australian Open despite being less than 100 per cent fit, the Belgian second seed said on Sunday.

The world number two was on crutches after sustaining a bruised bone in her foot at the Hopman Cup in Perth earlier this month, and her chances of competing in the grand slam event which begins on Monday had looked slim.

But on Sunday she told reporters: “I have done everything I can do and I really want to give it a shot.”

Clijsters, three times a losing grand slam finalist, is hoping to finally break through at the Australian Open.

While doctors have told the 20-year-old her foot will never completely heal and she may eventually require surgery, she has been told playing will not damage it further.

“It feels okay,” she said. “I play with the tape and stuff and that is what I am going to have to do for a while now, I guess.”

Bolton loan Brazilian Jardel to Italy’s Ancona

ROMA, 20 Jan— English Premier League club Bolton has loaned its Brazilian striker Mario Jardel to Italian First Division strugglers Ancona, Italian newspaper La Gazzetta dello Sport reported on Sunday.

Jardel, who signed for Bolton for 1.5 million pounds from Portugal’s Sporting Lisbon last August, arrived in Italy on Saturday after an agreement was reached in a hurry, the Sunday sports newspaper added.

The result gave Roma 42 points — a new half-season record in Serie A — three ahead of champions Juventus, who beat Siena 4-2 after an Alessandro del Piero hat-trick, and six ahead of AC Milan, who play Brescia on Sunday to ensure his side maintained top spot at the halfway point of the Serie A season.

The result gave Roma four points — a new half-season record in Serie A — three ahead of champions Juventus, who beat Siena 4-2 after an Alessandro del Piero hat-trick, and six ahead of AC Milan, who play Brescia on Sunday to ensure his side maintained top spot at the halfway point of the Serie A season.

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23-1-2004 (Wednesday) (Programme Schedual)

Morning Transmission

9:00  Signature Tune
9:20  Village of "EN"
10:50  Village of "EN"
11:20  Signature Tune

View today:
Sights “Come and See Beauty & Scenic Instruments (Cymbal)
Sights "Mingalabar" (Bengal Archipelago)
Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"

24-1-2004 (Wednesday)

Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad

Evening Transmission (17:30 - 20:30)
15:30  National News
16:00  National News
16:20  Song of Myanmar
16:40  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Braised Snakeshead fish with Mango)
17:00  Song of Myanmar
17:20  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Pork and Dnokek bean in oil)
17:40  National News
18:00  National News
18:20  Song of Myanmar
18:40  Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Dried fish)
19:00  National News
19:20  National News
19:40  Song of Myanmar
19:55  Song of Myanmar
20:00  National News

1:40 pm  National News
1:55  National News
2:00  National News
2:45  National News
3:00  National News
3:40  National News
4:40  National News
5:00  National News
5:40  National News
6:00  National News
6:30 pm  National News
7:00 pm  National News
7:40 pm  National News
8:00 pm  National News
8:40 pm  National News
9:00 pm  National News

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 21 January, 2004

WEATHER

MRTV-3

21-1-2004 (Wednesday)

National News
10:30  Song of Myanmar
10:50  National News
11:10  Song of Myanmar
11:30  National News
11:50  Song of Myanmar
12:10  National News
12:30  National News
12:50  National News
1:10  National News
1:30  National News
1:50  National News
2:10  National News
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4:10  National News
4:30  National News
4:50  National News
5:10  National News
5:30  National News
5:50  National News
6:10  National News
6:30 pm  National News
7:00 pm  National News
7:40 pm  National News
8:00 pm  National News
8:40 pm  National News
9:00 pm  National News

Summary of observations recorded on 09:30 hours MST.
During the past 24 hours, light rains have been isolated in Kachin State and weather was partly cloudy in Rakhine State, upper Sagon. Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Thayiku Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in eastern Shan and Kayin States, Yangon and Ayeawady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 19-1-2004 was 33.5°C (92°F). Minimum temperature on 20-1-2004 was 13°C (55°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-1-2004 was 91%.
35 hours on 19-1-2004 was 10 hours above normal. Rainfall on 20-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from North-east at (12-20) hours MST on 19-1-2004.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 21-1-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Sagaing Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Decrease to certainty is (40%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of the temperature in the eastern Myanmar areas.

Vinaya oral examination held in Nyaungshwe

YANGON, 20 Jan — The 51st Vinaya oral examination of Kangyi Pariyatti Sarhintaik was held in Nyaungshwe, southern Shan State, in conjunction with the 57th founding anniversary of Kangyi monastery on 15 January morning.

The State Ovdadariya Mandalay Visudhayon Monastery Sayadaw Abdurahma Maha Rathna Guru Swaye in Niko and depuy Wao Sayadaw, the Thitague Thegon Sayadaw and sayadaws and members of the Sangha, Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Khan Maung Myint and wife, Deputy Commander Col Win Myint and wife, senior military officers and their wives, departmental heads and local populace attended the ceremony.

The Wao Sayadawgwyi administered the Five Precepts and members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta. The commander supplicated matters on religious affairs. The commander and wellwishers then presented offertories to sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

The Thitague Thegon Sayadaw delivered a sermon. Merits so gained were then shared by the commander and wellwishers. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the major renovation works at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon on 18-1-2004. (News reported). — MNA

Work Committee for Prevention and Treatment of Avian Influenza meets

YANGON, 20 Jan — Work Committee for Prevention and Treatment of Avian Influenza under the Ministry of Health held its meeting at the meeting hall of the Health Department (Head Office) this morning. It was attended by Secretary of the Work Committee Director-General of Health Department Dr Wan Maung, members of the Committee the deputy directors-general of Health Department, Health Planning Department, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the directors, the medical superintendent, and the specialists.

First, Meeting Chairman Director-General Dr Wan Maung made a speech. He said that to be able to prevent the outbreak of Avian influenza, educative measures on health are needed to be taken; that preventive measures are to be taken for constant monitoring of the outbreak of the disease and for controlling the spread of the disease in a short time in case its outbreak; that effective medical treatment is to be given to the people who are infested with the disease and preventive measures are to be taken for prevention of the spread of the disease to the animals. Next, Director of LBVD Dr Than Hla reported on matters related to the Avian influenza. Afterwards, Deputy Director of HD Dr Soe Lwin Nyine reported on work programmes, followed by a general round of discussions. — MNA

Narcotic drugs, gunpowder seized

YANGON, 20 Jan — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Muse Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, on 13 December 2003, searched suspicious-looking Zaw Aung near Taw Win car service centre in Kaungmudon Ward, Muse, arrested him together with two blocks of heroin weighing 680 grams hidden in his jerkin.

Action is being taken against Zaw Aung, son of U Zaw Ywe of Kaungmudon Ward, Muse under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Muse Police Force.

In a similar incident, a combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Kawthoung Special Anti-Drug Squad, Bureau of Special Investigation, Special Branch and District Police Force, acting on information, on 16 December 2003, searched the house of Aung Nge, of 1st Naikle Street, Seinhmyaratta Ward, Myeik and arrested him together with 13 packets of opium weighing 0.642 kilo, 4 packets of gunpowder weighing 3.5 kilos hidden in a tin container.

Further information led to the arrest of Hein Lin, son of U Saw Lwin of Ingaun Village, Myeik Township, Kyaw Myo Oo, son of U Myo Wu of 2nd Naikle Street, Myeik; Min Naing, son of U Tha Hein of 3rd Myohut Coconut Street, Myeik; Win Kyaing, son of U Paw La, Ahleman Village, Myeik; and U Thein Aung, son of U Thein Han of Myohut Ward-6, Myeik, who were involved in the case.

Action is being taken against the six under Section 15/19 (A)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and under Section 5 of Explosive Devices Act by Myeik Myoma Police Station. — MNA

Bank erosion prevention inspected

YANGON, 20 Jan — Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than on 17 January inspected works to prevent erosion at Myainggale cement plant and an 800-ton capacity cement plant.

He looked into the requirements presented by officials of the plants.

He then inspected the building of a retaining wall at the bank.

He then sought means to facilitate the loading and unloading of goods at the jetty on and from the cargo barges. The deputy minister sailed downstreamed the river and spoke of the need to take necessary measures for the safety of travellers on the Thanlwin.

The next day, the deputy minister inspected the Kalwe-Daye waterway linking the Mottama sea. He then inspected the tax collection centre of the Myanmar Port Authority. — MNA