Foreign Head of State sends felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 21 Jan — The following is the message of felicitations from foreign Head of State to State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

In recognition of Myanmar's efforts for ICT development, ASOCIO has awarded ASOCIO ICT AWARD 2003 to Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004

YANGON, 21 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004, jointly organized by the e-National Task Force and the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation, was launched this morning at the MICTDC building in Hline Township here.

Chairman of the Myanmar Computer Science Development Council, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and delivered an address. Present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, the chief justice, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, members of the e-National Task Force, members of the committee for MICT Week 2004, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, foreign ambassadors to Myanmar, diplomats of foreign missions, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials of UMFCCI, members of the board of directors of MICTDC, the chairmen and officials of the Myanmar Computer Federation, the Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, the Myanmar Computer Industry Association, the Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association, officials of Mandalay ICT Park, IT experts, IT companies in Myanmar, Multimedia Development Corporation of Malaysia, Software Park of Thailand, Shin Satellite, iPTel of Malaysia, Sin Tel, Immarat Company, and others.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt opened the Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 with the use of Bio Matic system.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said: It is a great pleasure for me to give the opening address at the ceremony celebrating the 3rd Myanmar ICT Week. Allow me first of all to extend a most cordial welcome to all our friends from abroad who are participating in the activities.

Two years ago in 2002, I had the pleasure of inaugurating the Myanmar ICT Park and Myanmar ICT Week. It is most heartening to note the rapid progress of MICT Park. If I may recall, the MICT Park was established as part of the ICT Master Plan of Myanmar to stimulate the development of Myanmar ICT industry by attracting local and international partners to form a cluster of ICT-related business supported by world class infrastructure and technologies. It is our aim that MICT Park will facilitate ICT infrastructure and operational space, serve to promote ICT business at local and global levels, develop ICT development in the country while upgrading the skills of local ICT professionals and act as an incubation of the new start-up ICT entrepreneurs.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
The 57th Anniversary Union Day Objectives

— for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty

— to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people

— for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence

— to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development

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

Chinese gifts for MOFA

YANGON, 21 Jan — The Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Yangon presented 10 sets of computers and printers and a copier to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today.

At the ceremony, held at the Shin Ditha Pamaukkha Hall of the MOFA, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun explained the purpose of making the donation.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win thanked the Ambassador, and presented him a certificate of honour.

Also present were directors-general and officials of the MOFA, and the embassy staff.

Blood donation at Liver Specialist Hospital

YANGON, 21 Jan — Fifty members of the Metta Mon Association of Shin Hope Co Ltd donated blood collectively to the Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital in Mingladon Township here at 9 am on 17 January 2004.

The Metta Mon Association also donated K100,000 for in-patients of the hospital. Lt-Col Kyaw Zin Han of the hospital accepted the cash donation.

MNA

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MNA

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

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 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

Donate blood

(Admission free)
Annan OKs UN team in Iraq

United Nations, 21 Jan—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan cautiously supported an American and Iraqi request that a UN team study whether Iraq could have quick, direct elections for a transitional government.

But Annan said he first needed assurance the team would be safe, especially after Sunday’s truck bombing outside the US-led coalition’s headquarters compound. Thirty-one people, mostly Iraqis, were killed and more than 120 were wounded, the Iraq Health Ministry said.

American and Iraqi officials asked Annan on Monday to send a team to study the possibility of elections, and Security Council diplomats universally supported the idea in later meetings with Annan.

The secretary-general said he wanted more details on the mission, but he acknowledged the issue was urgent and said he hoped for a speedy decision.

“If we get it wrong at this stage, it’ll be even more difficult and we may not even get to the next stage,” he said. “So I think it is extremely important that we do whatever we can to assist.”

He indicated Monday he would approve sending the election experts but stressed that security would be paramount for any staff deployed there.

Obviously, the scope for operational UN activities inside Iraq will continue to be constrained by the security situation for some time to come,” Annan said.

Sunday’s suicide bombing was “not reassuring,” he said. The secretary-general ordered all international staff to leave Iraq in October following two bombings at UN headquarters — including one on 19 August that killed top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 others. Since then, the Bush administration has repeatedly said the United Nations should return immediately, but had not specified what role it would play.

Annan wishes China more successes in reforms

United Nations, 21 Jan—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Monday China had made many successes in reducing poverty and creating new opportunities for its people, and he hoped that China would make more achievements on the path of reforms.

In a video-taped message on the Chinese Lunar New Year, obtained by Xinhua, Annan said China had played a “vital role” in promoting world peace and development.

Besides China’s role in world affairs, he said the UN “can take pride in its successes, in reducing poverty and opening up new opportunities for its people.”

Annan says US biodiversity suffers chaos

Annan (United Arab Emirates), 21 Jan—Saddam Hussein’s former UN envoy, Annan, welcomed the United States’ decision to dissolve the country’s SARS death toll to 5,000.

In interviews with The Associated Press on Saturday and Monday, former UN envoy Mohammed al-Douri denounced a US plan to create an appointed legislative body in Iraq and demanded free, direct elections instead.

He accused the United States of creating chaos in occupied Iraq as an excuse to avoid direct elections of a new government because that vote could lead to the United States losing control of Iraq’s oil wealth and strategic location.

Al-Douri said democratic elections would be preferable to an appointed body no matter who wins — even if it is his Sunni Muslim minority, which held favor during Saddam’s rule, is defeated by Iraq’s Shi’ite Muslim majority.

“For me what is important is Iraq, not the majority or minority. I’ll accept anyone who is elected — a Shi’ite or even a Kurd, if that is the people’s choice,” al-Douri said.

“The important thing is that the (Iraqi) people elect, and not have individuals appointed by foreign entities like the United States.”

No new SARS cases reported in China

Beijing, 21 Jan—China’s Ministry of Health said here Tuesday that no new SARS cases were reported in the country from 21 Jan. 10.00 am Monday to 10.00 am Tuesday on the Chinese mainland.

The SARS patient in Guangdong, a 35-year-old private businessman, was still hospitalized but had normal temperature for 14 consecutive days, according to the ministry.

“None of the people in contact with him has developed fever or shown other abnormal symptoms,” said the ministry in its daily monitoring report on severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

The ministry said China reported three diagnosed SARS cases this year, all from Guangdong.

The other two cases, a 32-year-old TV producer and a 20-year-old waitress, had been discharged from hospital earlier this month.

World’s leading rubber makers to meet in Thailand

Bangkok, 21 Jan—Representatives from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, the world’s three leading natural rubber producers, would hold an official meeting in Songkla Province of Thailand to discuss ways to stabilize rubber prices on the world market, the Businessday web site reported Monday.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra revealed that high-ranking officials from the three countries would meet in February to come up with a frame work to maintain natural rubber prices at no less than one US dollar a kilogramme in the long-run. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi had pledged during his visit to Thailand last week that his government would provide full support to maintain the rubber price at no less than one dollar per kilogramme in the long-run, Thaksin said.

Cambodia to punish Vietnamese egg smugglers

Phnom Penh, 21 Jan—Cambodia confiscated seven vehicles and their cargoes of 159,000 duck eggs Sunday morning which were illegally imported from Vietnam against the orders of the ministries of Commerce and Agriculture.

“They fought against the ministries’ announcement to stop importing all kinds of foods or products made from bird meat," the Cambodia Daily on Tuesday quoted an official as saying. “We are preparing a report to send to Commerce Ministry in order to take legal action against the egg owners.”

Cambodia has banned the importation of birds and bird products from Vietnam, where the bird flu has ravaged fowl farms, said Suon Sothoeun, an official of Ministry of Agriculture.

Cambodia’s Ministry of Health issued a joint statement with the World Health Organization Wednesday affirming that Cambodia has had no reports of bird flu, but the health officials around the country are required to closely keep watch the possible avian influenza cases.

New Zealand provides $3.25m for reconstruction of Niue

Wellington, 21 Jan—The New Zealand Government will soon provide about 3.25 million US dollars to Niue to help reconstruction of the island, which was devastated by Cyclone Heta earlier this month.

The New Zealand Government made the decision Tuesday and agreed to the figure recommended by Foreign Affairs Minister Phil Goff, reported the New Zealand Press Association Tuesday.

Goff said the money would come from the official development aid fund, possibly using some resources from the trust fund for future development which was set up by the two governments.

“We hope the announcement of such a substantial initial contribution to reconstruction will send a strong signal of support to Niue, and to other donors,” Goff was quoted as saying.

Tens of thousands of activists march on the streets of Mumbai shouting anti-war and anti-capitalist slogans in Mumbai, India, on Wednesday, 21 Jan. 2004. After days of colourful protests and intense discussions opposing economic liberalization and the Iraq war the World Social Forum was closed with a massive rally. —Internet

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
**Many Iraqis want United Nations back**

Baghdad, 21 Jan — Across from the bomb-hit UN headquarters in Baghdad, opinion is unanimous. Ordinary Iraqis want the United Nations back and supervising the transfer of power from US-led occupation forces this year.

Some said on Tuesday that only the world body could ensure fair elections, a day after American and Iraqi officials asked UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to get involved in the controversial process to hand back sovereignty by June 30.

But elsewhere in Baghdad, a few accused the United Nations of abandoning Iraq and questioned how much clout it would have.

“We need its experience. It has helped with elections in many countries,” said Mohi Abdul-Rasool, 50, a worker shopping at a market.

The United Nations is likely to send a mission to help resolve those demands, although no decision has been reached on when UN staff would return to Iraq.

“They should return to organize the transfer of power,” said Usama Al-Kaisi, a civil engineer, looking across the road where the UN’s blue flag still flies.

Al-Kaisi said he agreed with Sistani that direct elections should be held to pick the provisional government. “I’m Sunni, but I support his opinion,” he said.

Some analysts have said the Sunni minority which dominated government until Saddam Hussein’s downfall last April would see its interests suffer in direct elections.

Shi’ite Muslims make up more than 60 per cent of Iraq’s people. Tens of thousands of Shi’ites marched in Baghdad on Monday in support of Sistani’s call for direct elections.

The US-led occupiers have called for a new national assembly to be established in Iraq through a constitutional process before a temporary government can take office on June 30.

After that Iraqis are to vote in direct elections for a permanent government by the end of 2005.

Sistani, who has already indicated he did not believe there would be enough time to hold direct elections before June, said that only the world body could ensure fair transfer, according to official sources.

Iraqis want the United Nations back and supervising the transfer of power from US-led occupation forces this year.

Iraqi women holding pictures of their leaders take part in a protest against US occupation forces in Baghdad, Iraq, 21 Jan. [MNA/Reuters]

**Large numbers of infected cows enter Iraq**

Baghdad, 21 Jan — Large numbers of cows suspected to be infected by different kinds of diseases entered Iraq without veterinary examination, local newspaper Al-Shaab reported Tuesday.

Due to the prevailing state of chaos, these cows entered through the Trebeck point, west of Iraq, on the Iraq-Jordanian borders. Dr Sawsan Ali Majid, under-secretary of state in the Ministry of Agriculture, told al-Sabah, the newspaper of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), “When Iraqi veterinarians refused to let the cows into Iraq, they were threatened by gunmen to force them open the way.”

Sawsan said the official pointed out that according to the information he has, some of these cows were smuggled to Turkey, some moved to the north of Iraq, and the rest sent to the Iraqi capital.

She added that the ministry is planning to build more veterinary quarantines to control such incidences.

The US-led occupiers, with the assistance of the coalition forces, have witnessed a state of chaos, which resulted in a number of security, health and economy problems for Iraqis.

**Indonesia to build nuclear power plant in 2011**

Jakarta, 21 Jan — Indonesia’s state-run electricity company plans to build a nuclear power plant in central Java in 2011, The Jakarta Post online news reported Monday.

The power plant will have a capacity of 6,000 megawatts and is estimated to cost nine billion US dollars.

The construction is expected to complete within five years to meet the rapid growing demand for electricity, said Yoga Pratomo, a senior official at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

**Philippine Senate passes bill protecting women, children**

Manila, 21 Jan — The Philippine Senate has passed a bill seeking an end to violence against women and children and penalizing perpetrators, said the Senate in a Press release Tuesday.

Under the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children’s Bill passed late Monday night, violence against women and children refers to any act or series of acts, committed by any person against a woman who is his wife, former wife or with whom the said person has had dating relationship or against a child, whether legitimate or not.

Versa-violence, refers to that which results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering or economic abuse, including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty,” said the Press release.

**China invites experts to verify its official statistics**

Beijing, 21 Jan — For the first time ever, the Chinese Government has invited experts to appraise the official statistics before releasing the gross domestic product (GDP) figures for 2003 Tuesday.

Li Deshui, head of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), said the NBS would continue to solicit opinions from various sections of society on official GDP figures to be released so as to enhance the transparency and accuracy of the statistics.

NBS figures released Tuesday show China’s GDP grew by 9.1 per cent year on year in 2003, much higher than the estimates of international analysts at around 8 per cent.

On 17 January, the NBS invited officials from the macro-economic department of the government and scholars from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing University and People’s University to assess the 2003 GDP figures. The officials and scholars reviewed the calculating methods of the NBS and gave unanimous approval of the official figures, Li said.

However, the experts also pointed out aspects that need to be improved in the statistical system and put forward suggestions on addressing the problems.

This was the first time that the NBS had released figures in this way and follows a reform of the GDP statistics composing and release system at the beginning of this year.

**One-third of Chinese rural labourers work in non-agri fields**

Beijing, 21 Jan — More than one-third of China’s rural labourers now work in non-agricultural fields, following the country’s speedy urbanization progress and industrial shift in rural areas, according to official sources.

The latest statistics show that 52.6 per cent of workers in the country’s catering industry and retail industry are from rural areas, while 62.8 per cent of workers in manufacturing industries and 79.8 per cent of the country’s construction workers are also from rural areas.

Previously, farmers sought temporary jobs in the city, leaving their family in their hometown, but today many workers from rural areas, or migrant workers, bring their whole family to urban areas after finding a stable job there.

Training courses in various forms have also been launched across the country to help migrant workers improve labour skills.

**Lebanon asks UN to extend peacekeeping mission**

**United Nations, 21 Jan — The Lebanese Government has asked the United Nations Security Council to extend the mandate of a UN peacekeeping mission deployed along Lebanon’s border with Israel.**

In a letter released here on Tuesday, the Lebanese Government urged UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to recommend the 15-nation Council to renew the mandate of the UN Interim Force UNIFIL for another six months.

The request “is particularly urgent in the light of the various violations and provocations committed by land, sea and air on a daily basis by Israel,” according to the UNIFIL force, the letter said.

The renewal of the UNIFIL’s mandate “will be a reaffirmation of the international community’s commitment to the restoration of Lebanon’s sovereignty over its entire territory,” it added.

**International news**

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British Irish “war crimes” dossier to be sent to The Hague

LONDON, 21 Jan—British use of cluster bombs in the Iraq war could count as a war crime and justified further investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor in the Hague, a group of international lawyers said on Tuesday.

Seven academics from Britain, Ireland, France and Canada interviewed eyewitnesses and examined evidence to see if there was a case for referring British conduct to the court, said the pressure group Peacerights, which organized the review.

“There is a considerable amount of evidence of disproportionate use of force causing civilian casualties,” one of the lawyers, Professor Bill Bowring of London Metropolitan University, told a news conference.

“The US cannot be tried before the Court because it refuses to sign up to it. The Britain did.”

Cluster munitions are small bomblets scattered on a target area by larger bombs, rockets or artillery shells, designed to destroy infantry or soft-skinned vehicles.

Use of bunker-busting munitions had also killed civilians, Peacerights said.

ICC officials were unavailable to comment, but Bowring said senior politicians, possibly including Prime Minister Tony Blair, could have something to worry about.

“Heads of state are not immune in principle,” the law professor said. “This one goes right to the top.”

US-based Human Rights Watch said last month more than 1,000 civilians were killed or wounded by some 13,000 US and British cluster bombs in the Iraq war last year.

Bowring said British aircraft had dropped 70 cluster bombs and British artillery fired 2,000 cluster shells.

A spokesman for Britain’s Ministry of Defence said cluster munitions were lawful weapons that were used in line with international law during the war to oust Saddam Hussein.

British forces “had of course” been involved in war crimes, he added.

Bowring said the report would be sent to both the British Attorney General Lord Goldsmith and the ICC, and would be dubious the case would proceed.

“Instinctively, it seems probable that political pressure will be brought to bear to prevent this going to the ICC,” barrister Hugo Charlton told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

Iraq and weak dollar loom over Davos forum

DAVOS, 21 Jan—Hundreds of the world’s most powerful people begin five days of public and private talks here Wednesday on Iraq, the weak dollar and other global questions, with the spotlight on US Vice President Dick Cheney.

Cheney is scheduled to speak on Saturday, the penultimate day of the third annual World Economic Forum (WEF), which officially opens with a ceremony Wednesday on this year’s theme: security and prosperity equals peace.

Snow drifts and snow ploughs will greet more than 94 countries as they gather at this Alpine village. The resolution, aimed at ushering in a new era of global prosperity with security at its core, kicks off with a ceremony Wednesday on this year’s theme: security and prosperity equals peace.

Over 80 cars collide on Beijing-Zhuhai Expressway

GUANGZHOU, 21 Jan—More than 80 cars were involved in 21 pile-ups at almost the same time on the Beijing-Zhuhai Expressway on Monday, leaving several people injured.

It was raining and foggy at around midday on the five-kilometre Shaoqung City section in northern Guangdong Province when the near-simultaneous collisions occurred. The road was immediately closed by police after the accidents, said Chen Shouxian, a police chief with the Shaoqung City Public Security Bureau.

Most of the motorists were returning home for family reunions at the traditional Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday. Some badly damaged cars were removed by rescue vehicles. All the collisions were caused by over-speeding, noted Chen. The expressway was cleared and reopened at 6.30 pm, but was later closed again because of heavy fog.

Akihiko Ghenem is due to attend too, in what will be Libya’s first appearance at the forum in more than two decades in recognition of recent diplomatic steps taken by Tripoli.

Libya vowed in December to abandon all programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Participants will be kept busy at breakfast workings, lunches and dinners slotted into seminars, brainstorming sessions and workshops from 7:30 am to 10:30 pm.

Egypt keen to establish good ties with Iran

CAIRO, 21 Jan—Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stressed on Tuesday that his country was keen to establish good ties with Iran.

“Contacts between the two countries were going on to achieve progress in relations, as Egypt was keen on establishing good ties with all Islamic nations, including Iran,” Mubarak told a group of intellectuals, quoted by the official MENA news agency.

He said that his meeting with Iran’s President Mohammad Khatami in Geneva, Switzerland, last December had achieved mutual understanding and represented a step toward ushering in a new stage of bilateral ties.

On 6 January, Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Ali Abtahi said that Iran and Egypt had agreed to restore full diplomatic relations following a 25-year-old hiatus.

The two countries have decided to restore ties. It’s a definite move and right now they are making the preparations,” Abtahi said. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher, however, said that no decision has been made on restoring diplomatic ties with Iran. — MNA/Reuters

Brazil orders hospitals to obey Indian birth rites

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 21 Jan—The Brazilian state of Sao Paulo on Tuesday ordered public hospitals near Indian villages to abide by ancient tribal customs when delivering babies for Guarani Indian women.

The resolution, aimed at increasing the Guarani’s trust in the modern health care system, obliges hospitals to allow midwives from the tribe to assist in childbirth and respect the Indians’ traditional diet.

That means removing foods like beef, pork, fish, beans, eggs, milk, salt, sugar and fruit from meals for 40 days after labour. Instead, Guarani mothers will be served chicken, rice, corn and a porridge made from the cassava root. — MNA/Reuters

A child of one of the three Arab fighters who were killed by US troops stands in front of a wall stained with blood.

A child of one of the three Arab fighters who were killed by US troops stands in front of a wall stained with blood.
Official stresses tech transfer in China France eco relations
BEIJING, 21 Jan — A senior Chinese trade official said here Tuesday that China hopes the French Government would encourage its businesses to increase technological transfer to China.

Vice-Minister of Commerce Yu Guanghoud told Xinhua in an exclusive interview prior to Chinese President Hu Jintao’s visit to France that technological cooperation will greatly boost trade and economic cooperation between China and France.

Hu is scheduled to leave Beijing for a four-nation state visit next Monday. France is the first leg of his visit.

President Hu’s visit to France will “inject new vigour” to bilateral trade and economic cooperation, said Yu, who will accompany Hu on the trip.

“China is ready to strengthen cooperation with France in areas where France is advanced in the world,” Yu said. “We hope the French Government would encourage its enterprises to have more technological cooperation with Chinese partners, and transfer more technology to China.”

Transfer of technology has been an important part in the cooperation between the two countries. By the end of 2003, China had imported a total of 2,009 technological items from France, involving 10.93 billion US dollars, making France China’s second largest source of technology imports among the European Union.

Yu said he is confident of the future technological cooperation between China and France. The products and technology where France is advanced in the world, like nuclear energy, transport, telecommunications, aviation, agriculture, petrochemical industries and environmental protection, are also the priority areas for development set by the Chinese Government, according to the vice-minister.

“China needs French technology while France needs the Chinese market.” Yu said. “China and France are highly complementary in economic areas and have huge potentials in cooperation.”

France has taken the place of Italy as the fourth largest trading partner of China among European Union members. Bilateral trade hit a record 13.39 billion US dollars in 2003, up 60.9 per cent over 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

Garuda Indonesia Airlines resumes Beijing flights
BEIJING, 21 Jan — The Indonesian national carrier Garuda resumed its flights Monday from Beijing to Jakarta after seven years of suspension.

China’s aviation industry grew significantly in recent years and still has a promising future. The resumption will further satisfy the needs of business and tourism exchanges between the two nations as well as provide easy access for the seven million Chinese deserts living in Indonesia.

The passenger volume of Garuda Indonesia to China is expected to surpass 3.4 million by the end of 2004, said N. S. Wandy Hadi, general manager of Garuda China.

China granted Indonesia as the approved destination status in 2002, allowing Chinese tourists to visit the nation. Flight GA490 will take off from Jakarta at 23:55 local time every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday and arrive at Beijing at 7:45 a.m. the next morning. Flight GA491 will take off at Beijing at 9:35 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and arrive at Jakarta at 15:35 local time. Airbus A330 will be operated on the route, with 293 seats offered. — MNA/Xinhua

South Korea to launch high-speed train on 1 April
SEOUL, 21 Jan — South Korea will slash rail journeys between major cities when it launches high-speed services on 1 April, the Transportation Ministry said Monday.

The Korea High Speed Rail will race at a maximum speed of 186 mile-per-hour and cut the Seoul-Pusan journey to two hours and 40 minutes from four hours and 10 minutes on the traditional train, the ministry said.

The launch will involve two lines linking the capital Seoul to the southeastern port city of Pusan and to the southwestern port city of Mokpo.

The train uses the same technology as France’s bullet train network and was built by French engineering group Alstom. — MNA/Reuters

China sets up daily reporting system to monitor bird flu
BEIJING, 21 Jan — China’s Ministry of Agriculture issued emergency directives Monday requiring veterinary and quarantine units at grassroots to report bird flu situation to higher departments every day.

It was the second emergency notice from the ministry following the outbreak of bird flu in Vietnam, South Korea and Japan.

The notice asked local governments step up the intensive on poultry, and the monitoring and testing of the HSN1 strain of potentially lethal bird flu.

“Cases of bird flu are spotted, all poultry within five kilometres of the site have to be slaughtered and all poultry within five kilometres of the polluted region will have to be vaccinated immediately,” said the notice.

The notice also asked local governments to set up emergency teams and store materials for emergency use.

“Everything should be taken to care of immediate and effective actions to eradicate the virus if cases of bird flu are found,” said the notice.

The notice also required veterinary and quarantine officials at local levels to coordinate with other departments involving health, transport, and industrial and commercial sectors in daily supervision. An around-the-clock monitoring mechanism will be adopted for the coming seven-day holiday of Spring Festival.

The Chinese Mainland has so far reported no cases of the disease. The Ministry of Agriculture and State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine have jointly issued a ban on importing live poultry and products from the regions hit by the HSN1 strain of bird flu. — MNA/Xinhua

Life expectancy of Beijingers close to 80 years old
BEIJING, 21 Jan — The life expectancy of residents of the Chinese capital Beijing has reached an average 79.62 years, according to statistics from the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau on Tuesday.

Deng Xiaohong, deputy director of the city’s Health Bureau on Tuesday.

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Japan confirms first blood-transfusion HIV infection case
Tokyo, 21 Jan — Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare on Tuesday confirmed that a patient contracted the AIDS virus after receiving a transfusion of HIV-tainted blood that had cleared the Japanese Red Cross Society’s virus-detection test.

This was Japan’s first confirmed HIV infection through a transfusion of donated blood since the Red Cross introduced the current donation blood testing system in 1999, the ministry said.

A public testing organization has found that the HIV gene sequences detected in the donor blood in question were identical to those in the blood of the patient who received the transfusion, it said.

The blood in question tested HIV-negative in May last year and was used in the transfusion.

But the blood donor tested HIV-positive when he was retested to give blood again in November, and a stored sample of the blood was found infected with the AIDS virus when retested with a more advanced method, according to the ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

Japanese Macaque monkeys groom each other, sitting in a hot spring in the snow at Jigokudani Wild Monkey Park in Yamanouchi, Nagano prefecture, central Japan, on 19 Jan, 2004. Some 250 monkeys in two groups, inhabit the nearby mountain and are fed in the park. The Chinese New Year falls on 22 Jan, and this year is the year of the monkey.— Reuters

Iraqi police officers guard the entrance of Alwiyah club in Baghdad, Iraq, on 20 Jan, 2004.— Reuters

The provincial capital in northern Japan of Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture, let Chinese tourists in 2002, allow-
Some scholars said that civilization began 6,000 years ago. But the human history can be said very young if compared with the age of the world, which is estimated at billions of years. Likewise, the history of literature in the world can be also said very young. Archaeologists said that they found evidence of cuneiform writing invented by Sumerians in about BC 3600 in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Regions such as Egypt, India and China were using the hieroglyphic writing in BC 3000. Thus, we can say that the art of writing emerged in the world 6,000 years ago.

Japan's convenience store sales down in 2003

Tokyo, 21 Jan — Sales at convenience stores in Japan fell 2.1 per cent from the previous year on a same-store basis, down for the fourth straight year, the Japan Franchise Association said Tuesday.

The drop is the largest since 1999 when the association began to compile the data, it said. 

The industry group attributed the fall partly to poor sales of such summer items as ice cream and soft drinks due to unusually cool summer. The number of customers fell 1.0 per cent, while sales per customer dropped 1.2 per cent, it said.

In December alone, convenience store sales dropped 1.8 per cent from a year earlier on a same-store basis for the 10th straight monthly decline.

Thailand asks for greater role in FAO

BANGKOK, 21 Jan — Thailand is angling to get more of its nationals on the administration of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), arguing that Thailand’s agriculture potential warrants more than one representative.

Speaking Tuesday after meeting FAO Asia-Pacific Representative H.E. Chanchong, Veerachai Veeramahard, a member of the Provincial Assembly of Chachoengsao, asked that the FAO consider granting Thailand more representation within the organization, according to the Thai News Agency.

Japanese military have arrived in the Arabian Sea,

KOYO, 21 Jan — Japan’s Aegis destroyer Myokou will depart on Friday from Maizuru base in Kyoto Prefecture to replace the destroyer Hiei as part of the government’s anti-terrorism campaign in the Arabian Sea, the Defence Agency said Monday.

Myokou will be accompanied by the fuel supply ship Hamana, which is to leave Sasebo base in west Japan’s Nagasaki Prefecture and reach the Tokiwa in February or March.

The dispatch of the 7,250-ton Myokou will be the third involving an Aegis warship since the 2001 enactment of the special measures law enabling Japan to provide logistical support for the United States-led war on terrorism in and near Afghanistan.

A visit to Bahtoo and Yakshaw for giving literary talks

On Friday from Maizuru base in Japan to provide logistical support for the United States-led war on terrorism in and near Afghanistan.

Hark at the new light of Myanmar Thursday, 22 January, 2004

A spokesman for the government’s anti-terrorism campaign in the Arabian Sea, the Defence Agency said Monday.

This is the uniqueness of our country Malaysia. The coming year must be more successful than the last, he said. With a firm determination and commitment, we must create changes that will be a catalyst for progress not only for us as individuals but for this beloved nation of ours,” he said.

Uzbek tank destroyed, killed 32 Afghan border guards

TASHKENT, 21 Jan — Uzbekistan has destroyed its fleet of six remaining Soviet-built Yak-40 passenger jets after the results of an official investigation into a crash last week that killed 37 people.

Police found the drugs hidden in a car driven by a man, who was carrying from there we continued the 36-mile journey to Yaksawk by van via Shwenyaung.

Our team comprised Ledwintha Saw Chit, a two-time winner of the literary talks, published the Yakshaw magazine and help people raise the reading power.

Malaysian urged to preserve mutual understanding

Kuala Lumpur, 21 Jan — Multi-racial Malaysians should preserve goodwill and mutual understanding as they form the linchpin of the nation’s strength and people’s well-being, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Tuesday.

“Therefore, in this Chinese New Year, let us in unison resolve, regardless of race and religion, to bring Malaysia to greater excellence,” Abdullah said in his Chinese New Year message. “After we welcomed 2004 happily and in harmony, we usher in the Chinese New Year celebrations in goodwill and mutual respect.”

“Here is the uniqueness of our country Malaysia. The coming year must be more successful than the last,” he said. With a firm determination and commitment, we must create changes that will be a catalyst for progress not only for us as individuals but for this beloved nation of ours,” he said.

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Uzbek tank destroyed, killed 32 Afghan border guards, crashed in thick fog at Tashkent Airport last Tuesday, killing all 32 passengers and five crew on board.

A spokesman for the prosecutor’s office said the order to ground the remaining planes had come into effect on Sunday. Uzbek President Islam Karimov has ordered the government commission to report its preliminary findings by January 25.

The number of customers fell 1.0 per cent, while sales per customer dropped 1.2 per cent, it said.

The drop was the largest since 1999 when the association announced Tuesday. THAILAND is to leave Sasebo base in January, 21. Hamana, Chief Staff of the Maritime Staff Office said Tuesday.

The dispatch of the 7,250-ton Myokou will be the third involving an Aegis warship since the 2001 enactment of the special measures law enabling Japan to provide logistical support for the United States-led war on terrorism in and near Afghanistan.

Japan to again deploy Aegis warship to Arabian Sea

Tokyo, 21 Jan — Japan’s Aegis destroyer Myokou will depart on Friday from Maizuru base in Kyoto Prefecture to replace the destroyer Hiei as part of the government’s anti-terrorism campaign in the Arabian Sea, the Defence Agency said Monday.

There are three Japanese warships currently operating in the Arabian Sea, according to the office. The dispatch was ordered in “line with a rotation”, said Kosui Furusho, Chief of the Staff of the Maritime Self-Defense Force.

The Myokou will be accompanied by the fuel supply ship Hamana, which is to leave Sasebo base in west Japan’s Nagasaki Prefecture and reach the Tokiwa in February or March.

It will be the fourth mission for the 8,150-ton Hamana, Furusho said. MNA/Xinhua

Police seized 20 kilos of heroin

BELGRADE, 21 Jan — Slovakian police seized 20 kilos of heroin at Otreze border crossing in the eastern city of Bregana, police announced Tuesday.

Police found the drugs hidden in a car driven by a 33-year-old Serbia-Montenegrin national at the crossing, the Agence France-Presse agency quoted Slovakian police as saying.

Slovenian police said that the driver was detained, and seized drugs have an estimated value of about 400,000 euros.

The Balkan region has become a favourite transit route for smuggling heroin and other drugs to western European countries.

A spokesman for the government commission to investigate into a crash last week that killed 37 people.

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Donate blood
ICT promises a great future... (from page 1)

Objectives to transfer technology, increase public awareness as well as demonstrate the achievements of Myanmar ICT sector.

Today, Myanmar is striving to become a modern and developed state. Politically, we are already taking measures for the implementation of the seven-step Roadmap that would ensure the emergence of a peaceful, stable, prosperous and democratic society. In the field of economy, vigorous efforts for economic development have resulted in steady and sustained economic growth. In the social sector, significant strides have been achieved, particularly in health, education and human resource development.

In our endeavours for modernization, we are particularly aware of the role of technology. This is especially true in the case of Information and Communication Technology. It is generally accepted that ICT promises a great future in the advancement of mankind. Today, ICT touches upon every aspect of our daily lives. Our Government is fully committed to ICT development and I am proud to note that through the cooperation and coordinated efforts of the Government, the private sector, computer scientists, entrepreneurs and enthusiasts as well as the assist...

Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and Chairman Dr Mohd Yusot bin Ismail sign the agreement on Cooperation in International Roaming Services. — MNA

Dr Ye Naung Win and Mr Romunt Laung sign the MoU on Imarsat D Plus Satellite Terminal Service Provision for Vessel Tracking. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects booths of the MICT Week 2004. — MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Computer Development Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opens the MICT Week 2004. — MNA

Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and Dr Xiougluek Phnimilisar sign the deal on International Roaming Services. — MNA

Khin Nyunt formally opens the MICT Week 2004. — MNA

 Brig-Gen Thein Swe speaks at the opening of the MICT Week 2004. — MNA

Hope that we will have a clean text in not too distant future.

We have identified five important focus areas namely, implementation of e-ASEAN Information Infrastructure; facilitation of e-Commerce growth; liberalization of ICT goods and services, capacity building and emergence of e-Society and development of e-Government. It is gratifying to note that significant progress is being achieved in all these sectors. To cite an example, Myanmar was able to introduce e-passports last year, placing it in the forefront of the world in this regard.

Moreover, e-visa for visitors to Myanmar is being launched today. Likewise, the use of the Smart Card is gaining more prevalence and our Smart Schools have won praise from international visitors.

Training of young people at various courses held in MICT Park as well as abroad is serving to build up our capacity. I would like to thank the Myanmar Computer Federation and its affiliated Associations for working energetically in capacity-building and human resource development. Moreover, the opening of Computer Universities and Colleges in various parts of the country also mean that the nation will have capable reservoir of human resource. Computer-based modern teaching method has been introduced in basic education and now, there are multimedia teaching centres in almost all basic education high schools, the majority of middle schools and some primary schools.

Higher education sector learning centres, resource centres and e-library were installed in colleges and universities and computer network system linking the universities and colleges was also established.

I am also glad to learn that various seminars and workshops will be held during the current ICT Week reinforcing the theme “Software Industry Development”. The deliberations will surely be of great benefit and serve to promote ICT knowledge in the country.

In 2003, we were able to dispatch an IT caravan to various cities and towns in order to increase public awareness and to instill ICT-related knowledge. It is our plan to further expand the programme during 2004.

As for MICT Park itself, the completion of the 2nd phase of development had resulted in expanded facilities. I am also glad to see the construction work of Cyber Tower and Cyber Mall is proceeding smoothly.

In recognition of Myanmar’s efforts for ICT development, ASOCIO has awarded ASOIC ICT AWARD 2003 to Myanmar. However, we should not be complacent with our achievements. Much more needs to be done and I would like to urge all our computer scientists, technicians, industrialists and enthusiasts to work together and harder to turn Myanmar into a major ICT powerhouse.

In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by our international partners. Today, Myanmar is cooperating actively with Japan, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Thailand and China. It is our hope that we will be able to expand our international relations in ICT field during the present year. It is also gratifying to note that at both four-nation Economic Cooperation Strategy Bagan Summit as well as the recent ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, capacity-building was accorded as a priority area.

In conclusion, I again would like to express my sincere appreciation to MICTDC, Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists’ Association, Myanmar Computer Industry Association, Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts’ Association, Bagan Cybertech, MICT Park as well as the various government departments for their contribution to the development of the ICT Sector in Myanmar. May the 3rd ICT week enjoy every success. (See page 9).
MICT Week 2004 holds workshop

YANGON, 21 Jan — A workshop was held on the first day of the MICT Week 2004, with an expert of a Thai company as the main speaker.

Mr. Sutee Satanaathophon of Software Park, Thailand, gave talks on the subject — Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) — the main theme of the workshop at the MICTDC building here today. Software engineers of the computer companies were the participants.

At the Conference Hall was the presentation of the certificates of the professional level courses — the JITEC Exam, the MCSA Certification Exam, and the Multimedia System Development and Training (ON-site Training).

After an introductory speech by U Aung Myint, member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, officials concerned explained the salient points of the three courses. Volunteers who rendered assistance to the courses were also honoured. — MNA

Myanmar ICT Week-2004 opens…

(from page 16)

can be used everywhere and in Theatre with the use of iPStar. Bagan CyberTech is selling dial-up Internet connection A/C users at a cost of annual fee K 49,000 instead of K 60,000 during ICT Week and presents gifts to those who participate in the Bagan CyberTech’s presentation and programme.

At the booth of Advanced Technologies & Solutions Co Ltd, arrangements have been made for the Internet Premier Course for beginners, the Certified Web Master Course that is popular in the world and the Certified Java Master Course. At the SSI Computer Centre, the Network Administrator Course, Java @ SSI E2 Com Course, the domestic and CD Courses, the MS Office 2000 Course, Smart Star Course, Oracle & VB Course are open.

At MICT Sales and Service Centre, computer sets are available at reasonable prizes with one-year guarantee.

The DCD Computer Company Limited is selling computers and related items in Yangon and Mandalay.

Internet Access and Services (MRS) is providing services and selling computers at reasonable prices.

At the Myanmar ICT Week, organized by Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation (MICTDC) from 21 to 24 January, network game centres in Yangon — the net zone, the net, the Red Application, the MSM, the Gooms, the Cyber City, Ice Knight, X gainer Z, the Lan Wizard, Sky Star, the Plane Internet Cafe and the Black Rock Clan — will help organize the Myanmar National Counter-Strike Championship 2004-which which will be held tomorrow. At the professional level, K 1 million will be presented for the first prize, K 500,000 for the second and K 300,000 for the third. At amateur level, the first prize K 500,000, the second, K 300,000 and the third, K 200,000.

In addition, Bagan CyberTech will present a bonus of Internet Individual Dial-up Accounts worth K 5.2 million to winning groups. The performances at the championships will be presented on HILT and detailed information is available at www.csymynnmar.com. Altogether over 100 groups will take part in the championships. The final match will be held at the Conference Hall at 1 pm on 26 January.

The dinner to mark the opening of the Myanmar ICT Week 2004 was held on the lawns in the MICT Park at 7 pm today, attended by members of leading committee for holding the week, the work committee members of e-National Director, the MICTDC President and members of board of directors, officials from the Myanmar Computer Federation, the Myanmar Computer Industry Association, the Myanmar Computer Scientists Association and the Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association and invited guests. — MNA

ICT promises a great future…

Afterwards, MICTDC Chairman Brig-Gen Thein Swe reported to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on progress of IT projects; projects initiated at the Third MICT Week such as Certification Authority (CA), e-Visa, Budget PC, and e-Procurement; and arrangements for Seafarer’s Smart ID and Trade EDI.

Bagan CyberTech Co Ltd Chief Executive Officer Dr Ye Naing Win and Prognostic Services Pte Ltd Chief Executive Officer Mr Ranstan Liang signed a memorandum of understanding with respect to the Inmarsat D Plus Satellite Terminal Service Provision for Vessel Tracking.

Next, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications Managing Director U Maung Maung Win and Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd of Thailand President Dr Nongluck Phunainisart signed a memorandum of understanding concerning the Cooperation in International Roaming Services.

An agreement on International Roaming Services was also signed by MPT Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and iP Tel Sdn Bhd of Malaysia Chairman Dr Mohd Yusuf bin Ismail.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected items displayed at the MICT Week.

As part of the effort to implement Myanmar e-Government tasks, e-Government portal, which was innovated by Myanmar Computer Company Co Ltd (MCC) aimed at sending information and submitting reports between the Prime Minister’s Office and ministries, was installed at the Prime Minister’s Office to be used as of today.

The Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 will be kept open daily free of charge to enthusiasts and general public from 9 am to 5 pm till 27 of this month as of today. — MNA

Red Sea flight recorders show plane not attacked

CAIRO, 21 Jan — Flight recorders recovered from an Egyptian airliner which crashed into the Red Sea this month showed that the plane was not attacked, the head of the investigation said on Tuesday.

But the cockpit voice recorder, which contains 30 minutes of conversation, was noisy and it was not clear from the initial analysis what went wrong with the Boeing 737, which was carrying 148 people including 133 French tourists. All were killed.

“The first thing we looked at was there any possibility of any explosion and we have a total negative possibility that’s why we can say, we can definitely confirm, there is no terrorist act,” investigator Shaker Qidla told Reuters.

“What I can tell you is that we don’t have an indication from the voice recorder of any defect yet,” he added.

Qidla told a news conference that the crash was definitively the result of “a technical fault”, a term which he said could include mechanical problems and pilot error.

“So this is what I call a classic accident. It is not an accident out of the normal. We will investigate the machine and the human being,” he added.

The plane crashed into the sea off the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in the early hours of January 3. The Swiss authorities said later they had banned the operator, Egypt’s Flash Airlines, from Swiss airspace because of safety violations on its planes.

The Egyptian authorities say they were not informed of any ban or violations and the company says the ban was the result of a financial dispute. — MNA/Reuters

Pakistan denies it has invited Israeli minister

ISLAMABAD, 21 Jan — Pakistan denied on Tuesday it had invited an Israeli cabinet minister to visit the country and said the UN meeting he said he planned to attend had been postponed.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz told Israeli Radio on Tuesday that he had invited an Israeli cabinet minister to visit the country and the human being, “some Israeli business- men have expressed interest in buying 200,000 to 300,000 tons of palm oil every six months,” spokes- man of the Information and Promotion Body, Gandi Diapari, was quoted by state news agency Antara as say- ing.

Gandi made the statement after a meeting among a 30 member business delegation from central and Eastern Europe, the local in- dustry and trade office, and local officials. The plan will be discussed in detail in Russia this June, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia plans to import palm oil from Indonesia

JAKARTA, 21 Jan — Russia is planning to import crude palm oil from Indonesia’s North Sumatra Prov- ence this year, a local offi- cial said.

“Some Russian business- men have expressed in- terest in buying 200,000 to 300,000 tons of palm oil every six months,” spokes- man of the Information and Promotions Body, Gandi Diapari, was quoted by state news agency Antara as say- ing.

Gandi made the state- ment after a meeting among a 30 member business de- legation from central and Eastern Europe, the local in- dustry and trade office, and local officials. The plan will be discussed in detail in Rus- sia this June, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s auto sales expected to top 5 million units in 2004

BEIJING, 21 Jan — China’s automobile production and sales figures are both ex- pected to exceed five million units, up about 20 per cent year-on-year, in 2004, ex- perts say.

Sedan production alone is expected to top 2.6 million units.

In the past year, China produced 4.44 million autos food agency and would visit Pakistan with a small group of United Nations officials in March.

Pakistan’s Foreign Min- istry said it had already told the Food and Agriculture Organization that it could not host the delegation in March for “certain reasons”. — MNA/Reuters

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In the past year, China produced 4.44 million autos

Cranes and other machinery were used to remove the device from the site

The New Light of Myanmar Thursday, 22 January, 2004 9
Germany says coal needs protection in EU emissions scheme

BERLIN, 21 Jan — Germany’s Economy Ministers said on Tuesday a European Union emissions trading scheme to reduce levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere should not threaten coal’s ability to replace nuclear power. Coal accounts for over half of Germany’s power generation, but 50 per cent of this is home-produced brown coal, which many scientists believe is a major contributor to global warming.

The coal industry argues that without the fuel, Germany will not be able to meet its target to phase out nuclear power by the 2020s.

“I don’t want any structural changes from the emissions trade scheme. I think Germany’s present energy mix (for power generation) is reasonable,” Wolfgang Clement told reporters during the annual Handelsblatt energy conference. “We must safeguard coal’s role as an alternative source to replace nuclear energy.”

The EU scheme sets limits on CO2 pollution for thousands of companies across the continent but allows them to trade the right to produce the pollutant to help meet their targets.

National governments have until the end of March to set their company limits under National Allocation Plans (NAPs) ahead of introduction of an initial trading phase in 2005-2007.

Britain said on Monday its NAP would cut its CO2 emissions in excess of its international obligations under the Kyoto treaty and would particularly target coal-fired plants.

Germany’s Green Party-led Environment Ministry openly favours energy sources which are lower in emissions, such as gas or renewables. But Clement said Germany’s dependence on its huge brown coal reserves would not allow it to follow the British lead.

“We won’t do more than meet Kyoto obligations. (Emissions trading) must be manageable in line with German conditions,” he said.

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“We won’t do more than meet Kyoto obligations. (Emissions trading) must be manageable in line with German conditions,” he said.

Clement said he would ensure that the allocation and administration of the EU scheme would be “in line with producers’ requirements and not too bureaucratic, using all the leeway we have under EU law.”

New German clean-coal technology was well advanced and might help create virtually emission-free coal plants by 2020-25 with top efficiency rates, he said. — MNA/Reuters

Microsoft lightens up on teen’s mikerowesoft site

TORONTO, 21 Jan — Microsoft Corp indicated on Tuesday it might have overreacted to the web site of Canadian teenager Mike Rowe who had added the word “soft” to his name and registered the address mikerowesoft.com.

“We take our trademark seriously, but in this case maybe a little too seriously,” Microsoft spokesman Jim Desler said.

“We appreciate that Mike Rowe is a young entrepreneur who came up with a creative domain name, so we’re currently in the process of resolving this matter in a way that will be fair to him and satisfy our obligations under trademark law,” Desler said.

In November, Microsoft’s Canadian lawyers demanded that Rowe, 17, change the name of his Internet site, claiming copyright infringement.

They said they would pay Rowe, who lives in Victoria, British Columbia, 10 US dollars for his trouble but the high school student decided to fight back and his story got media attention to the extent that he was forced to shut down his web site on Monday morning after getting over 350,000 hits. He managed to get the site back up after moving to a service provider with greater capacity.

“I never expected this type of feedback. I have put up a defence fund so that I can hire a lawyer to guide me through the process of fighting Microsoft.... I could never think this could happen, even in my wildest dreams,” Rowe wrote on his site.

Rowe is demanding $10,000 from Microsoft to change the site’s name. — MNA/Reuters

Brazil bans imports of chickens from countries reporting bird flu

BRASILIA, 21 Jan — The Brazilian Agriculture Ministry banned on Tuesday the imports of poultry products and byproducts from countries that have reported bird flu cases in recent days.

The authorities also issued instructions to raise the vigilance against luggage arriving in Brazilian ports and airports from Asian and European countries that have reported bird flu.

The World Health Organization has warned that the bird flu virus could be even worse than the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), as the former could be passed from fowl to human.

An outbreak of bird flu in Vietnam in recent weeks has claimed several human lives. Tests are also being done to determine whether the virus caused the death of nine Vietnamese children last October.

Authorities have ordered the slaughter of one or two million chickens.

Brazils are also being done to determine whether the virus caused the death of nine Vietnamese children last October.

The most immediate cases of the disease were those reported in Belgium, the Netherlands and Hong Kong in 2003. In Hong Kong, bird flu killed six people in 1997.

Brazil is the world’s largest exporter of chickens and has never reported bird flu before.

— MNA/Reuters

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
France Telecom to cut 14,500 positions worldwide

PARIS, 21 Jan — France Telecom said on Monday it will cut about 14,500 positions through early retirement or reassignment to other public companies in 2004 as the former monopoly pushes ahead with its massive restructuring.

A France Telecom spokesman said the cuts were in line with forecasts made in late 2002, when the company announced a restructuring plan to repair its balance sheet after a rapid expansion spree nearly crushed it with debt.

At the time it said it would cut about 20,000 positions in France through early retirement and reassignment over the next three years.

“These are not redundancy plans,” a France Telecom spokesman said of the job cuts, which were announced to the company’s unions earlier on Monday.

The company’s shares reacted only slightly, ending largely flat at 23.23 euros in Paris.

The headcount reduction comes as the company is in the throes of its restructuring and making a change to its legal status that should pave the way for further privatization.

The government late last month passed a law that will allow France Telecom’s civil servants to retain their status — they can not be fired — even when the company is no longer majority owned by the state.

The restructuring has included a 15-billion-euro capital increase, the refinancing of 15 billion euros of debt and calls for the generation of 15 billion euros in free cash flow to be used for debt reduction from 2002 to 2005.

In 2004, the company will cut 8,800 net jobs in France, including 8,000 early retirements, 2,200 reassignments and 1,400 new hires, the spokesman said.

The reassignments are taking place under an ongoing programme that should allow civil servants at France Telecom to find positions at other public companies or parts of the administration.

Internationally, France Telecom will eliminate 5,700 jobs, the company said. In 2003 the company cut 7,700 positions in France and 5,400 internationally through similar measures.

France Telecom, which had 217,000 employees at the end of 2003, said it expected to have about 202,500 by the end of this year.

The new hires will be in research, technology and sales and marketing positions, the spokesman said. The hiring planned for 2004 is twice the approximately 700 new positions created in 2003.

MNA/Reuters

Indian farmer finds diamonds in the rough

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan — It is not quite the goose that laid the golden egg, but an Indian diamond merchant’s prize cow is producing bejewelled dung.

Dilbahar Rajput had stashed a bag of more than 1,700 small diamonds, worth almost 500,000, in a pile of hay at his home in Gujarat State, famous both for its dairy and diamond-cutting industries, but not reckoned on the risk of a hungry cow, the Economic Times newspaper reported on Monday.

Now he is feeding the animal a diet of grass, grain and taxatives and has so far recovered 300 diamonds in three days.

“I am sure within a week I will retrieve all my diamonds,” the paper quoted Rajput as saying. It was unclear why he chose to hide the stones in the hay.

MNA/Reuters

Salone Festival 2004

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

Yangon Trade Fair to be held

YANGON, 21 Jan — Permitted by the Ministry of Commerce, Yangon Trade Fair 2004 will be held by Quartz International Co Ltd on a grand scale at Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Road from 3 January to 2 February.

On display at the trade fair will be local and foreign cosmetics, consumers’ goods, clothes, utensils, plastic wares, foodstuff, electric and electronic appliances, construction materials, household goods, stationery, packaging machines, small machinery and installation machines, and western and traditional musical instruments.

Entertainment programmes will also include at the trade fair.

MNA

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 21 Jan — Nursery Market Festival is kept open daily at Myaynigone Garden here to enable the general public to easily buy fresh vegetables and fruits, agricultural techniques and equipment, and seeds of various crops at a single place.

Vegetables, saplings of flowering plants, herbal plants and grafted fruit plants are on sale at the market. Orders from growers are also accepted.

Farm implements, fertilizers, books and books on pesticide sprays are also available at the shop selling farm produces at the entrance of the garden.

MNA
TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE
Hertz System, Inc.

Reg. No. 1712/1991

Used in respect of:
“Cover: printed matter, including brochures, maps, mileage charts, maintenance manuals and various types of directories. Vehicles.”

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

Don’t smoke

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE
7-ELEVEN, INC.

Reg. No. 695/1999
Reg. No. 288/2004

in respect of “the operation of retail store services; convenience store services and other related services and the goods sold therein, as well as the advertising media, paper, pens, pencils, playing cards, stationery, cardboard and goods made from these materials, such as books, magazines, diaries and counter”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
for 7-ELEVEN, INC.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 22 January 2004

CAUTIONARY NOTICE
LAFARGE, a joint
Stock company organized under the laws of France, is the Owner of the said mark LAFARGE as a trade mark in the Republic of Myanmar.

The said mark is used in respect of “industrial chemical products, mineral additives, calcium alumimates, chemical additives for concrete and cement, mold parting compounds, products for preserving and making impermeable concrete and cement, binding agents for concrete, anti-moisture masonry products, fire-resistive products, chemical reagents (other than for medical use or veterinary use), glues (primers or sizing agents). Coatings (paints), binders, non-insulating paints and lacquers or varnishes, primer or sizing agent dyes, binding agents for dyes, binders, dyes and thickeners for dyes, lacquers/varnishes and paints, flame-resistant paints, road-surface paints, oil putties, glazing putties, lacquers/varnishes (paints). Rust protective products and wood preserving agents, products protect- ing metals in laminar and powder form used by painters and decorators; Non-metallic construction materials, materials and products for construction, maintenance, restoration and renovation of buildings, permanent structures, of roads and other pathways and rolling surfaces and traffic-ways and all public works; non-metallic transportable construction, cements, lime and other hydraulic binders, mortars, plasters, concretes, granulates and all cement- based and concrete based products, special cements, fumed silica cements, white cement drilling cements, aluminous cement ready-to-use concrete, refractory concrete, special concrete, ready-to-use mortar and dry mortar, granulates, alluvial materials, limestones or volcanic materials, sands, grits, gravel, sand-gravel mixtures, rock fill, synthetic granulates, coatings, facade coatings, ground-smoothing coatings, bituminous binders and coatings for road construction, tars, non-metallic wall claddings, walls, non-metallic panels and beams for construction; plasterboards for walls, over-lays, linings, ceilings, flat coatings and wear resisting layers; construction plasters for interior coatings; plaster tiles or squares, special plasters, cement or sandstone pipes; insulating glasses.”

The said trade mark is the subject of a Declaration of Ownership recorded with the Registrar of Deeds and As-surances, Yangon, Myanmar, in Book No. 1098 dated 5th March, 1996.

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 LAFARGE,
by its Attorneys
REMFRY & SAGAR
NEW DELHI-MUMBAI
Dated: 22nd January 2004

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE
Myanmar Railways, corner of 51 Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon

Reg. No. 117/2003

Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following HF Transceiver, which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr No. Tender No Description Qty:
1 4E(T) 10MR(S&K) HF Transceiver Broad band high gain antenna and Down lead cable 100 meters, coupler & connectors and accessories 7- Nos

Closing Date: 30-1-2004 (Friday) (12:00) Hours Opening Date: 30-1-2004 (Friday) (14:00) Hours

3 For further details please call: 293982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605, 612.

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the aforementioned closing day.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

Arrival/Claims Day Notice MV “Mandalay” VOY NO 117/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “Mandalay” VOY No 117/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 24.1.04 and will be berthing on about 25.1.04 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day as 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.
**Study finds melatonin may help blood pressure**

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan— Melatonin, a hormone known for helping to regulate the body’s internal clock, may help lower high blood pressure, Dutch and US researchers reported on Monday.

Supplements of the hormone, often used to help battle jet lag, reduced blood pressure in a small group of men who took them regularly, the researchers said.

“This finding might open the door for a new approach for treating hypertension,” said Frank Scheer, a neuroscientist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

“It has been reported that people with high blood pressure often have suppressed night time melatonin in levels,” Scheer added in a statement. “We have recently found that people with high blood pressure have actual anatomical disturbances of their biological clock.”

Scheer’s team, working with researchers at the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research in Amsterdam, gave melatonin supplements or placebos to 16 men with untreated high blood pressure an hour before they went to bed.

The men who got nightly melatonin supplements for three weeks lowered their night time systolic blood pressure — the top number — by about six millimetres of mercury on average and their diastolic reading — the bottom number — by four millimetres of mercury.

There was no change from taking a single dose of melatonin, the researchers report in the February issue of Hypertension, a journal published by the American Heart Association.

High blood pressure is common, affecting 50 million Americans. It is a leading cause of heart attack, stroke and heart failure.

Many different drugs, from diuretics to medications that relax the arteries, are used to treat it. But they have side effects ranging from a frequent need to urinate to impotence.

Melatonin could offer a gentler approach, Scheer said. As aside benefit, he said the men reported sleeping better when they took melatonin.

It could be that sleeping better helps improve blood pressure, Scheer, said, although he stressed much more study is needed. He said no one with high blood pressure should start taking melatonin on his or her own.

**France warns consumers against counterfeit goods**

PARIS, 21 Jan— Counterfeit CDs, mobile phones and toys cost the French economy about six billion euros a year and fund networks of organized crime, France said on Tuesday, launching a campaign to warn consumers.

France is particularly vigilant against stolen goods and toughening penalties for counterfeit gangs as part of a bill that goes to a second reading in Parliament this week.

“Collusion between counterfeit networks and mafia or even terrorist networks is proven,” French Industry Minister Nicole Fontaine told a news conference to announce the campaign on Tuesday. “Counterfeiting is a social and economic offence at the heart of international crime.”

CNAC Chairman Francois d’Aubert said consumers pleased to have acquired a motorbike, an electrical appliance or a toy at a fraction of the normal price may be putting themselves at risk. Counterfeiters are peddlers of illusions: they sell time bombs without a thought for the expiration date,” he said.

That is because counterfeits may be inflam mable, fake car parts are unlikely to meet safety norms, medicines will lack quality controls, and CDs will have a short life-span.

Counterfeit goods account for 5 per cent of global trade, and may reach 9 per cent this year, Fontaine said.

She estimated their total worth at 200-300 billion euros per year.

French fashion brands like Hermes, Louis Vuitton and Lacoste, Moulinex in home appliances, car parts manufacturer Valeo and industrial gas maker Air Liquide are all concerned by the traffic of fakes.— MNA/Reuters

**World’s mountain gorilla population up in census**

KIGALI, 21 Jan— The number of mountain gorillas roaming forests shared by Rwanda, Uganda and Congo has risen in recent years in a hope of one for the world’s most endangered species, a census showed on Monday.

Trackers prevented from conducting their research for years by war said mountain gorillas are hoping to expand its small population of the majestic world’s most endangered species, a census showed on Monday.

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French fashion brands like Hermes, Louis Vuitton and Lacoste, Moulinex in home appliances, car parts manufacturer Valeo and industrial gas maker Air Liquide are all concerned by the traffic of fakes.— MNA/Reuters

**Germany, Kenya sign cooperation agreement**

NAIROBI, 21 Jan— Kenya and Germany signed a cooperation agreement Tuesday, marking that the bilateral cooperation of the two countries has been further enhanced.

Under the agreement, amounting to 50 million euros for development projects in the east African country for the years 2004 and 2005, the two governments agreed to use 2.4 million euros for the water sector, 11.5 million for a programme for private sector development in agriculture, 11.5 million for a programme for the health sector development and 3 million for the promotion of good governance.

Visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki were present at the signing ceremony.

**France urges G-8 to put development on top agenda**

PARIS, 21 Jan— French President Jacques Chirac on Monday reiterated the necessity that world’s most industrialized nations (the Group of 8) put issues concerning Africa and the development on its agenda at their summit in June in the United States.

Chirac stressed that participants should discuss Africa and the challenge posed by the issue of development during the coming G-8 Summit in Sea Island, the United States, according to the President’s Office in a news brief.

**Indian farmer finds diamonds in the rough**

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan— It is not quite the goose that laid the golden egg, but an Indian diamond merchant’s prize cow is producing he jewelled dung.

Dilubhai Rajasthan has stashed a bag of more than 1,700 small diamonds, worth almost $900, in a pile of hay at his home in Gujarat State, and far recovered 300 diamonds in three days.

“I am sure within a week I will retrieve all my diamonds,” the paper quoted Rajput as saying. It was unclear why he chose to stock up in a pile of hay at his home in Gujarat State, and far recovered 300 diamonds in three days.

“Counterfeiting is a social and economic offence at the heart of international crime,” CNAC Chairman Francois d’Aubert said consumers pleased to have acquired a motorbike, an electrical appliance or a toy at a fraction of the normal price may be putting themselves at risk. Counterfeiters are peddlers of illusions: they sell time bombs without a thought for the expiration date,” he said.

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Fulham agree to sell Saha to United
LONDON, 21 Jan—Louis Saha's move to Manchester United moved a step closer on Sunday when Fulham said they had agreed to principle to sell the French striker to the champions.

"Fulham Football Club can confirm that it has reached an agreement in principle with Manchester United for the transfer of the registration of Louis Saha, subject to a number of conditions," the London club said on its web site.

"We expect these conditions to be resolved within the next week and will make a further announcement on completion." United have not scored in their past two Premier League matches and were beaten 1-0 on Saturday by lowly Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Fulham have been reluctant to part with Saha, who has scored 13 league goals this season, and turned down a bid, reported to be eight million pounds (14.5 million US dollars), from United last month.

That refusal prompted a public falling out between the player and the club, with Saha quoted as saying he was "disgusted" at Fulham's stance.

Fulham manager Chris Coleman even accused United of trying to "bully" him into selling Saha, a 2.1-million-pound signing from Metz three years ago.—MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo rescues Real, Deportivo close in
MADRID, 21 Jan—Ronaldo saved Real Madrid from a second successive Primera Liga defeat when he grabbed his 15th goal of the season to earn his side a 1-1 draw away to a dominant Real Betis on Sunday.

The Brazilian striker took full advantage of one of the few occasions when he received the ball in space to shimmy his way past Betis keeper Pedro Contreras and clip in from a tight angle to cancel out Joaquin's first-half volley.

Valencia, who drew 0-0 at Valladolid on Saturday, retain their one-point advantage over Real at the top of the table, but Deportivo Coruna move to within four points of the leaders after their 4-1 win over Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Despite fielding a full-strength line-up, including a recovered David Beckham, Real never looked comfortable against Betis.

"I thought we played as individuals and as a team very well. We created a lot of chances but they were unable to put the finishing touch to some promising attacks and it was Real who had the better opportunities," Betis coach Juan Antonio Pizzi said.

But the Brazilian needed just one more chance to level the game. Racing onto a pin-point through ball from Zinedine Zidane, he left a bemused Contreras rooted to the spot with a dizzying series of twists and turns before finding the near post from a tight angle 15 minutes into the second half.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairperson of Support Fund Myanmar of Belgium at Zeyathan Beikman Hall on January 22, 2004. — MNA

**Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Contest ends**

**YANGON, 21 Jan** — The closing ceremony of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at the People’s Square on Pyay Road here this morning.

It was attended by Chairperson of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Aung Htet. Ms Callebaut was accompanied by Chairman of the Woodland Group of Companies U Win Aung. — MNA

**Prime Minister receives Chairperson of Support Fund Myanmar of Belgium**

**YANGON, 21 Jan** — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Chairperson of the Support Fund Myanmar of Belgium Ms Yve Callebaut at Zeyathan Beikman Hall on January 22, 2004. — MNA

**Myanmar ICT Week-2004 opens at MICT Park**

**YANGON, 21 Jan** — The Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Week-2004 was held at MICT Park in Hline University Campus up to 27 January today. Businessmen, departmental staff, teachers, students and the public visited the Myanmar ICT Week at the booth of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, there are value-added services such as CLI, Call Forwarding, Call Waiting and 3-Way Calling. Visitors are allowed to use E-mail, fax, Internet (ISDN internet access) free of charge. Besides, local made auto-exchanges, card phones, video phones, mobile phones single, G3 phone system, cordless phone for rural areas, the system that can draw bill instantly with the use of computer for PCO phone, IPstar services that can provide clear international movies everywhere with the use of satellites.

At Bagan Cybertech booth, ADSL communication system in which Internet, e-mail and telephone can be used quickly by using telephones in Yangon and Mandalay where there are exchanges. IPstar services that can provide clear international movies everywhere with the use of satellites.

**Shuttle buses to run free of charge to MICT Park**

**YANGON, 21 Jan** — For the convenience of visitors shuttle buses will run free of charge from the junctions of Insein and Parami Roads and Pyay and Parami Roads during the Third Myanmar ICT Week to be held in MICT Park in Hline University Campus up to 27 January. — MNA