Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 22 Jan — The following are the messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State to Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates:

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of your country, it gives me pleasure to extend to Your Excellency best greetings and warmest congratulations in the name of the people and Government of the United Arab Emirates and on my own behalf. Wishing Your Excellency every happiness and abundant prosperity to the friendly people of your country. With my highest consideration and esteem.

MNA

Foreign Head of Government sends felicitations to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 22 Jan — The following is the message of felicitations from foreign Head of Government to Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates:

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of your country, it gives me pleasure to extend to Your Excellency best greetings and warmest congratulations in the name of the people and Government of the United Arab Emirates and on my own behalf. Wishing Your Excellency every happiness and abundant prosperity to the friendly people of your country. With my highest consideration and esteem.

MNA

Prime Minister meets Chairman and party of Shan State (North) Special Region 5

YANGON, 22 Jan — Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Chairman of Shan State (North) Special Region 5 U Matu Naw, Secretary U Min Aye, Deputy Director of the Town Planning Development Affairs Department U Ko Ko Naing and party.

During the discussion the national race leaders said that they supported the seven-point future political programme of the State, adding that they would make harmonious efforts with the leadership of the State for the successful implementation of the political programme.

They also said that the region would continue to root out the narcotic drugs with added momentum, presenting the plan for the State to render assistance in the health, education, agriculture, transport and economic sectors for regional development.

MNA

Rural water supply commissioned into service

YANGON, 22 Jan — As a gesture of hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day, rural water supply was commissioned into service in Yansin-4 village in Mongkoe Village-tract, Tachilek Township on 13 January.

MNA
The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives — for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people — for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence — to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and — for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

U Win Aung sends congratulations
to FM of ROK

Yangon, 23 Jan — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a congratulatory message to Mr Ban Ki-moon who was appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea. — MNA

Food & Delicacies’ Fair to be held

Yangon, 22 Jan — The Myanmar Karatedo Federation will honour handsome awards to any coach or club which can produce fresh blood talent enough to become the national selections’, announced an MKF official today at the opening of a karatedo course.

Former national karatedo selection and the current MKF Vice-President Dr Ye Naing Win made the announcement, while explaining the future plans of the federation to promote and propagate karatedo in Myanmar, and to win medals in the international competitions.

The Karatedo Coaching Course 1/2004 was opened with an introductory speech by MKF President Retired Police Col Khin Maung Tun at the Aung San Stadium.

Fifty-six male and nine female trainees are attending the course. — MNA

Tarred road opened to hail Union Day

Yangon, 22 Jan — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day-2004, a self-reliant tarred road was opened at Sanpya Ganges Gaingyi Ward in North Okkalapa Township, here, this morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Chairman Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

Also present on the occasion were YCDC Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretary Col Maung Aung, Joint-Secre tary U Kyi Win and committee members, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi and senior military officers, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt- Col Myint Kyi, Yangon East District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shoen and members, the Township PDC Chairman and members and others.

The commander, the Yangon Mayor and Chairman of the committee for construction the road U Than Maung formally opened the road which is 1,350 feet in length and 20 feet in width. The commander and the guests walked along the new road and greeted the public.

After the ceremony, the commander, the mayor and officials checked the tarning of Bohmu Bahoo Road that links North Okkalapa township and Dagon University in Dagon Myothit (East).

The mayor and party inspected the sports ground near Kyinmawta Street in Dagon Myothit (East), tar ring the four-lane Yadana Street in Thyanggyun Township which is 9,500 feet long and links Thanthuma and Wezayanda streets and tar ring the ring-road around Kyaikkaun Pagoda.

Afterwards, the mayor and officials looked into greening tasks for the environs of Kandawgyi is land, completion of the ring-road of Khemadipa island and tasks being carried out. The mayor gave necessary instructions. — MNA
UN inching toward return to Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Jan—Despite US and Iraq officials’ failure to offer security guarantee and a clarified mission for the United Nations in Iraq, the international body is inching toward its return to the violence-ridden Iraq.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan Monday met a delegation of the Iraqi Governing Council and top officials of the US-led coalition in Baghdad to discuss a possible UN role in Iraq. Annan ordered all international staff to leave Iraq in October following two bombing attacks targeting UN office in the country, including one that killed top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.

But at the three-party meeting, the US and Iraqi officials stopped short of offering security guarantee for future UN staff and “some clarity” about what Iraqis and the coalition expect of the UN, the two key concerns of Annan.

Annan has reiterated that during Iraq’s reconstruction process, the UN would like to help in humanitarian rescue, elections and the setup of a provisional government, and that he would not make a decision on UN’s return to Iraq without security guarantee and a clarified mission offer.

Nevertheless, analysts said signs have emerged that the UN is inching toward Iraq, with Annan softening his tongue over safety concerns and technical details about UN’s resending its mission to Baghdad within a week to assess overall security conditions for a possible large-scale, permanent return of UN staff.

Internet

Iraq mortar attack kills 2 US soldiers

BAGHDAD, 22 Jan—A barrage of mortar fire struck a US military encampment in central Iraq, killing two American soldiers and critically wounding a third, the military said Thursday.

Also, in separate incidents, gunmen ambushed a vehicle carrying Iraqis who worked in the laundry at a US military base, killing three of them, and took the security chief of Spanish troops who was wounded during a raid south of the capital.

Maj Josslyn Aberle, spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division, said insurgents fired mortars and rockets at a US military encampment outside the town of Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, on Wednesday evening, killing the two soldiers and critically wounding another.

The three soldiers were standing outside the tactical operations centre when the barrage hit, she said. The attack also damaged vehicles.

US forces were on high alert but there was no indication the insurgents sustained casualties, she said.

Internet

Spanish Civil Guard commander shot in southern Iraq

DWAYANTA (Iraq), 22 Jan—In the city of Dwayanta, 120 miles south of Baghdad, Spanish Civil Guard Commander Gonzalez Perez Garcia was shot in the head Thursday after a pre-dawn raid with Iraqi police at the home of a suspected terrorist leader, according to a Spanish Defence Ministry statement in Madrid. He was taken to a US military hospital in Baghdad in a serious condition.

US forces have struggled to bring peace to Iraq in time for the planned handover of power to a transitional Iraqi government on July 1.

The plan calls for selecting a legislature through direct legislative elections that can be held before the July 1 handover.

Internet

503 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Jan—As of Wednesday, 21 January, 503 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the military. Of those, 347 died as a result of hostile action and 156 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 55 deaths; Italy, 17; and Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; other, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each. Since 1 May, when President Bush (declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 365 US soldiers have died — 232 as a result of hostile action and 133 of non-hostile causes, according to an AP analysis of releases from the Defence Department and US Central Command. Since the start of military operations, 2,508 US service members have been injured in a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures as of Friday. Non-hostile injured numbered 396.

Internet

WHO develops vaccine against H5N1 infection in humans

HANOI, 22 Jan—The World Health Organization (WHO) is speeding up work on a vaccine to protect humans from H5N1, the virus found in five human deaths and sickening thousands in Vietnam, according to a report of WHO on Wednesday.

Laboratories in Hong Kong and Japan have worked with the virus obtained from two of the fatal cases in Vietnam. A prototype virus to protect humans from H5N1 could be made available to vaccine manufacturing companies within about four weeks. A WHO and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) team of two experts and six scientists from the US Centre of Disease Control arrived in Vietnam to investigate and assess the situation of bird and human flu outbreak.

WHO has found H5N1 in nature, in aquatic environments, and in migrating wild birds. WHO is in contact with Vietnam, the country where the H5N1 strain was first identified, to determine the next steps.

WHO and its partners are tracking the rapid spread of H5N1 across Southeast Asia and the world, according to the WHO report.

So far, there has been no evidence of the virus transmitted from animals to humans.

Vietnam has reported 30 H5N1 patients and six suspected cases, of whom five have died. Five fatal cases were confirmed to be infected with H5N1. MNA/Xinhua

Internet

Singapore needs to produce more babies

SINGAPORE, 22 Jan—Singaporeans need to have more babies, the Prime Minister said on Wednesday, underscoring deepening alarm over a dwindling birth rate and rise in childless couples in Southeast Asia’s wealthiest nation.

Singapore’s birth rate has tumbled well below the 50,000 live births a year Singapore’s Government says is needed to meet the future economic, labour and defence requirements in the island state of four million people.

“Our falling birth rate is a cause of great concern,” said Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in a speech to mark the start of the Lunar New Year holiday. “Couples nowadays delay starting a family, and have fewer children.”

“Some do not even regard marriage and children as priorities,” he said.

In 1990, Singaporean women, on average, gave birth to 1.87 babies in a lifetime. That fell to 1.42 by 2001 and to 1.37 in 2002 — far below the 2.1 rate needed for a population to replace itself. Last year saw another drop, officials say.

The appeal on Wednesday for more babies was accompanied by a strong call to safeguard traditional values as childless couples become more common in the city-state — the proportion tripling since 1980 to 6 per cent of the population.

“The values that we have long held and cherished are now increasingly challenged by those from Europe, the UK and the more developed societies of Asia like China, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan,” he said.

“Many of the ill in Western societies are linked to the weakening of family ties,” he added.

MNA/Reuters

Internet

Thailand to impose graphic smoking warnings

BANGKOK, 22 Jan—Thailand will join Canada, Brazil and Singapore in forcing cigarette makers to put colourful health warnings on cigarette packets in a bid to discourage smoking, Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said on Wednesday. Sudarat said in a statement a ministerial order, to take effect a year from now, would require cigarette packets to carry colour pictures and text depicting possible consequences of smoking, including lung cancer, premature ageing, and bad breath.

The pictures are to take up half the space of each side of a cigarette packet, with text in both Thai and English.

“Colourful graphic warnings will communicate better than plain text ones,” Sudarat said.

Tobacco importers or manufacturers who sell packets without graphic warnings will face fines of up to 100,000 baht (2,500 US dollars). Anti-smoking activists have praised the Thai Government for its efforts to fight smoking. Just 22 per cent of the Thai population smokes now, a remarkable drop from nearly 40 per cent 20 years ago.
Iraqi policeman is shot 25 times

Mostt, 22 Jan—An Iraqi policeman was killed and a city council member narrowly averted death in an assassination bid that left two of his bodyguards badly wounded in the explosive northern city of Mosul.

The policeman was killed when a car pulled up and opened fire in the northern district of the city, 350km north-west of Baghdad, said Captain Abdul Azal Hazem. He wasiddled with 25 bullets, including shots to the head that killed him, said Doctor Ahmed Abdullah Rajab at Mosul hospital.

Earlier, city council member Saleh Jami Isha, charged with security, survived an assassination attempt on Monday when a car pulled up alongside his vehicle and the occupants opened fire, Hazem said.

Two of Isha’s bodyguards were seriously wounded in the attack, Hazem added.

City council member Jalil Salim Khiali was gunned down in December and another, Mohammed Khairi, was seriously hurt in a separate attack.

In Kirkuk, 255km north of Baghdad, a police major was shot dead by guards from a British security firm hired by the US-led coalition to guard oil infrastructure, Kirkuk police said.

Major Mohammed Shaban al-Nasari, who belonged to Saddam Hussein’s Al-Nida tribe, was killed by Eriny security guards hired by the Northern Oil Company as he was passing a checkpoint, said police chief General Turhan Yusef.

The nine guards, all of them Iraqis, were arrested, Yusef said.

Loyalists of Saddam Hussein and other members of the multifarious insurgency have waged war on those collaborating with the US-led coalition occupying Iraq.

Nearly 600 police officers have been killed since the end of the US-led war to oust the former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, a senior Iraqi policeman told AFP on Sunday.

In other incidents, the US Army said it had arrested in recent days two senior officers from the army of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein west of Baghdad.

“General Mattab Muslat Sayer, a former high-ranking Baath party official and Fedayeen Saddam member, surrendered himself to Task Force ‘All Americans’ yesterday (Monday) afternoon,” a statement said.

“Based on previous investigations, Sayer, his family and associates had been involved in some of the recent attacks on coalition forces.”

The statement also said Colonel Abdul Hadi, formerly with the Iraqi intelligence service was captured on January 16 during a cordon-and-search operation in Ramadi.

It said Hadi had also been responsible for anti-coalition activities in Al-Anbar province and has been linked to “foreign fighters and extremists.”

In Baghdad, meanwhile, a US soldier was lightly wounded in a rocket attack in the vicinity of the Rashid Hotel.

Doctors use pigeons to fight virus

Cairo, 22 Jan—Egyptians unable to afford drugs that cost eight times the average annual wage are resorting to a bogus ritual with live pigeons to try to cure a serious liver disease, doctors said on Wednesday.

The alternative treatment for Hepatitis C emerged about a year ago and has become increasingly popular, they said. The ritual is not traditional and its origins are a mystery.

“The treatment involves removing the feathers from the backside of a pigeon and holding it on the patient’s navel until the bird dies,” said Mona Abu-Zekry, a specialist in infectious diseases.

Practitioners say the birds die after sucking the virus into their own bodies. Abu-Zekry said they secretly choke the birds to death while holding them against their patients.

“It’s a fallacy. The people doing this are trying to make money from people who don’t know any better,” she said.

MNA/Reuters

India, Russia sign $1.5b Gorskov deal

NEW DELHI, 22 Jan—After years of hard negotiations, India on Tuesday signed its biggest ever defence deal with Russia for the acquisition of 1.5 billion dollar (70 billion rupees) Soviet-era 45,000 tonnage aircraft carrier Admiral Gorskov with its complement of 28 MiG-29K fighters.

The deal for the purchase of completely refurbished aircraft carrier was announced by Defence Minister George Fernandes and his Russian counterpart Sergei Ivanov at a joint Press conference, where the two leaders denied that negotiations had also covered the leasing out of two Russian Akula-class nuclear submarines.

However, negotiations on the crucial leasing of four TU-22 M3 strategic bombers were inconclusive. In a significant move, both countries agreed to take their military-technical cooperation to a “higher technological level”, indicating that the two sides were moving towards joint development and investment-sharing in key projects like fifth generation aircraft, on the lines of existing projects like the BrahMos cruise missile.

Ivanov said the Gorskov deal incorporated lifetime upgrades, technical assistance as well as setting up of infrastructure for the carrier in India. The Russian Minister also offered New Delhi more T-90 tanks in case India was interested.

The deal was signed by top defence officials of the two countries in the presence of the ministers. This is the second biggest defence deal India has signed with a foreign country after the recent 80-billion-rupee contract to acquire 66 Hawk 115-Y Advance Jet Trainers.

Revealing to questions, the Russian Minister said negotiations would continue for the “future contracts regarding technical assistance as also on creating infrastructure” for the Gorskov and refused to provide any figure for the cost.

MNA/PTI

Three Gorges Project generates 10 billion KWh of electricity

YICHANG, 22 Jan—By 8 am Tuesday, the massive Three Gorges Project had generated 22 November of 2003. The first generator, with an installed capacity of 700,000 kilowatt each, was put into operation on 10 July last year.

Electricity generated by the Three Gorges project was sent to nine provinces and municipalities in central, east and south-west China, including Hubei, Henan, Hunan, Jiangxi, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui.

China’s giant to launch production safety campaign

BRUSSELS, 22 Jan—China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), the country’s biggest oil company, will launch a safe production campaign this year in all its units both at home and abroad. Corporate leaders announced at Monday’s meeting to make December 23 an annual “safe production caution day” while calling 2004 the “year of safe management”.

CNPC’s general manager Ma Fucuai outlined emergency rescue planning, safety training for all employees, and the revision of production safety standards.

“We should conscientiously learn our lesson from the deadly gas blowout on December 23 last year and take a series of practical measures to achieve safe production,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese musician performs as a girl gets a ride in a sedan chair at the Temple of the Earth in Beijing on the eve of Chinese New Year on 21 Jan. 2004. Residents in China’s capital flock to temple fairs during the New Year of the Monkey which starts on 22 January to enjoy performances of martial arts, acrobatics, folk dances and fashion shows.—REUTERS
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

Two Dutch soldiers from the Engineers Regiment check the weight of a truck bringing stones into their military camp in Samawa, 270km south of Baghdad recently. —INTERNET

The destroyed turret of a US Bradley fighting vehicle is taken away on the back of a truck after three US and two Iraqi soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb blew apart their armoured vehicle on 17 January. —INTERNET

An Iraqi man and boy hold pieces of a destroyed US Bradley fighting vehicle after three US and two Iraqi soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb blew apart their armoured vehicle on 17 January. —INTERNET

British soldiers stand guard in the southern Iraqi city of Amara on 21 January. Legal experts said they have amassed enough evidence for the International Criminal Court in The Hague to look into whether Britain was guilty of war crimes during the Iraq conflict. —INTERNET

General Manager of the Doura oil refinery Dathar al-Khashab holds up a chart on Tuesday, 20 Jan, 2004 showing the radical fluctuations in output at the facility, mainly from incidents of sabotage since April of 2003. Sabotage has plagued efforts to restore Iraq oil output to prewar levels. For several months since the US-led invasion of Iraq, attackers have fired mortars, sprayed bullets and planted explosives that have damaged pipelines and other oil facilities. —INTERNET

The site, the entrance to one of Saddam Hussein’s former palaces, is one of the most heavily fortified places in the Iraqi capital on 17 January. —INTERNET

An Iraqi man and boy hold pieces of a destroyed US Bradley fighting vehicle after three US and two Iraqi soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb blew apart their armoured vehicle on 17 January. —INTERNET
ICRC hopes to meet Saddam ‘soon’

BAGHDAD, 22 Jan — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says it is confident that it will soon be able to visit detained former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to check on his treatment in prison.

Florian Westphal, an ICRC spokesman, told Aljazeera.net on Wednesday that the members of the humanitarian organisation held weekly meetings with occupation authorities to discuss prisoners of war (POW) and detained civilians in Iraq.

The United States formally accepted earlier this month that Saddam, captured last month by US forces, was a prisoner of war.

Since then the Geneva-based organisation has been wanting to meet him. However, Westphal said there was no timeframe for meeting prisoners and it could take weeks to meet some.

“This has been discussed with the coalition, and we are confident this will happen,” said Westphal. He declined to comment further on discussions with US authorities.

Concurrently, the ICRC oversees the Third Geneva Convention, an internationally-recognized set of rules which guarantee minimum standards of treatment for prisoners of war and detainees, including the right to visits from aid workers.

The humanitarian body monitors conditions of prisoners are held in and how they are being treated. Its top priorities include contact with families, he said, adding he did not believe Saddam’s family has tried to reach him through the ICRC.

Under Article 60 of the Convention, as a prisoner of war the ex-head of the Iraqi armed forces would technically be entitled to “a monthly advance of pay”, ranging up to 75 Swiss francs ($60 dollars) for “general officers or prisoners of war of equivalent rank”. However, the amount can be changed by the parties in a conflict.

“It would be fair to say that during the visits to prisoners of war and detainees in Iraq this is not one of the things we look at first,” Westphal commented in response to reports in the Iraqi press.— Internet

N-E region should become economic bridgehead to S-E Asia

NEW DELHI, 22 Jan— Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Tuesday asked the eight states in the country’s North-East to capitalize on opportunities to enhance trade with the neighbourhood as the region could become an “economic bridgehead” to South-East Asia.

“India is working actively to promote regional and sub-regional trade and economic cooperation. Our North-Eastern states have a unique locational advantage of great importance,” Vajpayee said.

He, however, made an appeal to the state governments in this region to take some decisions to give more resources and incentives for development of the North-East.

It is the responsibility of the individuals to demonstrate visibly that funds are used properly.

The Bridgehead East would like to see the outcome of the utilization of funds on the ground, he added.

Vajpayee said government would soon commence work on the 2000-megawatt Subansiri hydro-electric project in the state of Arunachal Pradesh costing over 60 billion rupees and the 130-megawatt Teesta Lower Dam Station III project in Sikkim at a cost of eight billion rupees, to harness the untapped hydel power potential in the region.— MNA/PTI

Hua Jintao urges cadres to serve people

ZHANGJIAKOU, 22 Jan— Chinese President Hu Jintao urged all cadres across the country to serve the people heart and soul and set an example in the run up to the Spring Festival, the traditional Chinese Lunar New Year which falls on January 22 this year.

Hu, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, called on cadres to keep in mind the interests of the people and to solve problems earnestly for them.

When he visited Zhangjiakou City in north China’s Hebei Province on Tuesday and Wednesday, Hu was accompanied by Wang Gang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, and Bai Keming, secretary of the Hebei provincial committee of the CPC.

Hu sent festive greetings to local cadres and people on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council.

Hu visited a number of aged people and retired invalid soldiers in Huailai County, who are surprised about their life and health.

He also visited model workers in Zhangjiakou and encouraged them to perform

India’s infrastructure sector grew 5.9% in Dec 2003

NEW DELHI, 22 Jan— Mirroring the buoyancy in economy, India’s key infrastructure sector grew 5.9 per cent in December 2003 as opposed to a growth of 4.4 per cent in the same month in 2002.

Growth in petroleum refinery output, power generation and crude oil production was higher than December 2002 but that in coal and finished steel slipped marginally lower than the corresponding period, an official release said here Wednesday.

Cement growth rate was down to a modest 5.5 per cent from a high of 16.2 per cent in 2002.

The six infrastructure industries posted a lower growth rate of 4.5 per cent in the first three quarters of 2003-04 fiscal as against 6 per cent growth in April-December 2002.

Fiscal 2003-04 has been a roller-coaster ride for the six industries. The year began with a growth rate of 3.9 per cent in April and went up to 4.8 per cent in June before slipping to 2.6 per cent in July. It regained up to 5.9 per cent growth rate in September but dipped in the following months to 3.1 per cent.

“Negotiations are going on for a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement with Singapore”, Gavai told an interactive meeting with Indian Commercial Representatives from West European countries, organized by the Federation of Indian Exporters of India (FIEO).

FTA negotiations with ASEAN would also begin soon, he said, adding India is studying the possibilities for trade and economic cooperation agreements with China, which is emerging as a major trade partner for New Delhi.

Flu virus found in dead bird corpse in HK

HONG KONG, 21 Jan — Hong Kong said on Wednesday that the corpse of a dead falcon found near a suburb earlier this week had tested positive for the avian flu virus, which has been spreading around Asia and can infect people.

“The presence of the H5N1 virus in the Peregrine Falcon poses no immediate threat to public health,” the government’s Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said in a statement.

The dead bird was found near the Gold Coast residential development in Tuen Mun on Monday, it said.

On Wednesday, on the eve of Chinese New Year, the government started disinfecting the city’s wholesale poultry market in Cheung Sha Wan. — MNA/Reuters

India in negotiation with Bangladesh on FTA

BANGLADESH, 22 Jan— India has started negotiations for Free Trade Agreement with Bangladesh and is also studying the possibilities for trade and economic cooperation agreements with China, an External Affairs Ministry official said here Wednesday.

As part of India’s “Look East” policy, New Delhi has concluded negotiations for FTA with Thailand. M P Gavai, Director (Investment and Trade Promotion), Ministry of External Affairs, said.

“Negotiations are being held on a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement with Singapore”, Gavai told an interactive meeting with Indian Commercial Representatives from West European countries, organized by the Federation of Indian Exporters of India (FIEO).

PTA negotiations with ASEAN would also be agreed on soon, he said, adding India is studying the possibilities for trade and economic cooperation agreements with China, which is emerging as a major trade partner for New Delhi.

MNA/PTI

Two white rhinos graze in South Africa’s Thanda Game Reserve in this picture taken on 17 Jan, 2004.— Internet
Anti-colonialist struggles in Salin region

US Nyo Aung (Salin)

The Zartihla (Zedi Hla) Cemetery situated in north of Salin is a peaceful and secluded site with luxuriant trees and bamboo. It was also a place where my friends and I used to visit to shoot birds when I was young. There are tombs systematically arranged in the cemetery and it is fenced with the brick wall and so local people called it English cemetery. In the cemetery, the crosses are inscribed on the white tombs made of marble. It was strange to us, the children, but we could feel nothing special about it. When I became a high school student, I learnt that the tombs in the cemetery were the ones in which colonialists were buried. And they were lackeys killed in the anti-colonialist struggles in Salin region during the time after King Thibaw had been taken away. I also learnt that they were defeated by Bo Ottama, Bo Byaing Gyi and Bo Byaing Galay. I happened to put the tombs record on my mind that I saw in 1967 as follows:


2. In Memorial, Major R.F Atkinson, 2nd Hampshire Regt;

Prominent and trustfully to the rank of the head of the Red Gate had been because they were successfully defended and saved the life of King Mindon during Myinkun Myinkhondaing affair, which Prince Kanaung was assassinated. He had to take security duties for preventing against unauthorized persons and enemies passing the gate to the king. At that time he was about 25. In spite of being a very brave and skilled swordsmen, he was not fond of reputation at all and was never proud. That was why he set princesses Myinkun and Myinkhondaing free even though he got a chance to kill them in the power struggle for the throne in the palace. King Mindon married his favorite staff and a sincere person, Red Gate Bo Lay, and a daughter of his minister. The newly married couple stayed at a far-away place, he assigned Bo Yar Kyaaw as the mayor of Salin town. While governing his town with justice and fairness, and discharging duties as loyal servant of the King, he got married with a local girl. He retired from the mayor post after serving for seven years, and with happy and contented life of a farmer. (To be continued)

(Translation: MS+TMT)

WHO enhances measures against HIV-TB co-infection

UNITE D NATION S, 22 Jan - The United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) issued Wednesday guidelines to increase collaboration between national TB and HIV/AIDS programmes to save some 14 million people worldwide suffering from both HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

The new programme will give critical support for the WHO plan to provide anti-retroviral (ARV) drug treatment to three million people living with AIDS by the end of 2005, a UN Press release said.

A principal focus of the programme will be Africa, where 70 per cent of the world’s 14 million people who are co-infected by HIV and TB live. Up to 50 per cent of the continent’s people with HIV/AIDS develop TB and up to 80 per cent of its TB patients are HIV-infected, according to WHO.

A key guideline will be to train health workers to increase voluntary HIV testing and counselling in TB programmes, with the aim of identifying and referring more than half a million TB patients who are also HIV-positive for ARV drug treatment in the next two years. In this way, TB programmes will help with HIV prevention, ARV distribution and patient care, WHO said. At the same time, the agency promised to add screening and testing for TB at AIDS/HIV service delivery points in regions of high HIV prevalence.

By routinely screening and testing people with HIV/AIDS for TB, people without TB can be treated with prophylactic drugs that prevent the development of active tuberculosis and people with the disease can be cured, WHO said.

Giant tumour removed from Romanian woman

BUCSAREST, 22 Jan — Doctors successfully removed a giant tumour from a 46-year-old woman on Wednesday in an operation that lasted more than 10 hours, the Romanian national news agency Rompress reported.

A medical team composed of Roman and three American doctors performed the operation on Lucica Bungeaz, a resident from the central Romanian city of Brasov, at the Bucharest-based Floreasca Clinical Emergency Hospital.

The huge tumour weighed nearly 80 kilos. The surgery, which began at 9 am and finished at 7:20 pm, proceeded smoothly and the general condition of the patient was good, a hospital spokesperson said, adding that the woman’s vital functions were within normal parameters. She had undergone a surgery before to try to remove the same tumour when it was about only 15 kilos in weight. — MNA/Reuters

Drive safely

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Friday, 23 January, 2004  7
Myanmar open golf tournament to be held in Yangon

YANGON, 22 Jan — With a view to observing international golf techniques and to bring about famous Myanmar golfers, the Myanmar Open Golf Tournament, organized by Myanmar Professional Golfers Association (MPGA) and Asian Tour and mainly sponsored by the Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, will be held grandly as an international event at Yangon golf club, Danyingon, here from 12 to 15 February.

Golf stars from Australia, China, Chinese (Taipei), Canada, Ecuador, England, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, United States and Myanmar will participate in the tournament.

Among the contestants will be the 2003 Champion of this tournament Lin Keng-Chi (Chinese - Taipei), the 2002 Champion Thon Chai Jaidee (Thailand) and the 2001 Champion Anthony Kang (USA), the 1999 Champion Wang Ter Chang (Chinese - Taipei), the 1998 Champion Taimur Hussain (Pakistan), the 1996 and 1997 Champion Boonchana Runkrut (Thailand), Zaw Moe of Myanmar, Order Merit Winner (1999) Kyi Hla Han, Myanmar PGA Champions Aung Win, Soe Kyaw Naing, Zaw Paing Oo and Zaw Zaw Latt, promising Myanmar PGA golfers, famous golfers from South-East Asia and Europe.

Admission for the tournament is free. The Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, Myanmar Airways International (MAI), Sedona Hotel (Yangon), Wilson, Grand Slams (MunsingWear), Inotol (Headwear Co), Canon (Accel International Co Ltd), Maruman (Kaung Myat Co Ltd), Dagon Beer (Dagon Brewery Company Ltd), MIMS Logistics, Max Myanmar Co Ltd, United Paints Group (UPG) and Alpine Purified Drinking Water (Loi-Hein Co Ltd) will co-sponsor the tournament. Han Event Management and Octagon will take responsibilities for holding the tournament.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Chairman of Shan State (North) Special Region 5 U Mauk Naung and party. (News on page 1) — MNA

Belgian FA to decide on earphone issue

BRUSSELS, 22 Jan — The Belgian FA is to consider whether players could use earphones during games after Genk goalkeeper Jan Moons complained in the game against Club Bruges.

Moons wore a small earphone during Friday’s 1-0 win so he could hear instructions from head coach Sef Vergoosen that were being transmitted by goalkeeper coach Guy Martens.

Genk’s technical staff want to provide a more sophisticated earphone to all their players if the Belgian FA approves at a meeting next month. The FA’s spokesman Nicolas Corus said: “It is the first such case for our association and even for FIFA.”

A FIFA spokesman added: “We’ve taken note of the experiment and are consulting our internal experts. We’re assessing it from Laws of the Game point of view and also from the health and safety aspect but we’re not yet ready to make a statement.”

Under Law 4 covering “The Players’ Equipment,” a player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry). But the FIFA spokesman said: “It’s quite a novelty. It shouldn’t present any danger to a player or his opponent.” The next step is for the use of the earphone to be included in the referee’s report on the Genk-Club Bruges match. His report will be presented to the Belgian FA’s referees commission, which has the power to present the case to the FA’s Executive Committee meeting on February 6.

Corus said: “It will then provide a statement about the security problem and whether the earphone favours...” If the use of an earphone requires a change in the Laws of the Game then that would have to be considered when the International Football Association Board (IFAB) holds its annual general meeting in London on February 28.

IFAB, founded in 1886, acts as the guardian of the Laws of the Game and is responsible for studying, modifying and overseeing any changes. It has four representatives from FIFA and one from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

UNSG urges flexibility in disarmament negotiations

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Jan — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called Tuesday on the countries participating in the Conference on Disarmament to show flexibility to break their current deadlock.

In a message delivered to the opening session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Annan said recent world events highlight how important it is to strengthen international arms control and disarmament agreements.

He warned that last year marked the fifth in a row that delegates were unable to reach consensus on a work programme, a necessary precondition for tackling substantive issues.

Thai guests call on F & R Minister

YANGON, 22 Jan — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun received President of Export-Import Bank of Thailand Mr Pakorn Malakul Na Ayudhya and party this afternoon at his office here.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and officials.

First group of Chinese tourists arrive in Cuba

HAVANA, 22 Jan — A Chinese tour group arrived Tuesday in Havana, capital of Cuba, the first approved travel destination in the Americas for Chinese tourists.

The 20-member tour group from Beijing will spend four days at the tourist resort of Varadero in Havana, then continue their trip to Chile, Brazil and Peru on a 19-day Latin American tour.

The Chinese tourists, the first arriving in Cuba in an individual way, chose to spend the Spring Festival, the Lunar Chinese New Year, in the Caribbean country.

Cuba is the first tourist destination in the Americas approved by the Chinese authorities, which signed with Havana an agreement of understanding on tourism last July.

An official holds discussions at the workshop “PKI Application.” (News on page 16) — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun receives President of Export-Import Bank of Thailand Mr Pakorn Malakul Na Ayudhya and party. — FINANCE AND REVENUE

Chairman of e-National Task Force, IT Standardization Steering Committee U Thein Oo presents his personal ideas at the workshop “Myanmar Language Implementation.” (News on page 16) — MNA

Barmaid offers free drink in celebration of Chinese New Year

YANGON, 22 Jan — Danyingon barmaids are offering free drinks to patrons in celebration of Chinese New Year, which falls on February 15.

An official holds discussions at the workshop “PKI Application.” (News on page 16) — MNA

Thai guests call on F & R Minister

YANGON, 22 Jan — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun received President of Export-Import Bank, Thailand, Mr Pakorn Malakul Na Ayudhya and party this afternoon at his office here.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and officials.

First group of Chinese tourists arrive in Cuba

HAVANA, 22 Jan — A Chinese tour group arrived Tuesday in Havana, capital of Cuba, the first approved travel destination in the Americas for Chinese tourists.

The 20-member tour group from Beijing will spend four days at the tourist resort of Varadero in Havana, then continue their trip to Chile, Brazil and Peru on a 19-day Latin American tour.

The Chinese tourists, the first arriving in Cuba in an individual way, chose to spend the Spring Festival, the Lunar Chinese New Year, in the Caribbean country.

Cuba is the first tourist destination in the Americas approved by the Chinese authorities, which signed with Havana an agreement of understanding on tourism last July. — MNA/Xinhua

Chairman of e-National Task Force, IT Standardization Steering Committee U Thein Oo presents his personal ideas at the workshop “Myanmar Language Implementation.” (News on page 16) — MNA

An official holds discussions at the workshop “PKI Application.” (News on page 16) — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Chairman of Shan State (North) Special Region 5 U Mauk Naung and party. (News on page 1) — MNA

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 22 Jan — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Deputy Principal U Khin Maung Tin of Bhamo Degree College of the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education as the principal of the same college on protestation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

A special meeting of the council has appointed Deputy Principal U Khin Maung Tin as principal of Bhamo Degree College of the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education.

MNA/Xinhua

UNSG urges flexibility in disarmament negotiations

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Jan — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called Tuesday on the countries participating in the Conference on Disarmament to show flexibility to break their current deadlock.

In a message delivered to the opening session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Annan said recent world events highlight how important it is to strengthen international arms control and disarmament agreements.

He warned that last year marked the fifth in a row that delegates were unable to reach consensus on a work programme, a necessary precondition for tackling substantive issues.

MNA/Xinhua
No US role involved in mediation between India, Pakistan

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — There is no US role in “terms of mediation” between India and Pakistan, Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha said, contradicting Secretary of State Colin Powell’s recent remarks that the breakthrough in Islamabad was the result of Washington’s two years of efforts.

“The US role is that of a friend who makes inquiries about the state of affairs and the progress which has been made,” Sinha told reporters here Tuesday in the presence of Powell, when asked if there was any role for Washington in Indo-Pakistani ties.

Sinha, who met President George W. Bush and later held talks with Powell, said “in my discussions here there was absolutely no suggestion of a role for the US in terms of mediation” and so on. “There was curiosity, there was inquiry, and that is fair enough,” he added.

Powell, who in an interview to US News and World Report last week had said that the recent breakthrough in Indo-Pakistani ties was the result of two years of work that US had been doing with Indians and Pakistanis, appreciated the efforts made by the two countries in improving their ties.

“We are so pleased as far as we have come over the last couple of years. When the Minister (Sinha) and I were here together some 18 months ago, we were worried about a conflict breaking out in the region and how that conflict might escalate,” Powell said.

“And here today, we are able to talk about the success that the Indians and Pakistanis achieved recently in Islamabad, how they have been reaching out to one another, how transportation links are being re-established, how two leaders Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf, have set themselves on a course of dialogue and discussion of all the issues that are outstanding between the two sides,” Powell said.

He said the US supported Musharraf’s efforts towards improving relations with India. “He (Musharraf) is stepping up the challenge of improving relations with India...we support him and will continue to support him.”

Sinha said stability is very important to carry forward the initiative which has been taken.

Folk artist makes largest ceiling-decoration paper-cut

TAUNGU, 22 Jan — A paper-cut artist in north China’s Shanxi Province completed a 20-square-metre paper-cut before the Chinese Lunar New Year, or the Spring Festival, that falls on Thursday. The paper-cut work, titled “splendid Chinese Dragons”, was patterned with eight dragons and eight phoenixes, both being traditional legendary creatures in Chinese legend.

Paper-cuts, common to China as a people, can be turned in the hands of an artisan, with the help of a knife or a pair of scissors, into any of a wide variety of patterns. To celebrate traditional festivals such as the Spring Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival, weddings and birthdays, Chinese people use paper-cuts to decorate their doors, windows, ceilings, kangas (heated brick beds), suitscases, offerings and almost anything else.

Narcotic drugs seized in Bhamo, Muse

YANGON, 22 Jan — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Bhamo Special Anti-drug Squad, acting on information, searched the house of Swum Lut John of Hnnyent Village in Muse, on December 30.

The authorities seized Swum Lut Larein together with 0.75 kilo of raw opium hidden in the compound of the house. The Muse Police Station filed a lawsuit against Aik Yee, son of U Khaing Hsam and Khaung Shin (a) Hon Yee, son of U Khaing Hsam and Aik Yee with seized heroine blocks weighing 380 grams.

Narcotic drugs seized in Bhamo, Muse

To train our cadres in the area of food production, besides sending 10 students to attend from March 2004, a high course in the field of fisheries, he explained.

Speaking to local media, the minister, who attended a ministerial meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), which took place on January 16-17, 2004 in Luanda, added that alongside the gathering, he could hold several meetings of bilateral interest. He added that under the agreements, Sao Tome cadres will come to Luanda, being the first group of five people expected to arrive in the forthcoming three months.

“We intend with this move to train our cadres in the area of coffee production, besides sending 10 students to attend from March 2004, a high course in the field of fisheries, he explained.

Speaking to local media, the minister, who attended a ministerial meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), which took place on January 16-17, 2004 in Luanda, added that alongside the gathering, he could hold several meetings of bilateral interest. He added that under the agreements, Sao Tome cadres will come to Luanda, being the first group of five people expected to arrive in the forthcoming three months.

“We intend with this move to train our cadres in the area of coffee production, besides sending 10 students to attend from March 2004, a high course in the field of fisheries, he explained.

Speaking to local media, the minister, who attended a ministerial meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), which took place on January 16-17, 2004 in Luanda, added that alongside the gathering, he could hold several meetings of bilateral interest. He added that under the agreements, Sao Tome cadres will come to Luanda, being the first group of five people expected to arrive in the forthcoming three months.
Buddha images of Innwa Period unearthed

YANGON, 22 Jan — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected ruins of Aungzigon Pagoda in Saga-In Village in Tada-U Township, Mandalay Division, on 5 December and gave necessary instructions on renovation of the pagoda and maintenance tasks for terracotta plaques and ovoid moldings of Innwa era.

Director (Vimayin) U Hla Gyi Maung Maung of the Archaeology Department (Mandalay Branch), Staff Officer U Kyaw Shin, Assistant Researcher U Hla Shwe carried out renovation tasks starting from second week of December. During the period from 7 to 11 January, 22 ancient Buddha images dated from Innwa Period were found at first terrace of the pagoda and near the encircling pagoda. Of these images, the handiwork of a venerable monk Ashin Maha Suddhamma Sami.

The renovation and maintenance tasks for Pinya Aungzigon Pagoda will continue under the supervision of the Archaeology Department (Mandalay Branch). — MNA

Guangxi trade with ASEAN members hits record high

NANNING, 22 Jan — Trade between south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) hit a record US$ 826 million in 2003, marking five years of consecutive growth, Customs figures show. The trade volume was 31.5% higher than the previous year. The principal imports from ASEAN nations were industrial raw materials, while electronic and machinery products were the major exports, accounting for 30% of the region’s total exports to ASEAN. Border trade made up 67 per cent of Guangxi’s total imports and exports to ASEAN members. Border trade exports rose 52.7 per cent to 314 million US dollars, while imports grew 59 per cent to 368 million dollars. Vietnam continued to be Guangxi’s largest trade partner of the 10 ASEAN members. Total trade volume between Guangxi and Vietnam stood at 666 million US dollars last year, accounting for 56% of Guangxi’s total trade with ASEAN. — MNA/Kirnha

Oil prices hit 10-month highs in US

NEW YORK, 22 Jan — Oil prices hit a fresh 10-month high on Tuesday as a huge blast at a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in Algeria added to concerns over wafer-thin US oil supplies, which are being tested amid bitter winter cold.

The explosion in Algeria — the world’s second largest LNG exporter — closed the OPEC member’s largest refinery and main oil export terminal. It has delayed shipment of some cargoes as a result of the blast.

US light crude futures for February delivery hit a new 10-month high of 36.20 US dollars, up 1.13 US dollars, the highest level since the US invasion of Iraq in March. London Brent crude futures for March rose 55 cents to trade at 31.12 US dollars a barrel. “Energy markets continue to take support from a strong fundamental picture, with OPEC statements and a deadly blast at the Skikda LNG plant in Algeria adding fresh price-positive news,” said Barclays Capital in a market comment.

Prices marched higher after the Algerian explosion, which ripped through the vast petrochemical plant in the port city of Skikda on Monday, killing at least 23 people and shutting down all activity at the oil and gas refinery complex.

Energy and Mines Minister Chakib Khelil said operations had been shut as a preventive measure, and that shipping agents said all cargo shipments from Skikda had been halted.

Officials said they believed a boiler at the facility was the origin of the blast, which was felt for kilometres and destroyed three LNG trains.

Meteorologists are forecasting extreme cold for the next three weeks in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, with at least one forecaster, Joe Bastardi of AccuWeather, calling for the coldest winter there in 25 years.

US crude prices have shot up more than eight US dollars a barrel, or 30 per cent in late September when OPEC agreed to cut official output limits by 900,000 barrels per day. Since then, demand has fallen with the onset of the Northern Hemisphere winter and US fuel inventories have fallen to the lowest levels since the mid-1970s.

Saudi Arabia has said it is too early to predict what a sharp increase in OPEC output will take when it reviews production policy at its next meeting on February 10 in Algiers. On Tuesday Qatar said the cartel should not rush to set its output level.

OPEC is worried that a big overhang of oil will trigger a collapse in prices in the second quarter when demand normally tails off at the end of winter. It is already pumping about 1.5 million BPD above its official ceiling of 24.5 million BPD, which excludes Iraq output. — MNA/Reuters

Industrial production rises in November in euro-zone

BRUSSELS, 22 Jan — Seasonally adjusted industrial production rose by 0.1 per cent in the euro-zone in November of 2003 following a sharp increase of 1.3 per cent in October. The data was released Tuesday by the Statistical Office of the European Communities Eurostat.

As compared to last month, the capital goods index rose by 0.9 per cent in the 12-nation euro-zone. The intermediate goods and non-durable consumer goods also gained 0.5 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile, the industrial output in the 15-member states of the European Union (EU) fell by 0.1 per cent in November, after a rise of 0.8 per cent in October, said the Eurostat report.

Britain, Sweden and Denmark are the only three EU members outside of euro-zone. — MNA/Kirnha

Donate blood

 industria production rises in November in eu zone

Industrial production rises in November in euro-zone

BRUSSELS, 22 Jan — Seasonally adjusted industrial production rose by 0.1 per cent in the euro-zone in November of 2003 following a sharp increase of 1.3 per cent in October. The data was released Tuesday by the Statistical Office of the European Communities Eurostat.

As compared to last month, the capital goods index rose by 0.9 per cent in the 12-nation euro-zone. The intermediate goods and non-durable consumer goods also gained 0.5 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile, the industrial output in the 15-member states of the European Union (EU) fell by 0.1 per cent in November, after a rise of 0.8 per cent in October, said the Eurostat report. Britain, Sweden and Denmark are the only three EU members outside of euro-zone. — MNA/Kirnha

Sinha meets Bush

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — Building on the historic Indo-US decision to cooperate in civilian nuclear, space and missile programmes, India’s External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and his American counterpart Condoleezza Rice, on Thursday, held talks on the next steps in the strategic partnership between the two countries.

During the 20-minute meeting, Bush also congratulated Sinha on the “improving progress” made in relation to India and Pakistan.

They also discussed the next steps in the strategic partnership between India and the United States in the backdrop of Bush and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s simultaneous announcement on January 13 of enhancing bilateral cooperation in civilian nuclear, space and missile programmes.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClelan told reporters. — MNA/PtI

Industrial production rises in November in euro-zone
Tourism promotion programmes introduced

Yangon, 22 Jan — A meeting to present arrangements for promoting tourism industry including expeditions along coastal line and Salone Traditional Festival to be organized by the Taninthayi Division Tourism Promotion Group under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, was held at Karaweik Palace, here, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, departmental heads, Myanmar Tour Operators Association Chairman U Khin Zaw and officials.

Director-General U Khin Maung Latt explained the arrangements for the voyage to Ma Kyone Galet Village on Bo Cho Island where the Salone Traditional Festival will be held. Managing Director Dr Phone Win of Shambala Travel Agency presented the arrangements for the flight to the island and Managing Director U Khin Maung Kyi of Khin Maung Kyi & Associates Co Ltd on voyage of Chindwin ocean liner. Those present raised queries.

Salone Festival 2004

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

Singapore’s PM urges stronger traditional values, family unit

Singapore, 22 Jan — Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong urged his people to strengthen traditional values and family unit in a Chinese Lunar New Year message published here on Wednesday.

Goh said that as an open society, Singapore is prone to external influences.

“The values that we have long held and cherished are now increasingly challenged by those from America, Europe and the more developed societies of Asia like China, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan,” he said.

“On the other hand, the influence of our traditional values has waned,” said the Prime Minister.

He stressed that Singaporeans should not discard those traditions and values that make for “a strong, close-knit community”.

“Values like hard work, thrift, respect for elders and placing the community before self are the underpinnings of Singapore. They bind us together and make us distinctive. They have given us stability, harmony and progress,” he said. The Prime Minister also reflected on the importance of family unit and kinship by saying that family is “at the core of our values”.

“It is the most basic unit of society. Strong and stable families make for a strong and cohesive society,” said Goh. “It is through the family that we each acquire our moral bearings, and develop into responsible and respectable citizens,” he added. The Chinese New Year is one of the most important festivals in Singapore as more than 70 per cent of its over three million population are Chinese.

MNA/Xinhua

Nursery Market Festival continues

Yangon, 22 Jan — Nursery Market Festival is kept open daily at Myagudha 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, booklets and books on pesticide sprays are also available at the shop selling farm produces at the entrance of the garden.— MNA
CAUTIONARY TRADE MARK NOTICE

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 324/2003 dated 10th June, 2003.

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 THOMSON multimedia, its By Attorneys REMFRY & SAGAR ANDA
Dated: 23rd January 2004

Zambia’s copper production up 2% in 2003

LUSAKA, 22 Jan — Zambia, a major world copper producer, recorded a 2 per cent rise in its copper production in the first 11 months of 2003, the Bank of Zambia, or the central bank, said Tuesday. Central bank governor Caleb Fundanga said in his quarterly media briefing that Zambian producing 16,445.40 tons of copper up to November, as against 31,203.69 tons in the same period of 2002.

The increase in copper production is mainly a result of increased output at the Mopani and Mwana Mokuba copper mines, thanks to re-habilitation of facilities and purchase of new equipment, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Democrats harshly criticize Bush’s reckless policies

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — Democrats seeking to oust George W. Bush from the White House Tuesday harshly criticized as empty promises for ordinary Americans the State of the Union speech by the President they hope to succeed.

They also accused Bush of pursuing reckless policies abroad that have alienated allies and left the United States bearing most of the costs and casualties of the Iraq war.

The State of the Union may look rosy from the White House balcony or the suites of George Bush’s wealthiest donors. But hard-working Americans will see through this President’s effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassion narrative,” said former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who hoped to bounce back from his third place finish in the Iowa caucuses in next week’s New Hampshire primary.

Bush in a wide ranging speech defended the war in Iraq, outlined the ongoing threat of global terrorism, promised to promote economic growth and job creation, called for permanent tax cuts he pushed through Congress and un

Norway ends search for capsized ship crew

BERGEN (Norway), 22 Jan — Rescuers abandoned a search for more survivors in a capsized cargo vessel in icy waters in a Norwegian fjord on Tuesday, reckoning that 15 crew were entombed in the hull.

The confirmed death toll rose to three after one more body was found early on Tuesday. Another 15 of the mainly Filipino crew were presumed dead a day after the 34-metre vessel capsized — three after being trapped for almost seven hours inside the engine room of the upturned Rocknes near the western port of Bergen. The warmth of the machine room helped save them, doctors said.

We consider that there is no longer a possibility of finding more survivors,” said Eric Wallke, spokesman for the Norwegian coastguard, whose search operation was called off at nightfall. “We are now starting to look for the bodies.”

Of the dead and missing, 16 were Filipinos, one was American, one Norwegian and one Swedish, aged from 26 to 56, police said. Salvage work continued into the night, with five
to stabilise the hull, but rescue teams said they would not enter the ship to search for bodies until it had been towed to a dock to avoid further risk to life.

Zurich, 22 Jan — Swiss rescue crews used cable cars to reach a blazing mountain hotel on Tuesday, said police on Tuesday. Six people were hurt and one hotel employee was missing in the fire at the 100

Cable cars take Swiss rescuers to mountain blaze

ZURICH, 22 Jan — Swiss rescue crews used cable cars to reach a blazing mountain hotel on Tuesday, said police on Tuesday. Six people were hurt and one hotel employee was missing in the fire at the 100

The blaze, which had forced 300 firefighters and the injured were ferried down the mountain by cable car, while 68 guests were moved to neighbouring hotels.

The cause of the fire was still being investigated.

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — Democrats seeking to oust George W. Bush from the White House Tuesday harshly criticized as empty promises for ordinary Americans the State of the Union speech by the President they hope to succeed.

They also accused Bush of pursuing reckless policies abroad that have alienated allies and left the United States bearing most of the costs and casualties of the Iraq war.

The State of the Union may look rosy from the White House balcony or the suites of George Bush’s wealthiest donors. But hard-working Americans will see through this President’s effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassion narrative,” said former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who hoped to bounce back from his third place finish in the Iowa caucuses in next week’s New Hampshire primary.

Bush in a wide ranging speech defended the war in Iraq, outlined the ongoing threat of global terrorism, promised to promote economic growth and job creation, called for permanent tax cuts he pushed through Congress and un

Democrats harshly criticize Bush’s reckless policies

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — Democrats seeking to oust George W. Bush from the White House Tuesday harshly criticized as empty promises for ordinary Americans the State of the Union speech by the President they hope to succeed.

They also accused Bush of pursuing reckless policies abroad that have alienated allies and left the United States bearing most of the costs and casualties of the Iraq war.

The State of the Union may look rosy from the White House balcony or the suites of George Bush’s wealthiest donors. But hard-working Americans will see through this President’s effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassion narrative,” said former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who hoped to bounce back from his third place finish in the Iowa caucuses in next week’s New Hampshire primary.

Bush in a wide ranging speech defended the war in Iraq, outlined the ongoing threat of global terrorism, promised to promote economic growth and job creation, called for permanent tax cuts he pushed through Congress and un

Democrats harshly criticize Bush’s reckless policies

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — Democrats seeking to oust George W. Bush from the White House Tuesday harshly criticized as empty promises for ordinary Americans the State of the Union speech by the President they hope to succeed.

They also accused Bush of pursuing reckless policies abroad that have alienated allies and left the United States bearing most of the costs and casualties of the Iraq war.

The State of the Union may look rosy from the White House balcony or the suites of George Bush’s wealthiest donors. But hard-working Americans will see through this President’s effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassion narrative,” said former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who hoped to bounce back from his third place finish in the Iowa caucuses in next week’s New Hampshire primary.

Bush in a wide ranging speech defended the war in Iraq, outlined the ongoing threat of global terrorism, promised to promote economic growth and job creation, called for permanent tax cuts he pushed through Congress and un

Democrats harshly criticize Bush’s reckless policies

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — Democrats seeking to oust George W. Bush from the White House Tuesday harshly criticized as empty promises for ordinary Americans the State of the Union speech by the President they hope to succeed.

They also accused Bush of pursuing reckless policies abroad that have alienated allies and left the United States bearing most of the costs and casualties of the Iraq war.

The State of the Union may look rosy from the White House balcony or the suites of George Bush’s wealthiest donors. But hard-working Americans will see through this President’s effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassion narrative,” said former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who hoped to bounce back from his third place finish in the Iowa caucuses in next week’s New Hampshire primary.

Bush in a wide ranging speech defended the war in Iraq, outlined the ongoing threat of global terrorism, promised to promote economic growth and job creation, called for permanent tax cuts he pushed through Congress and un

Democrats harshly criticize Bush’s reckless policies

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — Democrats seeking to oust George W. Bush from the White House Tuesday harshly criticized as empty promises for ordinary Americans the State of the Union speech by the President they hope to succeed.

They also accused Bush of pursuing reckless policies abroad that have alienated allies and left the United States bearing most of the costs and casualties of the Iraq war.

The State of the Union may look rosy from the White House balcony or the suites of George Bush’s wealthiest donors. But hard-working Americans will see through this President’s effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassion narrative,” said former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who hoped to bounce back from his third place finish in the Iowa caucuses in next week’s New Hampshire primary.

Bush in a wide ranging speech defended the war in Iraq, outlined the ongoing threat of global terrorism, promised to promote economic growth and job creation, called for permanent tax cuts he pushed through Congress and un

Democrats harshly criticize Bush’s reckless policies

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan — Democrats seeking to oust George W. Bush from the White House Tuesday harshly criticized as empty promises for ordinary Americans the State of the Union speech by the President they hope to succeed.

They also accused Bush of pursuing reckless policies abroad that have alienated allies and left the United States bearing most of the costs and casualties of the Iraq war.

The State of the Union may look rosy from the White House balcony or the suites of George Bush’s wealthiest donors. But hard-working Americans will see through this President’s effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassion narrative,” said former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who hoped to bounce back from his third place finish in the Iowa caucuses in next week’s New Hampshire primary.

Bush in a wide ranging speech defended the war in Iraq, outlined the ongoing threat of global terrorism, promised to promote economic growth and job creation, called for permanent tax cuts he pushed through Congress and un
Scientists say EU directive may harm medical research

LONDON, 22 Jan—Thousands of European scientists have signed a petition against a European Union directive aimed at increasing the scrutiny of clinical trials, saying new red tape could stifle independent medical research.

Campaign leader Brian Moulton, a cancer specialist, said the directive, which imposes strict controls on monitoring and reporting drug trials, would mean only big companies could afford to carry out clinical research.

He said more than 2,000 researchers and 150 professors have signed the petition calling for the directive — which was passed in 2000 but becomes effective on May 1 — to be scrapped or amended. “The people who framed this legislation didn’t consult with the relevant people in the scientific and medical community,” Moulton told Reuters. “This is going to make a lot of doctor-led research all but impossible.”

“A lot of scientific breakthroughs — such as the use of Aspirin to treat heart disease — have come from this sort of research.”

The EU says the directive is designed to give more protection to clinical trial participants, and will harmonize trial regulations across Europe and over different types of research, regardless of where the funding comes from. Britain’s Medical Research Council, which provides public funding for research, said it was in favour of controls but that the directive could make public, charity or hospital-funded research all but extinct.

Moulton, a cancer specialist, said the directive, which imposes strict controls on monitoring and reporting drug trials, would mean only big companies could afford to carry out clinical research.

“Results indicate that some smokers may benefit from reduced smoking, but for most the effects are modest, probably due to compensation,” they wrote.

The scientists, led by Stephen Hecht of the University of Minnesota Cancer Center, tested 92 smokers over six months.

“They looked specifically for the remains of NNK, one of the best-known carcinogens in tobacco smoke,” the researchers said.

“The results indicate that some smokers may benefit from reduced smoking, but for most the effects are modest, probably due to compensation,” they wrote.

The scientists, led by Stephen Hecht of the University of Minnesota Cancer Center, tested 92 smokers over six months.

“They looked specifically for the remains of NNK, one of the best-known carcinogens in tobacco smoke,” the researchers said.

The smokers, who had enjoyed an average 23.7 cigarettes a day, agreed to systematically cut back how much they smoked — 25 per cent fewer in the first two weeks, 50 per cent fewer in the next two weeks and then 75 per cent to 90 per cent reduced NNK by only 27 per cent to 51 per cent.

Even smokers who were able to cut back to just two cigarettes a day reduced their NNK indicator levels by only 46 per cent.

In a commentary, Scott Leischow and Mirjana Djordjevic of the Tobacco Control Research Branch at the National Cancer Institute said the results showed that completely kicking the habit is the only way to escape the damage done by cigarettes.

Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society agreed. “These results support other evidence that when smokers reduce the amount they smoke or switch to reduced tar cigarettes, they probably reduce their cancer risk in order to extract more nicotine and tar from each cigarette,” Thun said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

Total choker death toll rises to 16 in Mozambique

Maputo, 22 Jan—In Mozambique, the total choker death toll has risen to 16 people since the outbreak began in Maputo City in late December, local media reported on Tuesday.

In Maputo on Monday, there were 307 hospitalised with choler.

The situation in Beira is regarded as under control. As of Monday afternoon, there were only 19 people hospitalized in the city.

The Mozambican health authorities are stepping up their prevention campaign against choler, urging citizens to boil water before they drink it, to avoid drinking water from sources anywhere near sewers or drainage channels, and to wash raw foods such as salad vegetables properly.—MNA/Xinhua

Astronomical events forecast for “Year of the Monkey”

BEIJING, 22 Jan—As the Chinese Lunar New Year draws near, the Beijing Planetarium’s Amateur Astronomer magazine on Wednesday told Chinese people of major astronomical events that will take place in the “Year of Monkey.”

According to the Chief Editor of Amateur Astronomer Qi Rui, a total lunar eclipse will occur at 2 a.m. (Beijing Time) on May 5 it will be visible over Asia, South America, Europe and Africa.

The total eclipse would be a spectacular sight when the moon is well within the Earth’s shadow and deeply coloured by the Earth’s atmosphere, said Qi.

And when the eclipse happens that night, several planets — Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter will shine brightly together in the western sky. Two comets — C/2001Q4 (NEAT) and C/2002T7 (LINEAR), will appear in the darkness too.

Mid and late May will be the best time to observe NEAT in the Northern Hemisphere and mid-May is best for LINEAR observation in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Beijing Planetarium would organize people to observe LINEAR in Australia, said Qi.

On May 21, Venus will be seen passing across the moon. Northwest China’s Gansu and Qinghai provinces will be the best place to watch it.

The rarest event in 2004 will occur at 1:13 to 7:25 (Beijing Time) on June 8, when the planet Venus crosses the sun as seen from Earth.

The last occasion when this happened was 1805, a century ago. The next time will be 2012 and the time after, 2117,” Qi said.

The Beijing Planetarium would organize people to observe LINEAR in Australia, said Qi.

On May 21, Venus will be seen passing across the moon. Northwest China’s Gansu and Qinghai provinces will be the best place to watch it.

The rarest event in 2004 will occur at 1:13 to 7:25 (Beijing Time) on June 8, when the planet Venus crosses the sun as seen from Earth.

The last occasion when this happened was 1805, a century ago. The next time will be 2012 and the time after, 2117,” Qi said.

Astronomical events forecast for “Year of the Monkey”

BEIJING, 22 Jan—As the Chinese Lunar New Year draws near, the Beijing Planetarium’s Amateur Astronomer magazine on Wednesday told Chinese people of major astronomical events that will take place in the “Year of Monkey.”

According to the Chief Editor of Amateur Astronomer Qi Rui, a total lunar eclipse will occur at 2 a.m. (Beijing Time) on May 5 it will be visible over Asia, South America, Europe and Africa.

The total eclipse would be a spectacular sight when the moon is well within the Earth’s shadow and deeply coloured by the Earth’s atmosphere, said Qi.

And when the eclipse happens that night, several planets — Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter will shine brightly together in the western sky. Two comets — C/2001Q4 (NEAT) and C/2002T7 (LINEAR), will appear in the darkness too.

Mid and late May will be the best time to observe NEAT in the Northern Hemisphere and mid-May is best for LINEAR observation in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Beijing Planetarium would organize people to observe LINEAR in Australia, said Qi.

On May 21, Venus will be seen passing across the moon. Northwest China’s Gansu and Qinghai provinces will be the best place to watch it.

The rarest event in 2004 will occur at 1:13 to 7:25 (Beijing Time) on June 8, when the planet Venus crosses the sun as seen from Earth.

The last occasion when this happened was 1805, a century ago. The next time will be 2012 and the time after, 2117,” Qi said.

The Beijing Planetarium would organize people to observe LINEAR in Australia, said Qi.

On May 21, Venus will be seen passing across the moon. Northwest China’s Gansu and Qinghai provinces will be the best place to watch it.

The rarest event in 2004 will occur at 1:13 to 7:25 (Beijing Time) on June 8, when the planet Venus crosses the sun as seen from Earth.

The last occasion when this happened was 1805, a century ago. The next time will be 2012 and the time after, 2117,” Qi said.

Astronomical events forecast for “Year of the Monkey”

BEIJING, 22 Jan—As the Chinese Lunar New Year draws near, the Beijing Planetarium’s Amateur Astronomer magazine on Wednesday told Chinese people of major astronomical events that will take place in the “Year of Monkey.”

According to the Chief Editor of Amateur Astronomer Qi Rui, a total lunar eclipse will occur at 2 a.m. (Beijing Time) on May 5 it will be visible over Asia, South America, Europe and Africa.

The total eclipse would be a spectacular sight when the moon is well within the Earth’s shadow and deeply coloured by the Earth’s atmosphere, said Qi.

And when the eclipse happens that night, several planets — Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter will shine brightly together in the western sky. Two comets — C/2001Q4 (NEAT) and C/2002T7 (LINEAR), will appear in the darkness too.

Mid and late May will be the best time to observe NEAT in the Northern Hemisphere and mid-May is best for LINEAR observation in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Beijing Planetarium would organize people to observe LINEAR in Australia, said Qi.

On May 21, Venus will be seen passing across the moon. Northwest China’s Gansu and Qinghai provinces will be the best place to watch it.

The rarest event in 2004 will occur at 1:13 to 7:25 (Beijing Time) on June 8, when the planet Venus crosses the sun as seen from Earth.

The last occasion when this happened was 1805, a century ago. The next time will be 2012 and the time after, 2117,” Qi said.

Astronomical events forecast for “Year of the Monkey”

BEIJING, 22 Jan—As the Chinese Lunar New Year draws near, the Beijing Planetarium’s Amateur Astronomer magazine on Wednesday told Chinese people of major astronomical events that will take place in the “Year of Monkey.”

According to the Chief Editor of Amateur Astronomer Qi Rui, a total lunar eclipse will occur at 2 a.m. (Beijing Time) on May 5 it will be visible over Asia, South America, Europe and Africa.

The total eclipse would be a spectacular sight when the moon is well within the Earth’s shadow and deeply coloured by the Earth’s atmosphere, said Qi.

And when the eclipse happens that night, several planets — Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter will shine brightly together in the western sky. Two comets — C/2001Q4 (NEAT) and C/2002T7 (LINEAR), will appear in the darkness too.

Mid and late May will be the best time to observe NEAT in the Northern Hemisphere and mid-May is best for LINEAR observation in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Beijing Planetarium would organize people to observe LINEAR in Australia, said Qi.

On May 21, Venus will be seen passing across the moon. Northwest China’s Gansu and Qinghai provinces will be the best place to watch it.

The rarest event in 2004 will occur at 1:13 to 7:25 (Beijing Time) on June 8, when the planet Venus crosses the sun as seen from Earth.

The last occasion when this happened was 1805, a century ago. The next time will be 2012 and the time after, 2117,” Qi said.
First blood to Boro in League Cup against Arsenal

LONDON, 22 Jan—Middlesbrough drew first blood in their Cup triple header against Arsenal on Tuesday when they won the first leg of their League Cup semi-final 1-0 at Highbury.

Brazilian Juninho got the only goal in the 53rd minute and Middlesbrough then weathered a storm from the home side, made up predomi-
nantly of reserves and youth team players.

The teams meet again in the FA Cup at Highbury on Saturday then resume their League Cup semi-final duties on January 28 at the Riverside.

As if that was not enough, they also played 10 days ago in the League, when a full-strength Arsenal outclassed Middlesbrough 4-1 at home, following up their 4-0 away success in the first week of the season.

The Arsenal side on duty on Tuesday, however, found things much tougher.

The unfamiliar lineup failed to sparkle, despite the arguings of a Highbury full house, and the best chance of a low-key first half fell to Juninho, who hit a post in the 16th minute and saw the ball bounce straight back into the

Head of Italian League says debt of price success

ROMA, 22 Jan—Italian Football League president Adriano Galliani says debt is unavoidable if Italy's clubs are to keep pace with their English and Spanish rivals.

"There isn't a fan of AC Milan who would exchange (Brazilian playmaker) Kaká with a healthy balance," Galliani, who also sits vice-president of AC Milan, told Tuesday's La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"Look at yesterday's Gazzetta (Francesco) Torto (Andryy) Shevchenko and (Alessandro) Del Piero all on the front page, but you're asking us to balance the books."

"Let's be honest. If you want a healthy bank sheet, those players are going to have to go to Spain or Eng-

land. Is that really what we want?" Galliani's comments came at a time when the transferNature of debt has never been so urgent in Italy.

Only one Serie A club—reigning champions Juvenuts—posted a profit last sea-

son. Galliani's own club, AC Milan, is bankrolled by Itsly's billionaire Prime Minis-
ter Silvio Berlusconi.

Other Italian clubs are not so fortunate.

Last week debt-ridden Parma named corporate turnaround expert Enrico Bondi as its new president as it tried to stave off bank-

ruptcy following the collapse of parent company Parmalat.

On Saturday, Lazio's shareholders approved a 120-

million-euro capital hike deemed essential to prevent star players leaving during the January transfer window.

Galliani, however, ar-

gued that debt was part and parcel of the cut-throat na-

ture of sport. "Football's ac-
counts don't add up because in sport, unlike other sec-

tors, one team was while all the rest lose.

French striker Saha passes Man Utd medical

LONDON, 22 Jan—French striker Louis Saha has passed his medical with Manches-
ter United and should com-

plete his move from Fulham at the end of the week. Sky Sports TV reported on Tues-

day.

The 25-year-old is set to move for a fee of around 12 million pounds but it is un-
likely to be finalized until United manager Alex Ferguson returns from a break in Dubai on Friday.

United's next game is against Third Division

Northampton Town on Sun-
day but Saha is ineligible.

Fulham moved quickly to replace Saha by signing United States international Brian McBride from Columbus Crew on a two-and-a-half year deal on Tuesday.—MNA/Reuters

Second seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium serves to Italy's Maria Elena Camerini during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2004. Clijsters won the match 6-0, 6-0.—INTERNET

Stankovic leads Lazio to Italian Cup semis

ROME, 22 Jan—Lazio progressed to the semi-finals of the Italian Cup on Tuesday when a Dejan Stankovic goal completed a 3-1 aggregate victory over Parma.

The Serbs and Montenegrin international, who Lazio president Ugo Longo has said is on the verge of moving to Serie A rivals Inter Milan, struck in the 71st minute, following a Claudio Lopez counter-attack.

Having won the first meeting 2-0 in Rome, Lazio's players seemed content to sit back and let his Parma on the break.

The danger of that strategy was highlighted in the 23rd minute when home midfielder Mark Bresciano struck a swerving shot from outside the area that keeper Mattia Silvestri palmed spectacularly around the post.

Parma continued to attack after the interval and had a penalty appeal denied when Sinsa Milajlovic hauled back Adriano in the area.

Stankovic's goal, however, ended any hope for the home side although Bresciano's strike nine minutes from time to draw the

game 1-1 salvaged some pride for his financially-troubled club.

Fulham sign US striker McBride

LONDON, 22 Jan—Premier League side Fulham have signed United States striker Brian McBride, his Ameri-

can club Columbus Crew said on Tuesday. The 31-

year-old, who has scored 23 goals in 72 internationals, opted to join Fulham instead of Premier League rivals Blackburn Rovers. Fulham this week agreed the sale of striker Louis Saha to chal-

lengers Manchester United.

A source familiar with the McBride negotiations said Fulham came in at the 11th hour to sink a planned two-

million-dollar transfer to Blackburn. The source said McBride was expected to earn up to two million dol-

ars a year.

McBride is no stranger to English football, having played for Everton on loan last season and he also had a previous spell with Preston North End.

Second seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium serves to Italy's Maria Elena Camerini during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2004. Clijsters won the match 6-0, 6-0.—INTERNET
15:40 Headline News
19:40 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Hot and Sour Fresh-water Prawn Soup)
19:45 National News
19:50 Myanmar Musical Instruments (Bass gong) (Maung Saing)
19:55 Lai Yee Festival Dance
20:00 National News
20:05 Water Hyacinth Furnishing
20:10 Song "To the new Inspiration"
20:12 Pa-O National's Traditional Long Drum
20:15 National News
20:20 Mokins (Sea Rovers) Begin To Enjoy Development
20:25 Song "Myanmar"
20:30 National News
20:35 How To Make Chulein
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Cucumber Salad"
20:45 National News
20:50 Kandawgyi Thazi Museum
20:55 Taking Shelter at Mandalay Hill
21:00 National News
21:05 Highland Farmland Reclamation in Kung Kha Region
21:10 Song on Screen "Love Have"
21:15 National News
21:20 Myanmar’s Pride & Glory
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Maingalaba"
21:30 National Races Village
21:40 National News
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Hot and Spicy Three Layer Pork with Pineapple)
21:47 National News
21:50 Myanmar National Spurila (Part-I)
21:55 Dance of the Maidens
22:00 National News
22:05 Myanmar National Spurila (Part-II)
22:12 Myanmar Modern Song "We’ll Greet You in Mon Lan-guage"
22:15 National News
22:20 Travelogue "Yangon to Bag"n
22:25 "City of Baghann"
22:30 National News
22:35 Unforgettable Traditions of Pa National Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
22:40 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Indian Lekk & Spaid)
22:45 National News
22:50 Myanmar Traditional Flower Arrangements (Decoration with Glaze)
22:55 Naga Traditional Cos-tumes and Dances
22:58 Traditional Waving Art
23:00 National News
23:05 Laskwa Nanda Sanc-tuary Garden
23:10 Song "A Way For Lovers"
23:12 School for the Blind
23:15 National News
23:20 Myanmar Ancient Or-naments Showroom
23:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
23-1-2004(Friday) & 24-1-2004(Saturday) Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)
23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Maingalaba"
23:36 National Races Village
23:40 National News
23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Hot and Spicy Three Layer Pork with Pineapple)
23:45 National News
23:50 Myanmar National Spurila (Part-I)
23:55 Dance of the Maidens
24:00 National News
00:05 Rafting and Kayaking Along Myakha and Malika Rivers
00:10 Myanmar Modern Song "We’ll Greet You in Mon Lan-guage"
00:15 National News
00:20 Travelogue "Yangon to Bag"n
00:25 "City of Baghann"
00:30 National News
00:35 Unforgettable Traditions of Pa National Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
00:40 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Fried Indian Lekk & Spaid)
00:45 National News
00:50 Myanmar Traditional Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

WEATHER
Thursday, 22 January, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather have been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan State and Mandalay and Sagain Division, (3°C) to(4°C) below normal in Kayin State and Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.(5°C) below normal in Chin State and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was (-1°C) at Hakha.
Maximum temperature on 21-1-2004 was 34.0°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 22-1-2004 was 13.5°C (56°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-1-2004 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 21-1-2004 was 8 (Hours approx). Rainfall on 22-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airpot, Kaba-Aye and Nathal Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon( Kaba-Aye) was 9 mph from North (090°) hours MST on 22-1-2004.
Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 23-1-2004: Except for the general of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (49%).
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.
West Bengal State Governor concludes visit

YANGON, 22 Jan — The Indian Association of Myanmar (IAM) hosted a dinner in honour of Governor Mr Viren J Shah of West Bengal State of India and party at Traders Hotel here yesterday evening. IAM Chairman Mr Naresh Dinodia, Ambassador of India Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and Mr Viren J Shah gave speeches. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister U Win Aung, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of the Political Department U Thuang Tun and Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia. MNA

Seminars and workshops at Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004

YANGON, 22 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 continued for the second day at the MICTDC building in Hline Township here today with seminars and workshops. The PKI Application workshop took place at the Conference Hall at 9 am. On the occasion, U Tin Zaw, in charge Manager of the Myanmar Electronic Trust (MET) dealt with the topic "Secure e-Commerce", followed by a general round of discussions. Similarly, the workshop "Role of Women in ICT" was held at Room No 205 simultaneously.

Executive of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association Member of the MWEA Daw Khin Aye Win, “Women’s Information”; and Executive of Myanmar Computer Industry Association Executive of the MWEA Daw Chaw Khin Klin, 3rd Myanmar ICT Week Exhibition. In the afternoon, the workshop on Hardware Trend for Software Developers was held at the same venue. Channel Account Manager of Intel Thailand Channel Account Myanmar Mr Dechu Rattanathar presented new IT technologies and Managing Director of Microsoft Thailand Mr. Andrew Mc Bean, Microsoft of Products. The workshop “Myanmar Language Implementation” took place at the Room No 205 at 1 pm. Chairman of e-National Task Force, IT Standardization were MCF President U Thein Oo and members, MCSA President U Thaung Tin and members, officials of the MCI and Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, MWEA President Daw Khin Myint Myint, departmental officials, companies, entrepreneurs and guests.

Minister U Win Aung sees off Governor of West Bengal State of India Mr Viren J Shah and party at the airport. — MNA

Rural road opened

YANGON, 22 Jan — As a gesture of hailing the 75th Anniversary Union Day, the earthen road linking Yeku Mankhan Village, Mansi Township Peace and Development Council Member Police Captain Sein Win and Executive Officer of township Development Affairs Department and local people.— MNA

Exhibition on Traditions of Bamboo to be held

YANGON, 22 Jan — Officials of the Supervisory Committee for Libraries, Museum and Exhibitions under the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information this afternoon inspected the Exhibition on Traditions of Bamboo and presented the permit to the officials concerned.

Third MICT Week crowded with enthusiasts

YANGON, 22 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 continued for the second day at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park in Hline University Campus in Hline Township here today. The Third MICT Week 2004 was packed with Internet and IT enthusiasts, students, employees, and the general public.

Electronic security and communication appliances produced by FISCA Enterprise are on display for sale. The company also undertake the installation of telephone lines in markets, housing estates and industrial zones. Besides, the company also provides services for installation of CCTV security TV camera and other security systems at such places as Yangon and Mandalay International Airports, the Central Bank of Myanmar and other banks, hotels, and gold shops. In particular, PABX exchanges and PCB cards are now being produced at home as the State offered necessary assistance. Arrangements are under way to produce them sufficiently in the country.

As part of the ‘welcome MICT Week 2004 sales promotion programme’, Han Myanmar Electronics sells electronic and electric products of Panasonic brand at reasonable prices along with gifts. On display at the booth of Myanmar Intergraph are technologies of Geomedia Webmap, Remote Sensing, Vessel Tracking and Monitoring System, Marine Ship Tracking and Monitoring System. Computer Marketing Co Ltd is kept open daily on the ground floor of the building 5 in MICT Park and they sell SLIM computer systems and related items at Myanmar Compu Mart of that company. The soon-to-be-distributed Bagan @ a Glance Multimedia CD ROMs, jointly programmed by Cytron Computing and the Ministry of Information, were also on display. On the CD ROM are the historical backgrounds of more than 50 ancient pagodas in Bagan, photos, and location maps. Therefore, it will be a CD those who love Bagan region should keep for always. Mastech Co Ltd also provides services for hotels, clubs, factories, houses, buildings in the installation of HP servers, notebooks, multimedia projectors, zyber brand computers, UBS accounting softwares, IFCA software management systems, security technologies, Eldi access control systems, Linda alarm system, Geovision surveillance systems, Thales smart card security and network & Internet security systems, smart biz PC monitoring systems.

Book shops are selling books on non-fiction, fiction and others to visitors in the compound of the MICT Park. The Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 is kept open to the public free of charge from 9 am to 5 pm daily till 27 January. For the convenience of the visitors to the Week, free buses are employed at the junction of Insein Road and Parami Road, and Pyay Road and Parami Road.— MNA

Visitors at a booth of the Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004.— MNA

An official presents her point of view in the workshop “Role of Women in ICT Industry”. — MNA

MNA

MNA

MNA

MNA