Second and third four-monthly meeting of Industry-2 Ministry held

YANGON, 23 Jan — Ministry of Industry-2 held today its second and third four-monthly meeting at the meeting hall of the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here today. It was attended by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, directors-general and managing directors, directors and factory general managers.

The minister reviewed strong points and weak points of the respective departments and enterprises during the second and third four-monthlies and gave instructions on efforts for production of goods as targeted for the first four-months and boosting production for the year 2004-2005, which is set as the basic year of industrial development. Next, the deputy minister, Director-General of Directorate of Myanma Industrial Planning U Khin Maung and the managing directors also took part in the discussions.

Next, the minister presented awards for the sports athletes of the ministry, who won medals in the XXII SEA Games, to the directors-general and managing directors. The deputy minister and officials presented cash awards for the factories under the ministry.

Then the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders of Shan State (North) Special Region-7

YANGON, 23 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, received Chairman of Shan State (North) Special Region-7 U Aik Mone, Vice-Chairman U Nyi Lone and members at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha at 5.30 pm today.

Attendance

Also present on the occasion were Ministers at the Prime Minister’s Office U Ko Lay and Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Li-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and senior officers of the Military Intelligence.

Support

At the meeting the national race leaders said they fully supported the seven-point future policy (programme) of the State clarified by the Prime Minister and they would actively participate in the implementation of the political programme with the leadership of the State. They also said that emphasis was to be placed on the elimination of narcotic drugs.

Assistance

Next, they reported on education, health, agriculture, economy and assistance to be rendered by the State for the development of their region.
The 57th Anniversary
Union Day objectives
— for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
— to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
— for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
— to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development,
— for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells
YANGON, 23 Jan— The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint is expected to visit the state to inspect health care services provided to cardiac and vascular patients.

Efficient use of electricity
* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

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

Efficient use of 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

Minister encourages cardiac, vascular surgical treatment
YANGON, 23 Jan— Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by Director-General of the Health Department Dr Wan Maung, Director-General of the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) Dr Paing Soe and Deputy Director-General of the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Col Than Aung, viewed the joint surgical operation conducted by cardiac surgeons teams of Myanmar and Australia at Yangon People’s Hospital this morning.

When the minister and party inspected the cardiac treatment at the ‘cardiac catheterisation laboratory’, Professor Dr Daw Khin May San and cardiologists of Myanmar and Professor Dr David Kelly and Dr Bruce Bastian of Australia reported to the minister, who later gave necessary instructions and attended to the requirements.

Next, the minister and party also inspected the heart-disease patients, who have undergone surgical treatment, at the intensive care unit. Professor Dr Khin Maung Aye and Australian Professor Dr Alan Gale reported to the minister on conditions of the heart diseases they dealt with and the health care services they provided. — MNA

People’s Desire
* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize the stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Military equipment in short supply at start of Iraq war, Britain admits

LONDON, 23 Jan—Britain’s Ministry of Defence admitted that some military equipment for British troops in Iraq was in short supply at the start of the Iraq war, but said lessons would be drawn from the experience.

A MoD statement on the shortage was released after the widow of a British soldier killed in Iraq demanded a public apology from Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon.

“The MoD has carried out an extensive review of Operation Telic, which identifies some areas of concern, particularly in the logistics chain,” said the ministry, referring to the British deployment of 46,000 troops in the Gulf last year.

Where shortages were apparent, equipment was prioritized and sent to those units identified as being most in need, eg, those soldiers who would be acting in the dismounted forward infantry role,” the MoD statement added.

Hoon is committed to ensuring that the MoD learns from these lessons.”

Hoon on Monday refused to take responsibility for the fate of 33-year-old Sergeant Steve Roberts, killed four days into the Iraq war on 24 March without body armour, as he met his angry widow in London.

Samatha Roberts’ husband died in a clash with Iraqi militants near the southern city of Basra, becoming the first British fatality. Fifty-one British troops were killed during the Iraq campaign, according to the defence ministry.

An official report said last week that Roberts, who was serving with the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment near the southern Iraqi town of Al-Zubayr, was issued with special armour but was told to hand it back because other troops did not have enough. He was given less effective armour instead.

An investigation by the defence ministry concluded that the better armament would have saved his life.

Samatha Roberts said Hoon told her at a meeting last month that 98 percent of British equipment had reached Iraq in time for the war. “That was clearly not the case, or he misled us,” she told BBC radio.

Hoon “pretty much said that it (Roberts’ death) was an isolated incident and there were not major issues with the supply of troops. ‘I want to know exactly what they (the defence ministry) are going to do and to admit that there are major issues with equipment shortages,’ said the widow.

Britain’s National Audit Office said last week that insufficient numbers of special flak jackets were distributed to frontline troops, adding that there had been difficulties with distribution.

Iraq women gunned down

BAGHDAD, 23 Jan—Four Iraqi women killed in a gun attack on their minibus.

Police said several other women were wounded in Wednesday’s attack near the town of Falluja, about 50 kilometres (32 miles) west of the capital Baghdad.

They all worked as cleaners and laundry staff at a US base near Baghdad.

Meanwhile, at least two US soldiers were killed in a mortar attack near the central town of Baquba on Wednesday, the US military said. It said another US soldier was critically wounded in the attack.

Uncorirmed reports said two Iraqi police officers and a motorist were killed in a separate attack near Falluja on Thursday.

And local police said a man was killed and three others injured when a roadside bomb went off 25km northwest of the northern city of Kirkuk.

Iraqi insurgents have carried out a number of attacks targeting Iraqi civilians co-operating with the US-led coalition.

Irqi police and hospital officials said gunmen attacked the Iraqi women’s minibus at about 1600 local time (1300 GMT) on Wednesday, as they were driven to work at the US base near the town of Habbaniya.

The women were all Armenian or Assyrian Christians, and most were dosing when the attack took place. A survivor of the attack said masked men in a car raked their minibus with gunfire.

“It is possible that the attackers were terrorists who wanted to hit us because we have good relations with the Americans,” another survivor, Suzanne Azat, was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency.

“Perhaps they were thieves, but there is certainly a very strong possibility that they were terrorists,” said Mussa Adam Abu Shaha, who sister was killed in the attack.

US launches probe of shrimp from Asia, South America

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan—The US government has launched a probe against seven countries over the number of attacks targeting Iraqi civilians.

World Food Programme said it was mounting an urgent appeal for £45 million to cope with the rapid growing of electricity demand.

Indonesia’s plan but decline to elaborate.

A nuclear power plant, he said, should become the country’s last resort to cope with the growing threat of power crises. Earlier on Monday, state-run electricity company PLN announced its plan to build a 6,000-megawatt nuclear power plant in Central Java with an estimated cost of nine billion US dollars.

The construction is expected to complete within five years to meet the rapid growing of electricity de-

Minister says Indonesia’s n-power plant needs int’l acceptance

JAKARTA, 23 Jan—Indonesia’s plan to build a nuclear power plant should gain international acceptance before being materialized in 2011, Technology Minister Hatta Radjasa said here on Wednesday.

“In our talk with the US president, he was pleased with the building of nuclear power plant in Indonesia. We have to make it happen.”

Families of the victims will meet Hoon on 5 February to demand a public inquiry, but Hamilton-Jewell questioned whether the defence secretary had “the guts” to order one.

Hoon is already under fire over shortages of military equipment for British troops in Iraq and his part in naming weapons expert David Kelly as the source of a BBC story which alleged that the government had “sexed up” intelligence on Iraq.

British Defence Secretary Hoon challenged over Iraq deaths

LONDON, 23 Jan—The brother of one of six British military policemen killed by a mob in Iraq challenged embattled Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon to order a preliminary inquiry into his death.

“This is his (Hoon’s) chance.” Tony Hamilton-Jewell, 57, whose brother Simon died in the attack, said after a meeting with Ministry of Defence officials, insisting a full inquiry was the “only way” to pacify the families.

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Iraqi police officers jump onto a truck near Falluja, on 22 January, 2004 to take a wounded Iraqi police officer to a hospital.

Three Trinidadian women gunned down in Baghdad.

The three police officers jumped onto a truck near Falluja, on 22 January, 2004 to take a wounded care taker to a hospital after he fell from his vehicle while chasing assailants.

Police said several other women were wounded in a fire attack on the town of Falluja, about 50 kilometres (32 miles) west of the capital Baghdad.

They all worked as cleaners and laundry staff at a US base near Baghdad.

Meanwhile, at least two US soldiers were killed in a mortar attack near the central town of Baquba on Wednesday, the US military said. It said another US soldier was critically wounded in the attack.

Uncorirmed reports said two Iraqi police officers and a motorist were killed in a roadside bomb went off 25km northwest of the northern city of Kirkuk.

Iraqi insurgents have carried out a number of attacks targeting Iraqi civilians co-operating with the US-led coalition.

Iraqi police officers jump onto a truck near Falluja, on 22 January, 2004 to take a wounded

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi police officers jump onto a truck near Falluja, on 22 January, 2004 to take a wounded

MNA/Reuters

Three Thai patients suspected of bird flu infection

BANGKOK, 23 Jan—The Thai government on Wednesday night admitted three patients with pneumonia-like symptoms were being tested for bird flu infection, local Press Re-

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

Three Thai patients suspected of bird flu infection
Anti-US attacks sweep across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Jan—Seven Iraqis have been killed in a wave of attacks across Iraq in the last 24 hours as US military officials report that two soldiers have ‘also been killed.’

Two Iraqi policemen were killed on Thursday and three others wounded when gunmen opened fire on a police checkpoint between the flashpoint towns of Falluja and Ramadi, hotspots of anti-occupation attacks west of Baghdad.

The attack occurred on the same road where the day before, four Iraqi civilian women were killed when assailants opened fire on the car they were travelling near the US military base at Habbaniyah, 80km west of the capital. They were laun-
dry workers at the base. Elsewhere, the 23-year-old son of a former senior official from Saddam Hussein’s Baath party was killed by an unidentified at-
tacker in the southern city of Basra.

Since the dramatic capture of Hussein in De-

cember, attacks against occupation forces have not abated.

Two US soldiers were killed and a third wounded during a suicide attack on a US base at Balad early on Wednesday in a military base near Baquba, 55km northeast of Baghdad. US troops re-
turned fire, damaging a ci-
vilian’s home, according to witnesses.

The latest deaths brought to 505 the number of US troops killed since Wil-
sington launched its war against Iraq last March.

Despite almost daily casualties among occupa-
tion troops, a US com-

The arrest of Khodorkovsky, who angered the Kremlin by pursuing political ambitions, was followed by the re-
capture of Hussein in De-

The new law would change this to three million roubles, he said.

The arrest of Khodorkovsky, who angered the Kremlin by pursuing political ambitions, was followed by the re-
capture of Hussein in De-

Russia toughens control over big mergers

The move, put forward at a Thursday Cabinet meeting, comes after the arrest of Russia’s richest man Mikhail Khodorkovsky led to the unravelling of one of Russia’s biggest mergers in legal attack many said had the Kremlin’s blessing.

It would also give President Vladimir Putin, who faces re-
election in March, more power to influence the destinies of the country’s oil and gas industry.

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

The daughter and mother of Najia Adam Shabu, who was killed when unidentified assailants opened fire on a minibus in which she was traveling in Fallujah, Iraq, bury her at a cemetery in Baghdad on 22 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

A British soldier on patrol in southern Iraq, on 22 Jan. A coalition military spokesman told AFP that a British soldier was killed in an automobile accident in the southern Iraqi city of al-Amarah.—INTERNET

A wounded Iraqi policeman is carried into hospital in the flashpoint city of Fallujah. Two US soldiers, two Iraqi policemen and a civilian and four Iraqi women working for the US military were killed in separate attacks in the Sunni triangle area near Baghdad.—INTERNET

An injured Iraqi policeman, who fell off his vehicle while giving chase to assailants, awaits transport to hospital on a highway near the restive town of Falluja, on 22 January, 2004. Guerillas attacked an Iraqi police post with assault rifles and a grenade Thursday, killing two policemen and a civilian, hours after a mortar attack on a US base killed two soldiers and wounded another.—INTERNET

US soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division’s 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment walk under a blanket of fog at their base in former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein hometown of Tikrit.—INTERNET

US soldiers stand guard near the crater in the ground after an explosion in Baquba. Three US soldiers were killed and another wounded near Baquba, on 22 January while four Iraqi women going to work at a US base were mown down by guerillas.—INTERNET

The daughter and mother of Najia Adam Shabu, who was killed when unidentified assailants opened fire on a minibus in which she was traveling in Fallujah, Iraq, bury her at a cemetery in Baghdad on 22 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET
“Lady of the marshes” returns to Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Jan—Iraqi interim Minister of Culture Mufeed Al-Jazairy has announced the return of a bronze statue by a late prominent contemporary sculptor, Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper reported Thursday.

The statue by Khadil Ali Rahal, known as “lady of the marshes”, weighs 800 kilograms and represents a woman and two children living in the marshes of south Iraq, the report said.

The sculpture was stolen from one of the squares of Baghdad in Al Sad City in northern Baghdad right after the ousting of Saddam Hussein’s regime, and was returned under the mediation of Mungada Al Sad, a much respected young Shiite leader, said the report.

The minister said that the thieves removed the statue from the square because it shows the woman with a bare chest, violating religious teachings.

Mohammed Al Rahal, son of the late sculptor, said that the statue was finished in 1970 and it was one of his father’s favourite works. It is a very important statue that represents history and folklore of the Iraqis, he added.

Khalid Al Rahal, born in 1926 and died in 1987, was one of the pioneers of modern sculpture in Iraq.

Chinese Govt cares for homeless at Spring Festival

BEIJING, 23 Jan—As Chinese President Hu Jintao visited farming families, the poor and the elderly in rural Hebei Province on the eve of the Spring Festival, the urban homeless in the capital city were also under the care of the government.

Shelter residents were given a free health check, a shower and clean clothes on arrival. They ate jiaozi — filled dumplings traditionally eaten on the Lunar New Year — and apples with shopping prizes. A 60-year-old man took toothpaste when given a choice with candies and a shoeshine.

“I should tidy myself up to greet the New Year,” he said. The Chaoyang District shelter, 18 homeless people even had their own New Year party, playing games and winning prizes.

Rapid development in the past 10 years.

Prior to the Spring Festival, which falls on Thursday, the government urged all such centres to ensure that “no homeless person freezes to death on the streets”.

Imports of kiwis, rambutans forbidden for Indian consumers

NEW DELHI, 23 Jan—Indian Government has brought out a new law which would restrict imports of vegetables and fruits into the country and make exotic fruits such as kiwi, US Rambutans and melons for banned for Indian consumers.

This has been done by way of new Plant Quarantine Order which imposes stringent standards for imports of agricultural articles.

The new law has been designed to meet new requirements under the World Trade Organization regime, which is aimed at regulating import of agricultural articles into the country, official sources told PTI.

With the lifting of Quantitative Restrictions fully in 2002, imports of exotic fruits and vegetables had witnessed a surge with even Mother Dairy selling fruits like kiwi in its outlets.

No consentment of plants or plant products or other regulated articles can be imported into the country.

Peru rations water in capital after low rainfall

LIMA (Peru), 23 Jan—Residents of the Peruvian capital Lima, enduring sticky summer heat, are facing overnight water cuts because of unusually low rainfall.

Water company Sedapal said on Wednesday it was halting the flow from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. until rains replenished supplies in the mountains. About 90 percent of the Pacific coastal city’s population of eight million is connected directly to the network. Experts at the national meteorological service SENAMHI said there had been half the usual rainfall in the central Andes and rain was not expected to pick up until March or April.

It is Lima’s worst water rationing for a decade. The measure was not expected to affect agriculture or industry.
Anti-colonialist struggles in Salin region

(Continued from yesterday)

After three years as a farmer, he heard the news that the colonialists had deposed King Thibaw and Queen Su Phaya Latt at the end of November 1885. So he rushed to the royal capital, and arrived there at sunset on 29 November 1885.

At the capital, he was so heart-rending to see the King and Queen taken away to the Thuiriya ship to be exiled abroad. He wanted to risk his life to save the King and Queen. But he knew that he had many things to do for the nation.

Since then for two months he was revisiting the relatives of the King, whom he personally knew well, and organizing them to fight back the colonialists. Afterwards, he went back to Salin, joined the resistance force under the command of Bo Ottama, the chief of Mindat village.

He was very brave and skilled at sword fights. In accord with his nature, he lived the life of an ordinary resistance soldier. Sometime, he fought the enemy together with U Ottama.

Because of the scorched-earth policy of the colonialists, the group led by Bo Ottama was cut off from the local people, who were supporting it. Thus, Bo Ottama was thinking of joining forces with the troops of Natmauk Bo Min Yaung on the other bank of Ayeayawady River. Bo Ya Kyaw secretly returned to Sedoktara to gather men and weapons. Bo Ottama, who was famous as a resistance fighter, was arrested by the colonialists, while Bo Ya Kyaw, who was unknown to most, was able to get back to the camp. After the capture of Bo Ottama, Bo Yar Kyaw joined forces with the resistance fighters all over the nation. He lived a miserable life, but continued to fight the enemy for tens years after the nation fell under subjugation. He passed away at 75 at his farm near Sedoktara.

Like Bo Ottama, Bo Ottara was also a monk before joining the resistance forces.

His name was U In Gyi. As he had attended classes at the Pwe Kyang school during his childhood days, he was skilled in fighting and military tactics. U Ottama and U Ottara were both monks of two different monasteries at Pyilionkaw village near Legaing Kyangdawya. When the cruelities of the colonialists were intolerable, they got disbursed to become ordinary persons, and became freedom fighters. U Ottama was addressed Mingyi and U Ottara, Minly.

He was respected by his men as the second leader of the group under the command of U Ottama. At a battle near Taungkauk village west of Salin, he was able to cut off the head of the Minbu District Commissioner.

He was also hit by a bullet in the neck, and died in the battle.

Bo Nay Mee, Bo Nyo Hmee and Bo Byaing Taung were women resistance fighters. They were not rearsorbs as ration suppliers or messengers or doing staff affairs.

They handled the sword, galloped the horse to bravely fight the colonialist soldiers shooting at the resistance with their guns. Bo Nay Mee was a young Chin national race woman from Pha-ang village. She hated the colonialists as they killed her parents and relatives.

She was an honourable woman, who organized Chin national race men and women and fought the colonialists from Taung-gauk village near Sedoktara.

During the Taunggauk village battle, she was able to cut off the head of Minbu Town Commissioner.

The Bo Inphu (Pha-ang) shot down the commissioner.

Bo Nay Mee was able to cut off the head of Minbu commissioner Mr. Phayre during the battle at Taunggauk village.

Bo Inphu (Pha-ang) shot the Minbu commissioner.

Bo Nyo Hmee was a sister of Mindat Village Head Bo Yaw. She had a big mole on her left temple.

Although she was a maid, she was skilled in the art of sword and spear fighting and horse riding. During the battle at Dattaawchaung near Kuto village south of Salin town, she risked her life to save the Myanmar independence fighters who were besieged by the enemy troops.

Bo Byaing Taung was a native of Khite village located near Legaing Kyangdawya. She usually wore peacock feathers on her head in the battles.

Of all the independence fighters, Bo Nyo Hmee, Bo Byaing Gyi and Bo Byaing Lay won the special respect of the local people. From generation to generation, the people have relayed the history of their struggles to liberate the nation. U Ottama was a native of Nyaungbinsauk village near Legaing Kyangdawya.

He was born in 1210 ME (about AD 1848) to U Shwe Yauk and Daw Hla Aye. His childhood name was Maung Oke Kyaw. He attended the village monastic education school. At about 15, he was initiated into novice monk, and soon, he went to the Yadanabon Royal Capital (Mandalay) to continue his studies. While in the capital, he stayed at the monastery of Sayadaw U Medha, a native of his village, and studied Pariyatti.

During the time, he had information about the court affairs through Leikha Queen and Myinsiang Kodayngwi, who had access to the palace.

The news about the power struggles in the court among the sons of the many queens of King Mindon and the assassination of Prince Kanoung made the two monks felt so sad they even left Mandalay for their native village.

With the permission of another monk by the name U Ottama, he lived at the monastery in Pyilionkaw village near Legaing Kyangdawya. The whole Myanmar fell under subjugation when he turned 38 Vasa 18. He could not tolerate anymore when he witnessed the wickedness and cruelities of the colonialists. So he joined forces with U Ottama and fought back the colonialists.

He took foothold at Mingyi Chaung or Kyin-kaing village at the foot of the Yoma mountain range, where he recruited men and stockpiled arms and ammunition and gave military training to his men.

Later, he left monkhood, and launched anti-colonialist wars with the cooperation of the locals at Minbu, Saku, Pwintbya, Legaing, Kyangdawya, Ngaphe, Mindon, and Pakokku. The locals called him Bo Ottama, Mingyi U Ottama and Monk U Ottama.

Bo Byaing Gyi was a native of Paungkoon village near Hsinbyukyun, and Bo Byaing Lay was a native of O-thesu village near Hsinbyukyun. They were classmates and the right-hand men of Bo Ottama.

The armed anti-colonialist struggles launched in and around Salin region, the battles at Shwe-pamyinti, Myatleinhing, Sedoktara, Hsinbyukyun, Dattaawchaung, Tama-chaung, Wehthikan, Salin Shwetana, Mangeyin, Salin Kohsoungs Kyaung and Paungin Village were famous.

I would like to present new reports about battles featured in the English newspapers of the colonial era in India and the accounts of the locals relayed through generations.

A news report featured in column 3, page 5 of 12 August 1886 issue of The Amrita Bazaar Patrika newspaper said, Army Captain Akinson of Hampshire Battalion fell in the battle.

In reality, the events were the battles at Shwetwana Mangeyin and Salin Kohsoungs Kyaung near Salin.

During the time, there was a brick wall in Salin. The Shwetwana Pagoda was located on a hillock at the north-east corner of the town.

There was a forest of tamarind trees north of the pagoda outside the wall. Koehsaung Kyaung, a monastery, was located south of Letpanbin Monastery outside the wall. The Myanmar troops under the command of Bo Uttama were stationing together with their horses on the ground floor of the monastery.

The colonialist troops led by Akinson took foothold in the fort. A police station was situated at the foot of the hillock inside the wall.

On 28 July 1886, the Myanmar patriotic troops under the command of Bo Uttama, Bo Yaw, Bo Byaing Gyi and Bo Byaing Lay launched a fierce attack on the colonialist troops taking foothold at the fort. The Myanmar troops took the tamarind forest as the base and besieged the enemy.

The colonialist soldiers came out of the wall, and opened two fronts — one at Mangyin front in the north and the other at Koehsaung in the south.

The battle lasted for four days, and Akinson died of a bullet wound near Paung Bridge east of the pagoda on 31 July 1886. Before he arrived in Myanmar, he took part in the battle to seize Bombay in India. Because of his gallantry, he was honoured the Bombay conqueror. His body was buried at the Salin burial ground, and the inscription on the tomb read “Major Akinson”.

The remains of the 150 colonialist soldiers were buried at a common graveyard west of Koehsaung Kyaung. Two Myanmar women, who served as messengers for the Myanmar patriotic troops, were also killed in the battle.

***

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

Development in multi ...

(from page 16) programmes look active and superb, and to apply means to increase income, while taking thrifty measures. The staff must be dutiful, and have efficiency, goodwill, cooperation and initiative, while practising the system that brings improvement through competition.

The minister presented model district office award to Monywa District IPRD Office and model township office award to Yimambi Township IPRD Office.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein presented prizes to 46 district offices, 43 township offices, 19 outstanding trainees of various courses, and 23 service personnel who won awards in education and quiz and the award for excellent performance in the social field through the representatives.

Director-General of the IPRD U Chit Naing presented gifts to the director-general’s award winners. Also present were heads of departments under the ministry, advisers and others.

The minister and the deputy minister cordially greeted the staff and visited the reference library.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets President of World Canaan Farmer School of the Republic of Korea Dr Kim Bon Il. (News on page 16) — MNA

Rail Transportation Ministry holds third four-monthly meeting

YANGON, 23 Jan — The Ministry of Rail Transportation held its third four-monthly coordination meeting (2004) at the ministry on Thetinbyu Road this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Thar, departmental heads, advisers and officials.

The minister delivered an address on the occasion.

In his address, he elaborated on efforts to be made for exceeding the targets reviewing the strong and weak points of previous performances; systematic expenditure of local and foreign currency; maintenance of coaches, locomotives and railroads; ensuring punctual departure and arrival of the trains; extended running of trains in short trips; ensuring practice of politeness in dealing with the passengers; contribution towards the interest of the people; smooth and fast flow of commodities; and smooth and secure transport. The minister also called departmental personnel to discharge duties to the best of their ability.

The deputy ministers presented supplementary reports. The officials presented accomplishment of the goal, assessments and future plans. The minister delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Construction Ministry holds four-monthly meeting

YANGON, 23 Jan — The second and third four-monthly coordination meeting (2003) of the Ministry of Construction took place at Public Works (Head Office) on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tin Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, officials and engineers.

The minister addressed the reports by the officials concerned and made concluding remarks.

Next, prize-distribution ceremony for outstanding staff and outstanding students of the staff took place at the same venue.

The old students are invited to attend the ceremony, and those wishing to donate cash may contact Tel 01-243161, 256602 and 056-21211 and Mahaythi Store, Myoma Market (North wing), Thanlyin. — MNA

Respect-paying ceremony to be held at BEHS No 4, Thanlyin

YANGON, 23 Jan — Alumni and alumnæ of Basic Education High School No 4 in Thanlyin are to hold a respect-paying ceremony for teachers at the school at 9 am on 1 February 2004.

The old students are invited to attend the ceremony. — MNA

Packed with enthusiasts, MICT Week continues for third day

YANGON, 23 Jan — The third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 continued for the third day at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park on Hlone University Campus in Hlone Township.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein visited the exhibition today. The exhibition is crowded with Internet and IT enthusiasts, students, service personnel, and the general public.

Clint Focus Technology Group, the authorized distributor for Epson products in Myanmar, put on display a variety of printers, scanners, and photo printers which can be used with digital cameras. Epson (3 in 1) printers, which is the latest item in the market, are also displayed at the exhibition and can be used in three ways as copier, scanner and printer.

Technologies on computerized sounds of various musical instruments and sound editing technologies can be viewed at the booth of Youth Computer Co Ltd. The company also conducts courses on these technologies.

Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd is providing services for networking technologies. Moreover, the company also engages in production and installation of software applications such as e-Government, e-learning, e-commerce and so on.

To show the ICT development, e-health application is displayed at the booth of Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd. The company also provides computer-aided services.

On display and sale at the booth of NCS Co Ltd are computer accessories, digital cameras, network products, mobile disks, external hard disks, computer systems and mini computers at reasonable prices. Tong Tab Co Ltd sells Japan-make digital laser copiers and printers at fair prices at the exhibition.

The Myanmar ICT Week is kept open daily free of charge to the general public from 9 am to 5 pm till 27 January. For the convenience of the visitors to the exhibition, free buses are employed at the junction of Insein Road and Parami Road and Pyay Road and Parami Road.

Visitors enthusiastically observing information technologies at a booth of the Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004. — MNA

MNA
Myanmar ICT Week stands witness to ICT development in Myanmar

Small water projects help improve Chinese farmers’ living standard

KUNMING, 23 Jan — Gone are the days when people of Xiangzhulin Village of Yunnan Province, southwest China, had to walk for three to four kilometres to fetch drinking water every day, thanks to a series of water projects, which enable locals to get water at home.

With the completion of 438 small water storage ponds before the Spring Festival, the Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on January 22 on the western calendar, Xiangzhulin villagers are hoping for a better future.

"The small ponds do away with the need to fetch water every day and we now can concentrate our efforts on making profits by breeding pigs and chickens," villager Lei Huasheng said.

With a population of over 6,700, Xiangzhulin, in the Dai and Wa Autonomous County of Gengma, is located in a mountainous area short of drinking water. To get water for daily life, each family had to send at least one person to fetch water from areas three to four kilometres away.

Gengma County launched a project to build small water storage ponds last year and completed 438 within four months. “More will be built this year,” said Zhou Tiayou, an official in Mengyong Township.

Zhou said small water storage ponds were expected to play a key role in improving the living standard of the locals. He said his township planned to build a water supply system to meet the demand of the village.

According to plan, Yunnan will pour over 300 million yuan (36.28 million US dollars) to help 900,000 more rural families to have access to drinking water. Thanks to the water projects, 1.07 million rural people in the province had access to drinking water last year.

Japan, Mexico continue high-level FTA talks

Tokyo, 23 Jan — Japan and Mexico continued talks to finish negotiations of the two countries full-fledged FTA deal by the end of March.

The Japanese side is headed by Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Ambassador for International Economic Affairs, and Hiroyuki Kinoshita, Vice-minister for International Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Mexico is represented by Angel Villalobos, Vice-Minister of Economy in charge of the international commerce.

The two countries remain apart over how to deal with the five farm products — orange juice, oranges, pork, chicken and beef.

Japan has maintained that the two countries should go ahead with the negotiations based on the agreements they reached in marathon ministerial talks here last October, while Mexico has refused to stick to the October agreements and made fresh proposals.

Japan and Mexico had planned to sign an FTA during Mexican President Vicente Fox’s visit to Japan last October.

But the two countries failed to resolve their differences over the farm products.

Malaysian Chinese usher in Year of Monkey with joy

Kuala Lumpur, 23 Jan — The Malaysian Chinese ushered in the Year of the Monkey (the Chinese Lunar New Year) with great joy nationwide on Thursday as the monkey is regarded as a symbol of agility and intelligence.

Leaders of the Chinese-based political parties and the Chinese community held the Open House across the country in keeping with the rich Malaysian tradition and entertained people from all walks of life.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak wish all the Malaysian Chinese Gong Xi Fa Cai when attending the Open House hosted by MCA and GERAKAN, component parties of the ruling National Front. The Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) and the Malaysia People’s Movement Party (GERAKAN) are the largest and the second largest Chinese-based political parties in Malaysia.

Free food is served for thousands of guests at the Open House, followed by cultural performances like music, songs, dances and a fashion show.

"In this Chinese New Year, let us unreservedly, regardless of race and religion, to bring Malaysia to greater excellence," Abdullah said in his Chinese New Year message on Tuesday. "With a firm determination and commitment, we must create changes that will be a catalyst for progress not only for us as individuals but for this beloved nation of ours," he said.

Malaysia is a multi-racial country with a population of some 24 million. It consists of the Malays who make up 58.1 per cent, the Chinese 24.3 per cent, the Indians 6.9 per cent and the indigenous inhabitants in Sarawak and Sabah (East Malaysia) some 4 per cent.

The celebration is part of the country’s 50th anniversary celebrations.

Managing Director of MICTDC U Aung Zaw

The Kyemon learnt that Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 would be held from 21 to 27 January at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township.

Therefore, an information crew of the Kyemon visited the park to meet officials of MICT Park and responsible personnel of the companies that would join the Week and put their products on display to ask about their products.

First and foremost, in an interview with U Aung Zaw, Managing Director of MICT Development Corporation, he said the purposes of holding the MICT Week was: first, to show the development trend of ICT sector in Myanmar; second, to avail the strike of Myanmar of advancing ICT of the world and other related technologies; and finally, to introduce ICT to factories and workshops and make them realize how beneficial these technologies are to their businesses. In charge of continued that unlike other exhibitions, the MICT Week would not sell any products, but would make known the progress of technologies by holding talks and seminars which would focus on matters related to sale promotion of ICT products, introduction of e-Visa and e-commerce, and software programming suited to advanced technologies.

Visitors to the MICT Week will have an opportunity to witness the development trend of ICT in Myanmar and the latest technologies from all parts of the world.

As for ICT companies, they will also find new markets for their products. People are coming to take greater interest in the technologies, not just in the products. Moreover, software items produced at home have reached a high level of quality and quantity. A total of fifty local companies took part in the exhibition, in addition to twenty foreign companies.

Computer-related companies from Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, India, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Chinese (Taipei) would also come here to join the exhibition.

The MICT Week would be held annually like this and arrangements are under way to organize such exhibition also in Mandalay.

(Translation: KTV)

Asian News International
IAEA asks Iran to cooperate or face consequences

DAVOS (Switzerland), 23 Jan — International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei said on Thursday Iran must cooperate with the nuclear watchdog’s efforts to monitor its atomic energy programme or face “serious implications.”

“They know it’s very important for the agency to come to a conclusion that the Iran programme is for peaceful purposes,” he told reporters at the World Economic Forum.

“It would obviously have serious implications if they do not continue to cooperate fully with us in investigating the scope, nature, and content of that programme,” ElBaradei added.

The United States suspects Iran of acquiring nuclear clear arms under cover of its atomic energy programme, which Teheran insists is for peaceful purposes.

ElBaradei has previously warned that Iran would be reported to the UN Security Council if it did not cooperate with the Vienna-based nuclear agency.

The IAEA head also said that he had no evidence of Iranian foreign “procurement” of equipment used to enrich uranium, but confirmed that the agency was looking into manufacturing of such equipment inside the country. Diplomats have said this manufacturing was related to enrichment centrifuges.

“We haven’t seen recent indications of (foreign) procurement. They are working on domestic manufacturing, that’s something they told us,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Subcommittee for Flag Hoisting Ceremony of
57th Anniversary Union Day meets

YANGON, 23 Jan — The Subcommittee for Flag Hoisting Ceremony of the 57th Anniversary Union Day 2004 held its first coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office on Bank Road in Kyauktada Township this morning. It was attended by Chairman of the Subcommittee and Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin and members and officials of the work committees.

Col Wai Lwin presided over the meeting and Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyaw acted as master of ceremonies.

In his speech, Col Wai Lwin invoked officials concerned to take measures with great care to avoid pitfalls in carrying out the tasks for observing the Union Day in full political essence.

Officials of work committees reported on progress of tasks being carried out by their respective committees, followed by a general round of discussions.

In his concluding remarks, Col Wai Lwin said that the Union Day is a day of great importance in Myanmar history.

He also praised the efforts made by respective work committees and called upon the collective participation in observing the Union Day.

MNA

UMFCCI meets KCCI

YANGON, 23 Jan — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met with the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Korea yesterday at the UMFCCI Headquarters.

UMFCCI President U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Win Aung, U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and Chairman of Myanmar Beans and Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association U Tun Aung met with a seven member delegation led by KCCI President Mr Hyo-Sung Kim.

They discussed investment promotion, economic cooperation, export of beans and pulses, wood, wood-based goods and rubber materials and the sending of a Myanmar business delegation to ROK.

MNA

Tamu-Kale-Kalewa Border Traders Association meets

YANGON, 23 Jan — The Tamu-Kale-Kalewa Border Traders Association held the fourth annual meeting in Tamu on 11 January. Chairman of the association U Hla Maung, Chairman of Tamu District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Zaw, and Deputy Director of Border Trade Department U Soe Lwin gave speeches.

Secretary of the association U Aye Ko read out the financial report, and the association presented K 277,000 for religion and health activities in Tamu District.

MNA

Uganda to provide free “AIDS” drugs to needy people

KAMPALA, 23 Jan — The Ugandan Government has finalized a national policy to provide free anti-retroviral drugs to needy people, Minister of State for Health Alex Kamugisha has said.

The minister was quoted Wednesday by local media as saying that the generic drugs would be provided at a little fee to people who are not very poor.

Kamugisha said AIDS, which came to Uganda just before the National Movement took over power, had eaten into the resources which could have been used for other national programmes.

“If we had not had AIDS, we would have gone much further in development,” he said.

He said the sums of combating the AIDS scourge rested in the hands of every citizen.

Uganda has recently received 54 million US dollars for the HIV/AIDS project from the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and a grant of three million dollars from the World Bank for free AIDS drugs.

About 100,000 people are expected to receive the drugs under the project. — MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
Anti-drug Squad, acting on information, stopped a member of the local intelligence unit and Bhamo Special Anti-drug Squad, acting on information, stopped and searched the van with number plates (Ab/741) en route to Lashio from Mandalay near the mile post 80/4 on Lashio-Mandalay road. The authorities discovered 19 packs of heroin weighing 306.16 grams from passenger Ai Zam Htan.

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

Narcotic drugs seized in Bhamo, Lashio

Tarred road opened to hail Union Day

Yangon, 23 Jan — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day—2004, a self-reliance tarred road was opened at Sanpya Ganga Gagy Ward in North Okkalapa Township, here, yesterday morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Birg-Gen Aung Thein Lwin.

Also present on the occasion were YCDC Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretary Col Myint Aung, officials, senior military officers, and others.

The commander, the Yangon Mayor and Chairmen of the committees for construction of 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 inspected tarring of Bohmu Bah toe Road that links North Okkalapa township and Dagon University in Dagon Myothit (East).

The mayor and party inspected the sports ground near Kyansitha Street in Dagon Myothit (East), tarring of the four-lane Yaddana Street in Thingyan Road, Thantavu and Wezayanda and tarring of the ring-road around Kyackawa san Pagoda. Later, the mayor and party looked into greening tasks for the environs of Kandawgyi island, completion of the ring-road of Khemadipa island and tasks being carried out. The mayor gave necessary instructions. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Salone Festival 2004

(Sea Gypsy Festival)

Ma Kyone Galet Village, Myeik Archipelago

Union of Myanmar

14 to 17 February 2004

Nursery Market Festival continues

Yangon, 23 Jan — Nursery Market Festival is kept open daily at Myptadeha 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 products at the entrance of the garden. — MNA
China alert against SARS comeback during Spring Festival

BEIJING, 23 Jan — Surveillance and monitoring systems against severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) has gone into full gear as an estimated 1.89 billion people in China's Mainland are travel around during the Spring Festival, which falls between January 22 to 28.

Since south China's Guangdong Province reported three clinically confirmed SARS cases in December 2003 and January 2004, Beijing, one of the regions most seriously hit during last year's SARS outbreak, requires people whose body temperature exceeds 38 degrees to be sent to special fever clinics immediately.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the cabinet recently moved to cullicide, cats, one of the most probable SARS virus carriers, Beijing also banned selling and eating of the animal, said Deng Xiaobing, vice director of Beijing Municipal Public Health Bureau.

Quarantine departments have also increased the safety of the 600 cat victims in Beijing for the SARS virus and the results are negative, according to Deng.

In north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, another former SARS-hit area, authorities are also on guard.

Zhang Lianzhong, head of the disease control centre of Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, said delayed isolation of 12 incoming SARS patients caused spreading of the disease in Inner Mongolia last spring and the mistake will not be repeated this year.—MNA/Xinhua

AIDS is a national concern

Manila's Chinatown shares Arroyo's Chinese greeting

MANILA, 23 Jan — "King Hee Huat Chai!" Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Wednesday night hailed the Manila Chinatown with her greeting in Chinese on the Spring Festival — Chinese New Year.

The President, wearing red and sparkling clothes and bright scarves, appeared at around 9.30 pm at a grand celebration in the Chinatown, which has been filled with songs, laughter, jolly people and "King Hee Huat Chai" greetings since the afternoon.

Arroyo, who has never spent Chinese New Year's Eve in Chinatown... Filipinos... all with good luck," Atienza, who led the parade, told Xinhua in the thousands of people watching lion dances and fireworks.

Henry Sy, the Director and Secretary-General of Chinese Filipino Business Club, said Arroyo's presence at Chinese New Year is a recognition of Chinese Filipinos' greater role in the Philippine society and the government's concern for the ethnic Chinese community. —MNA/Xinhua

Japanese President denies SARS delay

TOKYO, 23 Jan — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi denied Tuesday that his government delayed SARS response, saying "we were doing our best to respond as soon as possible to the epidemic," according to Kyodo news agency.

Koizumi was responding to a question posed by opposition lawmakers at the lower house of parliament Tuesday about the government's sluggish action to tackle the epidemic.

On March 6, at the request of the World Health Organization, Koizumi declared a national epidemic and later that month launched a SARS containment campaign.

The epidemic has hit Asian countries particularly hard, but is not believed to have spread to Japan, where health officials said they believed they had contained the outbreak.

The WHO has declared the disease a global emergency, but it has not released any list of countries to be declared as affected.

Koizumi refuted reports in the press that the government had hidden some cases of the disease from the WHO.

"We have no cases to be reported to the WHO, and we have been doing our utmost to respond immediately to the SARS epidemic," he said.

Addressing the nation Tuesday night, Koizumi said the government has announced emergency measures to help control the disease and will protect the public health, Kyodo reported.

"The reports that we are not doing our utmost are completely unjustified," he said.

"The government is working hard to prevent the spread of the disease," he added.

"I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all those who are doing their utmost," he said.

"I want to express my deepest sympathy to the victims of the disease," he added.

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**Cancer fear causes EU chilli crackdown**

**BRUSSELS, 23 Jan —** Fear of cancer-causing red dyes in imported chilli and curry powder has prompted the European Union to boost food safety checks, the European Commission said on Wednesday.

It said food authorities had found that carcinogenic red dyes, banned from use in the European Union, were being added to chilli products.

Chilli, curry powder and chilli products can now only be imported if they have a certificate saying they do not contain the banned dyes, the Commission said. “The dyes were found in food products such as chilli and curry powders as well as a number of processed foods containing chilli or curry,” it added in a statement.

Random checks on products already on the market are to be carried out and those found to have the colourings will be taken off supermarket shelves. — MNA/Reuters

**Norway’s Crown Princess gives birth to first royal child**

**OSLO, 23 Jan —** Norway’s Crown Princess Mette-Marit gave birth on Wednesday to a princess who is in line to become the nation’s first reigning queen in more than 600 years.

The girl, a great great great granddaughter of Britain’s Queen Victoria, was born at 9:14 a.m. (0814 GMT) at Oslo’s National Hospital and is second in line to the throne after her father Crown Prince Haakon, 30. She has an older half-brother, seven-year-old Marius, who is Mette-Marit’s son from a former relationship and is not part of the royal line. “All is well with mother and child,” the palace said in a statement. Haakon attended the birth. The new-born is set to be Norway’s first female head of state and monarch since Danish Queen Margrete, a widow, ruled over Norway, Sweden and Denmark from 1388-1412. She would be the first Norwegian-born woman to head the country. — MNA/Reuters

**Three Japanese die in small plane crash**

**TOKYO, 23 Jan —** Three Japanese were killed when the light plane they were aboard crashed into a parked lot on Thursday.

The crash took place at around 9:40 a.m. (0040 GMT) when the plane was conducting a low-altitude flight in order to take pictures of letters formed by pupils at a kindergarten attached to Yamanashi University in Kofu City, Yamanashi Prefecture, according to Japanese media.

The plane hit electrical wire and fell into the parking lot, damaging two cars, the media said. No casualty on the ground was reported. — MNA/Xinhua

**New clues may help battle against dengue virus**

**LONDON, 23 Jan —** US scientists have gained new insights into how the dengue virus infects cells and spreads across countries, discoveries that could help combat a mosquito-borne disease which affects 50 million people a year.

Dengue, which occurs in the tropics, was first identified in the 1950s along with a potentially lethal complication called dengue haemorrhagic fever.

One study reported in the science journal *Nature* shed light on how authorities can contain dengue outbreaks.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland used a mathematical technique developed by NASA to show that dengue cases in Thailand radiate in waves from Bangkok and infect areas throughout the country. According to an analysis of infections in Thailand between 1983 and 1997, dengue travels in waves at about 92 miles per month and takes about eight months to spread throughout the country.

The scientists suspect the waves are linked to the movement of people in Thailand. “Our results suggest that high priority should be placed on surveillance and control systems in urban areas of Southeast Asia,” said Professor Donald S. Burke, a co-author of the study.

A separate study reported in *Nature* researchers in Boston discovered how the virus infects cells in the body. They used X-ray images of the virus’ envelope, protein, membrane and fuses with the cell and identified two points at which drugs or vaccines could interfere with the fusion process, the final step of infection.

“Infecitious disease is a moving target, and understanding the mechanisms of viral entry is one of the ways that we can be forarmed against these viruses,” said Stephen Harrison of Howard Hughes Medical Institute, who worked on the study.

The scientists believe their research could be adapted for other viruses including West Nile and Hepatitis C. — MNA/Reuters

**“Sleeping on it” helps in problem solving**

**LONDON, 23 Jan —** Advice to “sleep on it” could be well founded, scientists said on Wednesday.

After a good night’s sleep a problem that seemed insurmountable the night before can often appear more manageable, although the evidence until now has been anecdotal.

But researchers at the University of Luebek in Germany have designed an experiment that shows a good night’s sleep can improve insight and problem-solving.

“If you have some newly acquired memories in your brain asleep on these memories, restructures them, so that after sleep the insight into a problem which you could not solve before increases,” said Dr Jan Born, a neuroscientist, at the university.

To test the theory, they taught volunteers two simple rules to help them convert a string of numbers into a new order.

There was also a third, hidden rule, which could help them increase their speed in solving the problem. The researchers, who reported their findings in the science journal *Nature*, divided the volunteers into two groups, half were allowed to sleep after the training while the remainder were forced to stay awake.

Born and his team noticed that the group that had slept after the training were twice as likely to figure out the third rule as the other group.

“Sleep helped,” Born said in a telephone interview.

“The important thing is that you have to have a memory representation in your brain of the problem you want to solve and then you sleep, so it can act on the problem.”

But Born admitted that he and his team do not know how restructuring of memories occurs during sleep.

Pierre Maquet and Perrine Ruby of the University of Liege in Belgium said the experimental evidence supports the anecdotal suggestions that sleep can stimulate creative thinking. — MNA/Reuters

**Eight Nepalis killed by tiger**

**KATHMANDU, 23 Jan —** A tiger has killed eight persons within a month at the buffer zone of the Royal Chitwan National Park in central Nepal. The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported Thursday.

“The tiger menace started on December 19 last year in the Madi Valley of Chitawan District with the killing of a 30-year-old man,” the independent English daily quoted Ram Prit Yadav, warden at the park, as saying.

The same tiger has claimed seven lives in three villages of the valley since then. Yadav noted, adding that a 15-year-old girl was the latest victim, who was killed by the tiger on Tuesday.

The park was opened to local villagers for collecting fodder and grass recently. Villagers entering the park in thousands each day could have disturbed normal life of tigers, thus a tiger could have entered the nearby forests causing series of human toll, Yadav explained.

— MNA/Xinhua

**WASHINGTON, 23 Jan —** NASA’s proposed budget for fiscal 2005 will be $16.2 billion US dollars, a 5.6-per-cent increase meant to jump-start President George W Bush’s plan for missions to the moon and Mars, the space agency’s chief said on Wednesday.

NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe said his agency was well placed to begin the ambitious space exploration programme, even with the shuttle fleet grounded since the February 1 Columbia disaster and no clear date for resuming flight.

“In many ways, we’re probably better positioned right now than we might have been otherwise," O’Keefe told reporters. “The accident really, really shook the foundation of this agency... That’s the perfect time, in many ways, in which to look at new directions.” — MNA/Reuters
Monaco pegged back late by Nice equalizer

LONDON, 23 Jan — An injury-time penalty by Christophe Meslin handed Nice a 1-1 draw against French leaders Monaco in rearranged Ligue 1 match on Wednesday. The principality team now have 47 points and go eight points clear of second-placed PSG, whom they host at the Stade Louis II on January 30.

Nice stay in ninth place, with 31 points.

Monaco decided to be heading for all three points after Fernando Morientes, on loan from Real Madrid, fired home a Lucas Bernardi cross just before halftime to put the hosts ahead.

Monaco defender Patrice Evra was sent off in the 59th minute for tackling Meslin when he was clearly on goal. Then two minutes from time Nice midfielder Ewerson was also sent off for a second bookable offence.

In the dying seconds of the game, Monaco defender Sebastien Squillaci handled the ball in the box, allowing Meslin to convert from the penalty spot.

"We are very disappointed but we cannot win everything," said Monaco captain Ludovic Giuly.

MNA/Reuters

Real beat Valencia 3-0 in King's Cup

MADRID, 23 Jan — Real Madrid beat Valencia 3-0 on Wednesday in a King's Cup quarterfinal first leg soured by the late dismissals of rival midfielders David Beckham and David Albeira.

Real took the lead when Raul met a Santiago Solari cross with a glancing header in the 32nd minute. Valencia pressed for an equalizer in the second half but Ronaldo blasted in the second in the 81st minute and Luis Figo made it 3-0 with a late penalty.

Beckham was sent off after receiving a second yellow card three minutes from time and Albeira followed him off the field two minutes later for his second booking.

Sevilla scored an even more emphatic victory in the night's other quarterfinal first leg, as they cruised to a 4-0 win at home to a weakened Atletico Madrid side.

Three goals in 10 minutes midway through the first half set Sevilla on their way, with a Julio Baptista free kick rounding off victory in the 73rd minute.

In the remaining two ties on Thursday, Alaves, the only Second Division side left in the competition, host Celta Vigo, while Barcelona are at home to Real Zaragoza.

MNA/Reuters

Sevilla crush Atletico in first leg of Cup quartefinal

MADRID, 23 Jan — Sevilla scored three times in 10 minutes midway through the first half on their way to a win that leaves Atletico with a mountain to climb in next week's second leg in Madrid.

Dario Silva opened the scoring after 20 minutes with a header that Atletico keeper German Burgos should have kept out, Jose Antonio Reyes drilled in the second five minutes later and a Pablo Alfaro header made it 3-0 with 29 minutes gone.

Atletico's hopes of a semifinal place were dashed into the net at Ulineko from a wide position 10 minutes from time.

Udinese striker Dino Fava restored the balance just after the half hour, heading in Alberto's cross.

Martin Jorgensen narrowly missed Udinese's lead, hitting the bar with the last kick of the first half, but six minutes after the restart Inter striker Obafemi Martins ran on to a long pass to fire low into the net — MNA/Reuters.

Udinese striker Vincenzo Iaquinta added the Nigeria captain, who will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Nigeria coach Shadrack Boateng said: "We are very disappointed but we cannot win everything.

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"We are very disappointed but we cannot win everything," said Monaco captain Ludovic Giuly.

MNA/Reuters

Last-gasp Miller earns Walters 1-1 draw with Liverpool

LONDON, 23 Jan — Kenny Miller was the Wolverhampton Wanderers hero for the second time in five days on Wednesday when he struck in the last minute to secure a 1-1 home Premier League draw against Liverpool.

The Scottish international forward, whose first-ever Premier League goal was enough to beat league leaders Manchester United 1-0 on Saturday, earned another point for the struggling Midlands side when he drove home a left footed effort from Denis Irwin. It was an unlikely result after Liverpool had dominated throughout.

French midfielder Bruno Cheyrou, who scored his first league goal for the club to secure a 1-0 victory over Chelsea two weeks ago, doubled his tally to put them ahead three minutes before halftime at Molineux.

MNA/Reuters

Charlton turn down "final" Chelsea offer for Parker transfer

LONDON, 23 Jan — Charlton Athletic have turned down a second and "final" £3.5 million-pound (13.57 million-US-dollar) offer from Chelsea for midfielder Scott Parker.

Charlton rejected an initial offer of seven million pounds last week and refused to give up Parker after they were listed as possible targets by Liverpool.

"We are very disappointed but we cannot win everything," said Monaco captain Ludovic Giuly.

MNA/Reuters

Okocha signs off in style as Bolton win 5-2

LONDON, 23 Jan — Jay-Jay Okocha gave Bolton Wanderers the perfect farewell present on Wednesday when he scored twice in an epic 5-2 victory over Aston Villa at The Reebok.

The Bolton captain opted to delay his departure to Tunisia where he is to play for his club to secure a place in the African Nations Cup and his decision paid dividends with the first and last goals of a breathless, action-packed encounter.

Bolton led 3-0 after 17 minutes but found themselves on the rack at 3-2 midway through the second half, only to pull clear again with two goals in the last 20 minutes.

Okocha had been the centre of attention at Bolton in recent weeks with all the talk of his impending departure and he was the name on everybody's lips again after less than three minutes on Wednesday when he curled a free kick beyond Thomas Sorensen.

Five minutes later Kevin Nolan made it 2-0 and when Skelos Giannakopoulos cleverly hooked in the third it looked all over.

Villa hit back in the 78th minute when

MNA/Reuters

Overseas players qualify for British Open

MILBURN, 23 Jan — Australians Adam Le Vescote, Andrew Buckley and Brendan Jones and Briton Matthew Hazelden booked places in this year's British Open after the Australian leg of international qualifying on Wednesday.

Le Vescote and Buckley finished on six-under-par 138 after two rounds at Melbourn's Kingston Heath course, three strokes ahead of Hazelden and Jones.

The 36-hole qualifying tournament is one of five taking place around the world between January and June.

Four players — South African James Knights, Grant Miller, Loosley, son of Dutch and Tjaart van der Walt — claimed Open spots in Cape Town this month.

International qualifying tournaments have been introduced by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews for more and more overseas-based players to qualify for the oldest major championship.

This year's Open starts on July 15 at Royal Troon, Scotland.

MNA/Reuters

Real Madrid's English player David Beckham, above, celebrates on the back of Brazil's Ronaldo after Ronaldo scored Madrid's 2nd goal against Valencia's during a match in Valparaiso, Chile, on 21 Jan, 2004. Argentinian player Marcelo, right, walks away as after Argentinian players celebrate a goal during the under-23 South American Olympic qualifying tournament at Pichu Ancha Stadium in Valparaiso, Chile, on 24 Jan, 2004. Argentina defeated Brazil 1-0.— Reuters

Brazilian player Marcelo, right, walks away as after Argentinian players celebrate a goal during the under-23 South American Olympic qualifying tournament at Pichu Ancha Stadium in Valparaiso, Chile, on 24 Jan, 2004. Argentina defeated Brazil 1-0.— Reuters

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French midfielder Bruno Cheyrou, who scored his first league goal for the club to secure a 1-0 victory over Chelsea two weeks ago, doubled his tally to put them ahead three minutes before halftime at Molineux. — MNA/Reuters

Monaco's victory over the current English Premier League champions was the perfect farewell present for Jay-Jay Okocha, who retired after 12 years at the Reebok.

"We are very disappointed but we cannot win everything," said Monaco captain Ludovic Giuly.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives President of World Canaan Farmer School of the Republic of Korea Dr Kim Bon Il and party. — mna

Workshops of Myanmar ICT Week 2004 continue

YANGON, 23 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week went on for the third day today here at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township. And workshops and seminars are also being held there.

The workshop on ‘Database Trend Technology’ took place at the room-205 this morning. Professor Daw Nwe Nwe Win, Vice President of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, presided over the workshop. U Nay Lin Than of Myanmar Information Technology put into discussions the database technology based on process of software development; and U Tun Khine of Integra Systems, the database technology based on process of software development; and U Aung Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association U Thaung Tin and member, and computer enthusiasts.

The workshop on ‘Object orientated software development with unified modelling language’ was held at the same room at 1 pm. Resource persons from Biz-Soft Co, Myanmar T-Zone, Winner Computer Group, Myanmar Computer Co (MCC), CE Technology, and Myanmar Information Technology (MIT) submitted their papers on the occasion.

At the workshop on ‘e-Life’ which took place at the Conference Hall at 4 pm, matters related to security systems, autogate systems, IR and warehouse management systems, cameras, and remote surveillance and DVR systems were discussed. — mna

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses the 13th founding Anniversary of the Information and Public Relations Department. — mna

Bo Aung Kyaw Container Yard inspected

YANGON, 23 Jan — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspected the booth of the ministry staged at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road this morning.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of preparatory measures. Next, the minister inspected customs examination of containers at Bo Aung Kyaw container yard and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Development in multi-sectors stands witness to State’s endeavours

IPRD holds 13th founding anniversary

YANGON, 23 Jan — Ministry for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the 13th founding anniversary of Information and Public Relations Department which was held at the ministry on Theinbyu Road this morning and presented prizes to the outstanding staff. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said generally, there are two aims to hold an anniversary and the award presenting ceremonies, and they are: to review the degree of success a department achieved in realizing the objectives and carrying the work, and the pros and cons during the old year; and to lay down programs to achieve more success in carrying out the work and to remedy the weaknesses in the new year, and to present awards to the staff for their brilliant efforts with a view to encouraging all employees to become active and cooperative and strive harder. All should strive to become outstanding staff, while taking the lessons of the previous year to achieve greater success in the current fiscal.

Progress in the multi sectors stands witness to the State’s national development endeavours. The Head of State has already given guidance on the priority tasks that need accelerated efforts for the national development. In accord with the guidance, the ministry staff will have to strive for successful implementation of the seven tasks — to organize the public through the media for the success of the seven-point policy programme, to make innovative efforts for further development of the media and its related equipment, to extend the media coverage reach the whole nation including the border areas, to penetrate the foreign countries through media, to always make the media (See page 8)