Government is laying emphasis on continuous development of human resources in the country including Kayin State.

Prime Minister tours Kayin and Mon States

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyaw, local authorities and officials. On arrival at Hpa-an University, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Pro-rector U Saw Han Shein and faculty members. First, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction of 3-storey main building of the university.

At the briefing hall, Pro-rector U Saw Han Shein reported to the Prime Minister on background history of the university, courses being conducted, specialized subjects, strength of students and staff, opening of IT rooms applying 65 sets of computers. Minister for Education U Than Aung made a supplementary report. The Prime Minister gave instructions on measures to be taken for skill promotion of teachers, producing intellectuals and intelligentsia with high calibre, making arrangements for appointing teachers at the university.

Next, Chairman of Yuzana Construction Group U Htay Myint reported to the Prime Minister on progress in building of two-storey main building and the three-storey main building, construction of concrete road, growing flowers on the campus, erecting lamp-post, measures being taken for supplying water and electricity.

(Circulation 23,514)

Prime Minister Khin Nyunt inspects construction of the three-storey main building of Hpa-an University on 24-1-2004. — MNA
Towards development of Kachin State

The Government is providing necessary assistance for the agriculture sector—the main economy of the State—for its all-round development. As over 6.5 million acres of sown acreage has been added, total sown acreage of the country has now reached 26.8 million acres. The Government has laid a firm foundation for production of sufficient food not only for the present generation but also for the growing population of the generations to come.

Efforts are being made to turn the farming system into a mechanized one. In so doing, extensive use of power tillers, harvesting machines and winnowing machines must be encouraged. The Government as well as private entrepreneurs are striving to produce farm machinery.

In meeting with local authorities of Kachin State, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townsenders at the city hall in Myitkyina on 13 January, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win said that National entrepreneurs and local people must be encouraged to invest in the agriculture sector, and that as there are favourable conditions to reclaim large stretches of farms in Kachin State, agricultural works in the state would benefit the region and the country.

Kachin State, which was not able to produce sufficient rice in the past, is now enjoying food sufficiency. Efforts must be exerted for the production of surplus food in the state.

With the conviction that only an industrialized nation can achieve prosperity, Mali Hydel Power Project which will be able to generate over 10 megawatt of electricity is being implemented in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State and Dabut Creek Hydel Power Project that will produce 24 megawatt of electricity is also being implemented in the state. As the projects will contribute much towards not only the regional development but also the development of the industrial sector, all the necessary steps are to be taken to achieve success.

Altogether nine highways and 45 roads linking towns and villages in Kachin State have been built for the development of the transport sector.

Arrangements are also being made for the development of the basic and higher education sectors of the state. Efforts must be made in a mass movement to ensure the schooling of all the children. We would like to urge officials at different levels to strive with goodwill and skill for regional development which is gaining momentum.

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

Efficient use of electricity

* 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

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 24 Jan— The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

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People’s Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe and party inspect a departmental car on Dry Day in Yangon—MNA

Tatmadaw, departmental cars checked on Dry Day

YANGON, 25 Jan— At the main points in Yangon City, Dry Day inspection teams today checked Tatmadaw and departmental cars and drivers on observance of the dry day disciplines—bearing of dry day passes, drivers’ licenses, and wheel taxes, wearing of departmental uniforms by drivers—and took action against breaking of traffic rules.

Nyein (Admission free)

Salone Traditional Festival 2004

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

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

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Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Director (Sagai Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Mawgaw Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657)—MNA

21-1-2004 to 27-1-2004
MICT Park, Yangon
**Five US soldiers killed in Iraq attacks**

Baghdad, 25 Jan—A car bomb exploded on Saturday in Khadiyah, a town west of Baghdad, killing eight American soldiers and injuring six soldiers and several Iraqi civilians, the military said.

Two other American soldiers were killed earlier Saturday in a roadside bombing near Fallujah. The latest deaths raised to 512 the number of American service members who have died since the United States and its allies launched the Iraq war 20 March. Most of the deaths have occurred since President Bush declared an end to major combat 1 May.

Khadiyah and Fallujah are part of the Sunni Triangle, the area in central Iraq where most of the anti-US attacks by die-hard Saddam Hussein loyalists have taken place. The US military says the attacks have reduced in number since Saddam’s arrest on 13 December.

In the Khadiyah attack, a four-wheel-drive vehicle drove up to the checkpoint at a bridge and blew up in front of a Humvee that tried to block it, said a witness, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said there were about 20 soldiers in the vicinity at the time.

A US military spokesman said the attack took place in Khadiyah, 70 miles west of Baghdad, killing three Americans and wounding six other soldiers. The spokesman, who did not wish to be identified, said several Iraqi civilians were also wounded in the attack and one of them was evacuated to a military base for treatment.

He said the wounded soldiers were taken to a combat support hospital and four were being treated at a local military base.

Eight injured Iraqis were admitted to a hospital in the nearby town of Ramadi, including six women and two men, said Dr Ahmed Nisarat Jobani. He said one of them was in a serious condition.

Earlier Saturday, two American soldiers and four Iraqis were killed in separate bomb attacks, a day after two US security experts arrived in the capital to study the possible return of the world body’s international staff.

The American soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb that struck their convoy near Fallujah, a city 50 miles west of Baghdad in an area that has been a centre of anti-American resistance.

**Blair urged to admit WMD defeat**

**LONDON, 25 Jan—**British Prime Minister Tony Blair must admit defeat on the issue of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, former British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook demanded on Saturday.

“It is becoming really rather undignified for the Prime Minister to continue to insist that he was right all along when everybody can now see he was wrong, when even the head of the Iraq Survey Group has said he was wrong,” Cook, who resigned as Leader of the House of Commons last March before the Iraq war, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

“I think it is very important that Tony Blair does concede that there were mistakes made, maybe in all good faith, probably he believed them genuinely, but there were mistakes,” Cook said. Cook also called for the abandonment of the “very dangerous doctrine” under which Britain went to war for the preemptive strike.

“If there was no threat from Iraq, we obviously had no right to carry out a preemptive strike to remove that threat. And we better drop that doctrine before somebody else in good faith, probably he believed them genuinely, but there were mistakes,” Cook said. Cook also called for the abandonment of the “very dangerous doctrine” under which Britain went to war for the preemptive strike.

“The President’s spokesman, Scott McClellan, said of the suspected kickbacks: “If something like this has happened (Bush) expects the Department of Defence to look into it fully, get to the bottom of it and make sure that money is repaid if Halliburton overcharged.”

Senator Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota urged on the Senate floor that no new contracts be granted to the company until doubts have been “resolved.”

Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey said, “One more time, the President’s spokesman, Scott McClellan, said of the suspected kickbacks: “If something like this has happened (Bush) expects the Department of Defence to look into it fully, get to the bottom of it and make sure that money is repaid if Halliburton overcharged.”

“We will bear the cost of the overcharge, not the government,” said the Prime Minister.

The President’s spokesman, Scott McClellan, said of the suspected kickbacks: “If something like this has happened (Bush) expects the Department of Defence to look into it fully, get to the bottom of it and make sure that money is repaid if Halliburton overcharged.”

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**Stress epidemic strikes American forces in Iraq**

**LONDON, 25 Jan**—Up to one in five of the American military personnel in Iraq will suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, say senior forces’ medical staff dealing with the psychiatric fallout of the war.

This revelation follows the disclosure last month that more than 600 US servicemen and women have been evacuated from the country for psychiatric reasons since the conflict started last March.

At least 22 US soldiers have killed themselves—a rate considered abnormally high—mostly since President George Bush declared an end to major combat on 1 May last year. These suicides have led to a high-level Department of Defence investigation, details of which will be disclosed in the next few weeks.

Although the overall suicide rate is running at an average of 13.5 per 100,000 troops, compared with a US army average of 10.5 to 11 per 100,000 in recent years, the incidence of the vast majority of suicides in the period after 1 May is statistically significant, accounting for about 7 per cent of all service deaths in Iraq.

The same, say experts, is true for psychiatric evacuations, the majority of which have taken place after that date, a fact confirmed in recent interviews by Colonel Theodore Nam, chief of in-patient psychiatry services at the Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington. He says no psychiatric cases at all were evacuated during the major combat. High levels of psychiatric casualties are expected, despite the US armed forces making an unprecedented effort to deal with stress and psychiatric disorders during service in Iraq.

At the heart of the concern is that Iraq may repeat the experience of Vietnam, which experienced low levels of psychiatric problems during service there in comparison with the two world wars, but very high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among veterans later.

According to Captain Jennifer Berg, the chairman of psychiatric services at the Naval Medical Centre in San Diego, whose staff see US Marines returning from Iraq, military psychiatrists have been warned to expect the disorder to occur in 20 per cent of the servicemen and women in Iraq.

Although Berg believes some of the problems already reported—including the suicides and psychiatric evacuations—relate to people’s experiences during the invasion rather than after it, she concedes that the forces’ present conditions of service in Iraq are producing their own problems. —Internet

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**Ex-arms hunter says no WMD stockpiles in Iraq**

**WASHINGTON, 25 Jan**—David Kay stepped down as leader of the US hunt for banned weapons in Iraq on Friday and said he did not believe the country had any large stockpiles of chemical or biological weapons.

In a direct challenge to the Bush Administration, which says its invasion of Iraq was justified by the presence of illicit arms, Kay told Reuters in a telephone interview he had concluded there were no stockpiles to be found.

“I don’t think they existed,” Kay said. “What everyone was talking about is stockpiles produced before the end of the last (1991) Gulf War. I don’t think there was a large-scale production programme in the nineties,” he said.

The CIA announced earlier that former UN weapons inspector Charles Duelfer, who has previously expressed doubts that unconventional weapons would be found, would succeed Kay as Washington’s chief arms hunter.

Kay said he believed most of what was going to be found in the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has been found and that the hunt would become more difficult once America returned control of the country to the Iraqis. Kay said he left the post due to “a complex set of issues. It related in part to a reduction in the resource and change in focus of ISG,” he said referring to the Iraq Survey Group, which is in charge of the weapons hunt.

ISG analysts were diverted from hunting for weapons of mass destruction to helping in the fight against the insurgency, Kay said.

“When I had started I had made it a condition that ISG be exclusively focused on WMD, that’s no longer so,” he said.

“We’re not going to find much after June. Once the Iraqis take complete control of the government it is just almost impossible to operate in the way we operate,” Kay said.

“I think we have found probably 85 per cent of what we’re going to find,” he said.

“I think the best evidence is that they did not resume large scale production and that’s what we’re really talking about,” Kay said.

In a statement announcing Kay’s departure, CIA Director George Tenet praised Kay for “an extraordinary service under dangerous and difficult circumstances.”

—MNA/Reuters

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**White House exaggerated threat of Iraq’s WMD**

**WASHINGTON, 25 Jan**—David Kay has quit his post as leader of the hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, which so far has failed to find any actual arms, and will be replaced by former UN weapons inspector Charles Duelfer, the CIA said on Friday.

The search has so far found stockpiles of such weapons which critics say is an indication that the White House exaggerated the threat in making its case for war last year.

Duelfer, 51, a former deputy executive chairman of the UN Special Commission that was responsible for dismantling Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, had previously expressed doubts that unconventional weapons would be found.

“I think that Mr Kay and his team have looked very hard. I think the reason that they haven’t found them is they’re probably not there,” Duelfer told NBC television earlier this month.

—MNA/Reuters

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**Three US soldiers killed in Iraq car bomb**

**KHALISYA, 25 Jan**—Three US soldiers were killed and six were wounded when a car bomb exploded at the entrance to an American military installation west of Baghdad on Saturday, the US Army said.

Witnesses said a car rammed the American military checkpoint and exploded as a number of soldiers were getting out of a vehicle in the town of Khalisya in the volatile “Sunni triangle” where resistance to US forces is strongest.

A US military spokesman said two of the wounded were evacuated to a nearby field hospital while the others were treated at the scene in Khalisya town. He said several Iraqis were also wounded in the blast.

A Reuters witness heard the explosion near the checkpoint in the town of Khalisya west of Baghdad, and saw a large plume of smoke rising from the area, which was quickly sealed off by the military.

Witnesses said they later saw two US helicopters carry away casualties.

Earlier on Saturday a bomb exploded under a car in the town of Samarra, killing four Iraqis, and a separate bomb attack on a US convoy killed two US soldiers.

The latest deaths take the toll of US military deaths in Iraq to at least 512, including 354 in action or attacks.

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**Gales, snowstorms disrupt Romania travel, power**

**BUCURESTI, 25 Jan**—Snowstorms and gales over the past few days have left hundreds of Romanian villages without power and hampered road and rail traffic, authorities said on Saturday.

Romania’s northeastern and eastern counties were worst hit, with 100-kilometre (60-mile) per hour winds destroying roofs and bringing down electricity lines.

The country’s President, Ion Iliescu, and Prime Minister Adrian Nastase cancelled a trip to Isai, some 400 kilometres northeast of the capital, to celebrate 145 years since the unification of two of Romania’s three historical regions.

A group of foreign diplomats, including the Indonesian and Libyan ambassadors to Romania and Moldova and three French consultants trying to visit Romania, have been stranded on the eastern border with Moldova since Friday afternoon, a Defence Ministry spokesman told Reuters.

He said the diplomats were safe in a hotel as efforts were made to clear roads and railways blocked with snow.

Hundreds of people were stuck in their cars with gas and food supplies running low.

In the eastern county of Galati, about 300 kilometres from the capital, soldiers found a 55-year-old man dead in his car after waiting for more than 10 hours for the ambulance that couldn’t reach him, Galati police told Reuters.

The Black Sea ports, which have been closed since Thursday, remained shut due to the strong gales but Romania’s 17 airports were all open. The national railway company cancelled 80 trains.—MNA/Reuters

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**Parmalat finance employee commits suicide**

**PARMA, 25 Jan**—An employee in the finance department of scandal-hit Parmalat fell to his death from a bridge on Friday in what police said was suicide.

The man, identified as Alessandro Bassi, died in a small town, Rubbiano di Solignano, near the northern city of Parma.

A source familiar with an investigation into a multimillion-euro accounting hole at Parmalat said Bassi worked with two former finance directors of the food group, Fausto Tonna and Luciano del Soldato, both of whom are among 11 people under arrest.

—MNA/Reuters

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**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohammed ElBaradei on 24 Jan, 2004**

... was not surprised at outgoing chief US weapons hunter David Kay’s conclusion that Iraq did not have stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons.

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**A dragon float follows a banner of an association of Chinese who reside in France as part of a parade of performers on the Champs Elysees to celebrate the Chinese New Year in Paris, on 24 Jan, 2004.**—INTERNET

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

US soldiers secure the site of a car bomb attack in Samarra on 24 January.

A US soldier steps between a bomb crater and a charred truck after a truck bomb exploded in Samarra, Iraq as a US patrol passed by Saturday, 24 Jan, 2004. Three Iraqi civilians were killed and 33 people were injured in the blast, a US military spokesman said. Three American soldiers were wounded. — Internet

US soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division’s 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment conduct a patrol in the early hours of 19 January 2004 in former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit. — Internet

An Iraqi man walks past a US soldier on patrol in Tikrit. A car bomb killed three Iraqis and wounded 38 others in the restive Sunni area north of Baghdad just as two-man UN security mission got under way in Iraq. — Internet

An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter flies in to land at the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) helicopter pad in Mosul, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom on 31 Aug, 2003. A US Army OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter attached to the 101st Airborne Division crashed on Friday, 23 Jan, 2004, near Qayyarah, some 30 miles south of Mosul, in northern Iraq, killing the two pilots, the US military said. — Internet

A US soldier and Iraqi policemen inspect the site of a car bomb attack in Samarra. Two US soldiers and at least three Iraqis were killed in two separate bombings in the restive Sunni area of the country as a two-man UN security mission got under way in Iraq. — Internet

An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter flies in to land at the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) helicopter pad in Mosul, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom on 31 Aug, 2003. A US Army OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter attached to the 101st Airborne Division crashed on Friday, 23 Jan, 2004, near Qayyarah, some 30 miles south of Mosul, in northern Iraq, killing the two pilots, the US military said. — Internet
**US commander escapes death in Fallujah in northern Iraq**

**Baghdad** 25 Jan — A commander of the US forces in Iraqi areas of Fallujah, Habbaniya and Garma, 50-100 km west of Baghdad, has escaped death in Fallujah, local newspaper Al Mashriq reported on Saturday.

"An improvised explosive device (IED) targeted the convoy, which accompanies and protects Gen. Wyne," an Iraqi police officer in Fallujah was quoted as confirming.

"The general was coming back from a meeting with the tribal leaders in Fallujah to discuss the representation of the area in the local governing council of Anbar governorate, west of Baghdad," said the police officer.

The officer, whose duty was to protect the meeting area, pointed out that the IED was planted near the youth center of Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, and wounded two soldiers of the US convoy.

The US forces face almost daily attacks in Fallujah, which Iraqis call the capital of resistance, and the surrounding areas, killing many US soldiers and shooting down some US helicopters. —Internet

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**Relieved, excited, US troops gear up to leave Iraq**

**Camp Falcon (Iraq)** 25 Jan — No longer afraid of dying, thrilled to be going home and thirsty for a beer.

That is how American soldiers felt on Friday as they handed over control of a Baghdad suburb to fresh troops and prepared to return to the United States after nearly a year in Iraq. "I'm excited, ecstatic about going home. I'm going to say hi to my family and then go out and drink a lot of beer," said Private Anthony LaPaglia, 20, from Atlanta, Georgia, a big grin on his face.

The troops from the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade are part of a massive rotation just getting under way.

Around a quarter of a million American soldiers will move in or out of Iraq over the next four months, their movements complicated by the constant threat that guerrillas will exploit opportunities to attack them as they arrive or depart.

At a ceremony inside a cold hanger at the Camp Falcon military base on the outskirts of Baghdad, 100 departing troops in full combat gear joked as they waited for the formal handover. A similar number of newly-arrived soldiers stood nearby, stern-faced and unsmiling.

Those leaving said they had never expected to stay in Iraq for nearly a year and would always remember the fear of patrolling Baghdad's dangerous streets.

"Almost every time I went out, every time we got mortared, something could have happened. All I could think of was my family," said Private Caesar Sierra, 19, from Los Angeles.

Sierra said there was nothing he would miss about Iraq.

What he wanted most, besides seeing his family, was to get sleep and regular food and then hit the beach. Around 3,000 troops from the 2nd Brigade will leave Iraq. Those handing over duties on Friday depart in a few days.

Brigadier-General Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armoured Division which controls Baghdad, dismissed suggestions guerrillas would be able to exploit the rotation period.

Units have been conducting joint operations and sharing intelligence with their replacements for some weeks. — MNA/Reuters

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**US sees significant UN role in Iraq transition**

**DAVOS, 25 Jan** — The United States believes the United Nations can help supervise the political transition in Iraq and talk to majority Shiites demanding early elections, a senior US official said on Saturday.

"What we are interested in is having them (the United Nations) be an adviser, help oversee this process of setting up the transitional government for the Iraqis (and) be an interlocutor for the Shia, for example," he told reporters.

The UN "would generally participate in the process by which decisions are made and powers are transferred to the transition authority," he added.

"That's a pretty significant role," said the official in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, where US Vice-President Dick Cheney was attending the World Economic Forum.

"Serious" UN concerns over security must be satisfied, the official added. "We're prepared to do whatever we can to be of assistance," he said.

After scouring the United Nations for its failure to back the war on Iraq, Washington has now asked UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to send a team to Iraq to determine whether early elections are feasible, hoping this will end the controversy.

Under the original US-backed plan, regional councils would select a transitional Iraqi assembly by the end of May which would appoint an interim government that would take over sovereignty by end-June.

Full elections would follow in 2005.

Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's leading Shiite cleric, wants elections held sooner, though he has hinted through aides that he would accept a UN verdict on whether this is feasible.

Sistani, revered by Shiites who form 60 per cent of Iraq's 26 million people, has refused to meet US administrator Paul Bremer or other officials representing the occupying powers. — MNA/Reuters

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**Colombia announces maximum alert against yellow fever**

**BOGOTA, 25 Jan** — The Colombian Government announced a maximum alert on Friday for yellow fever in all the border passes of the Pacific Ocean and the production from next week of 100,000 doses of vaccine every three days.

Social Protection Minister Diego Palacios said in the northern city of Cartagena that the alert put at the air and port terminals of the Pacific will help contain the disease.

The yellow fever disease has killed eight people and infected 28 others since its outbreak last month in the province of La Guajira. The Colombian Government said it was "technically" an outbreak in several northern provinces. Tourists and inhabitants are advised to be highly aware of symptoms including severe headache, fever and bloody diarrhoea.

The emergency situation has led to shortage of vaccines and people are urged not to panic. The government pledged on Thurs-day that three billion doses of vaccine will be available by the end of this week.

Half of the vaccines will be thrown from neighbouring Brazil and mostly for the provinces of Magdalena, La Guajira and El Cesar in the north. — MNA/Reuters

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**European “Mars Express” confirms ice on red planet**

**DARMSTADT (Germany), 25 Jan** — The first all-European mission to Mars has confirmed the presence of frozen water on the planet, the project’s leader said on Friday, as scientists seek to learn if life there ever existed.

"It shows that we may be able to find water in other areas on Mars... and that is very important for future missions to Mars," said project leader Michael McKay.

McKay said confirmation of the presence of frozen water came in high resolution pictures of the planet’s South Pole beamed back from Mars Express, the mothership of the Beagle 2 probe which is feared to have crashed on landing on Mars a month ago.

"We can confirm what NASA has already found at the south pole, but now we have seen it during the summer, when the carbon dioxide on the surface is thinner, and have discovered water-tac-ice," McKay told a news conference at the European Space Agency’s Space Operations Centre in Germany.

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**British woman arrested of making airport bomb threat**

**London** 25 Jan — A British woman was arrested at an airport in northern England on Friday after she told counter staff she had a bomb in her luggage, police said.

The unnamed woman was booked on an EasyJet flight at Newcastle Airport, but was not allowed to check in because she was late, a spokesman for Northumbria Police said.

"At around 1.30 pm (1330 GMT) a 48-year-old woman arrived at the EasyJet check-in intending to board a flight to Paris," the spokesman said. "Because she arrived late she was not allowed to check in. She then told staff she had a bomb in her luggage."

Her arrest comes less than a week after a British student was not allowed to check in. She then told staff she had a bomb in her rucksack. — MNA/Reuters

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**Smoke billows from burning vehicles after a car bomb attack in Samarra on 24 Jan, 2004.** — Internet

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**Iraqi Felah Hassan, 74, lies in a hospital bed after losing his right leg when a truck bomb exploded in Samarra, Iraq on 24 Jan, 2004. Three Iraqi civilians were killed and 33 people injured in the blast, a US military spokesman said. Three American soldiers were wounded.** — Internet
Prevention of Avian influenza

As regards prevention of avian influenza that has hit Asian Pacific region again, Vice-President U Win Sein of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation, on behalf of breeders, raised questions on ways and means to be applied for the spread of the pandemic flu. Dr Khin Swe Win, Commander of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department replied to the questions as follows:

She said: The avian flu strain that infected people in Hong Kong and killed six of them in 1997 was caused by poultry imported from some provinces of the People’s Republic of China. The new bird flu virus broke out in Chile, Senegal, the Netherlands and Belgium. Again, it occurred in the Republic of Korea in December 2003. As a result, altogether 137,000 poultry had to be culled. Even chicken eggs were destroyed. The authorities concerned slaughtered the birds to prevent public consumption and stop the spread of the avian virus. It was reported that the virus spread other parts of the world. It occurred in the southern part of Vietnam where some 60,000 chicken were slaughtered on 7 January 2004. Japan also reported that the virus infected a layers farm in Yamaguchi Prefecture on 12 January 2004. The death of a great number of poultry in the poultry farms in Thailand from November 2003 to January 2004 has forced the authorities of Veterinary Department there to announce the outbreak of the epidemic in the nation.

Avian influenza (a) bird flu is a kind of virus that infected poultry. It is divided into HPAL (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) type and LPAL (Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza) type depending on its strains. Out of the type A, B, C virus that caused influenza, the new avian virus is the subtype of A. The type A viruses are classified by subtypes of their two cell-surface proteins, haemagglutinin and neuramidase, which cause epidemics when they mutate in ways that permit them to evade the host immune system and often infected chickens, birds, pigs, horses and human beings. Special attention is to be paid to H5 N1 antigen virus since it can infected and kill human beings. The type B which infected human beings killed over 20 million in Spain in 1918. The type C infected man and pig but the outbreak is rare.

As at a time when there are imports of poultry strains including chick and eggs from neighbouring countries it is of paramount importance to be well aware of the spread of the virus so as to avoid the losses incurred by the flu virus.

The Head Office of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in collaboration with the respective local authorities met with officials from Border Trade Department and Customs Department informed the State and Division LBVDs to take preventive measures against the infection of the avian virus. The officials of Head Office of LBVD in cooperation with Border Areas Laboratory on Control of Animal Diseases under LBVD is also constantly monitoring the imports of poultry strains from the neighbouring countries being infected with the virus and met with region-wise Myanmar Livestock Breeding Organizations to give educative information on preventive measures against the epidemic to breeders.

Officials concerned need to pay special attention to the spread of bird flu since it commonly affects broilers and layers that are being bred on a commercial scale. The breeders, on their part, are to take preventive measures effectively against the virus to the most possible degree. One gram of faeces from affected birds can transmit the disease to millions of chickens. Therefore, the biosecurity plays a leading role in the control of the epidemic.

Poultry farms in border areas are to be on constant alert to the bird flu as they could be hit at every opportunity. The border gates are to be on constant watch to allow the imports and exports of poultry only after they have received the recommendations of Border Areas Laboratory on Control of Animal Diseases under LBVD.

To address the spread of the bird flu the local chickens are to be fed sesbania grandiflora, leucena glauca and cymbopogon cattaratus to increase their immunity against the virus. The breeders of local poultry are to be on constant vigil against the spread of the lethal epidemic.

Those who consume infected poultry can be rarely hit by the virus.

Dr Khin Swe Win (LBVD)

Avian Flu infected hen seen dull and dizzy

Clinical signs: Inflammed joints caused by infection of Avian flu.}

**Myanmar traditional food & delicacies’ fair opens**

YANGON, 25 Jan — The opening of Myanmar traditional food & delicacies’ fair, organized by Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Federation was opened at People’s Park here this morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay. Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin and wife, military region commanders and their wives, Yangon Division WAF President Daw Cherry Ye Khang and members, local authorities, presidents and members of district townships WAFs and others.

Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay formally opened the fair. Vocalists presented entertainment programmes. Patrons Daw Khin Thet Htay and party viewed sales of Myanmar traditional snacks. A lot of people visited the fair which continues tomorrow. MNA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the construction of three-storey main building of Government Technical College (Hpa-an) on 24-1-2004. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives TV, video, a set of computer for Myainggyingyi BEHS and medicines for health centre to Kayin National Buddhist Organization Chairman U Saw Thai Htoo Kyaw. — MNA

Government is laying emphasis on continuous...

(from page 1)

After fulfilling the requirements, the Prime Minister gave instructions on producing highly qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia needed in nation-building endeavors and nurtured them to be equipped with national unity spirit and Union Spirit.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister inspected building of multi-purpose hall, lecture hall and campus green and pleasant. Next, they proceeded to Government Technical College (Hpa-an) and inspected the construction of three-storey main building of Government Technical College (Hpa-an) and 99-ers and students. The Prime Minister and party inspected Electronic Media (Language Lab, computer aided instruction, computer application and e-mail), electronic media (video system), printed media (reading corner), electronic media (audio system), and electronic media (visual presenter).

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to District People’s Hospital in Kawarkwe. Medical Superintendent Dr Soe Myint, specialists, doctors and nurses welcomed them. The Prime Minister and party inspected operation theatre and patient wards. After inspecting the site suitable for constructing a new building in the compound of the hospital, the Prime Minister gave instructions on construction of a new building and renovation of the existing one.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of Kawarkwe District and Township PDCs, departmental officials, townswelders and local race.

First, Chairman of Kawarkwe District PDC Lt-Col Kyaing Win Maung reported to the Prime Minister on location and arrangement of the district, sown acreage, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and beans and pulses, food sufficiency in the district, livestock breeding tasks, measures being taken in the education and health sectors. Next, officials of the respective departments reported on work being carried out and requirements. After fulfilling the requirements, the Prime Minister made a speech.

He said those in charge of the special regions and ministers came to the region to fulfil the requirements for development of Kayin State. He said he had visited Kawarkwe Basic Education High School and hospital and gave instructions on education and health this morning. According to the reports made by the Prime Minister and party paid homage to Jinasukha Lawka Tharaphu Pagoda in Kawarkwe and the Prime Minister donated currency to the pagoda funds.

Later, they arrived in Mawlamyine in Mon State. Deputy Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Myo Hla, local authorities and officials welcomed the Prime Minister and party. At the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Construction Project on the bank of Mawlamyine. The Prime Minister and party inspected laying of concrete, completion in laying slabs, installation of iron beams from pile No 22 to 13.

At the briefing hall of the project, Chief Engineer (Bridge) U Han Zaw reported to the Prime Minister on facts about the project, completion in building the pales of the main bridge, completion of approach bridges on the banks of Mawlamyine and Mottama, installing of iron beams on 16 spans out of 21.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Tha reported to the Prime Minister on the current of Thanlwin river and arrangements to be made for vessels to move safely under the bridge. The Prime Minister said that on completion, Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) will be the longest and the biggest one in Myanmar, that the bridge is being built by Myanmar engineers and thus it is to be documented in the history of Myanmar engineers. He also spoke of the need to put on record the engineers who are engaged in the construction of the bridge.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed construction of the bridge from the view-point.

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) is located on Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Kawthoung road. It will link Mawlamyine and Mottama-spanning Thanlwin river. As regards road moral, the approach bridge on the bank of Mawlamyine will be 1.624 feet long and 2,252 feet on the bank of Mottama. The main bridge will be 7,699 feet and the total length of the bridge will be 11,575 feet.

The approach bridge for the rail road on the bank of Mawlamyine will be 8,716 feet and 10,051 feet on the bank of Mottama and the main bridge will be 7,699 feet. The total length of railroad will be 26,466 feet.

The bridge will support 28 feet wide motorway and 14 feet wide road in addition to 6 feet wide pedestrian lanes on both sides of the motor road. It will be a rail-cum-road bridge.
Prime Minister attends hoisting of Htidadan (from page 16)

rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the successful conclusion of the ceremony.

This was followed by opening of 34-mile Thitsar-Road linking Myainggyingu and Hpa-an and 99 bridges constructed by members of Kayin National Buddhist Association and local nationals under the patronage of the Myainggyingu Sayadaw, at the entrance to Sonnatha Myaingwse Myodaw.

Chairman U Saw Tha Htoo Kyaw explained the purpose of opening the transport facilities, and expressed his thanks to the Sayadaw, the Government and Head of State, and those who contributed towards construction of the facilities.

The Prime Minister formally opened the archway, at the top of the newly constructed road. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Member of Kayin National Buddhist Association U Kyaw Thein formally opened the archway.

Together with the guests, the Prime Minister and party walked along the road and cordially greeted the local residents. The General and party paid homage to Bhesjija Muni bronze Buddha Image in Myainggyingu Region. The merit-sharing ceremony took place at the pandal on the platform of the bronze Buddha image.

The Myainggyingu Sayadaw administered the Nine Precepts to the congregation. Members of the Sangha recited the paritta.

The Prime Minister subscribed on religious matters. In his speech, the Prime Minister said that in the past, Sonnatha Myaingwse Myodaw (Myainggyingu Region) was difficult of access and it lagged behind in development until peace had been restored.

In November 1994, members of Kayin National Buddhist Association led by Myainggyingu Sayadaw made peace with the Government and have carried out regional development tasks hand in hand with the Government.

With the improvement of economy, local nationals brilliantly performed religious work such as construction of pagodas and monasteries. The Sayadaw renovated such old religious edifices as Pagodas, monasteries, ordination halls, public rest-houses, Dhammayons while constructing new ones in Kayin State. Consequently, the images and monasteries in the region are gilded or white-washed to be magnificent.

In the region, the Maha Bhesjija Muni Bronze Buddha Image with 27 feet in height was cast and the 120' x 100' Gandakuti Kyaung-dawgyi was constructed to keep the image and the merit-sharing ceremony for construction of the image and the building was held on 23 March 1998.

Another 120' x 120' x 100' Gandakuti Kyaung-dawgyi was built to house the Jina Manaung Buddha Image, and the Htidadan hoisting ceremony was held on that day.

The Sayadaw not only built pagodas but compiled religious treaties. Now the Sayadaw has compiled 38 religious treaties in Myanmar and Kayin languages.

The Sayadaw is making efforts for religious affairs and all-round development of Myainggyingu Region simultaneously. Under-standing that the transport plays a vital role in regional development, the Sayadaw enlisting the strength of the Kayin nationals and local people with the assistance of the State started to construct the Thitsar Road in 1998. A total of five large and 12 small bridges had to be constructed to complete the project. Now the road has been upgraded to a tarred one serviceable for all seasons.

Thanks to the emergence of the fine facility, the region will make further progress.

Afterwards, the General and party presentedCertificates of Appreciation to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

Next, Myainggyingu Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. The General and party performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the successful completion of the ceremony.

The Prime Minister met the chairman of Kayin National Buddhist Association and members and fulfilled the requirements for greater development of the region.

The Prime Minister presented a TV set, a video-cassette player, a computer set and teaching and learning aids to Myainggyingu Basic Education High School, medical equipment to the health care centre, gifts to the national race leaders through U Saw Tha Htoo Kyaw, who next presented a gift to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party left the region in the afternoon.

--- MNA

Secretary-1 visits Hlinethaya industrial...

Factory Manager U Ko Aye reported on production and sale of Mega Jeep.

The Secretary-1 inspected vehicle spare parts and production of Mega Jeep and gave instructions.

They went to Shwethaya Motor Co where Managing Director U Khin Maung San reported on production of light Shwethaya wagons and 10-wheeled trucks.

An industrialist reported on requirements.

Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw reported on designs of passenger buses and trucks.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said the industrial zones are making efforts for production of passenger buses and trucks with the encouragement of the government. They are to be produced in accord with the designs and quality set by the Ministry of Industry-2.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected car body booth and ten-wheeled truck.

They also inspected production process of the car.

The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to MICT Park in Hlin Township. Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint and members of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporations reported on the Third MICT Week 2004.

The Secretary-1 observed Network Game Centre and booths of IT companies.

Next, they also observed booths of MyanmaTelemunmunisations and companies.

--- MNA

Product Promotion seminars held

U Thura Thet of Myanmar Information Technology and Telecommunication Laboratories Ltd explained matters related to Hospital Information System and Senior Systems Executive U Ye Soe Myat, a lecturer, covered matters related to Tele-Medical Consulting Application for Health Care and the seminar ended. --- MNA
Ministers, diplomats and UN RR observe regional development tasks in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 25 Jan — Chairman of Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Vice-Chairmen Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, members Minister for Labour U Tin Winn and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, together with ambassadors and diplomats of foreign missions in Yangon and resident representatives of UN agencies, left here by air and arrived at Heho Airport at 8.45 am on 23 January to observe regional development tasks and drugs elimination tasks.

At the briefing hall of the airport, the ministers explained the aims of the visit. They arrived at Monghsat at 10.25 am.

The ministers, the ambassadors and diplomats, and UN resident representatives left Monghsat by Tatmadaw helicopter and arrived at Mongyawng where national race leader U Ta Kat and party welcomed them.

At the briefing hall they were briefed on regional development tasks, drugs elimination tasks and growing of poppy-substitute crops. Queries raised by the ambassadors, diplomats and UN officials were replied.

Afterwards, they visited the rice mill and the hydel power station in Mongyawng and proceeded to Wanthon in the afternoon.

They were welcomed there by national race leader U Ta Pa Laung and party. Public Relations Officer U Kyaw Naing briefed them on implementation of regional development tasks, drugs elimination tasks and growing of poppy-substitute crops in Wanthon region.

Officials replied to queries of the ambassadors, diplomats and UN officials.

The visitors left there by Tatmadaw helicopter and arrived at Younghka model village where national race leader U Htin Gyi Win and officials welcomed them. At the briefing hall, Mrs Nawan of Don Tung Project in Chiangrai, Thailand, briefed them on the Myanmar-Thai drugs control tasks and all-round development tasks for the model village.

The visitors were conducted around the primary school and the hospital there.

The visitors arrived at Mongla at 4.10 pm where national race leader U San Lu made a presentation. After viewing the development of Mongla, they left for Kengtung and arrived there at 5.30 pm.

At the hall of New Kengtung Hotel, the ministers explained regional development tasks, drugs elimination tasks and history of respective regions and tasks being carried out.

MINA

Secretary-2 inspects agricultural farm of MWVO, development of Thayagon Model Village in Hmawby Township

YANGON, 25 Jan — Chairman of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein this morning inspected the agricultural farm of the MWVO (Central) in Thayagon model Village in Hmawby Township in Yangon District (North) and development of the village and fulfilled the requirements.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Vice-Chairman of the committee Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and officials were welcomed at the village by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, N0 3 Military Region Command Commander Col Tint San, departmental officials and local people.

First, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected last white strain pig farming.

Afterwards, they also saw over construction of 7,100 feet long and 22 feet wide earth road linking Thayagon Model Village and Mogaypot Village. The road was built with the contribution of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. Moreover, they inspected the site chosen to build sluice gate on Hmawby Creek and reclamation work using machinery to grow paddy and other crops, and gave necessary instructions.

Later, Lt-Gen Thein Sein met with departmental officials and townsmen at Thayagon Model Village. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the Head of State gave guidance on implementation of five rural development tasks including smooth transportation, supply of drinking water and irrigation water, and improvement of economy in rural areas. Necessary assistance will be provided by the State, he added. He also urged the departmental officials and local people to cooperate in implementation of the rural development tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted the local people. Afterwards, they saw over the village clinic set up by the MWVO (Central) in the model village and development of the village, and gave necessary instructions.

Later, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected polyethylene bag factory and construction of Byanlyar dry battery factory, Hlineayeya ice factory and construction of drinking water factory of the MWVO in Industrial Zone-4 in Shwepyitha Township.
PM General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to India

YANGON, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the 55th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Australia

YANGON, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the 55th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr John Howard, MP, Prime Minister of Australia. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Workshop on e-Life

YANGON, 25 Jan — A workshop on e-Life was held at the MICT Park in Hline Township here on 22 and 23 January 2004. Present on the occasion were UMFCCI President U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents and CEC members and officials of computer companies and banks, businessmen and enthusiasts.

Managing Director of Cho Cho Co U Wai Phyo explained facts on e-Life. He dealt with matters on IB concept, Star time attendance & access control, home security system, autogate, Juzt Rebodd + Lock + Guard, Digital Video Recorder, Network Attach Storage, Laser & Thermal motion detectors for security, enterprise resource planning, firewalls and IDS, IO & warehouse management system and camera remote surveillance & DVR system. — (H)

Rice marketing course concludes

YANGON, 25 Jan — A ceremony to conclude Myanmar rice marketing course No 3 (programme-1), organized by the educational affairs work committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, was held at the UMFCCI Training Centre in Bossanpat Street in Pabedan Township here yesterday evening.

It was attended by Advisers to UMFCCI U Khin Maung Yi and Dr Melhim Thet San, President U Win Myint, Vice-President U Aung Lwin, CEC members and members of the educational affairs work committee. President U Win Myint and Chairman of the committee U Sein Win Hlaing spoke on the occasion. Next course completion certificates and gifts were presented to the trainees and course instructors. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to India

YANGON, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the 55th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Yashwanth Sinha, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Australia

YANGON, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the 55th Anniversary of the Australia Day, which falls on 26 January 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Alexander Downer, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia. — MNA

Yangon Trade Fair to be held

YANGON, 25 Jan — Permitted by the Ministry of Commerce, Yangon Trade Fair 2004 will be held by Quartz International Co Ltd on a grand scale at Yangon Trade Centre on Paranguang Road from 30 January to 2 February.

On display at the trade fair will be local and foreign cosmetics, consumers' goods, clothes, utensils, plastic wares, foodstuff, electric and electronic appliances, construction materials, household goods, stationary, packaging machines, small machinery and installation machines, and western and traditional medicines. Entertainment programmes will also include at the trade fair. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
S Korean air jet bogs down after landing at Japanese airport

SEOUL, 25 Jan— A South Korean air jet Friday bogged down in snow after landing during a blizzard at Aomori Airport in northeastern Japan, but no one was injured, according to law.

The airport reportedly reopened the runway following the incident. The air jet departed from Incheon International Airport of South Korea, some 50 kilometres west to Seoul, earlier in the day. The Aomori Airport authorities and Aomori prefectural are looking into what exactly caused the incident, said Yonhap.—MNA/Xinhua

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WIN-THINH-MINH TUN B.A.(Law) L.L.B., M.U.K.
PO Box 109 Ph.248108 723043
(For Donnem Soongiat & Boonma
Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated 26th January 2004

China’s coal base opens mine to tourists

TAITAN, 25 Jan— Datong City, a leading coal pro-
duction base in north China’s Shanxi Province, has opened one of its largest coal mines to tourists so that they can witness the entire mining process and experience the miners’ life.

The 48-year-old Jinhuagong mine, located 12 kilometres west of the city, covers 41 square kilometres and has an annual output of 3.8 million tons. Next to the coal mine is the Yangungh Buddhist Grottoes, a World Heritage site built in the Northern Wei Dynasty, more than 1,500 years ago.

We have opened up a platform 300 metres under-
ground, where tourists can study the geological struc-
ture of the mine and see what coal looks like back in the Jurassic period, 140 million years ago,” said Liu Ke, an official with the mine.

According to Liu, the tour takes one and a half hours, during which time travellers donning miners’ overalls and safety helmets are sent 300 metres underground in a cage, squinting into the dim glow from kerosene lamps.

“Tourists will see how coal has been separated from earth at different periods of history, and can chat with the miners and join them for a brief lunch to find out more about the workers’ life,” said Liu.

Many travel services have included the under-
ground tour as a new high-
light in their plans outlined for domestic and overseas tour groups to Shanxi Prov-
ince.

The local tourism official said the city had also launched hikes along the ancient Great Wall and tours of local power plants and villages to draw holiday-
makers during the traditional Chinese New Year.

Dubbed as China’s coal capital, Shanxi Province is the country’s largest coal producer and one of its ma-
jor electric power bases.

Primary Ministry of Tourism

Nanjing, 25 Jan— The ancient Chinese capital of Nanjing, in the eastern Jiangsu Province, is to invest more than 400 million yuan (some 48.8 million US dol-
ars) in restoring the city wall this year.

Built in imperial Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the wall has encircled the city for 600 years. The area has been reduced to seven sections. So far, about half of the wall has been renovated by the government in two projects in 1994 and 2001. This year the government will clear illegal shops and promenades and mark protection zone along the wall. People will be able to walk on the wall around the city when the broken sec-
tions are reconstructed under the government plans.

The wall was 33.676 kilo-
metres long when it was first built, but only 21.35 kilo-
meter remains. It was the long-
est ancient city wall in the world. Nanjing, first built in 427 B.C., was the capital of the six families of the period of Three Kingdoms (220-280 A.D.) onwards.

Rare rabies deaths prompt US bat warning

ATLANTA, 25 Jan— A rare rabies fatal involving a bat from a US health official.

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Ancient Chinese capital to invest heavily in city wall protection

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est ancient city wall in the world. Nanjing, first built in 427 B.C., was the capital of the six families of the period of Three Kingdoms (220-280 A.D.) onwards.
US study shows hair dye may raise cancer risk

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — Women who have been colouring their hair for 24 years or more have a higher risk of developing a cancer called non-Hodgkin lymphoma, US researchers reported on Friday.

They said their study of 1,300 women could help explain a mysterious rise in the number of cases of the type of cancer, which is the third most common among women in the United States.

Writing in the American Journal of Epidemiology, they said women who dyed their hair started using hair dyes in the 1980s and were one-third more likely to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma, or NHL, and those who used the darkest dyes for more than 25 years were twice as likely to develop the cancer.

“Women who used darker hair colouring products for more than 25 years showed the highest increased risk,” Tongtang Zheng, associate professor of epidemiology and environmental health at Yale School of Medicine, said in a statement.

Cancer experts note that a person’s absolute risk of developing lymphoma is very low, so doubling that risk still means a woman who dyes her hair is very unlikely to develop lymphoma.

Non-Hodgkin lymphoma will affect an estimated 54,000 Americans this year and will kill 19,000, according to the American Cancer Society. It affects slightly more men than women.

The incidence of NHL has doubled since the mid 1980s, a sign that NHL is still an important cancer to study.

Experts suspect exposure to chemicals can be a factor. The lymphatic system is part of the immune system, so people with immune weaknesses are at special risk — notably AIDS and organ transplant patients.

Zheng and colleagues studied 600 Connecticut women who had NHL. They were asked to specify what hair colouring products they might have used and they were compared to 700 healthy women.

Yale University researchers did not find any larger risk of cancer in women who started using hair dye in 1980 or later. — MNA/Reuters

FDI in Nepal surges

KATHMANDU, 25 Jan — The total volume of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Nepal increased by 33.72 percent in the first half of the current fiscal year compared with the same period of the last fiscal year, according to government statistics.

The total volume of the foreign direct investment in the country was up to 3.41 billion Nepali rupees (46.7 million US dollars) in the first six months of the current 2003/2004 fiscal year, beginning on July 16 last year, the statistics released by the Nepali Industry Department on Saturday show.

While the volume in the same period of the 2002/2003 fiscal year stood at 2.55 billion rupees (34.9 million dollars).

With the total investment amount of 893.2 million rupees (12.24 million dollars), China followed India in terms of volume of investment in the review period.

However, in terms of registered number of projects, China was the leading country with its eight projects during the period, followed by India with five projects.

“As a result of adaptation of modern industrial technologies, huge chunk of investment went into Nepal as capital-intensive projects rather than labour-intensive,” said an expert at the department.

While analysing the sector-wise investment volume, the service sector has attracted foreign direct investment over 2 billion Nepali rupees (22.2 million dollars), which was more than any other sectors during the review period, the unnamed expert said. — MNA/Xinhua

Birth rate in Cyprus to decline, life expectancy to increase

NICOSIA, 25 Jan — The birth rate in Cyprus is expected to decline and the life expectancy will increase in the period from 2002 to 2052, according to a population and household projections report published here Friday.

The report said the country’s fertility rate was expected to decline to 1.51 by 2052, from 1.57 in 2001 and 1.49 in 2002. The rate will decline further to 1.3 in the period of 2017-2022 and stays at the same level until the end of 2052.

The report, which covers the government-controlled area of the Republic of Cyprus, is based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and assumptions as to the future trends of fertility, mortality and migration.

Meanwhile, the life expectancy of females and males in Cyprus will increase to 85 and 79 by the end of 2052 from 81 and 76.1 respectively in the period of 2000-2001, the report said.

The report undermines the projections are not meant to predict the future but to illustrate population trends on the basis of certain assumptions and aim to serve as a guideline to those involved in social and economic planning. — MNA/Xinhua

US military was not available for immediate comment on the operations in Fallujah, part of the Sunni Triangle that was once toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein’s power base. American command- ers say raids are a vital part of their operations to stabilize Iraq, netting numerous guerrillas and weapons caches. Raids in the Bay al Rasila neighborhood on Thursday, similar to ones conducted across the country, were focused on retrieving information about two men, witnesses said.

De Louis D'Amario (R), sits next to Nagin Cox, as they discuss the possible landing points of the Opportunity. The Opportunity is expected to land on the planet later in the day and the Spirit Rover which landed on Mars about three weeks ago. —INTERNET

Co-operation between India and IEA on price volatility

NEW DELHI, 25 Jan — India will join hands with Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) to counter artificial price volatility in the international market and create buffers for supply disruptions.

According to a joint statement issued on Friday, the two-day India-IEA Joint Workshop on Emerging Oil Markets Issues in New Delhi, the IEA will assist India — Asia’s third largest crude oil importer — in building five million tons of strategic crude oil storage as an insurance against supply disruptions and “coordinate” efforts with New Delhi during emergencies like high crude prices and supply disruptions.

The statement said the IEA and India “will act in concert during emergencies and regularly exchange information, including oil statistics, for enhancing market transparency and building a common view of the global oil market”.

The joint statement further identified the need “to establish a hotline for effective information sharing in case of emergency and to update and consult, as appropriate, on the development of energy security measures”.

India-IEA partnership will mitigate supply problems for India that is 70 percent import dependent to meet its 105 million tons of crude oil requirement. The IEA estimates that India’s import dependence will grow to 94 percent by 2030. —MNA/Reuters

CO2 emission cuts may bankrupt firms

CO2 emission cuts may threaten oil producers

MUMBAI, 25 Jan — European Union plans to cut carbon dioxide emissions could lead to bankruptcies and force firms to move overseas, if other countries do not meet their Kyoto targets, the EU energy commissioner said on Friday.

The European Union has agreed to cut carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions to eight percent below 1990 levels by 2012, under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. It is developing a plan to encourage firms to move to countries with less stringent greenhouse gases they release.

“Our industry will have no choice but to relocate. We have already experienced that in Europe,” said Ravi Karunanayake, Sri Lanka’s Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister.

The MoU has agreed to the granting of technical assistance to Iran for production and blend quality tea since tea’s production in Iran is said to be of inferior quality at the moment which will see the lifting of the ban on Sri Lankan tea.

The Iranian minister asserted that the technical assistance to Iran would not be a threat to Sri Lankan tea exports to Iran.

Sri Lanka, one of the major tea producing countries of the Middle East country. — MNA/Xinhua

Egypt joins hands with IEA on oil issues

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Monday, 26 January, 2004

Colombo, 25 Jan — Iran has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sri Lanka tea producers large amount of crude oil from Iran which has resulted in a huge trade imbalance in favour of the oil rich Middle-East country. — MNA/Xinhua

Earl of Palacio, who is also responsible for transport, told a seminar in Madrid on shipbuilding.
RonaldosaysChelsea buying power a concern for Real
Madrid, 25 Jan—Chelseas buying power under the ownership of Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich is a concern for Real Madrid, Brazilian striker Ronaldo said on Friday.
Ronaldo was fined by Real for making an unauthorized trip to London earlier this month and arriving back late for training.
The player has categorically denied newspaper speculation that the trip might have had something to do with interest from Chelsea but he recognizes why the story caused disquiet at Real.
"I'm very happy here at Real Madrid and the stories are all just rumours," Ronaldo was quoted as saying in an interview with Cadena Cope radio in Spain.
"Real havent asked me to explain the trip because it was just to have some (publicity) photos shot ..., (but) with the Russian guy (Abramovich) wanting to sign everyone they're scared." Chelsea signed Claude Makelele from Real Madrid just before the start of the season. Ronaldo said he had no plans to join the French midfielders in London. "Abramovich has never called me," he said. "If they are interested, its always nice to be appreciated." Ronaldo is Real's top scorer this season with 15 league goals.

Everton defender Weir out for two months
London, 25 Jan—Scotland and Everton defender David Weir could be sidelined until the beginning of April with knee ligament damage, the Premier League club said on Friday.
The 33-year-old suffered the injury in a midweek reserve match and X-rays revealed serious damage to medial ligaments in the same knee he injured against Chelsea earlier this season.
"He faces a lengthy lay-off— at least a couple of months, though fortunately there is no damage to the cartilage or the cruciate," head physio Mick Rathbone told the clubs website.
"It's pretty bad luck for David as he has been back in training now for the past six weeks after recovering from a similar problem."

Lille sign Tottenhams Acimovic
Paris, 25 Jan—Tottenham Hotspur's Slovenian midfielder Milenko Acimovic has joined Lille on loan until the end of the season.
Acimovic has signed the contract and will play at Lille until June 30, the Ligue 1 club said on its website on Friday.
The 26-year-old, who has 37 caps for his country, joined the north London club from Red Star Belgrade in 2002 but has not made a Premier League start this season.
Lille are 14th in the 20-team Ligue 1 standings. Their playmaker Christophe Landrin suffered a serious leg injury and underwent surgery at the weekend.

Maradona finds peace playing golf in Cuba
Havana, 25 Jan—Argentine soccer idol Diego Armando Maradona says he has found peace of mind in Communist-run Cuba where he has turned to golf for sport, but is happy living in Cuba.
"I'm not a champion... but I have a lot of fun playing golf," an overweight Maradona said in one of his few public appearances.
The retired 43-year-old star has lived in Cuba for four years recovering from drug abuse that marred a brilliant and turbulent career. He plays golf most days at Havana's only golf course.
"In Cuba I have found the tranquility I couldn't find anywhere. Cuba has given me tranquility, and that cannot be bought with all the money in the world," he said.
Maradona, sporting large tattoos on his arms, said he missed his two daughters, his former wife Claudia and his native Argentinia, but is happy living in Cuba.
Wearing a Hawaiian shirt and sneakers, he was speaking to reporters late on Thursday at an event honouring outstanding Latin American sports figures.
The Soccer legend is regarded as one of the finest players ever, leading Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup, where he scored celebrated goals against England. Maradona said he would attend a farewell well game for retiring Colombian soccer player Carlos Valderrama in Barranquilla, Colombia on February 1, but he will not play.

Saha completes move to Manchester United
London, 25 Jan—French striker Louis Saha completed his move to Manchester United from Fulham on Friday after signing a five-and-a-half year contract with the English champions.
The 25-year-old cost a total of 12.825 million pounds (23.61 million US dollars), of which Fulham will receive 11.5 million. United said in a statement to the London stock exchange.
United will pay a further levy of 575,000 pounds to the agents involved in the deal.
Saha has signed a five-year, five-month contract.
He will be handed the United number nine shirt last worn by Andy Cole before his move to Blackburn Rovers two years ago. It's a fantastic honour to wear the shirt and I hope I can be a success like those who have worn it in the past," Saha said on Uniteds website on Friday.
"I'm always trying to become a better player and I believe I can improve so much more playing at United."
"I want to do at United what Thierry (Henry) has done at Arsenal. The player I admire and want to emulate the most is Thierry," said Saha who has been bought to admire and want to emulate the most is Thierry, "He is the most complete striker in the world right now and has all the qualities a striking partner needs to be the best."
Saha is ineligible for United's FA Cup fourth round match against Northampton Town on Sunday but may make his debut in the Premier League game against Southampton the following Saturday.

Perugia sign strikers from Ancona, Chievo Verona
Rome, 25 Jan—Struggling Serie A side Perugia have signed strikers Dario Hubner and Giuseppe Sculli, the club announced on Friday.
Hubner was bought from Ancona, while Sculli arrived on loan from Chievo Verona.
Hubner, 36, scored a total of 55 goals in the last three Serie A seasons with former clubs Brescia and Piacenza, but has failed to hit the target in nine appearances this year.
Sculli, 22, is suffering a similar goal drought, having scored just once in eight games.
Perugia have yet to win a league game this season and are 17th in Serie A with 10 points from 18 matches, five more points than last-placed Ancona.

Maradona finds peace playing golf in Cuba
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Russian striker Bulykin eyes Everton move
Moscow, 25 Jan—Dynamo Moscow striker Dmitry Bulykin is eying a move to Everton, president of the Russian Premier League club Yuri Zavarzin said on Friday.
Zavarzin told reporters his club was in international talks with an unidentified European side and had scheduled a meeting with the English Premier League side in the next two days.
"If Bulykin passes a medical then we can begin negotiating a transfer fee," said the Dynamo boss.
The 24-year-old has been a revelation since making his first international appearance in Russias Euro 2004 qualifier against Ireland last September.
Four days later the striker notched a hat-trick in a 4-1 home win over Switzerland.
He also scored in Russias final group 10 qualifier to help his country to a comfortable 3-1 win over Georgia that secured them a playoff spot.

Italian champions Juventus say they are close to agreeing a new deal with David Trezeguet (pictured) which will keep the France striker at the club until June 2008.

Amateur Bayonne sink Bordeaux 1-0 in muddy French Cup tie
Pau, 25 Jan—Amateur club Bayonne caused a huge upset in the second round of the French Cup by scoring in extra time to knock Girondins Bordeaux out of the competition on Friday.
The 10,000 supporters of the Fourth Division team erupted when Frederic Benaudeau blasted a 20-metre free kick into the far corner after 118 minutes of additional time. Le Mans international goalkeeper Ulrich Rame stung in the mud.
Bayonne, who already shocked Ligue 1 side En Avant Guingamp 5-3 on penalties in the first round.
On Saturday, a potentially explosive clash between arch-rivals Olympique Marseille and Paris St. Germain at the Stade Velodrome tops the bill of the 16-match second round.
In the other two Ligue 1 head-to-heads, Cup holders AJ Auxerre host Montpellier and, on Sunday, Toulouse entertain Nice.

Frenchs' Tatiana Golovin celebrates winning a point against Russias Lina Krasnoroutskaya, the number 23 seed, during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne on 24 Jan. 2004. Golovin won the match 6-2, 7-6.—INTERNET

Answer for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

Milans Ambrosini extends contract to 2006
Rome, 25 Jan—Italian international midfielder Massimo Ambrosini has extended his contract with AC Milan until June 2006, the club said on Friday. The 26-year-old, in his eighth season with the European champions, has been mainly used as a substitute in Serie A this season.
Ambrosini is an occasional member of Giovani Trapattonis Italian national team squads, having made 19 appearances since his debut in 1999.

France's Tatiana Golovin celebrates winning a point against Russia's Lina Krasnoroutskaya, the number 23 seed, during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne on 24 Jan. 2004. Golovin won the match 6-2, 7-6.—INTERNET

Italian champions Juventus say they are close to agreeing a new deal with David Trezeguet (pictured) which will keep the France striker at the club until June 2008. —INTERNET

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**Monday, January 26**

**Weather**

*Sunday, 25 January, 2004*

Summary of observational records at 09:30 hrs MST:

- During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and Upper Sagaing Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas.
- Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Shan State and Ayeyawady Division and about normal in the remaining areas.
- Maximum temperature on 24-1-2004 was 34.5°C (9°F), Minimum temperature on 25-1-2004 was 17°C (6°F). Relative humidity was 9.0% at BST on 25-1-2004. Total sunshine hours on 24-1-2004 was (8.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 25-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall last 24 hrs was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph gusting to 11 mph (30.6) hrs at MMR. Kaba-Aye-

**Bay influence:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in South-west and North Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 26-1-2004:** Isolated light rain in Kachin, Chaungtha and upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Districts and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). State of the sea is: Moderate to very moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Slight increase of night temperature in upper Myanmar areas.

**Forecast valid for area for 26-1-2004:** Partly cloudy. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-1-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).
Prime Minister attends hoisting of Htidaw atop Gandakutitaik of Jina Manaung Buddha Image in Sonnathamyaing Swemyodaw (Myainggyingu Region), Kayin State

YANGON, 25 Jan — The Htidaw was hoisted atop Gandakutitaik of Jina Manaung Buddha Image in Sonnathamyaing Swemyodaw (Myainggyingu Region) in Kayin State in conjunction with opening of 34-mile Thitsar Road linking Myainggyingu and Hpa-an and 99 bridges at respective places in Myainggyingu Region yesterday morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of State Ovacacariya Hpa-an Maha Munsu Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abdalhaya Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Indriya and Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suja and Sayadaw in Kayin State.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Chairman of of Kayin National Buddhist Association U Saw Tha Htoo, local authorities, officials, social organizations. Chairman of Kayin National Buddhist Association U Saw Tha Htoo Kyaw and members, teachers, students and local residents.

The Prime Minister and party paid reverence to Jina Manaung Buddha Image. They also paid homage to respective places in Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suja and Sayadaw in Kayin State.

The lay persons conveyed the Seinbudaw (Diamond Orb) and Hngetmyatnadaw (Vane) to the decorated carriage. The Sayadaw, the Prime Minister.

The Htidaw hoisting ceremony took place at 11.30 am. The Myainggyingu Sayadaw handed the Htidaw to the Prime Minister.

The lay persons conveyed the Seinbudaw (Diamond Orb) and Hngetmyatnadaw (Vane) to the decorated carriage. Local national race leaders and local people hoisted the religious objects atop the Gandakutitaik. The Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party and national race leaders fixed the religious objects atop the Gandakutitaik and sprinkled scented water on them. The Prime Minister and party performed (See page 9)

Secretary-1 visits Hlinethaya industrial zone, Third MICT Week 2004

YANGON, 25 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected factories in Hlinethaya industrial zone and visited the Secretary-1’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung Thein Lin, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, arrived at electrical equipment factory of AA Electronics Co Ltd in Hline Township this morning. The Secretary-2 inspected Star TVs, VCDs, air-conditioners, washing machines, coolers and heaters and refrigerators produced by the company. Chairman of AA Electronics Co Ltd U Myat Thin Aung said the company was established for production of electronic goods. Black and white TVs were produced in 1998 and colour TVs in 1999 and VCDs in 2002. He said arrangements have been made for production of washing machines, coolers and heaters and refrigerators and electrical devices. Over 50,000 TVs and 25,000 VCDs were produced so far. He reported on requirements for production of electronic goods.

Next, Managing Director U Than Win Aung reported on production of various kinds of electrical appliances. The Secretary-1 then gave instructions. Chairman U Myat Thin Aung and Vice-Chairman Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Kyaw Myint presented ten TVs for use in education activities to Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Lt-Gen Soe Win. The Secretary-1 inspected production process of TV and VCD and products. The Secretary-1 and party went to Thanlwin Aye Co in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-2 and inspected Mega Jeep and Managing Director Daw Myint Win reported on arrangements for production of passenger buses and trucks. (See page 9)

Workshops of Myanmar ICT Week 2004 continue

YANGON, 25 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week went on for the fifth day today here at Myanmar Information and Communication Techno-logy (MICT) Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township.

The workshop on ‘Security issues and related products’ was held in the morning session. U Thaung Tin, President of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association made a speech. The discussions included ‘Prevention of virus’-attack using intelligent enterprise security management system’ by Daw Khin Mi Mi Aung. ‘Virus and other problems relating Internet security by In-charge U Wai Lin Kyaw of Special Interest Group of MCSA and ‘Firewall and other technologies to prevent security system by SRI In-charge U Hla Win Kyaw.

In the afternoon, members of Board of MICTDC Director U Tin Win Aung made a speech on opening of soft-launching e-Procurement project.

Director U Than Win of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, the Ministry of Electric Power, discussed matters on e-Proceudure. Vice-President U Aung Soe Thin of Myanmar Computer Co Ltd discussed matters relating to e-Procedruce Portal Prototype.

The workshop on ‘Better Software Faster’ was also held. Senior Consultant U Moe Thwin of Borland (Hong Kong) Ltd presented papers on ‘Better software faster’ and ‘UML modelling solution’.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of National Task Force and member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, chairmen of computer associations, departmental officials, officials from computer companies and enthusiasts. (See page 9)