Established 1914

YANGON, 26 Jan — Chairman of the National Health Committee and Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe hosted a dinner at Tatmadaw Guest House on Inya Road here this evening in honour of Myanmar doctors resident abroad and those from foreign countries who attended the 50th Conference of the Myanmar Medical Association.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the vice-chief of Military Intelligence and senior military officers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials, chairman and executives of MMA, members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and guests.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially greeted the doctors and then hosted the dinner to them.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe greet Myanmar doctors resident abroad and those from foreign countries who attended the 50th Conference of the Myanmar Medical Association. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe host dinner to delegates of 50th MMA Conference

YANGON, 26 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations in Mawlamyine. — MNA

Successful realization of the plans depends on correct and speedy implementation at the grassroots levels, and correct data

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YANGON, 26 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, arrived in Ye, Mawlamyine District, via Mawlamyine yesterday. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Ye Bridge. After hearing a report presented by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min on facts about Ye Bridge, the Prime Minister and party strolled along the bridge.

Ye bridge, linking Mawlamyine-Ye road and Ye-Dawei road is rail-cum-road one. As the bridge has been completed, trains are running daily from Mawlamyine to Dawei via Ye, passing through the bridge. Now, one can easily reach Mon State and Taninthayi Division by car, it is learnt.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, next, went to People’s Hospital in Ye where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Saw Myat Os and staff.

The Prime Minister inspected X-ray room, medical store, patient wards, operation theatre and out-patient department.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on construction of new hospital building and providing the hospital with medical equipment.

On arrival at Basic Education High School in Ye, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Headmaster U Tint, teachers and students.

(See page 9)
Mawlamyine, on completion, will help strengthen the friendship between national sectors will improve and thus the living standard of the people will become higher.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on 25 January visited the project site of the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on the Mawlamyine side, inspected the construction work being carried out and gave necessary instructions.

The Prime Minister said that the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) was going to be the longest one in Myanmar and it was being built by Myanmar engineers themselves. Therefore, it was necessary to put them on record and honour them, he added.

The Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) is situated on the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Kawthoung highway and it is being built across the Thanlwin river, linking Mawlamyine and Mottama.

The approach road for cars on the Mawlamyine side is 1,624 foot long, the main bridge itself 7,699 foot long and the approach road for cars on the Mottama side 2,252 foot long. The approach road for railway line on the Mawlamyine side is 8,716 foot long and that on the Mottama side 10,051 foot long. On either side of the railway line, there is a motor road 14 foot wide and a walkway 6 foot wide. The bridge is now 70 percent completed.

We believe that the Thanlwin Bridge Mawlamyine, on completion, will help strengthen the friendship between national brethren. Therefore, we would like to urge all the responsible personnel to put their energies into their work so that the bridge will be completed within the targeted period.

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.
Seven American soldiers among 16 killed in Iraq resistance

Baghdad, 26 Jan—In the continuing resistance in Iraq, at least 16 people, including seven American soldiers, were killed and many others injured during the past 24 hours, according to reports reaching here on Sunday.

As many as three American soldiers were killed and six others wounded when a car bomb exploded at a military checkpoint in the western Iraqi town of Khalidiyah on Saturday, the US military and witnesses said.

“Three Task Force All American soldiers were killed and six were wounded when a vehicle-borne IED (improved explosive device) detonated at Khalidiyah,” a military spokesman said and added that an undetermined number of Iraqis were also wounded in the blast, which took place about 15 pm.

Khalidiyah resident Khaled Awad Faisal told AFP news agency a car rammed a military post in the town, 95 kilometres west of Baghdad. He said that the motorway had been blocked by US troops since shortly after the blast.

Earlier, two US soldiers were killed when a bomb exploded north of Fallujah. The US soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb that struck their four-vehicle convoy north of Fallujah.

In another attack, four Iraqi civilians were killed and scores injured when a bomb exploded in a crowded area outside a courthouse in Samarra, police and US officials said.

Also, in Baghdad and the northern cities of Mosul and Kirkuk, three Iraqi police officers died in two drive-by shootings and a bombing.

A traffic policeman died and three others were wounded, one seriously, when unknown gunmen opened fire from a car outside a hotel in Baghdad’s upmarket Karrada district in the afternoon, police said.

Earlier, an Iraqi police officer was killed and another wounded when their patrol pickup truck came under attack in the northern city of Mosul, local police said.

Another policeman was killed and two wounded by an explosive device which detonated as they were guarding a pipeline near the northern oil city of Kirkuk, which has been wreaked by ethnic tensions.

13-year-old boy becomes 6th to die of bird flu in Vietnam

HANOI, 26 Jan—A 13-year-old boy has become the sixth person to die of bird flu in Vietnam and an eight-year-old girl is in critical condition with the virus sweeping through Southeast Asia.

The World Health Organization said on Saturday the boy died on Thursday from the H5N1 strain of avian flu, and that the girl had tested positive for the virus.

Both children were in Ho Chi Minh City and were the first confirmed cases of human bird flu in south Vietnam, which has had the country’s most severe cases of bird flu in Asia.

The virus has killed four children and one adult in north Vietnam. Experts do not know why children have been the most affected. “This confirms our suspicions that H5N1 would be active in the south,” said Robert Dzet, spokesman for the UN agency in Hanoi.

Dzet said the boy was admitted to hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam’s largest city, on January 11. The girl was admitted on January 15. He said one WHO expert remained in Ho Chi Minh City and more were likely to be sent.

S. Korea, Malaysia stop Indonesian poultry imports

JAKARTA, 26 Jan—Singapore and Malaysia have suspended imports of Indonesian poultry because of rising worries over the outbreak of highly infectious bird flu in Asia.

Vietnam, which has seen 16 confirmed cases of bird flu, has called for a moratorium on all live poultry imports.

In Indonesia, where earlier attempts to stop the spread of bird flu have failed, the government had planned to send the dispatch of the core group of ground troops.

Shenzhen continues to lead nation in foreign trade

SHENZHEN, 26 Jan — Shenzhen City in south China’s Guangdong Province has been placed at the top among Chinese cities in both foreign trade volume and export volume for a succession of 11 years. The city did 117.4 billion US dollars’ worth of foreign trade last year, up 34.58 per cent. Of the total, exports made up 62.96 billion US dollars, a rise of 35.24 per cent, said local sources.

The city also had an inflow of 5.04 billion US dollars of overseas capital in the past year, a record high. Out of the world’s 500 top companies, 98 have made investments in this southern Chinese city. Multinationals have built nine regional headquarters and 26 research and development centres in Shenzhen, which faces Hong Kong across a river and is one of China’s busiest land ports for export and entry. There are now more than 3,400 companies doing foreign trade from Shenzhen.

Deaths mar start of UN Iraq mission

Baghdad, 26 Jan—In one of Iraq’s deadliest days this year, five American soldiers and seven Iraqi civilians were killed in a series of bombs and drive-by shootings on Saturday that clouded the start of a two-man UN security mission in Iraq.

Another US soldier died of wounds sustained in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on his vehicle on Sunday in the town of Beiji, north of Baghdad.

The latest US deaths brought to 240 the number of US soldiers killed in hostile action since US President George W. Bush declared major combat over last May.

Saturday’s attacks happened near the western city of Fallujah, a stronghold of the Sunni Muslim elite that once ruled the country.

Two US pilots were killed late Friday when their helicopter came down near the northern city of Kirkuk, which has been wracked by ethnic tensions. A car laden with explosives plunged into a military checkpoint west of Baghdad and exploded, killing three US soldiers and wounding six, the US military and witnesses said.

With the current bird flu scare, the examination process might take a longer time, said Bachtiar Moeraad of the Agriculture Ministry was quoted as saying.

Some 6,000 people staged a rally against sending Japanese troops to Iraq, a day before Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was expected to give the final go-ahead for the dispatch of the core group of ground troops.

Singapore suspends all Thai chicken imports

SINGAPORE, 26 Jan — Singapore suspended imports of all chicken from Thailand, after Beijing confirmed two cases of bird flu in humans, the government said on Saturday.

Singapore last week suspended the import of live and whole frozen chicken from Thailand, but not poultry cuts and processed parts, which make up 99 per cent of the island’s annual 15,000 tonnes of Thai chicken imports.

We suspended imports of all chicken from Thailand, effective from last night,” said Goh Shih Yong, a spokesman at the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority.

The ban followed similar moves by the European Union and Japan, the top two importers of Thai chicken.
Iraq intelligence ‘deficient’

BAGHDAD, 26 Jan—A former British junior defence minister admitted yesterday it was looking increasingly likely that Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government relied on “deficient” intelligence about the Iraq war.

Lewis Mooney, who was sacked from his post as armed forces minister in June reshuffle, said the government may soon have to concede that intelligence on Saddam Hussein’s alleged weapons of mass destruction was faulty.

Speaking to Scottish Television on Tuesday, he said: “It’s the case that the intelligence that we had was deficient, as is increasingly looking likely — sooner or later we may well have to say ‘yeah, the intelligence was faulty and the decisions we took were based on the best evidence available and the best evidence available wasn’t good enough’.”

The Prime Minister’s future hangs in the balance as a long-awaited report of the judicial inquiry into the suicide last July of David Kelly will be made public on Wednesday.

Army copter with two pilots crashes in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Jan—A US military helicopter crashed Sunday in the Tigris River in the northern town of Mosul while searching for a soldier, and both crew members were missing, a spokeswoman said.

She did not say what caused the crash of the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter, attached to the 101st Airborne Division.

The helicopter was searching for a US soldier missing when the boat he was in capsized earlier Sunday, the spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity. The soldier was on a river patrol with three other soldiers and some Iraqi policemen, she said.

The other three soldiers were safe but two Iraqi police officers and an Iraqi translator are reported dead, said the spokeswoman.

She said the search for the two pilots is underway as well as an investigation into the crash in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad.

It was the fifth helicopter crash in Iraq this month—three of them due to hostile fire. Another Army OH-58 Kiowa Warrior crashed on Friday south of Mosul, killing the two pilots. The cause of that crash also has not been disclosed — Internet.

Syria denies receiving Iraq arms

DAMASCUS, 26 Jan—Syria has strongly denied allegations that it has been harbouring Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

The charge that part of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction programme went to Syria before the war came from the ex-head of the US weapons inspection team.

David Kay said former Iraqi officials had given evidence that materials had been moved across the border.

However Syrian Information Minister Ahmad al-Hassan said the allegations were “baseless deception and lies”.

The minister told reporters in Damascus that the US was seeking to cover up its failure to find any weapons stockpiles in Iraq, despite using them as a pretext for last year’s war. 

“Unresolved”

The accusations by Mr Kay came in an interview published in Britain’s Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

“We are not talking about a large stockpile of weapons,” he told the paper.

“But we know from some of the interrogations of former Iraqi officials that a lot of material went to Syria before the war, including some components of Saddam’s WMD programme.”

“Precisely what went to Syria, and what has happened to it, is a major issue that needs to be resolved.”

Mr Kay resigned on Friday as leader of the Iraq Survey Group and has been replaced by Charles Duelfer — Internet.

US soldier dies of raid wounds, 8th US fatality in 24 hours

BAGHDAD—Another US soldier was killed in Iraq, the eighth American troop fatality in a 24-hour wave of attack, as thousands rallied in Tokyo yesterday against sending Japanese troops to the war-battered country.

The American soldier died of wounds sustained in a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack on his vehicle on Wednesday night in Beiji, north of Baghdad, military spokeswoman Major Joslyn Aberle said.

The latest death took to 240 the number of US soldiers killed in combat since major hostilities ended on 1 May.

Britain’s “Spirit” to be in critical conditions

PASADENA (California), 26 Jan—NASA engineers on Friday declared the crippled martian rover Spirit to be in “critical” and said the vehicle likely remain idle for several days or even weeks.

Meanwhile, the scientists geared up for the landing of a second robotic explorer, Opportunity, on Mars this weekend on the other side of the planet from the troubled Spirit.

And from another current mission to Mars, the all-European Mars Express beam back high resolution pictures of the planet’s south pole that confirmed the presence of frozen water, showing there may be water in other parts of the planet.

Spirit, which had operated virtually problem free for its first 18 days on the red planet, has been out of commission for a significant amount of time, many days, perhaps two weeks, even in the best of circumstances,” Mars Exploration Rover Project Manager Pete Theisinger told reporters at a JPL briefing.

He described the rover’s condition as “critical”, adding, “We do not know to what extent we can restore functionality to the system because we don’t know what’s broke... We have a long way to go with the patient in intensive care.”

Theisinger said that while the mission’s flight software was malfunctioning — plunging the rover into a continual “processor reset loop” — he suspected that the root cause of the problem was some kind of hardware issue, such as a mechanical glitch or sensor flaw.

US finds cocaine in Colombian tropical fish cargo

MIA MI, 26 Jan—US Customs officials seized 300,000 US dollars’ worth of liquid cocaine disguised as water in a shipment of fresh fish from Colombia.

The US Customs and Border Protection service said on Friday that 41.7 pounds of cocaine was packaged in plastic bags along with the fresh water decorative fish to Miami. “This appears to be a new trend in smuggling, using an old method which officers have not seen in many years,” said the agency, part of the US Department of Homeland Security.

The fish were packed in bags with three linings. The inner lining, containing the cocaine, was filled with water but the middle lining held a yellowish liquid that triggered the interest of a drug dog called “Rocky”. In all, six bags in a shipment of the fish sent by cargo plane from Bogota tested positive for cocaine. — MNA/Reuters

Klein jailing for stealing US September 11 funds

NEW YORK, 26 Jan— A British citizen has been sentenced to six months in prison for stealing federal funds earmarked for revitalize lower Manhattan after the September 11, 2001, attacks that destroyed the World Trade Centre.

Allan Klein, 30, was sentenced on Thursday for lying on an application for a 12,000-US dollar government grant.

He had promised to live in lower Manhattan for two years but moved to Florida instead.

Klein pleaded guilty last year to defrauding the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Lower Manhattan Development Corp, which distributed federal funds for the revitalisation programme.

In addition to sentencing Klein to prison, US District Judge Richard Casey ordered his deportation.

According to the charges, Klein submitted his application for funds in September 2002 and was approved to receive the 12,000-US-dollar grant over two years.

Within months of submitting his application to the development corporation, Klein left Manhattan and moved to Florida. However, he continued to seek his payments.

He was arrested last July after picking up a grant cheque for 5,000 US dollars.

The US military said it was hunting for the two-man crew of an armed reconnaissance helicopter that crashed on 25 January, 2004 in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. A military spokesman in Baghdad said the Kiowa helicopter came down in the Tigris River in Mosul, about 390 km (240 miles) northwest of Baghdad, while on a search-and-rescue mission for a US soldier who had been on a river patrol boat that went missing earlier.

A US Army Kiowa helicopter is seen flying in Falluja in this photo on 8 January, 2004. — Internet
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

Iraqi women look down from their bomb damaged apartment window in Baghdad after a roadside bomb exploded below, on Sunday, 25 Jan, 2004. Widespread attacks in Iraq in the past few days underscore continued resistance to the American occupation despite the 13 December capture of Saddam Hussein. — INTERNET

British soldiers patrol a street in Basra. A former junior defence minister admitted it was looking increasingly likely that Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government relied on ‘deficient’ intelligence ahead of the Iraq war. — INTERNET

Iraqi girls look out of their shattered window after an explosion went off as a US patrol drove past, near a hotel in Baghdad’s upmarket Karrada district on 25 Jan, 2004. — INTERNET

Traffic in central Baghdad comes to a halt in a traffic jam after a bridge was temporarily closed by a road block on Sunday, 25 Jan, 2004. Ravaged by three wars in quick succession and battered by an ongoing campaign of attack, Baghdad has gone from bad to worse since its capture in April by US forces. — INTERNET

US soldiers walk across the blocked off bridge leading from the Iraqi town of Khalidiyah to Ramadi on 25 January 2004 near the spot where three fellow soldiers were killed and six wounded when a car carrying a bomb rammed the military checkpoint at the foot of the bridge. A number of Iraqis were also injured in the blast. — INTERNET

A US soldier surveys the scene of an explosion in Baghdad. Another US soldier was killed in Iraq, the eighth American troop fatality in a 24-hour wave of attack. — INTERNET

Traffic in central Baghdad comes to a halt in a traffic jam after a bridge was temporarily closed by a road block on Sunday, 25 Jan, 2004. Ravaged by three wars in quick succession and battered by an ongoing campaign of attack, Baghdad has gone from bad to worse since its capture in April by US forces. — INTERNET
Opinion poll shows Iraqis fear civil war the most

BAGHDAD, 26 Jan—Iraqis, rattled by daily carnage since Saddam Hussein’s fall, fear a sectarian civil war would be the biggest threat to their country, an opinion poll released by the US-led administration on Saturday showed.

Nearly 30 per cent of respondents said a civil war brewing but many Iraqis fear it could erupt.

In interviews with Reuters, some Iraqis said they opposed the US occupation but feared civil war if the Americans left. Many have called for an immediate US departure.

The survey said 56.8 per cent of respondents said they would feel less safe if US-led troops left today, 27.8 per cent said they would be more safe and 12 per cent felt it made no difference.

An official from the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) declined to say which companies had been hired to conduct the survey.

Roadside bombs planted by guerrillas and street crimes also rank at the top of a list of Iraqi fears, the poll said.

So far there have been no signs of a

Malaysia, Singapore ties improving

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Jan—The presence of Singaporean leaders at the Malaysia National Chinese New Year Celebration signals improving relations between the two countries, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has said.

Speaking at the celebration in Johor Baru, south Malaysia, Saturday night, Abdullah thanked his counterpart Goh Chok Tong and his deputy Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong for joining in the celebrations to experience Malaysian warmth and hospitality.

It was the second time this month that the two prime ministers have met, following Abdullah’s visit to the republic on January 12.

Eleven Cabinet ministers from Singapore also attended the celebration at Danga Bay, Johor Baru.

Australia confident of keeping bird flu out

CANBERRA, 26 Jan—The Australian Government is confident that its import regulations will prevent the spread of bird flu to Australia via poultry products, according to Acting Agriculture Minister Ian MacFarlane Saturday.

“Those regulations to date have also not seen any chicken products come to Australia,” he told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

He said Australian authorities are screening passengers from the countries at risk.

Commonwealth chief medical officer John Horvath said Saturday that there has been little chance of the flu, that has killed several people in Vietnam, getting into Australia.

Japan supports Vietnam to fight against bird flu

HANNO, 26 Jan—The Japanese Government has decided to provide Vietnam approximately 20 million yen (more than 183,000 US dollars) worth of medicine (100,000 tablets of Tamiflu) to help the country fight against avian influenza.

The medicine will be provided to chicken house workers and those who have contact with them, and also to residents of local communities where infection among chickens is confirmed, according to the Japanese Embassy in Vietnam on Saturday.

The World Health Organization has confirmed that seven local victims have been tested positive with the virus H5N1, which has been found in infected poultry.

As of January 23, bird flu has been found in 24 localities in Vietnam, infecting some 3.2 million fowls.

Indonesia supports Bangladesh’s wish to be ICO S-G

JAKARTA, 26 Jan—Indonesia fully supports Bangladesh’s wish to serve as secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (ICO), Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hasan Wirayuda said here on the weekend.

“Indonesia supports Bangladesh to be the secretary-general of the ICO,” Hassan was quoted by state news agency Antara as saying.

He said while discussing the outcome of talks between President Megawati Soekarnoputri and Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the State Palace.
Ministers, ambassadors, diplomats and UN resident representatives observe development tasks for Wa region

YANGON, 26 Jan — Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Haing, Vice-Chairman Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, members Minister for Labour U Tin Win and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, together withambaassadors of foreign missions in Yangon, diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies, CCDAC Secretary MFP Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yee and officials, visited Shan State (East), Shan State (West), Mandalay Division and Magway Division starting from 23 January to observe regional development tasks and drugs elimination tasks.

On 24 January, they visited the border area development training school in Kengtung where they were welcomed by Director U Khin and party welcomed them. Acting Principal U Kyaw Kyaw Oo and Assistant Registrar U Kyaw of the Kengtung Degree College made presentations.

The ministers, the ambassadors of foreign missions and the UN resident representatives left Kengtung by helicopter and arrived at Mongpauk at 10.10 am. National race leader U Aik Mongpauk welcomed them. Resident Representative of UNODC Mr Li Ming Phu and party welcomed them. National race leader U Aik Mongpauk at 10.10 am where they arrived at Namtit where they delivered a speech. He also presented certificates of honour to the winners of the Myanmar Karatedo Federation Dr Ye Naing Win gave a speech. The visitors left there and arrived at Lashio 5.45 pm. At 7 pm, on behalf of the North-East Command Commander, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the visitors.

As regards the infrastructure sector, with a view to promoting regional economic growth to surplus rice and increasing incomes. As regards the information sector, opium yield survey was conducted in 337 villages in five townships in 2003. Poppy was grown on 9,191 acres. It is estimated that the number of farmers will decrease further to about 500 hectares in 2004. Afterwards, queries of the ambassadors, the diplomats and the UN resident representatives were replied. At Mongpauk Hospital, In-charge Dr Saw Aung Hla conducted them around there. The visitors there are 27 canals, six dams in Wa region and 120 tractors, and 550 cattle have been distributed to the farmers with no interest. So, compared with 1,800 kilometers at present. In addition, over 250 bridges have been built and over 3,000 kilometers of road linking southern and northern townships of Wa region was constructed.

As regards the energy sector, at present there are seven hydel power stations to generate 13,550 kilowatts, up from only a 40-kilowatt hydel power station before 1989. It helps industrial and economic development. As regards civil construction, Panghsan at 11.50 am where national race leader U Li Zee Yu and party welcomed them. At the briefing hall, Wa national race leader U Paik Yu Chan made a presentation. He said arms have been exchanged for peace with the government since April 17, 1989. During the past 15 years, Wa region has developed remarkably. With the education sector, efforts have been made for the education standard of the people and pursuing education with the prescribed texts of the State. As regards the agriculture sector, priority is given to preserving natural resources and to producing sufficient rice and increasing incomes. As regards the information sector, opium population has been reduced and 3,000 more tons of poppy was produced to the other regions. 3,000 more tons of poppy was produced at 11.30 am and arrived at Mongmaw. As regards the livestock breeding sector, two big-scale Hong Peng livestock breeding farms were established in northern and southern parts to fulfill local needs. In addition, rubber plants were grown on 18,122 acres of land and 80,000 teak plants were also grown. Lychee, orange, mango, citrus, tea and grape were grown on 36,860 acres of land. Moreover, cigarette factory, wine distillery, gems enterprise, paper mill, match factory, drinking water factory, brick factory, bee distillery and foodstuff factories have been built. A total of 15,796 students are pursuing education at 288 schools, including six middle schools. These were opened with the cash provided by the State, the UN and the people of Wa region. There are 988 teachers, 20 hospitals, 160 dispensaries and 591 health care staff. A women’s organization was established in the region in 2003, he said. Drugs elimination tasks have been carried out since 1996. The region has the population of over 600,000. Altogether 16 ethnic groups are living in 29 districts. According to the opium yield survey, there grows no poppy in Mongmaw, Weizking, Mongpauk, Longsam, Namit, Panghsan and Mongmyin regions. The difficulty is that the region is mountainous. So, it is difficult to carry out regional development tasks and there is a problem in UNODC’s project for regional development. The project was to resettle the people to the southern region needs a lot of funds. Raw materials produced from poppy substitute agriculture tasks and livestock breeding tasks have a problem with market. Some essential chemicals for other industries cannot be imported due to the strict bilateral chemicals control programme. Those migrated to southern part need medicines. But, these difficulties will not change the opium elimination objective in 2005. If the assistance of Myanmar government, the Republic of China, Thailand and international organizations be rendered, the objectives will be realized smoothly.

The visitors left there and arrived at Mongmaw 2.30 pm where national race leader U Paik Yu Lan and Tactical Operations Commander Col Sein Win and party welcomed them. They visited tea plantations at 3.30 pm, they arrived at Namit where national race leader U Lu Shin Kya made a report. He said it took ten years for the Wa region to have the present situation. Thanks to the assistance of the State and foreign countries, the difficulties could be overcome and the region has developed. The main income comes from mining, local trade, toll tax, and the assistance of traders. Sternuous efforts have been made to reduce poppy growing for drugs elimination tasks of the region. As a result, only about 600 families of two village-tracts of 12,800 families of six village-tracts are growing poppy. In reseling the people from the industrial area, there are some difficulties to buy some chemicals due to the strict bilateral chemicals control programme. So, to solve these problems, the region needs a huge sum of cash for local food supply in eliminating narcotic drugs.

Afterwards, queries of the ambassadors, the diplomats and the UN resident representatives were replied. The visitors then left there and arrived at Lashio 5.45 pm. At 7 pm, on behalf of the North-East Command Commander, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the visitors.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 27 January, 2004
Mawlamyine University gets new three-storey library

YANGON, 26 Jan — A ceremony to open the three-storey library of Mawlamyine University took place in front of the library in Mawlamyine, Mon State, yesterday morning. Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee and Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Maung Bo, Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, ministers, deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, social organizations, Rector of Mawlamyine University U San Tint, professors, faculty members, and others.

In explaining why the library was opened, Rector U San Tint said that during the inspection tour of the university on 28-12-1993 the Prime Minister gave instructions that a convocation hall, a library, and buildings around the swimming pool should be built. Now that the library has been completed, researchers, teachers and students can now use it. A total of 106,920 copies of books and periodicals are kept there. Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister for Education U Than Aung formally opened the newly-constructed three-storey library of Mawlamyine University.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveiled the signboard of the library, and the Prime Minister and party viewed round the library. After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party posed for a group photo together with the faculty members of the university and students in front of the library. Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to the convocation hall construction site at the university and heard reports on the architectural design of the convocation hall and progress of construction works. After giving instructions on the architectural designs, the Prime Minister looked into the construction project of the convocation hall.

MNA

U Nay Win presents Credentials to President of ROK

YANGON, 27 Jan — U Nay Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Roh Moo-Hyun, President of the Republic of Korea, on 15 January 2004, in Seoul. — MNA

UMFCCI meets two Thai business bodies

YANGON, 26 Jan — A Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry held meeting with the Federation of Thai Industries and Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here yesterday.

President of the UMFCCI U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Win Aung and U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win, Chair and executives and Deputy Director-General of Foreign Trade Department, Commerce Ministry of Thailand Mr Vichak Vistenoi and officials of the two Thai business bodies discussed investment, trade, farm products, wood and wood-based industries and other sectors.

U Win Myint and party held a separate meeting with Thai businessmen led by Chairman of FTI Mr Plengsakdi Prakasasat.

MNA
MICT Week-2004 continues

YANGON, 26 Jan — The third MICT Week-2004 continued today for the sixth day at MICT Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township here.

Chairman of the central committee for organizing MICT Week-2004 Minister for Communications Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, e-National Task Force Vice-Chairman Civil Service Selection and Training Board member U Aung Myint and officials today visited the exhibition which was packed with all walks of life. It is kept open from 9 am to 5 pm and has been extended up to 31 January. — MNA

Successful realization of the plans depends...

(From page 1)

The Prime Minister and party inspected electronic media (language lab), printed and display media (reading corner), electronic media (video system), printed media (visual presenter) and computer room.

Next, the Prime Minister met with members of Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel and members of social organizations.

First, Chairman of Ye Township Peace and Development Council U Htay Win reported to the Prime Minister on location and area of the township, cultivation of summer paddy, food sufficiency in the region, cultivation of pepper, rubber and beans and pulses, measures being taken in the education and health sectors and requirements.

Township Manager U Khin Maung Aye of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise reported on yearly cultivation of rubber in Ye Township and cultivation of rubber on 580.30 acres of land this year.

After fulfilling the needs in education, health and agriculture sectors, the Prime Minister made a speech saying that he has inspected education, health, transport and development sectors that will contribute towards the development of Ye Township. According to reports presented by officials and the findings, arrangements have been made to build two-storey building in Ye People’s Hospital and provide medical equipment in order to provide better health care services to the people living in the township. Moreover, arrangements have also been made to open rural health centres where necessary, he said.

(See page 10)

Seminar, workshops of MICT Week-2004 go on

YANGON, 26 Jan — The third MICT Week-2004 continued today for the sixth day at MICT Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township here.

The seminar on Wireless & Broadband Applications was held at 9 am at the conference hall and the workshop on Better Software Faster at 1 pm, attended by officials of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists Association and Myanmar Computer Industry Association and those interested in computer science and IT.

Similarly, The final of Myanmar National Counter-Strike Championship-2004 took place at the conference hall. MICT Director Col Tin Oo presented K 2.8 million donated by MICTDC and K 2.52 million by Bagan Cybertech to the winners.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the multimedia classroom at Ye Township Basic Education High School on 25 January. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Convocation Hall Project of Mawlamyine University on 25 January. — MNA

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw visits a booth at MICT Week 2004. — MNA

Myanmar Technology Gateway opens booth at MICT Week 2004. — H

An official takes part in the workshop of MICT Week 2004. — MNA
Successful realization of the plans depends...

Arrangements are also being made to open basic education facilities in rural areas where there are no BEPS and to upgrade the BEPS in other rural areas.

At a time when the government is implementing the five rural development tasks, district and township level officials are to go right down to the grassroots level and strive for regional development and raising the living standard of rural people after realizing the five rural development tasks laid down by the State.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV set, a VCR, a set of computer and teaching aids to the township education officer and medicine to the medical superintendent.

Later, they proceeded to Thanbyuzayat. Col. Khin Maung Si of Thanbyuzayat State local authorities, departments and personnel and members of social organizations welcomed the Prime Minister and party.

The Prime Minister met with members of Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townswomen.

Chairman of Thanbyuzayat Township Peace and Development Division U Thwin Win reported to the Prime Minister on the need and made a speech saying that with the conviction that efforts are to be made for national development, he, accompanied by in-charge of the region and members, was in Kawzaekar and Myaingyin regions in Kayin State and again in Ye, Thanbyuzayat, Mudon and Mawlamyine townships to fulfill the requirements of education, health, social and economic sectors of the townships.

In Ye, he said, arrangements are being made to fulfill the needs in health, social, transport and economic sectors of the township. In Thanbyuzayat also, necessary assistance has been provided for regional development and the success of the five rural development tasks.

The State dignitaries themselves today tour right down to the grassroots level to fulfill the needs and for harmonious development of all regions in the country.

At such a time, officials of states, divisions, districts and townships are to make earnest efforts with goodwill for raising the living standard of local people, he said.

According to the reports, officials in Thanbyuzayat Township are to seek ways and means to realize the goal of regional food sufficiency, he pointed out. Efforts are to be made to meet more success in cultivation of rubber and other crops. Officials at different levels are to supervise the agricultural works such as rubber which is a project item.

On completion of Singapore-Kunming railroad, which will be built in cooperation with ASEAN and China, Phayathonezonthat Thanbyuzayat railroad will emerge and the township will become the hub of the region, he said.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister spoke of the need of officials to form work committees for speedy implementation of development tasks for the township and rural development tasks.

Chairman of MEC Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented TVS, VCRs and a set of computer each for Nos 1 and 2 BEHS in Thanbyuzayat to the headmasters.

At the People’s Hospital in Thanbyuzayat, the Prime Minister and party inspected the medical store, maternity ward and operation theatre.

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to No 1 BEHS in Thanbyuzayat and inspected computer aided in teaching, computer application and e-mail, language lab, display media and printed media, electronic media, video cassette players and domestic science room.

Afterwards, The Prime Minister and party arrived in Mudon where they were welcomed by local authorities and officials. At the town hall, the Prime Minister met with members of Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel and members of social organizations.

Chairman of the Townshp PDC U Kyaw Kyaw Maung reported to the Prime Minister on land use in the township, town acreage, dams and benefited acres, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy in the township, cultivation of perennial crops including rubber, Thitsein (Belleric Myrtohbalan), Sithabyay and pepper, cultivation of beans and pulses and edible oil crops, sea prawn breeding, measures being taken in education and health sectors and requirements.

The Prime Minister attended to the needs and made the following statement saying that with the conviction that efforts are to be made for national development, he, accompanied by in-charge of the region and members, was in Kayin State and again in Ye, Thanbyuzayat, Mudon and Mawlamyine townships to fulfill the requirements of education, health, social and economic sectors of the townships.

In Ye, he said, arrangements are being made to fulfill the needs in health, social, transport and economic sectors of the township. In Thanbyuzayat also, necessary assistance has been provided for regional development and the success of the five rural development tasks.

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Correction

Please read India instead of Australia in the news report "SPDC Vice-Chairman sends felicitations to India" featured on page 1 of 26 January 2004 NLM issue.
Successful realization of the plans depends.

(from page 10)

Officials are to go down to the grass-roots level and provide necessary assistance and should not stay aloof from the general public. Officials are also to find the requirements of the people, and fulfill them if the matter was not the one they could handle, they should inform their superiors and correct matters correctly and quickly. As the Government always learns what the general public need from the central level down to grass-roots level and attends to the requirements, it is incumbent upon officials-in-charge of the townships and departments to put their energy on regional development with the sense of duty and pride.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt donated one television, one video cassette, one CD player and a computer each to Nos 1 & 2 BEHS through the school head. Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party also went to Mudon No 1 BEHS, where he oversaw the projected media and language lab. Next, the Prime Minister and party flew to Mawlamyine by Tatmadaw aircraft and viewed the construction works from the aircraft. On arrival at Maw- lamyine, Prime Minister and party met with local authorities, departmental officials, and members of local organizations at San Hall in Mawlamyine.

On the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung reported to the Prime Minister on arrangements for cultivation of paddy, possible crop yield, cultivation of winter crops to popularize the reclamation of vacant and virgin lands to make Mon State ‘rubber state’, the production of chicken and eggs, the production of marine products. After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said that the purpose of his visit was to meet with local authorities and departmental personnel in Mawlamyine and to inspect the requirements for the development of the state and to explain the situation of the state.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by the minister, the deputy ministers and departmental heads, arrived at Hpa-an, and he and his party fully inspected the construction of the University of Agriculture and Veterinary Technology, and University and Government Technological College. Then, he and his party visited the Mawlamyine region and attended the opening ceremony of the 34-mile Myaung Myaung-Hpa-an road built by Myaung Myaung Sayadaw and wellwishers with the intention of contributing to the development of the State.

Moreover, he met with local authorities and fulfilled the requirements for the development of the areas north of Hpa-an. He and his party also visited Kawkareik and exhorted local authorities to extend agricultural and livestock breeding work that could contribute to the education, health, transport and economic sector of Kawkareik District.

Next, he proceeded to the construction program site of the Thawlin Bridge (Mawlamyine) and attended to the requirements.

He said that he visited Ye, Thanbyuzayat and Mudon townships and travelled to all villages in the state. He also said that, he himself declared the seven-point policy programme of the Government on 18 August, 2003, that it being implemented and that it was important for the future of the national races from all walks of life living in the Union to make concerted efforts for the development of the country.

He emphasized that continuous peace, prevalence of law and order, fulfillment of the basic needs of the people, development and improvement of human resources are fundamental requirements for successful and disciplined democracy.

While trying to fulfill these requirements, he said, we should put our energies into the step-by-step implementation of the seven-point policy programme. In doing so, all the responsible officials at central and decentralized level and township levels should fulfill their responsibilities with the conviction ‘we will surely reach our national goal’. The State is enjoying peace, its life is seen in Kayin State. With mutual understanding, respect, trust and honesty, the whole nation would be peaceful and law and order would prevail all over it.

For the prevalence of law and order and community peace, departmental officials at different levels including members of Myanmar Police Force must reflect the utmost.

The economy of Myanmar, he said, is based on agriculture. Therefore, in fulfilling the fundamental needs of the people, we must try for the success of mechanized farming system and for the establishment of an industrialized nation. He called for cooperation for completion of the projects. He said the government is carrying out regional development tasks for equal and harmonious development of territories and divisions. Dams such as Azin, Winphon and Boof   on the side, the Heads of the Ministry of Agriculture and livestock breeding and economic progress of farmers. Kayah Daily and sluice gate are being built in the region, he added. He said implementation of these projects aim for support of economic life of the country and economic progress of the farmers. He spoke of the need for those in charge of the projects to live up to the objectives of the State.

He said the State will build canals for availability of water and cultivation of summer paddy. Realizing the fact that investments of the people are valuable investment of the people, departmental officials are to make efforts with much main and sense of duty.

The Prime Minister spoke on maintenance of the State. He expressed the hope that the amount of cash and utilization of water in agriculture would increase. He spoke of the need to understand goodwill and measures undertaken by the government and party of Mon State. Departmental officials in the state are to realize the valuable implementation of the State’s objectives.

In conclusion, he called on all to work in harmony for emergence of a peaceful modern democracy. The State is in the interest of the region, he added. The Prime Minister and party arrived back here on 25 January evening. On 24 January, the government and party went to Sasa Beikmandaw in Mawlamyine and paid respect to the Maha Panda Bhaddanta Obbasa. The Prime Minister presented offerings to the needy and widows and orphans.

The Prime Minister and party visited Maha Myatmuni Pagoda and donated cash to it. The Prime Minister and party also visited Kyauktan Pass and donated cash. They also visited Lakawhankang Pagoda, Lawkawaeshaung Pagoda and Hsandawhin Zina- manuang (U Zina) Pagoda. MNA
LNM plans to set up a cold-rolled and coated steel plant in the city of Yingkou, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, in the next two years, according to a memorandum of understanding recently reached between LNM and the management committee of the Yingkou City Economic and Technological Development Zone. –MNA/Xinhua

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TIN SHIN MAR TUN B.A.(Law), B.L.I.L.M.M(UK) P.O Box 109 Ph 24185723434 (For Donnern Somsial & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand) Dated 27 January 2004

Driving safety

* * *

TRADE MARK CAUTION
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Claim Notice Day

MV JATI WANGI PB-400 VOY NO (381)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JATI WANGI PB-400 VOY No (381) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arrviving on 27.1-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be served daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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Britain’s steel giant eyes China market

SHENYANG, 26 Jan — Britain-based LNM Group, the world’s second largest steel producer, has beefed up its efforts to increase its presence in China.

LNM plans to set up a cold-rolled and coated steel plant in the city of Yingkou, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, in the next two years, according to a memorandum of understanding recently reached between LNM and the management committee of the Yingkou City Economic and Technological Development Zone. —MNA/Xinhua
Indian President says Int’l community must fight terrorism

**NEW DELHI, 26 Jan —** Asserting that terrorism cannot be compartmentalized, Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam Sunday night said it was imperative for the international community to come together to combat this menace.

“It is evident, even more than before that terrorism is a global phenomenon transcending borders and regions that requires collective action to combat it,” Kalam said at a banquet he hosted in honour of visiting Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

He said as a long-standing victim of terror, India has repeatedly stressed that “terrorism cannot be compartmentalized and there can be no justification for terrorism on any ground, including ideological, religious, racial, ethnic or any other grounds.

Action must be taken not just against the perpetrators of terrorist attacks but also against those states that support and sponsor such groups or provide them with safe havens.

“India believes that the fight against terrorism has to be long-term, sustained and comprehensive.”

Shanghai adjusts population, birth control policy

**SHANGHAI, 26 Jan —** Shanghai has adjusted its population and birth control policy, giving residents more freedom to control their reproductive activities, the Shanghai Municipal Population and Birth Control Committee has announced.

The revised Shanghai Municipal Population and Birth Control Statute will come into effect on 15 April.

The former statute allowed couples, who were both only children themselves or whose first child was disabled due to non-genetic reasons, to have a second child four years after the first was born.

The four-year time gap has been removed in the revised statute and qualified couples are allowed to have a second child according to their own schedule.

Under the revised policy, women who give birth to their first legitimate child over the age of 24 can enjoy a 30-day paid childbearng leave.

If an only child is disabled or dies before the age of 16 and his or her parents are unwilling to adopt or have a second child, they will receive a government birth control subsidy.

**Number of Mainland visitors enter HK**

**HONG KONG, 26 Jan —** About 21,000 Mainland visitors travelled to Hong Kong individually on Friday, and more are expected to come in the next couple of days, said Hong Kong official here Saturday.

Speaking on a radio talk show, Hong Kong’s Director of Immigration Lai Tung Kwok said that most of the Mainlanders passed through immigration points at about 6 pm and 7 pm.

“Taking into the influx, the immigration and other government departments have set up a command post to monitor the situation. Close liaison with the Guangdong Provincial Tourism Administration will also be maintained,” he said.

Visitor figures will be released on the department’s and the administration’s web sites.

Food firms oppose fat tax amid move to health food

**DAVOS (Switzerland), 26 Jan —** The food industry has recognized obesity as a problem and will develop healthier products, but is strongly opposed to laws that could make junk food more expensive, executives said on Saturday.

Food companies gained support from US Health Secretary Tommy Thompson who believes he does not need to raise taxes to convince food manufacturers to create healthier products, as part of a larger US programme for Americans to lose weight.

“Taxation can have a negative impact on the progress we’re making now,” he said at the World Economic Forum, adding that with companies such as PepsiCo had already helped raise the output of healthy foods.

PepsiCo now generates 60 per cent of its revenues from healthy foods, versus 40 per cent a few years ago, he said. PepsiCo said an extra tax on candy bars in some US states and cities failed to work in the early 1990s.

Unilever Chairman Antonio Burgmans, asked to represent food companies who were accused by the British National Consumer Council of mainly marketing high sugar and fat products to children, said his company had recognized the issue.

“This is serious. It’s a problem. The food industry is prepared to work on a solution. But don’t think taxation (of junk food) is going to sustain it.”

We’ve tried it with tobacco and it failed,” he said.

He said the food industry also needed better labels to tell consumers which elements their products contain.

“That is an area where we can remarkably improve,” Burgmans said.

Obese people, who are seriously overweight, cost the United States 117 billion US dollars in healthcare every year.

Worldwide there are 300 million obese people, while one billion are overweight.

Obesity is linked to all kinds of diseases, including heart disease and diabetes. Some 16 million US citizens are suffering from diabetes and another 17 million almost have it.

Thompson did not rule out that regulation could be implemented if progress through discussion and collaboration with food makers was not effective enough.

He and other policy makers said governments, companies and special interest groups should first work together to promote a mix of measures, including healthier food production and promotion of lifestyles with exercise and healthy eating.

“I’m willing to go down that route as far as it takes us. If it’s not enough, there may be regulation or taxation,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Increasing number of Mainland visitors enter HK

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Visitor figures will be released on the department’s and the administration’s web sites.

**Second rover lands on Mars, sends pictures**

**PASADENA (California), 26 Jan —** NASA’s second Mars rover, Opportunity, fell to a safe landing on an eerie plain called the First Look Site on the Red Planet, scientists said Saturday.

The outcrop, directly in the opposite side of Mars within 150 meters of the landing site, is a “slabby” rock taken hours after the landing by Opportunity’s Spirit’s small rock-seizure arm.

The 6-pound有些岩石在地球上是不可移动的，但是这些岩石在火星上是不可移动的。因此，火星上的这些岩石被认为是不可移动的。
Ravanelli goal fails to save Perugia

Rome, 26 Jan— Former Italy striker Fabrizio Ravanelli celebrated his return to Serie A with a goal though his new club Perugia still lost 2-1 to Siena on Saturday, while promoted Sampdoria beat Reggina 2-0.

Perugia led until the 87th minute, thanks to Ravanelli’s sixth-minute free kick, but late strikes by Tore Andre Flo and Fernando dos Santos gave Siena the three points from time he spilled a cross sent off for a second bookable offence.

Perugia, who have hosted the tournament twice before but never won, predictably attacked early on, and were given extra impetus by the inability of Rwanda goalkeeper Ramadhani Nkunzingoma to clear the ball upfield.

Larsson moves up Celtic scoring charts in 3-1 win

Glasgow, 26 Jan— Swedish striker Henrik Larsson became the third-highest scorer in Celtic’s history when he notched his 220th goal for the unbeaten Scottish Premier League leaders in Saturday’s 3-1 win at Aberdeen.

Larsson’s 43rd minute strike, sandwiched between Stilian Petrov’s 30th minute opener and Stephen Pearson’s third after 57 minutes,— overhauled the 219 managed by the club’s 1967 European Cup winner Steve Chalmers.

It also helped ensure a 20th successive league win for Celtic, who have 61 points from 21 games and are now 14 ahead of champions Rangers in the standings.

Rangers can cut the gap to 11 if they beat Roscommon at home but that will not overly concern Celtic with such a commanding lead.

“I thought there were periods in the game when we played outstanding football,” said manager Martin O’Neill.

“It was a quite easy goal that he got and he looked more like his old self today after not scoring for a few games.”

Larsson trails Bobby Lennox (273) and Jimmy Greary (397) in Celtic’s all-time chart.

Celtic dominated the early exchanges at Pittodrie with John Hartson’s header clawed away by goalkeeper David Preece and Larsson snacking the bar with a shot.

But they made their pressure count when Larsson crossed for Petrov to despatch a volley into the net.

Sampdoria’sThem Can, foreground, fights for the ball with Fenerbahce’s Brazilian striker Marcio Ferreira Nobre in Istanbul, Turkey, on Sunday, 25 Jan, 2004, during their soccer Turkish Super league derby match. Fenerbahce defeated Istanbulspor 1-0.—INTERNET

Ronaldon on target as Real go back top in Spain

Madrid, 26 Jan— Ronaldo scored his 16th league goal of the season to help Real Madrid reclaim top spot on Saturday with a 2-1 win at home to Villarreal.

Argentine midfielder San- tiago Solari, playing in place of the injured Zinedine Zidane, opened the scoring after 14 minutes, squeezing a shot under the body of Villarreal keeper Pepe Reina.

Real continued to press and their second goal came nine minutes into the second half when Guti picked up a loose ball on the edge of the box and passed for Ronaldo to sweep into the roof of the net. Sergio Ballesteros headed in from a corner four minutes from time to give Villarreal hope, but Real held on to extend their perfect home record in the league this season.

Victory for Real took them back above Valencia at the top with 46 points from 21 games. Valencia, with 44 points and a game in hand, will have to win at home to sixth-placed Osasuna on Sunday to reclaim top spot.

Atletico Madrid were looking to consolidate fourth place with victory away to Albacete in a game being played later on Saturday. Villarreal, in fifth place going into the 21st round of matches, failed to live up to their glowing reputation and Real, while hardly playing brilliantly themselves, were able to dominate.

“I think we showed a lot of character and strength in our tackles and in the way we played as a whole,” said Real’s England midfielder David Beckham.

“We have to be happy with our performance. This was always going to be difficult after a week’s Cup game.”

Real’s opening goal owed much to a mistake from Villarreal’s keeper Reina.

Luis Figo set up the chance managing to ride a couple of challenges on the edge of box and supply a pass towards Solari, who fired in from a corner four minutes from time.

Heerenveen move up to fourth after 1-0 win at Vitesse

Amsterdam, 26 Jan— Heerenveen moved up two places to fourth after a 1-0 win at lowly Vitesse Arnhem in the Dutch First Division on Saturday but are 11 points off the pace. Ajax Amsterdam are top with 40 points after 16 matches, three points above PSV Eindhoven, who travel to Groningen on Sunday when the leaders entertain NEC Nijmegen.

AZ Alkmaar, who lost 1-0 at home to ADO Den Haag on Friday as the league resumed following the winter break, stay third on 32 points while Heerenveen have 29 after midfielder Richard Knappper scored the only goal at Vitesse after five minutes.

Fifth-placed Feyenoord host Utrecht on Sunday while Twente Enschede, who also have 28 points, moved above Willem II into sixth place after beating them 3-2 in Tilburg.

Collins John opened the scoring after nine minutes and 55 minutes before James Quinn pulled one back for the struggling visitors.

Bottom club Zwolle lost 3-0 at home to mid-table RBC Roosendaal and are six points adrift of Vitesse, ADO Den Haag and Volendam, who lost 3-2 at NAC Breda, after 17 games.

Russian soccer shocked by Titov’s positive test

Moscow, 26 Jan— Russian soccer officials have said they are shocked after Yegor Titov, one of the country’s most recognized and influen- tial players, failed a drugs test.

The 27-year-old Spartak Moscow captain was handed a 12-month ban from Friday on all UEFA competition matches after he tested positive for the banned stimulant bromantan.

“Tis a bombshell,” Russian soccer chief Vyacheslav Koloskov told Sport newspaper on Saturday. "I got home late on Friday and was ready to go to sleep and then I received this news. It’s just a night- mare.”

Titov, who has 36 caps, tested positive after Russia’s Euro 2004 qualifying playoff first leg against Wales in Moscow on November 15, when he was an unused substitute.

He started the second leg in Cardiff on November 19. Wales are considering whether to appeal against the result, which Russia won 1-0. Spartak say they will appeal against the decision and demand a second test.

The midfielder, who was also fined 6,400 euros (8,122 US dollars) while Rafael received a 12,800-euro (16,240 US dollars) fine, has declined to comment. "I know about it but I will not say anything right now,” he was quoted as saying by Sovetski Sport.

Fellow international Al- exander Mostovoi said: “I was shocked, as everyone. I haven’t spoken to Yegor or anyone else on the team just yet but I only found out about it late last (Friday) night.”

He told the media by telephone from Vigo, Spain.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives delegation led by Thai Minister of Commerce Mr Watana Muangsook at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha — MNA.

**Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Thai Minister of Commerce**

YANGON, 26 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received the visiting delegation led by Thai Minister of Commerce Mr Watana Muangsook at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Transport and Communications Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Planning and Development Maj-Gen Thura U Aung Htet and Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakossal, who has been accredited to Myanmar.

Defence.

**Lao PDR Deputy Prime Minister, wife arrive on official visit**

YANGON, 26 Jan — At the invitation of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of the Union of Myanmar Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisoulith and wife Madame Naly Sisoulith arrived today by air this evening on a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar.

The Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and wife and members of the delegation were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swi and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakossal, who has been accredited to Myanmar.

MNA.

**Pansay Bridge inaugurated in Mandalay Division**

YANGON, 26 Jan — An inauguration of Pansay Bridge constructed on the road to the Mandalay International Airport by bridge construction project special group-14 of Public Works, the Ministry of Construction was held at the Mingala Bridge near the bridge in Tada-U Township Mandalay Division this morning, with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, officials of the Ministry of Construction, local authorities, social organizations, students and local people numbering 7,000.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint delivered an address. He said Pansay Bridge lies on the road to Mandalay International Airport. The bridge leads to Innwa Bridge from the international airport.

There are two bridges across Dokhtawady River and Pansay Creek.

Dokhtawady River Bridge was opened on 26 January 1999. Air passengers from Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Amarapura can easily go to the airport directly. Air passengers from Monywa, Shwebo and Sagaing can go to the airport in no time through the bridge.

He said after the Tatmadaw government had taken up State duties, altogether 166 bridges which are 180 feet and above were built. The bridge is the seventh one in Mandalay Division. Zawgyi River Bridge, Dokhtawady River Bridge, Panlaung Bridge, Samonpaik Bridge, Tanga Bridge and newly opened Pansay Bridge are famous. Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is being built, he said.

Transport tasks which are basic for regional and national development were implemented one after another on self-reliance basis under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

Myanmar engineers/built transport infrastructures such as new airports, roads, bridges and jetties and upgraded old airports. By doing so, transport between states and divisions will become easier. Highways on which one can go from Putao-Myitkyina-Mandalay-Yangon-Mawlamyine-Dawei have emerged. One can travel from Myitkyina to Dawei by rail.

He said transport is the most important and the most basic requirement in development of an region. With better transport, trade and manufacturing sectors will develop and regional economy also improve. He said roads and bridges have linked all the regions of the Union. He called for active participation in efforts for (See page 10).

**Prime Minister, wife goodwill visit**

Daw Khin Thet Htay, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Ambassador of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisoulith and the staff of the Laos Embassy in Yangon.

The Laotian Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Phongsavat Bounpa, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Mr Sitaheng Lasaphom, Deputy Head of Prime Minister’s Office Mr Bovienghkham Vengdala, Governor of Luang Namtha Mr Senghong Vongkhamchahn, Governor of Boko Province Mr Khammann Sonvilieuth and other high-level officials. — MNA.

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