Preserve fine traditions of unity

It is the most important and noble duty of every citizen of the Union to preserve the fine traditions of unity forged among the national brethren with mutual understanding during the anti-colonialist and anti-fascist movements and the independence struggle.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 46th Anniversary Union Day)

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

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

Efficient use of 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

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.

Yangon ICT Week (2004) has been extended up to 31 January 2004

MNA
Iraqi bombings kill six US soldiers

Baghdad, 28 Jan—The United Nations agreed Tuesday to send a team to Iraq to help break the impasse over electing a new government, as the deaths of six more American soldiers in roadside bombings underscored concerns about security in the volatile nation.

A bomb that exploded south of Baghdad killed three US soldiers and wounded three others Tuesday night, hours after another bombing west of the capital killed 13 Iraqis and wounded one, the military said. In addition, two employees of Cable News Network died in a shooting south of Baghdad. Elsewhere, US troops killed three suspected members of a guerrilla cell during raids Tuesday in the central Iraqi town of Beiji, the army said. And a suspected car bomb was discovered near coalition and Iraqi Governing Council offices.

The United States has cited the on-going violence in arguing against demands by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani for the direct election of a provisional legislature, which in turn will select a government to take power by July 1.

US casualties feared in Iraq blasts

Baghdad, 28 Jan—A roadside bomb exploded next to a passing US military convoy west of the Iraqi capital on Tuesday, and a second bomb went off when reinforcements arrived, damaging vehicles and inflicting several casualties, witnesses said.

The US military confirmed a “large explosion” and said there were possibly US and Iraqi civilian casualties. The attack occurred in Khalidiyah, 50 miles west of Baghdad. The town is near Fallujah, a hotspot of guerrilla activity where several attacks have taken place since the US-led coalition forces left.

“The local security forces were attacked by a second vehicle,” he said.

As more American forces came to the scene, another bomb went off, setting fire to a second vehicle, he said.

In the同时, the Americans fired randomly, he said, and claimed that many Iraqis were killed. This could not be immediately confirmed.

A second vehicle, he said.

The last serious attack in Khalidiyah took place on Saturday when a car bomb killed three American soldiers at a checkpoint and injured six in addition to several Iraqi civilians. Two other American soldiers were killed in Fallujah on the same day. Khalidiyah 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.

Tourism boom, neglect devouring China’s Great Wall

Beijing, 28 Jan—Booming tourism, neglect and inadequate funds for protection is nibbling away China’s Great Wall and just one third of it remains, a report said.

Only one third of the 6,500 kilometres of the world-famous Great Wall now exists and the length is still deteriorating, it says. The Great Wall, one of the seven wonders of the world, was first built in the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) as a major defensive project and rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Surviving the times, the Great Wall was listed as a world cultural heritage site in 1987 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The most recent case of damage happened last December in Hebei Province, North China, Xinhua news agency reported. A survey team found that a 14-metre-long breach had occurred at the 600-year-old Hongyikou section of the Great Wall. The blocks removed from the Great Wall rampart had been set aside and on both sides of the breach, two sections of 1,000-metre-new cement wall replaced the original wall.

Investigation showed that the project was part of the planned Hongyikou villa project, which was unauthorized by any cultural relic department.

Many farmers along the Great Wall do not even know that the structure is under state protection. Wall bricks become their courtyard walls and even pig pens in some remote areas. Boosting tourism, in itself, has increased the burden on the Great Wall. The Wall has offered popular scenic spots and brought huge profits in recent years.

Statistics show that it receives about 10 million visitors every year all over the country.

Vietnam, Malaysia agree to boost multi-faceted ties

Hanoi, 28 Jan—Vietnam and Malaysia have agreed to further enhance their friendly relations and multi-faceted cooperation ties, especially economic ones.

The consensus was reached when Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai held talks with his visiting Malaysian counterpart Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday, according to the Vietnam News Agency on Monday.

Khai said Malaysia is experienced in apparatus organization, industrial development and international integration, the three fields Vietnam can learn from.

The two countries should build a coordination mechanism to deal with issues of mutual concern to strengthen bilateral cooperation, he said.

Khai also agreed with Badawi’s suggestion that Vietnam and Malaysia will revise the aviation agreement the two countries have already signed to facilitate travel of tourists between the two countries.

Badawi said Malaysia would like to expand economic cooperation with and continuous investment in Vietnam, especially in construction of roads, bridges and wharves, exploitation of oil and gas, and manpower training.

Zimbabweans urge coordinated approach to export market in Africa

Harare, 28 Jan—Zimbabwe’s trade promotion body, Zimtrade, on here Monday called for a coordinated and integrated approach towards export market in Africa. Zimtrade chief executive Freddy Chawasarira said that a national thrust and appeal was required if Zimbabwe was to strongly compete with other players and make a mark in the export market. “The South African manufacturers, for example, work together to make sure that a distribution channel is established in a market,” he said.

US soldiers ride past Iraqi women during a patrol on Baghdad’s Shauda square on 27 January. Two CNN employees were killed when their two-car convoy was attacked. —In.Printf
Female US soldiers under fire in Iraq

Baghdad, 28 Jan—The roadside bomb near the main American military base here killed one woman soldier and turned attention to the new role American women are playing in the war in Iraq.

The nature of the conflict, with US soldiers facing guerrillas, not conventional troops, has blurred military traditions, and put usually rear echelon troops such as the military police — with their large contingent of women — under direct enemy fire, along with the infantry, special forces and other front line troops.

Although women are barred from front line units, more than 10 Americans women soldiers have died in Iraq since US-led troops invaded in March. Many others have been wounded.

On 1 Oct, the dangers to women soldiers in Iraq struck home for the US Army’s 4th Infantry Division when Pvt. Analaura Esparza of Houston, 21, of Humvee near Takrit, former leader Saddam Hussein’s hometown and a centre of resistance to US forces.

She was the first woman from the division to die in Iraq. At the same time, the quick thinking and bravery shown by Gutierrez’s friend and fellow support soldier, Spc Karen Guckert, saved two troops injured in the blast and won a US Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

“We were deeply moved when we lost Analaura Esparza,” Lt Col Steve Gutierrez, 21, of Houston, was killed as a roadside bomb struck her Humvee near Takrit, former leader Saddam Hussein’s hometown and a centre of resistance to US forces.

But Guckert and some other women serving in Iraq have different feelings about the dangers facing women soldiers.

“Infantrymen say to me they couldn’t handle seeing a female getting hurt because it would remind them of their sister, aunt or wife,” said Guckert, 24, of Yakima, Wash.

“I understand their point, but at the same time we are all soldiers and we can all die for our country. So we can’t we fight for our country?”

Many female soldiers like Guckert acknowledge that the physical stresses of combat, which include carrying packs close to their own weight for long distances or lifting men wounded in action, might prove too tough for some women.

But women, particularly military police soldiers who have been trudging Iraq streets and conducting house raids for months, say this conflict has provided them with the same tasks as any infantryman.

“Any soldier out here is at risk, whether they are male or female or infantry, military police or anything else,” said Lt Amanda Lee Dorsey, a 25-year-old military police officer from Hickory Hills, Ill.

Oil prices fall as US freeze eases

London, 28 Jan—Oil prices eased further from recent 10-month highs on Monday after a forecaster predicted a deep chill in the United States, the world’s thirstiest oil consumer, would loosen its grip and lower demand for heating fuel.

London Brent crude was down 46 cents at 30.50 US dollars a barrel, while US light crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell 37 cents to 34.57 US dollars a barrel.

Freezing weather in the US Northeast, a huge consumer of heating oil, last week pushed US crude above 36, its highest since the Iraq war.

By next week, some of the extreme cold could abate with temperatures rising later this week to just 0-3 degrees Fahrenheit below normal for the time of year versus 6-12 degrees below normal on Monday, forecaster Meteorlogix said.

China, France vow to work for solution of global issues

Paris, 28 Jan—China and France have agreed to work for the solution of global issues in a joint declaration signed Tuesday by visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao and his French counterpart, Jacques Chirac.

On promotion of sustainable development, the two countries agreed to seek concerted efforts to fulfill the millennium development targets set by the United Nations in September 2000, and strive to eliminate poverty, hunger, diseases, environment degradation, illiteracy and discrimination against women.

On environment protection, China and France reaffirmed their support for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, recalling that both have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, the two countries reaffirmed their intention to enviromental issues, the two countries support the strengthening of the role of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and broad discussions on the reform of the UNEP.

In the joint declaration, the two countries voice their support to balanced international trade and globalization based on mutual benefit. They also reiterate their emphasis on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the multilatera l trade system.

The two countries agree that the WTO is the only legitimate body to make trade rules.

The two countries are committed to establishing a fair, just and open international trade order within the framework of the WTO, strengthening consultations and cooperation in relevant fields, and helping developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, genuinely integrate into the multilateral trade system and the world economy.

In view of the fact that globalization often brings about negative socio-economic consequences, the two countries reiterate their support to the concern of social problems and globalization based on mutual benefit and fair trade, to ultimately meet the target of eliminating poverty and ensuring sustainable development.

EU, Canada back world trade talks, bilateral deal

Brunelles, 28 Jan — The European Union still believes world trade talks can be wrapped up by this year, despite the collapse in negotiations in 2003, European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said recently.

After a meeting with his new Canadian counterpart James Peterson, the two men also said they hoped officially to launch talks on a trade and investment agreement at a summit in March.

“What I believe is that for sure completing the round this year is much more difficult now than it was before Cancun,” Lamy told a news conference, referring to the meeting in the Mexican resort where the global trade talks collapsed.

“This being said, it is not impossible,” he added, noting that all members of the World Trade Organization believed that getting a deal, which aims to further liberalize global commerce, was a good idea.

He said the EU was in a “real hurry” to get the talks going again and wanted the time lost after Cancun to be made up by March or April.

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UN envoy warns against premature polls in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan—UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi said on Tuesday premature elections in Iraq could do more harm than good and signalled he would not play the kind of leadership role there that Washington wanted him to play.

“If you get your priorities wrong, elections are a very divisive process,” said Brahimi, speaking at a luncheon sponsored by UN groups before talks with senior White House officials later in the day.

“They create tensions. They create competition. And in a country that is not stable enough to take that ... one has to achieve this we need a genuine commitment from the military to engage in constructive dialogue and quickly resolve outstanding issues.”

Reuters said Brahimi sent a letter to the US Department of Defence on Tuesday expressing Reuters “growing frustration at the US military’s failure to address its concerns about the safety of journalists in Iraq, and to answer its requests for more information regarding incidents which have cost or endangered their lives.”

Two Reuters cameramen have been killed in Iraq by US troops.

The US Army has said it is investigating the arrest and treatment of the Reuters team near Fallujah on January 2.

The detained Reuters staff were Baghdad-based cameraman Salem Uzeili, Fallujah-based freelance television journalist Ahmad Mohammad Hussein al-Badrani and driver Sattar Jabar al-Badrani. A freelance cameraman with the US network NBC was also detained.

The Reuters crew said US troops fired in their direction as they were covering the aftermath of a helicopter crash, and later detained them. — MNA/Reuters

US offer second wave of Iraq contracts to all

PARIS, 28 Jan—The United States on Tuesday opened the door to French companies to bid for a second wave of US-funded re-construction contracts in Iraq.

US Commerce Under-secretary for International Trade Grant Aldonas, in Paris to improve US trade relations with France, said he had discussed opening up the bidding with French Trade Minister Francois Loos.

“There will be a second tranche of contracts, which I expect will be opened more broadly to all companies.” — MNA/Reuters

Three US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan—Three US soldiers were killed on Tuesday by a roadside bomb attack on a convoy south of Baghdad, the US military said, bringing the day’s death toll for the US occupying forces to six.

Three other soldiers were wounded in the attack at approximately 8.00 pm (1700 GMT) near Iskandariya, about 30 miles south of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. In an earlier attack on Tuesday, three US soldiers had been killed by a roadside bomb east of Baghdad.

At least 520 American soldiers have died since the US-led invasion of Iraq last March. 361 in combat.

Three CNF staff were also killed in an ambush south of Baghdad on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

Parmalat debt eight times more than managers said

MILAN/LONDON, 28 Jan—Parmalat on Monday said its net debt was 14.3 billion euros (17.6 US dollars) before it collapsed last month — almost eight times the amount claimed by its former managers, many of whom are now under arrest.

Parmalat’s barred former chief suggested that debt holders may recover less than 10 per cent of face value. The food company also said auditors PriceWaterhouseCoopers had found that its earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization in the nine months to September 30 were 121 million euros, a fifth of the result reported officially.

Prosecutors leading a fraud investigation have said Parmalat’s top management routinely misled markets, faked bank documents and inflated revenue for over a decade. They estimated debts could total as much as 13 billion euros.

By comparison, the analysts, said, some bondholders of bankrupt US energy trading company Enron recovered 10 cents on the dollar after taking legal action.

Using Parmalat’s figures on Monday and making various assumptions, he calculated the group’s value at 3.3 billion euros, leaving 800 million euros to be split by holders of 11.8 billion euros in bonds after 2.5 billion euros are paid to creditors and banks. Previous estimates of recovery rates for Parmalat debt assumed net debt of 10 billion euros and ranged from 30 per cent to 50 per cent.

Parmalat founder Calisto Tanzi, two former finance directors and two outside auditors are among 11 people arrested so far in the case. No one has yet been charged.

Tanzi, 65, returned to jail on Monday on his request pending questioning on Monday. — MNA/Reuters

Brahimi also said that he would be working on Iraq in his current role as an adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, but he said: “To take responsibility for Iraq, no, that’s not in the cards.”

The United States is pressuring Brahimi, who just finished a two-year stint as chief UN envoy in Afghanistan, to assume a central role in organizing elections in a country that is not stable enough to take that kind of attack.

“We think it absolutely necessary that this be addressed. We would welcome the opportunity to have a constructive discussion with the US military on how we can work together to reverse this disturbing trend,” he said in a statement.

To achieve this we need a genuine commitment from the military to engage in constructive dialogue and quickly resolve outstanding issues.”

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The Reuters crew said US troops fired in their direction as they were covering the aftermath of a helicopter crash, and later detained them. — MNA/Reuters

US and Iraqi soldiers guard the ‘Assassins’ Gate entrance to the US-led coalition’s headquarters in Baghdad on 27 Jan. — MNA/Reuters

“The risk of hip fractures was reduced by between 38 per cent and 81 per cent while the risk of non- spinal fractures was cut by between 5 per cent and 51 per cent in four large studies reviewed. Such fractures are often blamed on osteoporosis- weakened aging bones. A re-examination of eight other studies was consistent with the finding that statin users suffered fewer fractures, but two other clinical trials did not support it. — MNA/Reuters

Study finds cholesterol drug may prevent bone fractures

CHICAGO, 28 Jan—Statins, a class of drugs used to treat high cholesterol, reduced the risk of bone fractures in elderly women in some studies, though proof of the benefit requires further research, a report published on Monday said.

The US military issued a statement saying “enemy personnel posing as media” had fired on US troops in the area. But after the release of the team three days later, the US Army said there was no credible evidence that they had been involved in any kind of attack.

“The safety of journalists in Iraq is not improving. The detention and mistreatment of our staff combined with the military’s highly charged statements have only served to raise the risks for all journalists working in Iraq,” Schlesinger said.

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Guatemalan police seize over 900 kilos of cocaine

MEXICO Cty, 28 Jan—Guatemalan police recently seized more than 900 kilos of cocaine that were being transported in a motorboat across the Usamacinta River on one of the border area post offices, reports reaching here said recently.

The shipment was the biggest one that has been seized since the beginning of the year, retired General Otto Perez, the Guatemalan De- fence and Security Commis- sioner, told the Press in Guat- emala City. — MNA/Xinhua

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Parmalat’s euro-denominated bond due in 2010 was bid six percentage points lower at 12 per cent of face value on Monday. Its bonds in dollars lost nearly half their remaining value in New York and were quoted at 11 cents to 12 cents on the dollar.

Parmalat shares have been suspended indefinitely. “I estimate bondholder recovery to be under 7 per cent,” said an analyst of dis-
Iraqi deaths resulting from cluster bombs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Death Toll</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23-3-2003</td>
<td>Nassiriya</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-3-2003</td>
<td>Najaf</td>
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<td>6-4-2003</td>
<td>Karbala</td>
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<td>7-4-2003</td>
<td>Baghdad</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-4-2003</td>
<td>Baghdad</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-4-2003</td>
<td>Dibs District</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-4-2003</td>
<td>Nassiriya</td>
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<td>up-to 20-4-2003</td>
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<td>26-4-2003</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The danger of cluster bombs

According to an AFP report, the British forces were responsible for the use of over 2,000 cluster bombs during the Iraq conflict last year. Cluster bombs are weapons comprising a container which breaks apart to drop a shower of bomblets. Released from high altitudes, they can wander off their target. Some also do not explode immediately, but litter the ground with bomblets with the potential to go off years later.

Iraq under US and allies’ occupation: Weapons of American terrorism: cluster bomb

An unexploded portion of a cluster bomb lies in the Seybiran area, some 40km south from northern Iraq’s town of Arbil, on 8 May, 2003.

Jaudet Abdul Katham, 22, who lost his left leg when he stepped on a cluster bomb while walking with friends in Khadmiya, western Baghdad, recuperates in the wing for victims of cluster bombs at Quaddamiyyah Hospital, in the wing for victims of cluster bombs, April 19, 2003.
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day

Development images of Shan State (South) in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

The Department of Electric Power under the Ministry of Electric Power is implementing the hydel-power project using water of Kengtwang Waterfalls on Nanttain Creek in Mongnai Township, Loilem District, Shan State (South). On completion, it will be able to generate 472 million kWh per year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Sector</th>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>Highland cultivation</td>
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<td>Industrial zone</td>
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Panglong University which was opened on 11 February 2003.

Langkho Bridge, 290 feet long and 24 feet wide, in Daseik, Langkho Township, Shan State (South).

Heho Airport in Shan State (South) which was upgraded on 12 October 2003.
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Haigyi Island in June 1687. At that time the French, like the British, tried to settle on Myanmar soil under the pretext of trade. During U Aung Zeya (Alaungminnya) period, the attempts of the British and the French grew bigger and bigger. In those days ocean-going ships were built of wood. They found that if a ship was built of teak, it would be more durable. Cutting of teak started in order to build the ships with the use of Myanmar teak. Later, the British and French trading companies took hold of cutch, sealing wax and other forest products and precious stones. In April 1753, the British East India Co settled on Dalla, the port towns. He had a scheme to annex the whole Myanmar. First, he was to occupy Pyay and then Ava.

After the annexation of Toungoo, he took Natshinhaungnyaw away to Thanlyin. It was De Britto’s blatant act of imperialism targeting Myanmar. In 1627 AD, the Dutch, the British and the Frenchmen entered Myanmar. On learning the profits of the Dutch East India Co, the British East India Co decided to open a trade centre in Myanmar. From that time on, they set foot on Myanmar soil.

Under the name of trading, the British East India Co made continued efforts to be able to enjoy the privileges. The British East India Co at Madras Fort St George made an attempt to establish a military and economic base in Haiggy Island near Pathein in 1696 AD. The warship under the command of by Captain Anthony Welden occupied Haigyi Island while the French regularly extracted Myanmar teak opening a trade centre in Thanlyin. In 1756, the British sent Ensign Robert Laster to take acre of economic and military affairs not only in Haiggy Island but also was also killed. In 1756, Alaungminnya made preparations to attacking Thanlyin. The French did not want to relinquish Thanlyin. Therefore, they asked their governor for reinforcements. The French urged Alaungminnya to make a blatant act of imperialism. He named himself as a king and ruled Thanlyin. He also occupied Pathein and Pathein and Yangon. He tried to request audience with Alaungminnya many times in Myanmar, Hinthada and Pathein during Alaungminnya’s tour of the Delta. He also tried to establish an official base of the British East India Co on Myanmar soil. Meanwhile, the company stockpiled Myanmar teak logs at Haiggy Island.

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In 1756, the British East India Co sent three ships. But Alaungminnya captured the ships and seized arms and ammunition from them. Myanmar troops executed imperialist French officials. The French scheme to occupy Myanmar ended thus for the time being.

After the end of the first Anglo-Myanmar war which started in 1824, some parts of Myanmar were lost. The national races raged against it. It was a disgrace for the first time because of the imbalance in the fire power. It was a blow to national pride and there was burning anti-imperialist spirit among the people. All patriotic national races fought the British. In 1852, the imperialists gave various excuses to create the second Anglo-Myanmar War (1852-1853). Mottama fell into the hands of the British on 5 April, Yangon on 14 April, Pathein on 19 May and Pyay in October.

In November and December, the British troops occupied Thayet and Myede. After the end of the second Anglo-Myanmar War (1852-1853), all seaports fell. Myanmar could make contact with the outside world only with the permission of the British. The fall of the lower Myanmar into the hands of the British marked the change from feudalism to capitalism. Myanmar was not able to avoid the tide of capitalism. Therefore, King Mindon, Prince Kanaung and some ministers began to make capitalist-like reforms.

At the end of 1854, King Mindon sent a Myanmar diplomatic mission led by Mingyi Maha Minhaung Raza to governor-general Lord Dalhousie in Calcutta and demanded that all towns and villages occupied by the British be returned to Myanmar. Lord Dalhousie flatly turned down the request of Myanmar diplomatic mission saying that the towns and villages had to be occupied for the sake of their security and interest. In his reply, Lord Dalhousie said that as long as the sun shines in the world, the regions demanded by Myanmar would never be returned to the Myanmar king.

The statement was too haughty. At that time on 7 August 1853, French lieutenant Dor Gorni sent by the French Government arrived in Mandalay. He said his government would carry out the tasks according to the wishes of Myanmar king. He left and arrived in Amarapura on 4 June 1855 for the second time.

King Mindon sent a diplomatic mission including Myanmar ministers accompanying Dor Gorni to France.

Imperialists’ instigations and interferences in Myanmar during Konbaung period

In 1756, the British East India Co settled on Hainggyi Island but also occupied Pathein and Yangon. He tried to request audience with Alaungminnya many times in Myanmar, Hinthada and Pathein during Alaungminnya’s tour of the Delta. He also tried to establish an official base of the British East India Co on Myanmar soil. Meanwhile, the company stockpiled Myanmar teak logs at Haiggy Island.

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Soe Thein (Myanma Alin)
Imperialists’ instigations and interferences in Myanmar during Konbaung period

The purpose of the mission was to secure support of the French Emperor Napoleon III in King Mindon’s demand for the return of the occupied regions from the British. The mission also carried out military and economic affairs. Later, it purchased materials for reconstruction of a gun powder factory and a saw mill.

King Mindon began to make a long-term plan to fight the British. He introduced the economy based on industry. In response to the sending of Myanmar diplomatic mission to Calcutta in the mid-1855, Lord Dalhousie made preparations for the establishment of a Myanmar market by sending a diplomatic mission led by Arthur Phayre to Myanmar.

The British wanted to seize the opportunity to trade freely in upper Myanmar. They had strong desire to trade with China by land through Myanmar. Arthur Phayre’s mission arrived in Mandalay for talks to conclude a commercial treaty for the second time.

King Mindon had to agree to sign the commercial treaty. The treaty was signed on 10 November 1862. The British thus got permission to freely do businesses in Myanmar.

The area around about the signing of the agreement between Myanmar and France, the British became restless. The British saw nothing to protest against the French in connection with the treaty. But they suspected that there would be another treaty signed secretly between them. The British government thus assigned duties to British Ambassador Lord Lyons to hold talks with French Foreign Affairs Minister Jules Ferry. The talks took place in summer and in autumn in 1883.

The British ambassador said that his government wanted France to sign commercial treaty only and that France should not sell arms and ammunition to Myanmar. According to the geographical position of Myanmar, the British government took great interest in Myanmar affairs. The French interest could be just nominal, he said. In May 1884, the British government informed French Foreign Affairs Minister Jules Ferry that it would strongly protest the French government if France signed a treaty on political understanding and formation of a special alliance with Upper Myanmar.

On 1 June 1885, French Consul Mr Monsieur Hass arrived in Mandalay. The friendly ties between the two countries resulted in bilateral cooperation covering construction of a railroad between Mandalay and Toungoo, establishment of banks and a military agreement.

On 15 January 1885, French and Myanmar officials signed another commercial treaty. On that day Mr Jules Ferry handed a secret letter dated 15-1-1885 sent by French Prime Minister to Myanmar foreign minister. The letter said that appropriate arrangements on transport of materials, rounds of ammunition and arms would be made between the two governments. The British could not bear to see the role of French. They were worried that France could expand its domination in Asia, especially in Myanmar. Therefore, they sought excuses to occupy Myanmar as soon as possible.

The British sent a note with an ultimatum to Myanmar. They set an ultimatum to Myanmar for the end of 15 January. The British government thus assigned duties to British Ambassador Lord Lyons to hold talks with French Foreign Affairs Minister Jules Ferry. The talks took place in summer and in autumn in 1883.

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Then they concentrated their efforts on termination of the relations between Myanmar and France. They set an ultimate target to solely make domination and manipulation on Myanmar’s economic and political affairs.

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Laotian goodwill delegation visits Hlinethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 28 Jan — Accompanied by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, Laotian goodwill delegation led by Dr Thongloun Sisolith, Visiting Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, visited the management office at Hlinethaya Industrial Zone this morning.

They were welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Director-General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Aung Kyaw and officials.

At Kanaung Hall of the office, the deputy minister extended greetings to the visiting delegation and gave an account of the industrial zone. The visiting delegation then visited FAME medicine factory in the zone-3. The factory manager and officials welcomed the visiting Laotian delegation and briefed on the production process of the medicines at the factory. Later, the visiting Laotian delegation was conducted round the factory.

Afterwards, the visiting delegation left the factory at 10 am. — MNA

Seminar on Understanding Myanmar concluded

YANGON, 28 Jan — The second day session of the Seminar on understanding Myanmar, organized by the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, was conducted at MIC Park in Hlne Township today.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Aung Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, ambassadors from foreign missions in Yangon, retired ambassadors, historians, economists, rectors and professors, researchers from Bruen, Chinese, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA and Vietnam, resource persons, officials and invited guests.

The papers read today were: ‘Priorities in Myanmar Foreign Policy’ by Director-General U Thaung Tun of Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ‘Cooperation with the United Nations’ by Director-General U Win Mna of Myanmar International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ‘Women in Myanmar’ by Professor (Retd) Dr Daw Khin Aye Win of Yangon University, ‘Historical and cultural aspects’ by Director-General (Retd) Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and ‘Human rights in Myanmar’ by Ambassador Dr Kyaw Win.

After the presentations, the academicians and researchers from home and abroad collectively participated in discussions on respective papers.

Chairman of Myanmar ISSIS Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung made concluding remarks and the seminar came to a close.

The participants led by the minister will tour Upper Myanmar to observe development of border areas tomorrow.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views dentals medicines and equipment at the opening ceremony. — MNA

MDA Conference begins

YANGON, 28 Jan — The 24th Conference of the Myanmar Dental Association and the fifth joint educational meeting of the World Dental Federation (FDI) and MDA began at the Traders Hotel here this morning.

President of MDA Prof U Kyaw Win, Dr Cho Choo Teck Chuan of FDI and Reception Professor Dr Thein Tun gave speeches.

MDA members read out the messages and presented reports.

An new executive committee with Prof U Ba Myint as the president, Prof Dr Thein Tun vice-president, and Prof U Myo Win as general secretary, was elected. The FDI-MDA meeting was held in the afternoon.

Twenty-two resource persons from the country and abroad will read papers at the meeting that continues till 31 January. — MNA

Energy Minister leaves for India, Malaysia

YANGON, 28 Jan — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi left here by air this morning to attend a meeting on prospects of bilateral energy cooperation in India and a meeting on natural gas development work programmes of offshore oil fields in Malaysia.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, departmental heads of the Ministry of Energy, and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and party being seen off at the airport. — ENERGY
MFF holds executive meeting

YANGON, 28 Jan — Myanmar Football Federation held its executive meeting No 1/2004 at the national football training camp (Thuwunna) here this morning.

Present at the meeting were MFF Patrons Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and U Aung Ko Win, the chairman, vice-chairmen and executives and MFF Patrons Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and U Aung Ko Win and Chairman U Win Aung spoke at the meeting.

Vice-Chairman of MFF Lt-Col Maung Ko, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Sports, and the executives presented reports. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and U Win Aung fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Rice Milling Development Committee holds work co-ordination meeting

YANGON, 28 Jan — The rice milling development committee held its 3/2004 work coordination meeting at the Ministry of Commerce this morning.

Present were the rice milling development committee member for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Chairman of rice milling development committee Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, member Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyen, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, Myanmar Rice Merchants Association and guests.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone spoke on formation of the rice milling development committee. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun took part in the discussions. Chairmen of various subcommittees reported on future tasks and requirements. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

MWAF national races affairs working group meets

YANGON, 28 Jan — The working group for national races affairs of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held its second work coordination meeting at the meeting hall-1 at the Institute of Nursing here this afternoon.

Vice-President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe delivered an opening address at the meeting, followed by talks given by working group leader Prof Dr Daw May Win Aung Khin.

Secretary of the group Daw L Khin Yi submitted the resolutions of the previous meeting. Matters related to the drawing of a year-long work programme of the working group were also discussed and then approved. — MNA

Divisional Organization for Womens’ Affairs clarifies sector-wise tasks

YANGON, 28 Jan — Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs clarified sector-wise tasks to Yangon South District Organization for Women’s Affairs at the Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Office this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay, President Daw Cherry Ye Khang and members, Yangon South District Organization for Women’s Affairs President Daw Le Le Chit and members, officials and guests.

Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay spoke on the occasion. Next, the leaders of the working groups for education, health, economy and environmental conservation took part in the discussions on respective sectors. — MNA
Over 5,000 flood victims evacuated in Sarawak

KHLA LAMPER, 28 Jan — A total of 5,000 victims in flood-hit areas in Sarawak State were evacuated to higher grounds as flood conditions there worsened. State’s Deputy Chief Minister George Chan said on Monday.

With the additional 1,300 victims evacuated in Kuching and Samarahan, the number of evacuees increased to 5,500 till Monday, Chan told reporters in Kuching, capital of the state.

“Heavy rain (300 millilitres) which fell over the last 24 hours saw water levels rising in various areas around Kuching, dashing any hope of a quick relief to those affected,” he said. Rescue workers were working overtime to transfer those trapped by rising waters, he added.

“We do not have enough boats to ferry those affected. We urge those with boats to come forward and assist the rescue operations. We have opened 56 relief centres and another 200 mini centres to accommodate those affected by the floods,” he said.

It is reported the police station in Bau Town not far from Kuching was also closed after being submerged by flood waters.

Chan, who chairs the State Disaster Committee, added that heavy rain was expected to continue for the next two or three days although satellite pictures indicated that dark clouds hovering over Sarawak for the last few days had ceased to support the disease spreading further. Under the strict measures, all poultry within a five-kilometre radius of areas where infected birds have been detected will be killed and chickens within a 50-kilometre radius would be banned from being transported.

The report said about 10 million chickens in farms of the provinces, the state-run Channel 9 reported.

He told reporters that from about 40,000 samples, laboratory tests indicated that some chickens, ducks, quails and fighting cocks from eight epidemic zones.

The first confirmed cases were discovered in the central province of Sukhothai, Uthaithani and Phetchaburi provinces on Monday that eight more provinces would be declared bird flu epidemic zones as new infected cases have been found in farms of the provinces, the state-run Channel 9 reported.

He said the solution to this problem is the development of new vaccines which the government is promoting.

The Thai Government announced on 23 January that it had found bird flu cases and the virus had not spread among millions of chickens in farms but only to a few thousand, one of whom died of bird flu Monday morning.

Thailand to declare eight more provinces as bird flu epidemic zone

BANGKOK, 28 Jan — Thai Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives Minister Somskat Lethamauy reported Monday that eight more provinces would be declared bird flu epidemic zones as new infected cases have been found in farms of the provinces, the state-run Channel 9 reported.

He told reporters that from about 40,000 samples, laboratory tests indicated that some chickens, ducks, quails and fighting cocks from eight epidemic zones including Ayutthaya, Singburi, ChaiNat, Kamphangphet, Phichit, Sukhothai, Uthai Thani and Phitsanulok were infected by the H5N1 virus.

Including the eight, a total of 10 provinces in Thailand have been affected by the virus, particularly in the lower northern region, he said, adding that all the 10 provinces would be declared epidemic zones.

The first confirmed cases of avian flu were found in the central province of Suphan Buri, while later cases were discovered in the nearby province of Kanchanaburi.

Somskat noted that the officials of the ministry would cooperate with soldiers to use strict measures to stop the disease spreading further.

Under the strict measures, all poultry within a five-kilometre radius of areas where infected birds have been detected will be killed and chickens within a 50-kilometre radius would be banned from being transported.

The report said about 10 million chickens have been sold so far in the first two provinces confirmed bird flu epidemic zones.

The Thai Government announced on 23 January that it had found bird flu cases and the virus had not spread among millions of chickens in farms but only to a few thousand, one of whom died of bird flu Monday morning.

Thailand will on Wednesday host an international meeting on the epidemic.

MNA/Xinhua
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 29 January, 2004

US survey says Love has eye for plastic surgery
NEW YORK, 27 Jan — Love is not blind—at least when it comes to facial plastic surgery.

Of people who are dating or married, 59 percent of women and 54 percent of men would like to change at least one feature on their partner's face, according to an American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery survey released on Monday. It found that men were most likely to talk suggestions about plastic surgery as an insult.

Women were more likely than men to take suggestions as gestures of love and when a sweetheart offered to pay, were twice as likely to go ahead with plastic surgery. “This survey shows that love is not blind and, in fact, has an eye for improvement,” said Chen Jinhai, director of the Shanghai municipal bureau of health.

Fossil millipede found in Britain to be oldest land creature
LONDON, 28 Jan — Scientists revealed that a fossilized millipede found in Britain is the remains of the oldest creature to have lived on land — and named it after the minister who found it.

The tiny fossil was found on a harbour foreshore near Aberdeen, eastern Scotland, about three years ago and has since been studied by experts from the National Museums of Scotland and Yale University in the United States.

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A Belgrade girl enjoys playing in the snow with her puppy in the centre of the Yugoslav capital, on 27 Jan, 2004. A heavy snowfall hit Belgrade for the second time this week.

Scientists call Mars rock photos a "Holy Grail" for geologists
LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan — Photos from the surface of Mars taken by the newly-landed Opportunity rover offer a “Holy Grail” for geologists, leaders of NASA’s mission to the Red Planet said on Monday.

In a briefing at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, officials also said they were making progress in diagnosing and fixing the problems that have plagued the Spirit rover, though they said it was too soon to tell if Spirit would ever return to fully normal operations. Opportunity, which landed on Mars early Sunday in a small and shallow crater in what scientists called an “interplanetary hole-in-one,” has begun the process of shooting a 360-degree image of its landing area using a panoramic camera setup called a “pancam.”

In the meantime, scientists said, a “postcard” assembled from photos shot out of the back of the rover are showing significant rock formations. “We’re seeing outcrops ... this is like a Holy Grail for geologists to be able to see these incredible rocks,” said Jim Bell, the team’s leading camera specialist. “There’s a lot more coming and we couldn’t be happier, more thrilled, with what we’re seeing at this incredible landing site.”

Steve Squyres, the principal science investigator for the mission, said the team was already trying to figure out where to head next. “There are a number of tempting targets, potential craters that we could go to after we crawl out of the one we are in,” he said.

Malaysia has no cases of bird flu
KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Jan — The Malaysian Health Minister said here on Tuesday that Malaysia has so far no reported cases of avian influenza, the H5N1 virus known as bird flu, among people or animals.

Chua Jui Meng said his ministry is working with the Agriculture Ministry to ensure that the disease, which has swept across Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia, will not spread to Malaysia.

The ministries of health and agriculture have “acted very quickly and swiftly,” he told a Press conference. Chua will attend an international meeting on the poultry disease in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday.

The meeting will bring together ministers of agriculture and health from the region as well as officials from the European Union (EU), the United States, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Chua said that his ministry already has a National Surveillance System, under which clinicals, laboratories and hospitals were mobilized during the Nipa epidemic and the severe acute respiratory system (SARS) outbreak.

“It’s already in place and we are using the same mechanism to ensure Malaysia is safe from avian influenza and other new and old diseases,” he said.

So far, there have been 11 reported cases of humans contracting bird flu and 10 deaths in the affected countries.

There has been no vaccine for the epidemic, but WHO is working with other institutions to develop the vaccine. Bird flu can be transmitted to humans through contact with an infected chicken’s beak, nostrils, body fluids and feces. However, there are no reported cases of person-to-person transmission.

Health clinics across Malaysia are monitoring cases of influenza-like illness, fever, pharyngitis and pneumonia since the latter is one of the complications of avian influenza.

MNA/Xinhua

"Green Lighting" project helps ease power pinch in China
SHIBAIZUANG, 27 Jan — With a coupon given by the residents’ committee, Grandma Wang in Shibaiuzhang of north China’s Hebei Province bought ten energy-saving bulbs at half price this week.

Grandma Wang is a participant in a trial project, the “Demand Side Management (DSM) Green Lighting” Project, which aims to promote the concept of energy saving to help solve the power pinch in the country.

Besides Shibiauzhang, seven other Chinese cities, including Shangai, Beijing and Nanjing, are also trial cities for the project.

With subsidies from the local government and international organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the project helps consumers to buy and use comparatively expensive energy-saving fluorescent lamps, rather than former incandescent ones. In Shibiauzhang, planned plans to promote 300,000 such lamps in 2004, and the local government plans to add 200,000 more. In Shanghai, there will be 32,180,000.

China has been experiencing a power pinch for the past two years. In China’s largest city Shanghai, the electricity demand is expected to reach 12.812 trillion kilowatt hours this winter, leaving a shortage of two million kilowatt hours.

Fossil millipede found in Britain to be oldest land creature
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**SPORTS**

**Man Utd reach 5th round of FA Cup**

**LONDON, 28 Jan.—** Manchester United overcame a spirited Northampton Town to reach the fifth round of the FA Cup with a 3-0 win over the third division side on Sunday.

Untied striker Diego Forlan had an early penalty saved, but the Uruguayan redeemed himself with a goal which, added to a Mikael Silvestre effort and an own goal, saw the Premier League champions safely through.

Manchester United fielded a weakened side for the trip to Northampton but they looked set for an early breakthrough when a penalty was awarded for Chris Carruthers’ push on Ronaldo in the third minute — only for Lee Harper to save Forlan’s spot kick.

Northampton battled to keep the visitors out but in the 34th minute Ronaldo’s shot was deflected away from Harper by his own defender and Silvestre was on hand to bundle the ball into the net. Just after the break Northampton defender Chris Hargreaves, under pressure from Forlan, put through his own net to double United’s lead.

Forlan sealed victory for the 10-times Cup winners in the 60th minute, rolling the ball in from close range after Ronaldo’s header across the area.

— MNA/Reuters

**Benfica’s Feher dies after on-field collapse**

**LISBON, 28 Jan.—** Benfica’s Hungarian international Miklos Feher died on Sunday after collapsing from a heart attack just before the end of a league game with Vitoria Guimaraes, a hospital spokesman said.

The 24-year-old striker was taken to a nearby hospital from the stadium in Guimaraes after falling to the ground in injury time. Medical personnel struggled to revive Feher on the field using a defibrillator.

However, his heart had stopped by the time he reached hospital. An autopsy is scheduled for Monday.

This was the second on-the-field death of a professional soccer player within seven months. Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foé died in June when he collapsed during a Confederations Cup semifinal against Colombia in Lyon in France. He was suffering from a heart-related condition.

The stadium in Guimaraes, about 200 miles north of Lisbon, will be one of 10 hosting the European Soccer Championship finals this summer.

— MNA/Reuters

**Brazilians fail to qualify for Olympic Games**

**BEZIERT (Tunisia), 28 Jan.—** Striker Frederic Kanoute scored twice on his competitive international debut to give Mali a 3-1 win over Kenya in their African Nations Cup opener in Group B on Monday.

Mohamed Lamine Sissoko, who like Kanoute had played for France at junior level before changing his footballing nationality this month, put Mali ahead after 28 minutes.

Titos Mulama levelled for Kenya in the 58th minute but Kanoute restored Mali’s lead five minutes later and then rifled home their third with nine minutes left.

The goals will have vindicated the striker’s decision to play this tournament in the face of strong opposition from his English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur.

Mali’s delighted French coach Henri Stambouli said: “We’ve won a lot of matches before this competition and we’d never really been in difficulty.

“Today we were, but my players showed they could deal with that — thanks to our qualities up front.”

He said of Kanoute: “A lot of people have criticized me for selecting certain players, but today the answer was there on the pitch, in his effectiveness and his model approach. He’s an example for the whole group.”

The French connection provided the kind of dividend which Malian soccer officials had been praying for at these finals.

Their team enjoyed more control of the game but lived dangerously at times against Kenyan counter-attacks led by teenage striker Dennis Oliech, whose poor finishing in both halves cost his side dearly.

Kenya coach Jacob Mulee, whose team face group favourites Senegal on Friday, said: “We cannot repeat the kind of mistakes we made today — it would be suicidal.”

Pointing the finger at Oliech, the target for countless long balls over the Malian defence, he said: “The tactic worked very well. Had he been playing for the team, I think Mali would have been talking a different kind of story in the first half.”

Mali applied the early pressure and nearly took the lead when Kanoute set up Robert Dembélé, whose cross was met by defender Ricardo Gomes, but only for Diego Barreto in inspired form.

The visitors levelled in the 12th minute when the Kenyans pressed for a second goal.

Ter Mulama volleyed home an equalizer and added a third minute before changing his footballing nationality this month, put Mali ahead after 28 minutes.

Further shots flew wide of the target and the misses could have proved expensive after Mulama volleyed home an equalizer and almost won it for the hosts.

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Modernization of Kandawgyi Park and Zoological Gardens coordinated

Yangon, 28 Jan — The work committee for all-round modernization of Kandawgyi Park envisions and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) held a work coordination meeting at the briefing hall of the Water Plaza construction site at Central Forest Zone yesterday afternoon.

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting.

Present at the meeting were deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, departmental heads, and officials. In his speech, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said as the project is aimed at building a public recreation centre, departmental officials are responsible for speeding up the completion of the project in accord with the master plan without causing any harm to natural beauties and resources.

He also urged the zonal officials concerned to present progress reports on tasks being carried out in their respective zones.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa later presented reports on progress of major works such as bridges and car parking lots at Relaxation Zone. Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu also reported on construction of modern restaurants in the park. Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Hsan on assistance to be rendered by the ministry to the modernization project of the park. Managing Director of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo on measures being taken for installation of spot lights. Director-General of the Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing on cultivation of trees and flowering plants, and other departmental officials on business entrepreneurs on tasks being carried out by their departments and companies in Recreation Zone and Education Zone.

After hearing the reports, the commander attended to the requirements and gave instructions. — MNA

Surgical treatment given to nasal meningococele

Yangon, 28 Jan — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials, encouraged the surgical treatment of nasal meningococele jointly conducted by neurosurgery team from German Interplast Munich at the neurosurgical unit of Yangon People’s Hospital here this morning. At the operation theatre, the minister and party watched the treatment being given by Myanmar-German neurosurgery team and the medical cooperation between the two countries and greeted Prof Muhr Bauer of German Interplast Munich.

The minister and party met with members of both surgical teams at the meeting hall, and attended to the requirements. Myanmar team consisted six surgeons and one anesthesitist, and German team three surgeons and two anesthesitists. They will give surgical treatment to 5 persons suffering from nasal meningococele. The operation continue tomorrow. — MNA

Cultural Minister

Yangon, 28 Jan — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung together with officials concerned arrived in Pinya on 23 January morning and inspected renovation works of Aungson Pagoda built by Mingyi Swasawke in 736 ME at southern part of Pinya ancient city. Puu period urns and earthen wares were in the afternoon, the minister went to Tagaung and inspected pieces of earthen wares, pieces of pots and pieces found in royal palace mound No 24. He also inspected antique items discovered from the first plinth. He also inspected the charcoal pit which is 56 feet in diameter and 3.5 feet in height in the east of Chandhthyi monastery in Tagaung region. These findings stand evidence that man lived there in very early periods.

Later, the minister inspected Laymyethna Temple of King Anawrahta and visited sites of Tagaung period kept in the temporary museum there. On 24 January, the minister handed over enshrinements of ancient pagoda near the farm of U Win Aung at Wayongzon village, 2 miles south of Tagaung. Then, he attended the cash donation ceremony for building a pagoda there and accepted the cash donation of K 410,000. The Ministry of Culture donated K 500,000 to the pagoda construction fund. Afterwards the minister went to Kyaw Hnayat ancient fortress and inspected antiques of Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age as well as of Puu and Bagan periods. Those items were collected by primary school head U Tin Win Oo. The minister also inspected the ancient iron smelting oven and other furnaces near Padeepphyu village. In the evening, he paid his homage to Taoyk Khaungtaik Pagoda and gave instructions to make excavations across River Ayeayawaddy there. He also inspected the renovation of the second plinth of Tagaung City.

On 25 January, he attended the ground-breaking ceremony for renovating the Ayaungyin Pagoda at Wayongzon village. In the afternoon, he went to Hanlin ancient city of BC 11th century and inspected the city gate and buildings at Nos 9 and 10 mounds. He also inspected the ancient stone inscription shed and gave instructions to make excavations concerning River Ayeayawaddy there. He also inspected the renovation of the second plinth of Tagaung City.

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

The second best time is now.
YANGON, 28 Jan — The 24th Conference of the Myanmar Dental Association and the fifth joint educational meeting of the World Dental Federation (FDI) and MDA opened at the Traders Hotel here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the NHC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the deputy ministers, members of NHC officials of SPDC Office, heads of department, representatives of FDI, President of MDA Prof U Ba Myint, executives and members, delegates to the conference, resident representatives of UN agencies, representatives of international bodies, delegates of social organizations and guests.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, the holding of the Myanmar Dental Conference up to the 24th time indicates the fact that the MDA has been standing firmly as a united organization working in the interest of the nation.

The FDI-MDA joint educational meeting has been held for the fifth time this year since the year 2000 to mark the centenary of FDI. The holding of the joint educational meeting has proved the MDA’s active efforts have helped Myanmar dental surgeons get access to the ever developing dental medicine, new therapies and advanced equipment with the times, and create a better environment resulting from the cooperation with the international academicians of the field.

At a time when the State is striving with the national strength for the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation standing shoulder to shoulder with the world nations and with dignity, health and fitness of the entire people is a basic requirement.

The joint meetings held in cooperation with the FDI and the international academicians of the profession for development of the dental studies and improvement of the dental health standard of the global people.

The joint meetings held in cooperation with the FDI in this regard, the Government has laid down the objective — Uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation — and is striving in all sectors for development of the public health care services.

The Government has been systematically laying down and implementing the national health plans covering the oral and dental health sector to develop the public health care system. Primary oral and dental health care services are being conducted in multi sectors to extend oral and dental health care services among the students, youths, middle-age persons and the aged persons; to effectively take precautionary measures; to educate the people to have the habit of taking the food that is good for the oral and dental health; and to educate the elementary students and the public about the oral hygiene.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech at the opening of 24th Conference of Myanmar Dental Association and joint educational meeting of World Dental Federation (FDI) and MDA. — mna

ICT Week continues for 8th day

YANGON, 28 Jan — Students, service personnel, and the public thronged the Third Myanmar ICT Week-2004 on its eighth day at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park on Htilo University Campus in Htilo Township here today.

The advancing IT technologies are on display there.

Canon copiers and spare parts are put on sale at the booth of Success Copier Group Ltd which offers one-year guarantee and after-sale services.

Software products and hardware computer sets are available at a discount at Myanmar Technology Gate Co Ltd which offers various services on computers.

Tech training centre conducts courses on engineering, computer general business management. Micro Computer Co Ltd sells computers, laptop PC networks, toplat PCs, digital cameras with after-sale warranty.

Win Win War Co Ltd offers installation of websites, registration of domain names, sells mail4U, e-mail cameras with after-sale warranty.

The Government Technical Institute (Myingyan) under construction in Myingyan, Mandalay Division seen on 27 January. (News reported) — mna

MNA