Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives President of Unocal

YANGON, 29 Jan — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received President of Unocal Mr David C. Peters at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Kommyinthu, here, at 5.30 pm today.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Ministry of Health holds coord meeting

YANGON, 29 Jan — The Ministry of Health held its second and third four-monthly work coordination meeting for the year 2003 at the meeting hall of the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township here this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, directors-general of departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, deputy directors, health officers, project managers and officials.

In his speech, Minister Kyaw Myint expressed his delight at the emergence of health staff the public can rely on along with the advancement in public health care services and called upon the officials to meet the goals for the reduction of infant mortality rate and the development of mother and child mortality.

Next, the deputy minister expressed his delight at the emergence of e-health system designed to enhance communication skill and said that efforts are to be made to win public cooperation in carrying out natural disasters preparedness and disease control activities.

In his speech, Minister Kyaw Myint expressed his delight at the emergence of health staff the public can rely on along with the advancement in public health care services and called upon the officials to meet the goals for the reduction of infant mortality rate and the development of mother and child mortality.

Later, directors-general reported on progress of tasks being carried out by their respective departments. Health officers, rectors and medical superintendents also presented progress reports. — MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

Friday, 30 January, 2004

**Keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic**

The Union of Myanmar is a land where national brethren have long been living together in unity and amity always unceasingly safeguarding her for her perpetual existence. Although the Union had been under the imperialists for over 100 years, she regained her status of an independent and sovereign nation because all the Union nationals drove out the invaders through their united efforts.

Now our Union is able to stand tall in the world and this is also due to the oneness of various national races. Therefore, we should value the essence of the Union and national unity. All the citizens of the Union have the tradition of living in unity with mutual respect, trust and loving-kindness for one another, practising the religion of their choice. Therefore, the Government has always given a top priority to preserving this fine tradition.

One of the objectives of the 57th anniversary of the Union Day is “to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people”.

It is the duty of new generations to preserve the fine tradition of unity of their ancestors. It is the duty of all the nationals born in the Union to safeguard their motherland so that it can exist as long as the world does.

The Government shows sincere goodwill and loving-kindness towards all the national people living in various regions of the Union. Therefore, it has been fulfilling their education, health, social and economic requirements for parallel development of all parts of the Union.

Realizing the goodwill of the Government, the national people, on their part, have been enthusiastically taking part in its national endeavours.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the Union nationals to preserve peace and stability and to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among themselves.

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**The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives**

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

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**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

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**People’s Desire**

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

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**Children’s paintings invited**

YANGON, 29 Jan — Children are invited to send their paintings for the Volume I No 3 of Metta Sany magazine to be published by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in April 2004.

They will have to send their works of art to Executive Editor Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint of the MMCWA Office at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami roads in South Okkalapa Township not later than 20 February.

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**Myanmar ICT Week (2004)**

has been extended up to 31 January 2004

MICT Park Yagon

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**Myanmar Gazette**

YANGON, 29 Jan — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed U Win Pe, Deputy Director-General of the Transport Department under the Ministry of Transport, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

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**Minister addresses coord meeting on Myanmar Open Golf Tour**

YANGON, 29 Jan — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Min Gen Thura Aye Myint this morning attended the coordination meeting for holding Myanmar Open Golf Tournament – 2004 held at Padamya Hall of National Indoor Stadium-1 here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar PGA and MGF Chairman of Work Committee for holding the tour Maj-Gen Win Hlaing and committee members, officials from the Ministry of Sports, departmental officials and invited guests.

The minister made an introductory speech. Maj-Gen Win Hlaing explained matters related to organizing the tour and those present on the occasion took part in the discussions.

The meeting came to a close with concluding remark by the minister.

The tour will be held at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon here from 12 to 15 February. Golf stars from Australia, Fiji, Canada, the People’s Republic of China, Ecuador, Mexico, Scotland, Singapore, England, Hong Kong, Sweden, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China (Taipei), the United States and Myanmar will take part in the tournament.

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**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

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**Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at the meeting.** — MNA

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**Soo Kyaw Naing still leads Gold Uni Golf Classic**

YANGON, 29 Jan — The Gold Uni Golf Classic tournament, organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, continued at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon here this morning.

After the third round, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) was still leading the tournament with 215 (72+68+75) strokes, followed by Min Naing (Srixon) with 216 (73+71+72), Myint Thaung (KM Golf Centre) with 218 (76+74+68), Aung Win (YCDC) with 218 (73+76+69), Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) with 222 (76+72+74) and Nanda Kyaw (YCDC) with 222 (71+76+75).

The Gold Uni Jewellery Co Ltd and Xie family together with Imperial Jade purified drinking water also co-sponsored the tournament that continues tomorrow.

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**Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint takes part in the tournament.** — MNA

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**Myanmar ICT Week (2004)**

has been extended up to 31 January 2004

MICT Park Yagon
Bomber kills three outside Baghdad hotel

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan—A suicide bomber blew up a van disguised as an ambulance in front of a hotel Wednesday after speeding through a security barrier in the heart of Baghdad, killing three people—including a South African—and injuring 17.

The bomb, at the Shaheen — a hotel frequented by Westerners—confirmed intelligence warnings that insurgents might use ambulances to evade security checks.

It also reinforced fears voiced by US officials that insurgents would step up attacks ahead of the planned 1 July transfer of power.

The Wall Street Journal, citing US security sources, said the bomb site was the second suicide bombing in the capital in less than two weeks.

Witnesses said a white van with Red Crescent markings drove through an opening in the barbed wire and concrete cylinder barrier on Masbah Street at about 6:40 am. They said guards opened fire at the van but it managed to reach the front of the Shaheen Hotel, where it exploded. The US military said the van was packed with 400-500 pounds of explosives.

Police and the US military said four people, including the bomber, were killed. One was South African, according to South African Foreign Ministry spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa. He said four South Africans were among the injured.

“The blast left a huge crater in the street and destroyed the ground floor of the three-story hotel, which was used by long-term guests, including Iraq’s labor minister, Sami Izza al-Majoun. He was unhurt. “My guards came to the room and rushed me downstairs. The hotel was burning and there was fire and smoke everywhere,” al-Majoun said.

One of his guards, Rassool Karim, said the bomber “was trying to drive into the hotel.”

Several embassies, including the Swiss, Polish and Armenian, are located in the posh Karadah neighborhood. The blast damaged at least three nearby buildings, including one housing police assigned to protect the embassies.

The blast hurled remains of the car across the street. Several other cars caught fire and were reduced to mounds of twisted metal.

India, Pakistan agree to hold talks in February

NEW DELHI, 29 Jan—India and Pakistan have agreed to hold three-day talks beginning February 16 in Islamabad to commence the process of complex dialogue, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI).

The talks will first be held at the level of joint secretaries on February 16 and 17 followed by a one-day meeting between the two foreign secretaries on February 18, Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh said as quoted by the news agency.

A similar announcement was made by Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan in Islamabad.

Official sources were cited as saying that during the three-day talks, the two sides would discuss the modalities for the composite dialogue.

The leaders of both countries had expressed the hope that the positive trends set by the recent confidence-building measures (CBMs) would be consolidated, PTI said.

The Pakistani leader had emphasized that a sustained and productive dialogue ad hoc positive results, PTI added.

The leaders of both countries, who viewpoints had reportedly shared the view that constructive dialogue would promote progress towards the common objective of peace, security and economic development of the people of the two countries and for future generations.

The two sides have also agreed to discuss peace and security, terrorism, economic commercial cooperation, art and cultural exchanges.

Indonesian company to deliver military planes to Pakistan

JAKARTA, 29 Jan—State-run aerospace industry PT Dirgantara Indonesia has completed a military plane contract for Pakistan and will deliver three more this year, an executive said on Wednesday.

“The plane is part of the order contract for four military planes signed on 29 June, 2001 in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Dirgantara president Perifico said the company had already started negotiations for a series of safety training courses.

The CN-235 propeller plane is priced at 52 million US dollars for VIP carrier. Edwin said, adding that the other three CN-235s cost 49 million dollars.

According to the original contract, Dirgantara should have delivered the planes last October, but the schedule was delayed due to financial constraints in the company, which now plans to lay off more than 5,000 workers.

Edwin said all the planes will be delivered in stages in June, August and December. He claimed that each plane has the short take off and landing (STOL) ability and is equipped with night vision goggles.

Almost 300 die during New Year holidays in Vietnam

HANOI, 29 Jan—Vietnam reported 621 traffic accidents during the traditional Lunar New Year (Tet) holidays from January 21-26, which killed 281 people and injured 17.

The respective figures for the previous Tet were 369,279 and 213, according to the Ministry of Public Security. The decrease in accident numbers is mainly attributed to tightened traffic management during Tet. No extremely serious accidents happened in major cities.

BBC chairman resigns after Hutton criticism

LONDON, 29 Jan—The chairman of the BBC has resigned and the broadcaster has apologized for some of its reporting after the Hutton inquiry lambasted the corporation.

The inquiry by Lord Hutton criticized journalist Andrew Giligan, the BBC’s management and its supervisory board of governors, for a radio report saying the government “sexed up” intelligence in a dossier on Iraqi weapons.

Hutton said the BBC report was unfounded.

He said the BBC’s editorial system was “defective” in allowing Giligan’s report to air and the governors should have investigated it in the aftermath, during which weapons expert David Kelly was unmasked as Giligan’s source and committed suicide.

Gavyn Davies, chairman of the BBC board of governors, tendered his resignation after the publication of the report, with immediate effect.

“I have been brought up to believe that you cannot choose your own referee and that the referee’s decision is final,” he said in a statement.

“There is an honourable tradition in British public life that those charged with authority at the top of an organization should accept responsibility for what’s happened in that organization.”

The report also brought a public apology from BBC Director General Greg Dyke, who said: “The BBC does accept that certain key allegations reported by Andrew Giligan on the Today programme on 29 May last year were wrong and we apologize for them.”

Hutton’s findings will strengthen BBC critics who say the broadcaster should fall under the oversight of media regulator Ofcom.

Conservative leader Michael Howard said the case for outside regulation of the BBC “has never been stronger.”

“Ruthless killings” spark new IFJ safety alert for media in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan—International Federation of Journalists today warned that “Iraq remains the world’s most volatile and dangerous conflict zone where journalists’ safety cannot be guaranteed”, after two CNN employees were killed, and a third was slightly wounded this afternoon when the cars in which they were travelling were ambushed on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Their deaths bring the official media death toll to 23 and after the war in Iraq to 22 journalists and media staff killed with two journalists still missing presumed dead. “The clear and present danger for all journalists working in this country has by no means passed,” said Aidan White, IFJ General Secretary, “and more than ever journalists and media staff must exercise extreme caution.”

On 27 January, transla- for and producer Duraid Isa Mohammed and driver Yasser Khatab died of multiple gunshot wounds as they were returning to Baghdad in a two-car convoy from an assignment in the southern city of Hillah. Cameraman Scott McWhinnie, in the other vehicle, was grazed in the head by a bullet. A delegation of the International Federation of Journalists and the Federation of Arab Journalists, led by IFJ General Secretary Aidan White and F AJ Vice-President Mabrooh Ali, on Sunday concluded a week-long visit to Iraq with a call for international support for a praktical programme to build unity, professionalism and a secure environment for Iraqi journalism.

The mission also coincided with the launch of a series of safety training workshops last week for Iraqi journalists and foreign reporters working in Baghdad.
519 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

Baghdad, 29 Jan—As of Wednesday, 28 Jan, 519 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 361 died as a result of hostile action and 158 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 56 deaths: Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 381 US soldiers have died — 246 as a result of hostile action and 135 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,546 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. Non-hostile injuries numbered 399.


Top Iraqi official calls for UN-monitored census

Baghdad, 29 Jan— Iraqi authorities will ask the United Nations to oversee a national census if and when it returns to Iraq, in what could be a politically charged move ahead of elections due next year.

If the survey is conducted, it would be the first full account of the country’s make-up in more than 45 years.

Depending on what questions are asked, it could be an explosive move in a country where the presence of fearful and accurate figures on the size of the population or its religious and ethnic breakdown, both of which are deeply divisive issues.

Adnan Pachachi, president of the Iraqi Governing Council, told a pro-democracy gathering in Baghdad a census was one of several issues that needed to be addressed before US authorities hand power back to Iraqis on 1 July.

“We will ask the United Nations to run a complete, exact census and to put in place voter lists via voter registration centres throughout Iraq,” Pachachi told around 250 Baghdad leaders gathered to discuss the power transfer.

It is not yet clear whether the United Nations will return to Iraq after pulling out of the country in October last year following the bombing of its Baghdad headquarters.

US authorities and the Governing Council have asked it to return to help decide whether it is possible to hold early, direct elections before the July power transfer, as Iraq’s leading Shi'ite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has demanded.

Currently, the US-led administration plans to hold a series of indirect caucuses leading to creation of a transitional authority that would take power from July. A Constitution would then be written and elections held in 2005. — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi paper doubts UN’s ability of holding direct elections

Baghdad, 29 Jan — In an article entitled “It’s our fate that Annan decides our destiny,” Iraqi newspaper Al Mashriq on Wednesday put into doubt the ability of a UN team to assess the possibility of holding direct elections in Iraq.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced Tuesday that he agreed to send a team of experts to Iraq to assess the situation and the possibility to hold general elections in the war-torn country.

The team is to arrive here on Wednesday.

The decision was announced by Annan in response to a request from the United States, whose plan to install a government by a transitional assembly by June 30 met strong opposition from the majority Shi'ite Muslim community in Iraq.

“Today all Iraqis are waiting for the word of the UN employees on whether or not to have elections, which is the most serious issue in the Iraqi streets,” said the paper.

“The only thing that they will deal professionally and honestly with their mission,” asked the paper.

The paper reminded the Iraqis of the inspections in the time of the former president Saddam Hussein, saying that each inspector was “a time bomb”.

Iraqis held their breaths when he rammed a car packed with explosives into a Baghdad hotel.

“All of that is already the same thing,” he said “I know this is going to be a step-by-step process but it’s definitely a positive development.”

“Clearly, the United Nations can play an important role in this unfolding political process in Iraq,” Negroponte added in response to questions.

German Ambassador Gustav Plehwe said: “we have welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General saw fit, also regarding himself in this responsibility for the security of his people, to send this mission to talk to the people in Iraq and listen to what they want.” — MNA/Reuters

UNSC members support Annan’s decision to send team to Iraq

United Nations, 29 Jan — Several members of the UN Security Council have supported Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s decision to send a team to Iraq to examine the feasibility of elections before the June 30 transfer of sovereignty.

“I have come to the conclusion that the UN can play a constructive role in helping to find a way out from the current impasse,” Annan said in a statement in Paris Tuesday.

The Secretary-General said the team must have adequate security to carry out its task of soliciting the views of the broad spectrum of Iraqi society in the search for alternatives that might be developed to move forward to the formation of a provisional government.

“We welcome the decision by the Secretary-General to send an electoral mission,” subject to security arrangements, said Council President Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz of Chile.

“We feel this is a very important step to collaborate with the Iraqis in their political process”, he added.

At the same time, he emphasized the need for qualitatives, “Elections can be carried out in five months,” he said.

“The question is whether you can carry out credible and transparent elections.”

US Ambassador to UN John Negroponte also welcomed Annan’s decision. “It is part of the process on the part of the Secretary-General and the United Nations of re-engaging itself in Iraq,” he said. “I know this is going to be a step-by-step process but it’s definitely a positive development.”

Iraq arms row swirls

Baghdad, 29 Jan — Former chief US weapons hunter David Kay says the belief Iraq had weapons of mass destruction was wrong, as both the United States and Britain grappled with controversy over why they went to war against Saddam Hussein.

Kay spoke to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday while in Iraq a suicide bomber killed three people when he rammed a car packed with explosives into a Baghdad hotel.

“Let me begin by saying, we were almost all wrong, and I certainly include myself here,” Kay said in his first public appearance on Capitol Hill since stepping down last week.

“Happened that the effort that was directed to this point has been sufficiently intense that it is highly unlikely that there were large stockpiles of deployed militarised chemical and biological weapons there.”

With US presidential elections due in November, Democrats trying to unseat Republican President George W Bush are using evidence such as Kay’s to try to make a case that the White House exaggerated its case to go to war — waged to rid Iraq of what Washington said was an arsenal of banned weapons.

In Britain, Bush’s staunchest ally in the war against Iraq, Tony Blair, cleared the second hurdle of his toughest week in power on Wednesday when a judge said the prime minister bore no blame for the suicide of a top Iraq weapons expert.

Although the report by senior judge Lord Hutton for the most part exonerated Blair, it did not rule on the merits of the war and many Britons remain unconvinced of whether it was justified. — Internet
German Minister slams US military policy

BERLIN, 29 Jan—German Minister of Economic Cooperation Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul on Tuesday criticized the US claim that it can launch preventive military strike even without UN permission.

Speaking at a conference of the Federal Academy for Security Policy here, she called the US concept of preemptive strike violating international laws and counterproductive.

The United States has set the aggressive unilateralism, which opens door for arbitrariness, she said. The experience in Iraq shows that with its military superiority, the United States has won the war, but not the peace, while the previously non-existent problem of combination of Arab nationalism and terrorism has now surfaced, she said.

The European security policy does not exclude military intervention, but more importantly, it relies on civilian crisis prevention, she said.

The policy to help developing countries is more cost saving and more humane, while “military intervention is always expensive,” she added.

The German official noted that conflicts in the world were connected with the unequal distribution of resources and this problem could not be solved by military means.

She called for rooting out violence by promoting education, health care and economic development in poor countries.

IMB says Maritime piracy increased sharply in 2003

LONDON, 29 Jan—Pirate attacks on ships worldwide increased to 445 in 2003 compared with 370 in the previous year, according to the London-based International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Wednesday.

The International Maritime Bureau of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) said in its annual report “Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships” that 21 seamen were killed in these incidents compared with 10 in 2002 and 71 crew and passengers were listed as missing.

Al-Arabiya to resume coverage from Iraq after two-month ban

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan—Arab satellite television Al-Arabiya resumed its coverage from Iraq after the interim Governing Council lifted a two-month ban imposed for “inciting to murder.”

“Al-Arabiya can resume work immediately in Iraq,” the head of the Governing Council’s media committee, Samir al-Sumaydai, told AFP. “The channel has promised to work in a professional manner,” he said. In Dubai, Saad al-Silawi, the regional director of the Saudi-owned channel said the US-installed council “did not put any conditions” for allowing the channel to reopen its Iraq office. Al-Arabiya will operate in full freedom while abiding by the laws in force in Iraq, he said.

The Dubai-based satellite TV ceased operating in Iraq on November 24, one day after it was banned on grounds of “inciting murder” when it broadcast a tape of ousted Iraqi president Saddam Hussein calling for attacks on Governing Council members.

Blair faces damaging defeat as Hutton report looms

LONDON, 29 Jan—British Prime Minister Tony Blair could suffer a damaging defeat in Parliament on Tuesday, the night before a potentially explosive report into an Iraq weapons expert’s suicide poses a further threat to his government.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said that with just hours to go until a vote on plans to make students pay more for higher education, Blair was staring down the barrel, with dozens of his Labour Party vowing to defy him.

“On the way the figures are at the moment, to be absolutely honest, the government will get defeated unless some more people come over,” Prescott told BBC radio.

Rejection of his education reforms — which would be Blair’s first major policy defeat — and harsh criticism in Judge Lord Hutton’s report on the death of David Kelly could leave the Premier wounded, perhaps even fatally.

Neither is inevitable and financial markets, although jittery, are not betting against the resilient Blair yet. But to be beaten by his own supporters would deal a huge blow to his authority and leave his flagship public sector reform plans in tatters.

It may even force Blair to call a rare confidence vote in his government. Voting on the second reading of the bill is set for 1900 GMT. No British government has been defeated at this stage, which debates a bill’s broad principles, since 1986. “This is not an easy situation for Tony. We need to win this one,” Prescott said.

Blair commands the biggest parliamentary majority in recent British history, controlling 408 of the 659 seats in the House of Commons. Losing a vote should be inconceivable, but since waging war in Iraq last year, and with none of the banned weapons that Blair argued made military action necessary yet found, many in his party are no longer prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt.

Balkans enhance cooperation against money laundering

TRI ANA, 29 Jan — Balkan countries decided to enforce their cooperation in the fight against money-laundering and financial support to terrorism in a two-day regional conference that ended here Tuesday, the ATA agency reported.

Participants discussed the issues of establishing the legal framework for regional collaboration in the fight against money laundering. They also discussed ways to enhance cooperation in this fight.

Money laundering has been detrimental to the economic stability and development of Balkan countries, as it generates and spreads crimes, said sources close to the meeting.

Annans says UN to resume role in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 Jan— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in Paris on Tuesday that the world body will send a mission to help the power handover to Iraqis, about three months after the UN staff was evacuated from Iraq due to security concerns.

The decision was announced by Annan in response to a request from the United States to install a new government by a transitional assembly by June 30 met strong opposition from the Shi'ite Muslim community in Iraq.

UN civil administrator for Iraq Paul Bremer and an Iraqi Governing Council delegation installed in New York last week, urging him to resume the UN role in Iraq, including assessing the feasibility of holding direct elections in the near six months he called for by top Shi'ite cleric Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani.

The Shi'ite Muslims, representing 60 per cent of the 25 million Iraqi population, have been flewing their muscles after three decades of repression under Saddam Hussein.

Last November, Bremer and IGC signed an accord providing for handing over power to Iraqis next June.

However, Bremer soon emerged over how to choose representatives to the top new government organs which will replace the American-hand picked IGC. While most Iraqis want direct democratic elections, the CPA and some IGC members favour the caucuses system to select such organs including the provisional Parliament, saying that the troubled situation in the country made the elections impossible.

Postwar Iraq is suffering from insecurity and incessant armed attacks by guerrillas on US-led coalition forces, and another security team to decide on whether it would be safe for UN staff to return.

Most Iraqis want the United Nations to act as a counter-balance to the overwhelming US influence in their country.

A truck and trailer burn after a roadside bomb blast in Khalidiya, Iraq, on 27 Jan, 2004. Three American soldiers were killed and one was wounded in a large explosion 50 miles west of Baghdad.

US Army troops survey the scene of a bomb attack at a Baghdad hotel, on 28 Jan, 2004. A suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives outside the hotel on Wednesday.

INTERNET

INTERNET
Iraq under US and allies’ occupation
Civilian deaths resulting from US invasion in Iraq

The unipolar world dominated by a super power nation is leading the world to economic chaos, political anarchy, uncertainty and fear. The people of the world are not going to recover, and have peace for as long as threats are used for political and economic reforms that most of the world is not ready for and not willing to accept.

Civilian deaths up to December (2003)

<table>
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<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gun fire</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air strikes</td>
<td>1271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster bomb</td>
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<td>Car bomb</td>
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<td>Others</td>
<td>7865</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9801</strong></td>
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Iraqi children visit a wounded woman, who was shot while walking to work in the city of Najaf on 21 December, 2003.

US soldiers remove the body of an Iraqi man killed during clashes in Latifiyah, south of Baghdad.

A wounded Iraqi girl sits in her bedroom in front of a hole caused when a rocket tore into her family's apartment in central Baghdad.

Ali Ismail, 12, receives treatment at a Saddam City Hospital in Saddam City, a district of Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday, 12 April, 2003. Ismail lost both arms and suffered burns over most of his body following coalition attacks over Baghdad.

Iraqi children visit a wounded woman, who was shot while walking to work in the city of Najaf on 21 December, 2003.
The main aim of the border area development programme is development of national races in border areas, and is to enable them to earn a proper living after eradicating poppy cultivation. The photo shows Laukkai Drug Elimination Museum, a symbol of efforts to fight against narcotic drugs.

The Government has been striving for development of the border regions which lagged behind in progress for various reasons in the past. Nowadays, people in the border regions are witnessing progress in their respective regions and are also enjoying the fruit of peace and tranquillity in their regions. The photo shows an aerial view of Panhsan (Pankam) in Shan State (North).

Thanks to the emergence of the network of roads and bridges, local people can travel wherever they want in Shan State. In the breathtaking scenery, a heavy truck seen rolling on the mountain road section of the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Road, an important facility helping promote Myanmar’s border trade with the People’s Republic of China, and develop a large region covering the northern Shan State especially the border areas with Muse, a border town, at the centre.

Coal deposits found in Manpanponmar region in Tangyan Township, Shan State (North). Coal produced in the coal mines in Shan State (North) is of high quality.
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Unity is strength

The Union of Myanmar has stood as an independent and sovereign nation with its own monarchs for thousands of years. The national brethren have been living in the nation through thick and thin, building mutual help, friendship and understanding.

The colonialists waged three aggressive wars on Myanmar — in 1824, 1852 and 1885 — and then occupied the nation. With whatever arms they could get, the national races launched attacks against the intruders for 10 years.

Well aware of the strength of Union Spirit and concrete unity of the national races, the colonialists laid down wicked schemes so as to colonize the nation for a long time.

Well aware of the strength of Union Spirit and concrete unity of the national races, the colonialists laid down various wicked schemes so as to colonize the nation for a long time.

They also separated Shan State into feudal Shan State, a member of the Union, and Shan State free from the Union.

They also separated Shan State into feudal Shan State, a member of the Union, and Shan State free from the Union.

The colonialists employed all possible ways and means in political, administrative and racial spheres to undermine national solidarity. They sowed discord and hatred among national races by adopting different administrative policy and creating racial riots.

Regarding the social sector, they brought foreigners into the nation, and drove a wedge between the natives and the foreigners.

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The colonialists waged three aggressive wars on Myanmar — in 1824, 1852 and 1885 — and then occupied the nation. With whatever arms they could get, the national races launched attacks against the intruders for 10 years.

Well aware of the strength of Union Spirit and concrete unity of the national races, the colonialists laid down various wicked schemes so as to colonize the nation for a long time.

The colonialists waged three aggressive wars on Myanmar — in 1824, 1852 and 1885 — and then occupied the nation. With whatever arms they could get, the national races launched attacks against the intruders for 10 years.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day

Colonialists’ instigations to drive a wedge among national races

Hsamar fortress of the British colonialists. The fortress was repeatedly attacked by Kachin national race who were engaged in anti-colonialist movement. It was also known as Fort Morton as Captain Morton, a British, was killed at the fortress.

The colonialists separated Shan State into feudal Shan State, a member of the Union, and Shan State free from the Union.

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Soe Nyein San

National brethren residing in Myanmar bravely fought against colonialists who encroached upon the sovereignty of Myanmar.
Colonialists’ instigations to drive a wedge among national races

(from page 8)

The enacted laws for Chin hill region could be prescribed only in 1896. Heads of the villages got authority just to dispose of petty cases and to levy taxes.

In January 1892, Bawlake, Kyegogi, Naungpale and Nanmekhon became the regions under the government of India. In administration, heads of Kayinni areas had to follow the instructions of the British. They could not contact with other regions without the permission of the British. Staff could be appointed only with the approval of a British official.

The British made instigations between Kayin and other national races. Kayin nationals had been living together in amity and in peace with other national races for thousands of years. In 1885-86 a reserve unit of the Police Force was formed by the British. The unit made up of Kayinni nationals only was employed for cracking down anti-colonialist struggle in lower Myanmar.

They practised the strategy to break up unity or the divide-et-reign policy during their colonial rule in Myanmar.

They ruled the plains, Shan State and other hill regions and border areas using different methods of administration. They ruled national races of border areas as if they were from early period of man. There were different administrative forms in Chin hill region. They aimed at weakening the close relations among the national races. It was the attempt to break up the tradition of Myanmar national races who had waged anti-colonialist wars between 1885-1900 that there is unity in case of emergency. The imperialists were afraid of unity and courage of Myanmar national races.

The imperialists allowed the elected government to rule the mainland, lower part of Sagaing Division, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayewawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions under the 1935 Myanmar government act. They said that there was still less political development in hill regions. Giving this excuse, the British governor-general himself directly ruled those regions. It was the cunning plot to divide the plains and hill regions. When the British occupied Myanmar the territory was that of the Myanmar Empire founded by King Alaungminlayagyi. They divided the country into many parts.

It is the characteristic of old and new colonialists in separation of the regions according to religious, race and geographical and political conditions.

If the British had to grant independence to Myanmar, they would leave hill regions as their colony. It was obvious that it was the driving of a wedge among the national races with their political tricks.

The Union spirit of Myanmar national races living in weal and woe for thousands of years is the essence of the Union that will continue to exist forever.

Translation: MS’+NY
A trade fair for national economic development

**Article by Reporter Khin Maung Thaw**

**Kamaugt**

**Photos by Ngi Bo Bo Chaw**

Holding of the trade fairs, participated by local and foreign companies, in the nation helps local entrepreneurs develop their business knowledge and attract foreign businesses. The Yangon Trade Fair 2004 will also be the one that will help develop the national economy in multi-aspects and promote the private sector.

It will be held at Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Road, Yangon, for four days from 30 January to 2 February 2004 with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce. In an interview with the members of the board of directors of a business organization which has much experience in holding trade fairs, they explained the aim of the Yangon Trade Fair. The directors of Quartz International Co Ltd told me that its aim was to make the public know more about the quality goods, to share business knowledge among the entrepreneurs to develop the manufacturing techniques and production of the advanced type of goods in the nation, to strengthen their markets and to achieve sound economic foundations in building a new nation.

The local and foreign fashion companies, services and industries producing cosmetics, household goods, electronic appliances, pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs, construction material, stationery, light machinery and medicines will open booths there”, they added.

“Mainly, the trade fair will concentrate on exhibiting various kinds of import-substitute goods and new products. Old ways of distributing goods will not work at present. As competition is high among the producers, trade fairs are being held to help them get in touch with the consumers. As they can directly introduce their goods to the consumers, they will be able to launch sale promotion campaigns,” they explained.

Great Summit Internaional Co Ltd is planning to sell Korean-made laminate sheets with 10 years guarantee at reasonable prices at the trade fair, while Hnin Hnin Khine Co Ltd and Green Circle Co Ltd are making arrangements for the consumers to directly buy various kinds of VeVe brand import-substitute foodstuffs from the producers. "We are going to introduce the VeVe milk candy at the fair in addition to displaying our other food products that are made from fresh local fruits", an official of the two companies said. Meanwhile, the head of Star Entertainment Co Ltd explained plans to stage performances of young artists and models, saying that by holding the entertainment programmes, he hoped to find fresh blood for his company.

"People find it easy to buy their choice of goods at a trade fair where different brands and types of goods are available at a single place. And producers are going to sell their goods at reasonable prices", Managing Director Daw Myat Aye of the Quarterly International Co Ltd told me, adding, there are lucky draw programmes for the buyers, and the first prize of K100,000 will be awarded to the winner on the last day of the fair. The best booth design award will also be presented at the fair, that will be opened to public from 9 am to 6 pm every day from 30 January to 2 February.

"I would like to invite the people to visit the fair where they can enjoy window-shopping or buy goods at fair prices and draw lucky dips. And the admission is free!", she said.

The State is rendering assistance in all sectors for the national economic development in accord with its four economic objectives. In accord with one of the four economic objectives — Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system — the State has been permitting to hold the trade fairs not only in Yangon, but also in the whole nation. Producers need to publicize their goods and find markets. Likewise, the wider availability of the new brands of product manufactured as the import-substitute goods is also important. Thus, the trade fairs are being held to introduce the new items and advertise all kinds of products.

(Translation: TMT)  
Myanna Alin: 29-1-2004

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**Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Trust Fund Supervisory Committee meets**

YANGON, 29 Jan — The Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Trust Fund Supervisory Committee held a meeting at the hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Aye Tin, Deputy Chief Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye, departmental heads, Sayagyi U Ohn Pe, members of the Supervisory Committee and guests.

On the occasion, the deputy minister gave a speech. Secretary of the Supervisory Committee U Hla Tun (Hla Tun Twantay) presented matters for holding this year’s prize-distribution ceremony in Pakokku.

Next, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint, Chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Selection Committee U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), Treasurer of the Supervisory Committee Deputy General Manager (Accounts) of the PPE U Mya Maung, Director-General of the Education Planning and Training Department under the Ministry of Education U Bo Win and Chairman of Pakokku District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Htay Oo reported on holding the ceremony sector-wise.

Deputy Chief Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye and Sayagyi U Ohn Pe assessed the reports. Those present also held a general round of discussions.

The deputy minister attended to the needs and gave closing remarks.

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**Asian fish shares fly as bird flu hits food firms**

SINGAPORE, 29 Jan — As restaurants across Asia took chicken off the menu during an outbreak of bird flu, investors reshuffled their portfolios on Wednesday to boost exposure to seafood and pork while carving away fowl-related stocks.

Hoping for a swift pick-up in demand for seafood as consumers shun poultry, investors poured money into Asian fish producers, pushing up prices of fish firms in Japan and Korea.

"You want to sell chicken, and get into fish and pigs. What you want to be doing is buying anything that slaughters pigs in China, outfits like People’s Food,” said one Hong Kong-based food and beverage analyst. He also suggested investors look at Thai Union Frozen Products PCL (TUF), a major canned tuna exporter and retail-focused conglomerate China Resources Enterprise Ltd.

Millions of chickens have been slaughtered and several governments including Singapore have banned poultry imports from a list of 10 countries now affected by the disease, including China and its vast poultry industry.

At least eight people have died.

In one example of poultry disappearing from Asia’s menus, Hong Kong-based airline Dragonair plans to drop chicken from its menus from Friday.

But as major chicken chains and poultry processors braced for lost business, one Singapore chicken producer, KB Elite Holdings Ltd, said investors had snapped up the bulk of a small privately placed share offering as part of an initial public offering.

An adviser to the deal, however, acknowledged that bird flu held the price down.

MNA/Reuters
Minister for Culture inspects ancient pagodas in Salin, tours Bagan

YANGON, 29 Jan — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected renovation of Layzin Yoksemyaung Pagoda and left necessary instructions. — palace, renovation of Phwa Saw Hsutaungpyae Pagoda, minister gave instructions.

Next, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and party went to Bagan-NyaungU and inspected Bagan Kyapin Village, ancient Pyu city.

In the evening, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected the work site for excavation of the ancient palace, renovation of Phwa Saw Hsutaungpyae Pagoda, Myinkapaya Gupaya Mya Pagoda and Wetkyin-Myin Gupaya Pagoda and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Information Minister visits Myanmar ICT Week-2004

YANGON, 29 Jan — The Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 went on for the ninth day at the MICTC Park on Hline University Campus in Hline Township here today.

The exhibition was crowded with the students, service personnel and people.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan arrived at the exhibition at 5.15 pm. Myanma Radio and Television Director-General U Khin Maung Htay and members of Board of MICTC Directors and officials welcomed the minister.

The minister viewed the booths. Officials concerned conducted the minister round the exhibition.

The exhibition will be kept open until 31 January from 9 am to 5 pm. — MNA

CORRECTION

In the news "Cultural Minister inspects antiques" which appeared on column 1 to 4 on page 15 of 29-1-2004 issue of NLM, please read: "He also inspected the octagonal shaped pagoda’s foundation measuring 56 feet in diameter and 3.5 feet in height and the charcoal layer four feet below" on 9th line of the second paragraph of the story. On the 7th line, third para, second column, please read BC 5th century instead of BC 11th century. — Ed

Pho La Pyae Co Ltd introduces new products

YANGON, 29 Jan — Pho La Pyae Co Ltd held a ceremony to introduce its new products, Scorpion C Plus, and to present the best seller awards at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

It was attended by Managing Director of the company U Thura Thwin, General Manager U Aung Lat, company staff, Seller, and guests.

After a speech given by U Thura Thwin, master of ceremonies Daw Tin Moe Lwin gave an account on the new products. Later, U Thura Thwin and officials of the company presented the best seller awards and the consolation prizes to winners. — MNA

CAM office to be closed on Bakari 1dd Day

YANGON, 29 Jan — As 2 February 2004 (Monday) is Bakari 1dd Day, the public holiday, the Controller of Military Accounts Office of the Ministry of Defence in Yankin will also be closed on that day. — MNA

e-Education Learning Centre

- Cultural Anthropology
- Archaeological Theory
- Chemical Bonding
- Basic Electronics
- Basic Crystal Structure
- Supremal Points
- An animal cell
- Ecto- and Endoparasites
- Plant Nutrition
- Earthquakes in Myanmar
- Water Pollution
- Curriculum Development
China's youth learns to be strong as scouts

TIANJIN, 29 Jan — At the tender age of seven, Shang Fulin barely survived a fire that scarred his face and deformed his hands despite eight major operations, including skin transplants and face-lifts.

But Shang has built up a pleasant and outgoing personality and learned to face up to all his pains in life, physical and mental, over the past six years, thanks to the help he has received from a local scout association for boys and girls whose childhood was overshadowed by misfortunes ranging from illness and poverty to loss of parents.

The scout group was founded in 1997 in Hexi District, northern China's Tianjin municipality, 120 kilometres from the nation's capital Beijing, as China's first non-governmental organization to foster the mental well-being of these disadvantaged children.

Despite all the pains he had to endure, Shang has learned to swim, paint and play chess from the scouts, and encouraged his peers to be as strong and cultured toward life.

The scouts are a necessary supplement to school education, said sources with the local education authority. "These children need special care and support from the society, but above all, they need to be strong," said an official.

"We try to strengthen and full of sunshine," the children would sing each time they gather for gymnastics, summer and winter camps and voluntary services at communities. To date, the scout association has set up 40 branches in Tianjin and has outlined its plan to provide psychological counselling for children. It has received several hundred thousand yuan in donation from corporate and individual donors.

Of its 4,000 members, 2,520 have got financial aid and 2,000 have received special training on a wide range of cultural and sport activities. — MNA/Reuters

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG761/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG761/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 30-1-04 and will be berthing on about 31-1-04 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of a port authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE

MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296507, 296576

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (402)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG Voy No (402) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-1-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENCY FOR: MS EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

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Reg. No. 3273/1992
Reg. No. 1732/2003

null in respect of “Class 36: Provision of financial information and financial management services”

A police spokesman described the victims as criminals and their suspects killed in shoot-outs.

Spain — Police in Rio de Janeiro have shot dead 34 people in a sweeping crack-down on drug gangs in the city’s infamous shanty towns since November, officials said on Tuesday.

A police spokesman described the victims as criminals and their suspects killed in shoot-outs.

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Anti-corruption drama performed in HK schools

Hong Kong, 29 Jan—An anti-corruption drama has been performed in Hong Kong schools as a measure to pass such message to young students. The drama, Fake Robin Hood, was produced by the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre (HKRep) for secondary students.

It tells the story about a secondary student, Ah Kin, who worked as a part-time worker at a bank and discovered that his boss was planning a bribe activity. On struggling for some time, Ah Kin decided to report it to the ICAC, and the “black sheep” was arrested at last.

The drama has been performed in 102 secondary schools with a total number of more than 20,000 audience.

Students who have seen the drama said that it was more effective to use this interactive means to spread anti-corruption message. They made it more clear about the definition of corruption.

Bangladeshi experts say mysterious disease may be encephalitis

Dhaka, 29 Jan—The unknown virus that killed 19 Bangladeshi people in the last two weeks was suspected to be encephalitis by some experts. It tells the story of a secondary student, Ah Kin, who worked as a part-time worker at a bank and discovered that his boss was planning a bribe activity. On struggling for some time, Ah Kin decided to report it to the ICAC, and the “black sheep” was arrested at last.

WHO seeks speedy bird flu vaccine

Geneva, 29 Jan—The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday held talks with drug firms and international laboratories on developing a vaccine to fight bird flu, which it fears could become a pandemic.

Officials said any such protection was probably still some months away, but that they hoped soon to have a prototype of the bird flu virus that could serve as the basis for a vaccine.

Stressing there was no sign of the avian flu, which has killed eight people in Vietnam and Thailand, could be transmitted from person to person, senior officials said the aim was to be ready for the worst. “We are observing a possible pandemic situation and we are trying to take precautionary measures in case significant human to human transmission takes place,” said Klaus Stohr, head of WHO’s global influenza programme.

Regional meeting opens in Bangkok to address bird flu epidemic

Bangkok, 29 Jan—Agriculture and livestock officials from economies hit by bird flu and world major chicken importers met on Wednesday afternoon here to discuss joint efforts to curb the spread of the epidemic.

The three-hour meeting, urgently initiated by the Thai government on Saturday, was expected to hear parties concerned on how to address the current situation at the quickest speed.

Millions of chickens have been killed on farms in many areas since the avian influenza first broke out in Hong Kong in late June last year.

Flood situation in east Malaysia improves

Kuala Lumpur, 29 Jan—The flood situation in Sarawak, east Malaysia, was improving with more victims returning home, state’s Deputy Chief Minister George Chan said recently.

As of Tuesday evening, 3,500 evacuees were still staying at flood relief centres. Chan said at a Press conference in Kuching, capital of the state.

A total of 5,500 victims in flood-hit areas in the state were evacuated to higher grounds on Monday. The state government opened 56 relief centres and another 200 mini centres to accommodate those affected by the floods.

Hundreds of New York flights cancelled by snow

New York, 29 Jan—Up to a foot of snow blanketed the New York metropolitan area on Wednesday, cancelling hundreds of flights and closing schools in a region already chilled by freezing temperatures and the cold snow.

Airport officials said nearly 700 flights had been cancelled at the city’s three major airports since Tuesday night. The snowstorm continued into Wednesday, disrupting travel plans for thousands of people.

The airports were open on Wednesday, but flight delays were possible.

One man said he made it into New York’s LaGuardia Airport on Tuesday night after cutting short a trip in Indianapolis, Indiana, because he feared a big snowstorm.

“I was expecting a lot worse,” Richard Allen of Milltown, New Jersey, said while waiting for a taxi in Manhattan. “It’s winter. I suppose it was like this. It could be 10 degrees warmer and raining instead.”

John F Kennedy International Airport cancelled 69 flights. LaGuardia Airport cancelled 198 flights and Newark Liberty International Airport in neighbouring New Jersey closed 430 flights. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said about 20 per cent of Amtrak trains running in and out of New York were cancelled, but city subways, trains and buses were operating with some delays, transport officials said.

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Sevilla forward Reyes joins Arsenal
MADRID, 29 Jan—Arsenal have agreed a deal to sign Spanish international forward Jose Antonio Reyes from Sevilla for an undisclosed fee, the Primera Liga club said on Tuesday.

"I'm leaving the best team in Spain to join the best team in England," the 20-year-old said at a news conference called to announce his departure.

Sevilla president Jose Maria del Nido said the club had a "transparency pact" with Arsenal regarding the cost of the transfer but he made it clear that it was of huge benefit to the Spanish club.

"We said we would only sell Reyes if we received an offer over and above his market price," Del Nido said.

"The transfer is for more than Bayern Munich paid for (Roy) Makaay, more than Barcelona paid for Ronaldinho and more than Real Madrid paid for (David) Beckham."

The cost of Beckham's move from Manchester United before the start of the current season was 25 million euros, plus up to 10 million euros depending on Real's performances in the Champions League over the next four years.

MNA/Reuters

Prosecutors ask court to probe AS Roma accounts
ROME, 29 Jan—Prosecutors have asked a civil court to inspect the accounts of the company that controls current Italian League leaders AS Roma, judicial sources close to the investigation said on Tuesday.

The request comes as Italy reels from the discovery of a multibillion euro accounting scandal at dairy group Parmalat, the parent company of Serie A club Parma.

Roma 2000 is owned by family of Franco Sensi, who has been president of the football club since 1993.

AS Roma hit some problems last summer when they had trouble producing a financial guarantee for this season and had a block on international transfers imposed by FIFA, soccer's world governing body, due to outstanding payments.

Those issues were resolved, however, and under coach Fabio Capello the team have played impressively this season and are currently leaders of Serie A having lost just one of their 18 league matches to date. They last won the title in 2001. —MNA/Reuters

Nonvete double gives South Africa 2-0 win
SAX (Tunisia), 29 Jan—Siyabonga Nomvete scored twice in the second-half to give South Africa a 2-0 win over Benin in their opening D match at the African Nations Cup finals on Tuesday.

The Italian-based striker, who has never scored in Serie A, also missed a penalty on the stroke of halftime.

The result comes as a major confidence booster for beleaguered South Africa, who fired their coach Ephraim Mashaba on the eve of their departure for the tournament.

The side looked languid in the first half but Nomvete's two well-taken goals on 58 and 76 minutes enlivened a match which had delivered little excitement until the 88th minute when Trinidadian defender Lloyd Auguste produced his usual blast from a freekick and instead floated the ball beyond Finnish goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen from 25 metres.

Villa's chances suffered a setback after 39 minutes, however, when midfielder Gavin McCann was sent off for hitting Bolton's Brazilian defender Emerson Thome — his former team mate at Sunderland — in a flare-up after McCann's late follow-through on Jaaskelainen. After that Villa worked hard and created a number of scoring chances, but did not strike again until the 88th minute when Trinidadian defender Lloyd Auguste produced his usual blast from a freekick and instead floated the ball beyond Finnish goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen from 25 metres.

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15:55 Dance of the Drums
15:32 Song of Myanmar
7:40 am
9:02 Song of Myanmar
6. Viewers from Abroad
Sights “Mingalabar”
Dishes (Loach fish curry in oil)

17:25 Song of Myanmar
17:05 Lacquerware Museum
16:55 Group Dance Entitled “Pa-Tha-Daw”
20:55 Dancing Duo
20:15 National News

20:10 Myanma Spirailina
21:20 Myanma Coffee
21:30 Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-V)
22:00 Group Dance Entitled “Pa-Tha-Daw”
22:10 National News
22:15 Song of Myanmar
22:25 “Song ‘Come to Myanmar (The Golden Land’)
23:10 National News
23:50 Song of Myanmar

31-1-2004 (Saturday)
Morning Transmission (03:30 - 07:30)
03:30 Signature Tune Greeting
03:32 Group Dance Entitled “Pa-Tha-Daw”
04:20 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Braising Curry with Tamarind Sauce)
04:25 National News
04:30 Group Dance Entitled “Pa-Tha-Daw”
05:00 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Loach Fish Curry in Oil)
05:30 National News
06:00 National News

31-1-2004 (Friday)
Evening Transmission (23:30 - 23:50)
23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
23:40 Myanma Coffee
23:50 Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-IV)

24:15 National News
24:20 Village of Palung
24:25 Song ‘Land of Beauty’

25-01-2004
05:00 National News
05:15 Myanma Spirailina
05:20 Myanma Coffee
05:30 Song of Myanmar
05:35 The Rakhine Dance, The Pride of Yoma
05:40 Easy Cooked Tasty Dishes (Braising Curry with Tamarind Sauce)
05:45 National News
05:50 Unique Style of Kachin Dress
05:55 The Rakhine Dance, The Pride of Yoma
06:00 National News

The New Light of Myanmar
**Lao PDR Deputy Prime Minister and goodwill delegation visit Thandwe**

**YANGON, 29 Jan** — The visiting Laotian goodwill delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisolith and wife arrived at Thandwe in Rakhine State yesterday afternoon. The Lao PDR Deputy Prime Minister and party visited Myanmar at the invitation of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe.

They were accompanied by Ambassador of LPDR Mr Chanthavhy Bodhisane and wife and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On arrival at Thandwe Airport, they were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Western Command Col Tin Hlaing, Chairman of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Tint and officials. Accompanied by the deputy commander and officials, they visited therawn repossessing plant of Lin Aung Industrial and Production Co Ltd at Lintha Ward in the town. The company officials explained the location and area of the plant, prawn trawling at Rakhine coastal sea, finished good production, marketing and ice production. The Laotian visitors went around the factory, studying the prawn selection unit and the storage of prawn.

At the prawn fry production centre of Everlive Co Ltd at Maze village in Thandwe Township, they heard a report on fry breeding, investment, production process of the fries, and feedstuff for the fries presented by the company officials. Afterwards, they looked round the centre. They spent the night at Bayview Hotel at Ngapali Beach. They left Thandwe for Yangon by air this afternoon. — MNA

**A&I Minister inspects Thebyu dam, Madan dam in Lewe**

**YANGON, 29 Jan** — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin on 26 January arrived at Thethiu Dam, being constructed near Yaypyayoe Village in Lewe Township, Yamethin District in Mandalay Division, and inspected construction tasks for spillway.

At the briefing hall of the project, the director (Construction-5) of the Irrigation Department reported on tasks already completed and being carried out. The minister gave necessary instructions on timely completion and minimizing loss and wastage. The minister and party inspected three chosen sites for Madan Dam near Chaungkhaung Village in the town.

After hearing the report of the director (Construction-4) of the Irrigation Department, the minister viewed the flow of Madan Creek and growing of crops. In meeting with local authorities and farmers, the minister gave instructions. In the evening, the minister inspected construction of the spillway at Paunglaung multipurpose-dam project in Pyinnama Township.

Yesterday morning, the minister, accompanied by responsible officials, visited Madan Farm Machinery Factory at Ingone Village, Kyaukse Township, and production line of power tillers and harvesters.

**Sports Minister arrives back from Thailand**

**YANGON, 29 Jan** — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the ceremony to sign a cooperation agreement between the Olympic Committees of Myanmar and Thailand in Bangkok.

The minister, who is also Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee, was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing. Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, officials of the Sports Ministry, and the president of Myanmar Football Federation U Win Myint arrived back here along with Minister for Sports and Physical Education Maj-Gen Khin Maung Lwin who arrived back on the same flight.

**Construction of separation wall launched**

**YANGON, 29 Jan** — The opening ceremony for construction of separation wall of Shwekyin Hydropower Project was launched at Shwekyin Township, Bago Division, yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htun, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, officials, members of social organizations and guests.

The officials formally opened the ceremony. The minister pressed the button to launch the project. The minister presented fruits baskets to foreign experts who will participate in the project. Afterwards, the minister and party inspected the project site. — MNA

**MCF warns users against outbreak of new e-Mail virus**

**YANGON, 29 Jan** — Myanmar Computer Federation warned users against the outbreak of a new e-Mail virus called My Doom this month, and up to yesterday, over 100 million infected copies have been spreading worldwide.

In Europe alone, the infection rate of the virus, also known as W32.Novarg.A@mm, jumped from 20 per cent on 28 January morning to 33 per cent in the afternoon.

A mass-mailing worm, Mydood spreads via e-Mail as an attachment, with extensions — bat, cmd, exe, pf, scr, zip. When the virus comes it presents the subjects — Test, Hi, Hello, Mail Delivery System, Mail Transaction Failed, Server Report, Status or Error on the e-Mail subject line. It spreads to other E-Mail users through the infected e-Mail, and can also leave a proxy backdoor in a computer after infecting it.

In every 12 e-Mails, one is a My Doom infected copy. Thus, it is deadlier than Worm Sobig.F that broke out last year at one in every 17 e-Mails. Because of its fast infection rate, it raises the Internet traffic, that leads to blocking the Internet system.

The virus’s target is the Websites of Microsoft Main Website and SCO Unix Vendor. The virus can be prevented by the new Norton Anti-Virus introduced on 26 this month.

And if anyone of the subjects — Test, Hi, Hello, Mail Delivery System, Mail Transaction Failed, Server Report, Status or Error — are presented, the user should not open the e-Mail. He must delete it immediately. The virus can be removed from the computer with the special removal tool from Norton. — MNA