Further improvement in international relations has promoted exchange of goodwill visits between leaders of Myanmar and other nations

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, teachers of the institutions of higher learning are academic having the high level of knowledge. Thus, they have already possessed the ability to study things from the root cause, to assess things in a correct way, and to make incisive analyses. In this regard, it is believed that they will become the persons serving and protecting the national interest after clearly seeing the objective conditions of the State during the course. And it is also believed that they can understand the national conviction and the national resolve and strength not only in their mind, but also in their hearts.

The Union of Myanmar is striving to stand firmly as an independent and sovereign nation and to catch up with other nations in terms of development, while facing and overcoming many difficulties and hardships.

Despite the existence of disturbances and obstacles, the entire nation is endeavoring for the emergence of sound political, economic and social foundations to heal the wounds and totally end the ugly incidents caused by the evil legacy of the past and to safeguard the nation from facing the evil situation again in the future.

All-out efforts have been made to implement the project to build up the national strength, covering the task to ensure spiritual development that will further strengthen the national unity for the non-disintegration of the Union; and build development infrastructures for harmonious progress of the entire Union, economic infrastructures for national economic development, and health and education foundations to raise the health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. But the task has not been completed yet, and an endless number of works still left undone.

All the countries of the world are striving in competition to promote their national interest. In this world, there are countries relying on their own resources for national economic development, while extending cooperation with others based on sincerity and mutual interest as well as countries trying to interfere in others’ affairs and dominate and manipulate them for self-interest, while ignoring the international norms of equality and international principles.

Because of the attempts of the countries giving priority only to self-interest and protectionism practices, conflicts based on ideology, human rights, democracy, religion and race are appearing in other world countries in various forms.

In this world today, there are many instances in which some countries of the world are using the political objectives and multi reasons as an excuse to interfere in the affairs of the developing countries and putting pressures on them. Some nations have already faced the rule of anarchy that is dragging them to the verge of disintegration resulting from external instigation, internal instability and the change of political system without making sufficient preparations.

Remote border areas have now an improved network of roads, bridges and modern communications. The economic life of the people in those areas has also improved with the development of agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, trade and tourism sectors. The local people are now able to fully enjoy the benefits of schools, hospitals and dispensaries. The border areas today are developing in parallel with the major cities and so various national races are sharing the fruits of peace and stability.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Cultivation of summer paddy in Yangon Division

Nowadays, officials of the ministries concerned and the Yangon City Development Committee are striving with might and main for Yangon, the Capital of Myanmar, to possess the characteristics of the cities of the world.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on taking measures for greening the 30-mile radius of the capital based on agriculture. Agricultural works and the project for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon will surely benefit paddy cultivation in Yangon Division. Without requiring to build big dams, the project can be successfully implemented in a short period by making use of the existing canals, sluice gates, and small-size dams. With the success of the project around Yangon, there will be over 400,000 acres of paddy fields in summer. Moreover, crops can be grown all the year round in thanlyin, Kayan, Thongwa and Kyauktan townships where paddy cultivation can be made only in the rainy season. The Irrigation Department is building Kayan sluice gate near old Chaungwa village in Thanlyin township. Building of a sluice gate at the fork of Bago River and Kayan Creek will benefit the people living in Kayan, Thongwa and Thanlyin townships in cultivation of summer paddy and other crops, supplying fresh water and preventing the flow of salt water.

On 24 January, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected summer paddy cultivation and regional development tasks in Mingaladon and Hlegu townships. The commander inspected thriving paddy fields of battalions and units under the Yangon Command and building of Ngamoeyeik dam and Ngamoeyeik sluice gate. He gave instructions to officials and farmers on completion of the projects as soon as possible, enough water supply and cultivation of summer paddy, regular inspection of the dams. The Ngamoeyeik sluice gate will benefit 5,000 acres of summer paddy and it will prevent overflowing of Ngamoeyeik creek during the rainy season. As agricultural methods are being provided and water for agricultural purpose is supplied to local farmers, they are to strive for extended cultivation of summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops, vegetables and other cash crops.

We would like to urge officials concerned to make earnest efforts for successful realization of the project for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon and farmers to cultivate summer paddy wherever possible in the division.
US commander foresees increase in Iraqi attacks

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — More violence is likely as Iraq moves toward resuming self-governance, the commander of US forces in the region said on Thursday, and a “bad series of events” could put the country on a path to civil war.

General John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, also said the United States would clearly be able to hold the power handover to Iraq. He said US officials were “very worried” that there would be “a lot of fighting ahead.”

Abizaid was not so optimistic. He said that despite “good progress”, there would be “a lot of fighting ahead.”

The clear thing that I understand as a military commander is, whether we have elections or not (have) elections, as we move toward an Iraqi sovereign authority, we’re going to have escalated levels of violence,” Abizaid said.

US officials are balancing at demands by Iraq’s Shiite Muslims, who represent 60 per cent of the population but are widely suppressed under Saddam for quick direct elections.

“I mean, there are an awful lot of people that don’t want an Iraqi sovereignty that has any legitimacy or power to emerge,” he added, mentioning members of Saddam’s Baath Party and Islamic militant groups such as al-Qaeda and Ansar al-Islam.

He hoped “the forces of goodwill will actually hold the country together and move it toward a better future”.

Analysts have worried that a traumatic event, perhaps an assassination of a key Iraqi or a Shi`ite revolt over the rejection of their political demands, could send the country spiralling out of control.

strong quake jolts eastern Indonesian islands

JAKARTA, 30 Jan — An earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale jolted Indonesia’s eastern Moluccas Island chain on Thursday and could have caused a tsunami, officials said.

Officials from the State Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said the epicenter for the early morning quake was in the Seram Sea, more than 60 miles north-west of the Moluccas’ main city, Ambon. Afterwards were also reported.

“It was quite big but we have not received any damage or casualty reports yet. Earthquakes with such power and depth like this have a high possibility of causing tsunami waves,” Benny Tipollo, the head of a state geophysics station in Ambon, told Reuters.

Earthquakes frequently hit Indonesia, occasionally causing widespread damage and loss of life.

In 1992, an earthquake with similar power struck another eastern Indonesian chain of islands, causing tsunamis and killing more than 2,000 people.

Malaysia to consolidate cooperative movement

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Jan — Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Thursday reaffirmed the government’s commitment to further strengthening and consolidating the cooperative movement.

At the launching of the National Cooperative Policy here, Abdullah said in a written speech that in its role as a catalyst of the nation’s economic development, the cooperative movement with its five million members and assets totalling 21 billion ringgit (5.52 billion US dollars), would be accorded equal recognition as the public and private sectors in the country.

As of June 30, 2003, there were 4,388 cooperatives nationwide with a membership of 5.33 million.

The text of his speech was read out by Land and Cooperative Development Minister Kasitah Gaddam.

Annan denies full return of UN in Iraq

BRUSSELS, 30 Jan — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday that the UN mission, to be sent to Iraq, to “give advice,” and it is not “full return” of the United Nations (UN) in the conflict-plagued country.

Annan, who visited the European Commission (EC) for the first time at the invitation of EC President Romano Prodi, made the remarks after his meeting with Prodi.

He said the task of the UN-led coalition should be responsible for the smooth power handover, because it is the coalition that “is governing” and the UN would “do everything to help them.”

Annan, who pulled international staff out of Iraq in October after attacks on the UN Baghdad headquarters, highlighted security measures for the UN mission.

“We are prepared to go, but security will determine,” he stressed.

East Asia, Latin America talk for resumption of Doha talks

MANILA, 30 Jan — Senior officials from East Asia and Latin American countries held a meeting in Manila Thursday to push for a stronger statement calling for the resumption of Doha multilateral round of trade negotiations.

“Both should be undertaken with professionalism and sensitivity. Due to the special structure of the cooperatives, their leaders should think like entrepreneurs but they must also be administrators of the community at the same time,” he said.

Abdullah said that cooperatives should always embark on and seize opportunities from economic activities while the profits gained should be used for the long-term well-being of members.

He called on the cooperatives to forge closer cooperation through networking, whether for business purposes or to provide better facilities for members.

Annan, who visited the European Commission, also said the United Nations will “do everything” to help the power handover to Iraq.

As of June 30, 2003, there were 4,388 cooperatives nationwide with a membership of 5.33 million.

A wounded man walks past through the wreckage following a bomb attack in Baghdad on 28 Jan, 2004. — Reuters

A US soldier stands close to a fountain in front of the Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters in central Baghdad on 28 January. — Reuters

Blast hits Iraqi security forces north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 Jan — An explosion hit an Iraqi security patrol in the restive town of Baquba, north of Baghdad, on Thursday and witnesses said they feared many casualties.

The blast struck members of the Iraqi Civil Defence Force as they were conducting an early morning patrol through the town, 40 miles north of Baghdad, which has been the scene of repeated attacks against Iraqi forces in recent weeks. Two weeks ago a suspected suicide bomber detonated his vehicle outside a police station in Baquba, killing several by standers. Late last year, twin car bomb attacks on police stations in Baquba and a nearby town killed more than a dozen.

strong quake jolts eastern Indonesian islands
US deaths rise in wake of Saddam capture

BAGHDAD, 30 Jan—US combat deaths in Iraq have risen sharply during January despite a drop in the number of attacks and the capture of former dictator Saddam Hussein over a month ago.

As of Thursday, 33 American soldiers and one civilian had been killed by hostile fire during the month. That compares with 24 US combat deaths in December and a total of 32 coalition combat deaths.

The figures appear to show that the security situation in Iraq is not improving, contrary to early claims from the US military and politicians.

The US casualties are also mounting in Afghanistan, where seven US soldiers were killed on Thursday in an explosion near an ammunition dump in the south of the country.

The US military on Thursday declined to confirm or deny the figures for coalition combat deaths in Iraq this month, which were calculated from press releases from US Central Command in Florida. A US

"Reuters" slams US' treatment of journalists in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 30 Jan—Reuters news agency has slammed the Pentagon for failing to address concerns about reporters in war-torn Iraq after US troops killed two of its cameramen and arrested two journalists and their driver. On Jan 2, two Reuters journalists and the driver were detained for 72 hours near the restive town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, by US troops after being mistaken for enemy fighters, the company said in a statement.

Following their release, the international news agency lodged a formal complaint with the US military, attesting to their alleged mistreatment in detention.

"Unfortunately no progress has been made. Immediate action is necessary to address these issues," it said, in a copy of a letter sent to the US defence department.

After their arrests, Brigadier General Mark Kimmit, the coalition’s deputy director of operations, said five people wearing black vests marked “press” fired at and were then chased by US troops, who captured four of them.

Two Reuters cameramen, Ukrainian-born Taras Protsyuk, 35, and Palestinian Mazen Dana, 43 were also killed by US troops while covering the Iraq war in 2003.

The letter, signed by David Schlesinger, the Reuters global managing editor, appeals for a copy of a US military report into the death of Dana, who was shot on Aug. 17, 2003. It said the report was promised several months ago.

"The safety of journalists in Iraq is not improving," Schlesinger said in the statement.

Indian Govt bans import of poultry food, declares red alert

NEW DELHI, 30 Jan—Alarmed over reports of bird flu in neighbouring countries, Indian Government on Thursday announced a ban on imported processed poultry food and declared a red alert to prevent spread of the disease.

It has also decided to intensify vigil over passengers of Samjhauta Express from Pakistan.

Minister Sushma Swaraj made public these decisions after the first high-level coordination meeting of Ministries of Health and Agriculture.

“More attention is being paid on border states like Rajastan, Gujarat and Punjab, where a red alert has been declared,” she told reporters after a meeting which was attended by Agriculture Minister Rajnath Singh and representatives of WHO and FAO.

This follows reports of bird flu cases in Pakistan, she said.

Swaraj said no case of bird flu has been reported in the country till now and State Governments had been asked to report to the Central Government about reports of mass death of chickens or poultry birds. “The situation is fully under control”, she said.

While a special vigil was kept on passenger coming from Samjhauta Express from Pakistan, Swaraj said paramilitary Border Security Force has been asked to be on alert on border states.

The minister commended the role of Punjab Government in maintaining strict vigil on passengers from Pakistan.

“We have also completely banned imports of poultry food processed from any country”, she said.

Adding on the steps taken by the government to prevent the spread of the disease into the country, she said that the government had taken preventive strategy as also a contingency plan to deal with the situation.

Both agriculture and health ministries have initiated strict vigil and letters have been sent to the state Chief Secretaries with adequate guidelines to deal with the situation. — MNA/PTI

Philippines, Colombia seek cooperation to fight illegal drugs

MANILA, 30 Jan—Colombia and the Philippines are seeking closer cooperation in the fight against illegal drugs, insurgency and kidnapping.

Colombian Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert and Colombian Foreign Minister Carolina Barco signed Thursday a memorandum of understanding for the Establishement of Bilateral Consultation mechanism between their governments, which includes cooperation in fighting transnational crimes.

The document establishes a framework within which both countries could flexibly conduct bilateral consultations at anytime and anywhere in the world, providing a venue for the two countries to interact closely with each other.

“We are most definitely interested in helping, sharing anything we can do. Colombia is a country that has suffered the effects of drugs. We feel a very important responsibility to the international community to talk about what is happening to us.”—Barco

Hu Jintao in Cairo for state visit

CAIRO, 30 Jan—Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao began talks with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Thursday evening. The two leaders are expected to confer on bilateral ties as well as international and regional issues of shared concern.

Prior to the formal talks, Hu and Mubarak met briefly. The Egyptian President first extended his warm welcome to President Hu.

During the brief meeting, Mubarak said that he had personal contacts with the three generations of Chinese leaders — Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin, and the two countries had conducted fruitful cooperation in various fields.

While noting smooth development of the Sino-Egyptian friendly relations, Hu hoped that his ongoing visit and talks with Mubarak would further boost the friendship between the two peoples.

A camel sits on a pickup truck with sheep and a girl before leaving Samawa, southern Iraq, for the desert on 29 Jan, 2004. The nomads will spend several months in search of better grass for the sheep. — MNA

The New Light of Myanmar Saturday, 31 January, 2004

Hu Jintao in Cairo for state visit

CAIRO, 30 Jan—A Utah National Guard member was wounded in Iraq when he was hit in the leg by shrapnel from a roadside bomb, the Guard said.

Sgt Jeremy Evans, 27, of Provo was traveling in a roadside bomb exploded, breaking the wind shield of his pickup truck and hitting him in the leg. Utah Guard spokeswoman Maj Lorraine Januzelli said Wednesday.

Evans was treated in a hospital and returned to his unit, the 145th Engineer Battalion, at the Baghdad Airport but has not been placed back on duty.

Five Utah guard or reserve members have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. Five other Utah men have been killed since the start of the war in Iraq. — Internet

Doctors help a badly burned Iraqi man at a hospital in Bagdad, Iraq after a roadside bomb explosion on 29 Jan, 2004. — Internet

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A camel sits on a pickup truck with sheep and a girl before leaving Samawa, southern Iraq, for the desert on 29 Jan, 2004. The nomads will spend several months in search of better grass for the sheep. — MNA/PTI
Second BBC exec resigns over Iraq story

LONDON, 30 Jan—A second top official of the BBC stepped down Thursday as the badly rattled broadcaster struggled to respond to harsh criticism from a judge who repudiated its report that the government “sexed up” intelligence on Iraq.

The resignation of British Broadcasting Corp. director-general Greg Dyke stunned BBC employees, and hundreds of them rallied outside the network’s offices around Britain to show their support for him. One local BBC radio station briefly went off the air in protest.

The BBC apologized for errors it made in the story, which was at the center of a furious, monthslong battle with the government. Dyke, the BBC’s chief executive, resigned after an emergency meeting of the board of governors. Board chairman Gavyn Davies quit Wednesday, hours after the judge, Lord Hutton, announced his findings.

The BBC, whose extensive news and entertainment programming gives it a uniquely powerful place in British life, was shaken by Hutton’s assessment Wednesday that its report was “unsound” and its editorial procedures were “defective.”

The senior appeals judge led an inquiry into the suicide in July of David Kelly, a government weapons adviser who was the source of BBC radio correspondent Andrew Gilligan’s report that the government exaggerated evidence on Iraqi weapons and included a claim they knew was probably false in a September 2002 dossier summarizing intelligence for the public.

Hutton almost completely exonerated the government, saying it had neither mistreated Kelly nor knowingly “sexed up” the dossier and calling the Gilligan report’s claims “unfounded.”

He said the allegations were “very grave” and faulted BBC editors for failing to review what Gilligan was going to say before he went on the air with the first, and strongest, version of his story.

The reporter broadcast that version without a script, answering an anchor’s questions extemporaneously. The BBC later faulted him for “loose use of language.” Richard Ryder, appointed as a temporary replacement for Davies, noted that Hutton had “highlighted serious defects in the corporation’s processes and procedures.”—Internet

Iraq attacks kill local security officer, wound 13

BAGHDAD, 30 Jan—A series of roadside attacks in Iraq killed a local security officer and wounded at least 13 other people on Thursday as guerrillas mounted fresh strikes against Iraqis seen as collaborating with US forces.

In Iraq’s north, guerrillas fired a rocket-propelled grenade on Thursday at a check-point manned by the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps south of the city of Kirkuk, killing one member of the force, the Kirkuk police chief said. In central Iraq, explosives hidden in a cart carrying diesel fuel was detonated as a Defense Corps patrol made its way through the town of Baquba, 40 miles north of Baghdad, wounding 10 people.

And in the southern city of Basra, where British troops are responsible for security, a roadside bomb exploded as a convoy carrying civilian officials was passing, wounding three Iraqi bystanders, a spokesman for the British forces said. The Baquba blast was the latest in a string of attacks against Iraqi security forces in the city, the stronghold on the eastern edge of the “Sunni triangle” area, the hotbed of the 10-month anti-coalition insurgency. As US forces have ratcheted up strikes against insurgents in recent months, guerrillas have increasingly targeted Iraqi police, the Defense Corps and others seen as enemies.

Since May I last year, when Washington declared a victory over in Iraq, more than 300 Iraqi police have been killed in shootings, bombings or suicide attacks. Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, the overall commander of US forces in Iraq, has expressed concern about the growing focus on softer targets as attacks on coalition forces decline. —Internet

Hu Jintao appoints new ambassadors

BEIJING, 30 Jan—Chinese President Hu Jintao announced Thursday the appointment of new ambassadors to Cambodia and nine other countries, in accordance with a decision made by the National People’s Congress Standing Committee.

Hu Qianwen was appointed the new Ambassador to Cambodia, replacing Ning Fukui.

He Siji was appointed the new Ambassador to the Central African Republic, replacing Wang Sifa. Wang Sifa was appointed as the new Ambassador to Cameroon, replacing Xu Mengshui.

Liu Yukun was appointed the new Ambassador to Guinea, replacing Gong Yuanxing.

Sun Rongmao was appointed as the new Ambassador to Cape Verde, replacing Hong Hong.

Hu Shouqin was appointed as the new Ambassador to Zambia, replacing Peng Keyu.—MNA/Xinhua

185 million Chinese people travel by train, bus for Spring Festival

BEIJING, 30 Jan — Some 185 million Chinese people travelled by train and bus for the Spring Festival holiday from January 22 to 28, up 4 per cent from the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Railways.

The Spring Festival holiday has long been the busiest season in China as hundreds of millions of people return home for family reunion. The festival had exerted strong pressure on China’s transportation system, particularly on the 72,000 kilometres of railways. The train was the first choice of the passengers, for its safety and low cost.

In order to meet the demand, the ministry had added more than 4,000 standby railway cars and redistributed resources, reducing trains in less busy areas and sending more to busy areas. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Egyptian leaders discuss Iraq, peace process and economic ties

CAIRO, 30 Jan—Chinese President Hu Jintao began talks with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak on Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict as the sides broadened economic ties, officials said.

Hu, on his first visit to Egypt since becoming head of state last March, arrived from Paris where the French government stirred controversy with its support for Beijing’s opposition to a referendum in Tawain.

Egypt’s official MENA news agency said Mubarak and Hu discussed “the situation in the Middle East, especially the (Arab-Israeli) peace process, the situation in Iraq, and how to improve bilateral cooperation.”

It gave further details of the talks which were being held at Mubarak’s palace in northern Cairo. MENA said “Mr. officials traveling with Hu and their Egyptian counterparts signed several coopera- tion agreements, including on technology and oil exploration in Egypt.”

China’s ambassador to Cairo, Wu Sike, has said the visit would focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation and economic links and would also review changes in the Middle East over the past four years. “China is ready to trans- fer to Egypt its technology in all fields, without restriction,” especially in telecommunications and aeronautics, Wu said. But he added that the Chinese delegation included no military representative. —Internet

Military identifies three Fort Bragg soldiers killed in Iraq

RAFLETT, 30 Jan—The military on Thursday identified three Fort Bragg soldiers killed this week when a roadside bomb exploded west of Baghdad.

The paratroopers killed Tuesday near Iskandariyah were identified as 2nd Lt. Luke J. James, 24, of Oklahoma, Staff Sgt. Lester O. Kinney II, 27, of Zanesville, Ohio, and Spc. Cory R. Macek, 26, of Hay Springs, Neb, the Department of Defense said in a news release.

The soldiers were part of the Task Force Seven and supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, the military said.

Another Fort Bragg paratrooper was critically wounded in the attack on the 82nd Airborne Division convoy, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy chief of staff for operations, said.

Suicide attacks. Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, the overall commander of US forces in Iraq, has expressed concern about the growing focus on softer targets as attacks on coalition forces decline. —Internet

Seven US soldiers killed in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 30 Jan—An explosion near an ammunition dump in southern Afghanis- tan killed seven US soldiers and wounded three others on Thursday, the US Army said.

US Central Command said in a statement the sol- diers were killed when work- ing near an arms cache in the southern province of Ghazni on Thursday afternoon.

An interpreter was also injured and another soldier was missing, the statement said. “Everything else is under investigation, they’ll be waiting to establish exactly what happened,” said Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Williams at Central Command in Florida. —MNA/Reuters

US soldiers take away blindfolded Iraqi detainees after conducting a sudden raid at a house inuja, Iraq, on 29 Jan.—INTERNET
Innocent civilian deaths in air strikes in Iraq

Iraqi men search for their belongings in a house damaged during an air strike on Baghdad, March 26, 2003. Bombs crashed into Baghdad as the United States kept up a relentless pounding of the Iraqi capital.

Iraqis shout in the street past a burning car after an air strike on Baghdad, March 26, 2003. At least 15 burnt corpses lay in a popular residential area of Baghdad.

Iraqi men search for their belongings in a house damaged during an air strike on Baghdad, March 26, 2003. Bombs crashed into Baghdad as the United States kept up a relentless pounding of the Iraqi capital.

In Baghdad, Iraqis are burying their dead after an explosion devastated a city market, killing scores.

Iraqis carry the body of a man who Iraqi authorities say was killed in air strikes in Baghdad. At least 15 burnt corpses lay in a popular residential area of Baghdad, apparently killed in a US-led bombing or missile raid on the Iraqi capital on 26 March, 2003.

The war was ultimately waged outside the framework of international legitimacy and it has “always been about oil and always (will) cost the lives of innocent Arab men, women and children”.

Reported innocent civilian deaths in air strikes in Iraq

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<tr>
<th>Data</th>
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<td>Baghdad</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Baghdad and surrounding areas</td>
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<td>Waseet</td>
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<td>9-4-2003</td>
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Total 1169
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:
Development images of Kayah State in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

The Cultural Museum in Loikaw, Kayah State.

The scenic view of downtown Loikaw, Kayah State, shows the development of the state.

Government Computer College in Loikaw, Kayah State.

Microwave Station in Loikaw serves the people for their convenience in communication.

Loinanpha Dam, built on Tikellya Creek near Loinanpha village, Dimawhs Township, Kayah State, benefits 2,150 acres of land. It was commissioned into service on 6 March 2002.

<table>
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<th>Development Sector</th>
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Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Ketu Nilar

Anti-colonialist, anti-fascist and national independence movements were launched throughout the period of the independence struggle in Myanmar on the basis of the consolidated efforts of Myanmar national races including Shan, Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Kayah, Mon, Bamar and Rakhine nationals. By winning one victory after another, the Union of Myanmar became a sovereign state on 4 January 1948. It is safe to assume that the achievement is a fine legacy in the course of national history.

The Panglong Conference is a prominent proof of that achievement. When it comes to Panglong Conference, there were two Panglong Conferences: the one held in March 1946 and the other held on 3-12 February 1947 in which Panglong Agreement was signed unanimously by the national races. It is in fact undeniable that the first one was the provenance of the holding of the second one. The reason was that Sawbwas in Shan State came into conflict with the British colonialists over the administrative reform in the region at the beginning of 1946. In a bid to expand their influence in Shan State, the British colonialists enacted laws which were aimed at granting limited rights to Shan nationals and lowering the influence of Shan Sawbwas. A patriot of Shan national fected by the law. The commissioner replied that it was not the business of the Sawbwas whether they agreed to the law or not, and that it was only the matter for the governor whether to approve it or not. Not only did they come to abhor the British colonialists, but they also came to understand that mass protests were the only answer. With the political conviction that it would be impossible to achieve anything if there was no contact with the public, Shan Sawbwas started conceding that the entire national races were to make concerted efforts to secure national inter-est and that national unity was the prime mover.

The first Panglong Conference was held in order to address the future of Shan State as well as regional prosperity and to sound out the feelings of Shan nationals. It was attended by representa-tives of the AFPFL, Shan Sawbwas from SSFF, Shan national patriots, Hill Commissioner Stevenson, and U Saw. At the conference, U Tin E, leader of Shan national patriots revealed the genuine wishes of Shan nationals, saying that he hoped the appearance of Galon U Saw there to be a good sign; however, he would like to request U Saw to go home if U Saw was there just to sell do-minion which had no market in Yangon; and that what the people of Shan State desired was freedom alone.

Shan Sawbwas came to realize their true situation after the first conference and became more eager to regain in-dependence. As a result, some Shan nationals with progressive outlooks were able to be organ-ized. The British attempt to publicize the dominion was rebutted.

At the invitation of British Prime Minister Mr Attlee, a Myanmar delegation left Yangon on 2 January 1947 and arrived in London on 9 January and started to discuss the issue on the regaining of independ-ence with the British gov-ernment on 13 January. During the time when discussions were being held with the British gov-ernment, some feudal Sawbwas dancing to the tune of the British colonialist officer Mr Stevenson sent a secret telegraph requesting the British government to invite a delegation of Shan State separately to discuss matters related to the hill regions as the delegation then in Lon-don did not represent the Shan Sawbwas. In con-sequence of it, the meet-ing with the British gov-ernment did not go as smoothly as it did earlier. Realizing the true situation, national leaders from the Shan State Lib-eration Federation held a mass rally in Taunggyi and telegraphed to Lon-don that the hill regions also wanted to gain inde-pendence along the plains; that the Myanmar delegation then in Lon-don had the right to rep-resent the hill regions, and that they supported the desire and proposals of the Myanmar delega-tion. It was a close call that the colonialist scheme to drive a wedge between national brethren could be saved just in time.

On the receipt of the second telegraph, the British government re-sumed the meeting. As the Myanmar delegation reached an agreement with the British govern-ment in the meeting, a bilateral agreement was signed by both sides on 27 January 1947. Later, the Myanmar delegation left London on 30 Janu-ary 1947 and arrived back in Yangon on 2 February.

The entire nationalities took part actively and earnestly in the nationwide movement to be free from the enslavement of the British colonialists and to establish a sovereign state. Braving a variety of wicked attempts made by the British colonialists, the people of entire national races had to build nationalism and Union Spirit to be more consolidated on the basis of ever-flourishing national pride.

As a result, the national races reached an agreement on meeting in Panglong or at any suitable place to seek approval to secure independence of the whole country including hilly regions. The national races decided to convene the second Panglong conference for implementing the agreement matters.

The united strength of the entire national races, who were opposed to the British imperialists, caused the birth of the Union Day which was 12 February 1947.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

In the name of Panglong

The above right photo shows the monument erected after signing the Panglong Agreement on 12-2-1947 and left shows today's monument.
In the name of Panglong

A delegate to Panglong Conference signs the agreement.

As a result, the national races decided to convene the second Panglong conference for implementing the agreements matters. In sending invitations to the delegates to the conference, the officials under the influence of British imperialists tried to prevent the Kachin national races, who actively took part in politics in collaboration with the AFPFL, from attending the conference. However, Kachin national races who were vigilant and imbued with patriotism attended the second Panglong conference as observers.

The British imperialists and their accomplices attempted to undermine the conference, resorting to various ways and means. The British imperialist officers themselves attended the conference and drove a wedge among the national races to sow seeds of suspicion among the latter.

Although the conference could have been in failure, the Shan State Freedom Federation had to try its best to keep the conference going.

As a result, the national people, the students and service personnel in Taunggyi under the Panglong agreement in Panglong out of a sense of Union Spirit.

To put it in a nutshell, the Panglong soil which bore the unity of the entire national races is a place where the independence was conceived.

It was the strong Union Spirit of the national brethren that eliminated the treacheries and instigation of the imperialists with no desire for privileges but independence. Panglong stands witness to this.

Translation: KTY +TS

Like a curry of various vegetables

* With a variety of vegetables mixed
When the cooking is done
Add a sprinkling of parsley
Spices to add to aroma.

* Aroma of the curry
Spreads as it comes out
Feelings of wanting to enjoy
Salivating with good taste
Flavour unparalleled

This Myanmar curry.

* Myanmar curry with various vegetables
Look at it that way
Nationalities
With help clearly intertwined
Unitedly built
This is our Union.

Po Wa (Trs)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day

Delegates of plain and hill regions of the Union who attended the first Panglong Conference held in March, 1946.

U Tin E who represents Shan State signs the Panglong Agreement on 12-2-1947.

The patriotic leaders and the national races in successive eras put up much of a fight against the British imperialists for the independence, sacrificing a lot of lives, blood and sweat. They had to face with the instigation manufactured by the imperialists at a time when the independence was nearly regained.

In this situation, the national brethren, regardless of hilly regions and plains, signed the Panglong agreement in Panglong out of a sense of Union Spirit.

The British imperialists, the people of colonialists, the people of ever-flourishing national pride.

The entire national races had consolidated on the basis of ever-flourishing national pride.

To put it in a nutshell, the Panglong soil which bore the unity of the entire national races is a place where the independence was conceived.

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In this situation, the national brethren, regardless of hilly regions and plains, signed the Panglong agreement in Panglong out of a sense of Union Spirit.
ASEAN is to reduce the trade tariff among the member nations. The main economic cooperation objective of the association collectively formed with the harmonious efforts together to further develop the human society where symmetry between Myanmar and the regional countries will benefit goodwill for Myanmar.

Myanmar and the neighbours and the regional countries is minister Dr Thaksin, Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh and the consolidation of the national unity. Myanmar is firmly building the national strength to effectively safeguard her independence and sovereignty. In the international sector, the nation is joining hands with the world countries in amity for equality, peace, prosperity and progress.

In accord with the independent and active foreign policy which the nation has been strictly adhering to, Myanmar is cooperating with all the global nations, especially, the neighbours, from the constructive point of view. Myanmar’s relations with the neighbours and regional countries is further improving.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents award for perseverance to Demonstrator Daw Amy Soe of Mawlamyine University.

The further improvement in the international relations has promoted the exchange of goodwill visits between the Heads of State and Government of Myanmar and other nations. During the previous year, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Tha Sein toured the People’s Republic of China, Laos and Vietnam on goodwill visits, and attended the Summit of SARS held in Bangkok, Thailand. Similarly, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Ninth ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, and ASEAN-Japan Summit held in Tokyo, Japan.

Likewise, Thai Princess Sirindhorn, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin, Vice-President of India Mr Bhairon Singh Sheshkhat, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleeda Zia and the Vice Premier of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Lanqing were on goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The results of the efforts for the existence of the bilateral relationship and the extension of relations between Myanmar and the neighbours and the regional countries is the further flourishing of amity, friendship, sympathy and goodwill for Myanmar.

Despite pressures from the west, the ASEAN nations are clearly standing by Myanmar. At the Bali Summit, the ASEAN leaders sounded an announcement, expressing support for the democracy process programme of Myanmar and saying that sanctions will not help the emergence of democracy in Myanmar. It also said that it would render assistance to the democracy process of Myanmar.

As Myanmar lies in the hub where Southeast Asia and South Asia meet, the development in the cooperation between Myanmar and the regional countries will benefit both. ASEAN Vision 2020 is for the ASEAN to work together and to become the human society to work for the prosperity and welfare, and extending relations with the outside world. The Hanso Plan of Action was laid down in 1998 to realize the Vision. In this respect, the economic cooperation objective of the ASEAN is to reduce the trade tariff among the member nations down to zero per cent and to five per cent and to set up the ASEAN Free Trade Area. Under the plan, Myanmar will have the opportunity to compete in the ASEAN market, and on the other hand, it will have to allow free trade on most of the exports from other member nations. Thus, arrangements will have to be made from now on for the Myanmar goods to have the competitive edge in quality as well as in price.

Under the ASEAN Investment Area, investors from other member nations can enjoy equal rights with the local investors. The programme will help increase the investment of the ASEAN nations and the foreign companies in the member nations. Thus, it has become important for the production en- terprises of Myanmar to be able to compete with the industries of the foreign investors.

There are also programmes to facilitate and harmonize the financial arrangements among the member nations, to bring greater strengths, to free from foreign interference and that respects each other’s sovereignty.

The vision of the second pillar (the economic community) is to ensure free flow of goods, services and invest- ments among the member nations, to bring fair economic development, and to reduce poverty and social and economic gap by creating the ASEAN into a single market and single production area. The ASEAN as a security (the security community) is to support peace through the extended ASEAN cooperation, and to set up an ASEAN enjoying greater peace and stability region wise. It is encouraging to see the fruits of success as well as in the peaceful solving of the problems between nations in an environment that is free from foreign interference and that respects each other’s sovereignty.

If the pillars can be erected firmly, the ASEAN will become a family fully enjoying security, economic strength, and social and human resource development. Thus, Myanmar will have to make necessary arrangements from now on.

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy between the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — was held successfully in Bagam in November. The meeting has envisioned to increase competitiveness on the realm of the regional countries.

To be combined are such seven sectors as trade and investment sector, agricultural sector, industrial sector, transport sector, tourism, projects and human resource development sector. Cooperation will be enhanced among all four countries or between two countries. According to a new economic cooperation strategy, there is expected to be increased momentum in co-operation among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. Ties have been formed not only between the members of ASEAN family alone but also with what is called ASEAN+3 (People’s Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea).

As the UN Organization, the ASEAN, neighbouring countries and regional countries are in support of the seven-point political programme of the State and lent themselves to that drive. As the first phase of the roadmap, the all the commit-tees necessary for the reconvening of the National Convention were formed and assigned duties to them.

The harmonious participation of the entire national people and the supports of international community are of necessity for the successful realization of the seven-point political programme.

Any attempts to hinder the working process will make the national goal — the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy — be a distant reality. Therefore, university and college teachers are to do their bit by lending themselves to the drive to create a democratic state in order to move forward towards the goal of the entire national people smoothly.

Only the State that springs from the fitness of the entire people and international opportunities and the national economic life, highly-qualifed human resources, and national solidarity can survive as a sovereign state as long as the world exists. This being so, university and college teachers are to make harmonious efforts to build such good foundations.

In order to contribute to the development, teachers are to strive for producing continuously intellectuals and intelligentsia whose patri- ottism, nationalism and Union Spirit are strong enough to defend and build a modern and developed nation; to carry out regional stability, economic security, development of well-rounded human resources, preservation of cultural heritage with higher historical values in cooperation with the members of ASEAN family, neighbouring countries and regional countries; and to play their every part energetically in the realisation of the seven-point future political programme with dynamic nationalistic fervour for the establishment of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic state. This is our goal.

Later, course completion certificates were presented to trainees. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a model trade award to U Zaw Lin Thu, demonstra-tor at Dagon University, and Daw Thein Thein Soe, dem-onstrator at Pathein University; and model hostel awards to trainees of the men’s company-5 at the building-6 and trainees of the women’s company-8 at the building-2.

Next, trainees donated K 251,000 to be used in reli-gious, educational and social activities. The donations were received by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, who later presented certificates of honour. After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greeted the trainees. Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt reconvened the project of construction project of the rural commu-nisation centre at Phaunggyi village. Minister for Com-munications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented reports to the Prime Minister. After hearing the reports, Prime Minister left instructions. — MNA
The Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and the great grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2004

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders comprising 300 members of the Sangha represents over five hundred thousand members of the Sangha residing in the Union of Myanmar. According to the fundamental principles of the Sangha, which were passed and adopted by the First successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders, the Sixth Buddhist Council held in the Union of Myanmar in 1980, 300 members of the Sangha could be formed in the Union of Myanmar for the first time during one hundred years.

The Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders

In accordance with the prescribed term of the Sangha Organization of the Union of Myanmar, the Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders is fixed to be held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye hilllock, Yangon, from 1 to 3 March 2004. The meeting will be attended by 300 members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and 111 members of the State Sangha Council comprises 300 members of the Sangha of all Orders are strengthening to carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Theravada Buddhist Sangha throughout the world. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders have been already made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and responsible personnel concerned.

The great grand Religious Title Presentation ceremony of 2004

In order to preserve, promote and flourish the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana, viz (1) the Patiyatti Sasana (learning the Buddha's teaching), (2) the Patipatti Sasana (practical application of the Buddhist teaching) and (3) the Pativeda Sasana (realization of the Buddha's teaching), the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued its Notification No. 1/2004 on the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4th January 2004, regarding conferring the Religious Title on the 250 eminent Buddhist monks, the 23 elder monks and the 50 persons at home and the 11 Mahatheras and one elder nun from abroad who distinctively could carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana at their utmost efforts.

The great grand ceremony for presenting the Religious Title to the recipients will be held at Maha Pasana Cave, Kaba Aye hilllock, Yangon, Myanmar on the 5th March 2004 (the Fullmoon Day of Taubang, 1365 ME). All Religious Title recipients have already been invited to attend the great grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2004.

It is further learnt that altogether 655 members of the Sangha and 24 elder monks will be present on this auspicious occasion.

Besides, the auspicious ceremony for communal offering of provisions and various articles to 655 members of the Sangha and 24 elder monks, will be held on a grand scale on Kaba Aye hilllock, on the 5th March 2004 (the Fullmoon Day of Taubang, 1365 ME). And so, all Buddhists and wellwishers are cordially invited to attend this auspicious ceremony for paying profound respect to the members of the Sangha and for sharing merits of meritorious deeds.

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UMFCCI delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 29 Jan — Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry U Win Aung, U Pyone Maung Maung and Central Executive Committee member Dr Sein Myint left here by air for Thailand on 10th March today. The delegation is to attend the 17th ASEAN-US Dialogue Meeting in Thailand. The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by UMFCCI President U Win Myint, General Secretary U Win Hlaing and officials. — MNA

Corrigendum

Please read “Supreme Court Judge Dr Tin Aung Aye” instead of “Deputy Chief Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye” in the news “Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Trust Fund Supervisory Committee meets” which appeared on page 10 of this paper yesterday. — MNA

Don't smoke
Philippine launches special task force against bird flu

JAKARTA, 30 Jan — The Philippine Government on Thursday urged local governments and relevant departments to earnestly implement eight major measures in an urgent effort to prevent and control the spread of the bird flu virus, search on the bird flu virus. The production and reservation of the bird flu vaccine must be arranged and international exchanges and cooperation on the virus research should be carried out.

The quarantine work must be intensified on the poultry imported or exported and poultry smuggling must be cracked down on.

Conscientious and painstaking efforts must be made to ensure that every Chinese person acquaints himself with the basic information on what bird flu is and how to contain the disease.

— Resolute, substantial efforts must be made to prevent the deadly virus from spreading and extending. Medical monitoring should be beefed up among the people who are in close contact with poultry, and the infrastructure construction for poultry quarantine must be stepped up and an emergency system for the outbreak of major animal epidemics must be established.

The special task force would be also assigned to lead the government to control and prevent avian flu epidemic if it enters the country.

The special task force will be made up of representatives from the DOH, the Department of Animal Industry, the poultry industry and other stakeholders, including veterinary medi- chines experts.

There is no need to be alarmed. The country is free from this virus and measures are in place to prevent its entry. The DOH and DA said in the statement.

For the Philippine authorities has earlier ordered the ban on poultry imports from Asian countries hit by the bird flu, including Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, Japan and Indonesia.

Megawati orders mass cull of bird flu-infected poultry

JAKARTA, 30 Jan — President Megawati Soekarnoputri has ordered a mass cull of all poultry inf- ected with bird flu, a minister said Thursday.

“Have made a conversation with the President. She ordered the mass cull of infected poultry,” Coordinating Minister for People’s Welfare Jusuf Kalla said after meeting Megawati at the state palace here.

“Those infected will be culled and the good chickens will be saved,” Jusuf said.

The Ministry of Agriculture said on Wednesday that it would launch a vacci- nation campaign for healthy chickens to prevent them from contracting the virus.

Three local companies have been appointed to pro- duce the vaccine while the government considering im- porting more.
Ex-US arms Hunter says everyone wrong on WMD

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—Former chief US weapons hunter David Kay said on Wednesday he and everyone else who had believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction were wrong and that his search found no evidence of biological or chemical arms.

"Let me begin by saying, we were almost all wrong, and certainly I include myself here," Kay told the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in his first public appearance on Capitol Hill since stepping down last week.

"I believe that the effort that has been directed to this point has been sufficiently intensive that it is highly unlikely that there were large stockpiles of deployed militarized chemical and biological weapons there," he told the hearing.

Republican senators emphasized the hunt for banned weapons, the central argument for the US-led war against Iraq, had not ended and something could still turn up.

Democrats read quote after quote from top Administration officials saying that Iraq had such weapons.

Democrats trying to unseat Republican President George W Bush in elections this year are trying to make a case that the White House exaggerated intelligence to go to war.

Kay also disputed accusations that intelligence analysts were pressured to reach conclusions to fit the White House political agenda, saying not one had told him that.

"I had innumerable analysts who came to me in apolo-ogy that the world that we were finding was not the world that they had thought existed and that they had estimated," Kay said.

Kay said. They cited the limited data on which they had based conclusions, he said.—MNA/Reuters

Oscar nomination latest victory for Japan samurai

TORONTO, 30 Jan—Japanese actor Ken Watanabe, best known for his portrayal of the Last Samurai, has already won his greatest battle by prevailing over leukaemia.

"I am trying to show the world," said political analyst Carlos Pio.—MNA/Reuters

Canada to provide vaccine to Asia for bird flu protection

OTTAWA, 30 Jan—Canada has given its main influenza vaccine supplier the green light to sell up to 200,000 doses of human flu vaccine originally for Canadian services to countries in Southeast Asia battling bird flu, a Canadian Press report said Wednesday.

"Canada has more vac-cine than it needs at this time. Over 200,000 doses of influenza vaccine can be made available to other countries," said Irene Aguzzi, spokes-woman for Public Works and

US singer James Brown arrested on violence charge

MADRAS, 30 Jan—The “Godfather of Soul”, James Brown, was arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of committing domestic vio-ence, South Carolina law enforcement officials said.

Brown, 70, who has had several run-ins with the law and spent time in prison, was due to appear at a bond hear-ing on Thursday, a spokes-man for the Aiken County detention centre said.

Neither the Aiken County Sheriff’s office nor the detention centre would comment further. The soul singer, famous for his hits including “I Feel Good”, was previously accused of beat-ing his wife, Adrienne, in 1995. Brown served nearly three years in prison after he was arrested in 1988 for beat-ing police on a car chase be-tween South Carolina and Georgia.—MNA/Reuters

Brazilian President seeks international tax to help poor

BRASILIA (Brazil), 30 Jan—Brazilian President Lur-iaco Lula da Silva is looking to firm up his plans for a tax on international transactions to help fight poverty when he meets with UN and French leaders this week, government officials said Wednesday.

Lula, who Brazilian analysts say is trying to build a role as champion of the developing world, will meet UN Secre-tary-General Kofi Annan and French President Jacques Chirac in Geneva on Friday to discuss the fight on hunger.

Lula launched the idea of a global fund to fight poverty last year and a foreign policy adviser said recently that financing for it could come from a tax on international financial transactions, or possibly a tax on the world arms trade. Few details of the proposal have been made public.

An official at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry said the leaders were expected to issue a statement after the meeting with an undertaking to push for such a tax or a commitment to study its viability.

"This is not just for internal consumption. Itinhk (Lula) is trying to position himself as the leader of the developing world,” said political analyst Carlos Pio.—MNA/Reuters

Heavy snow leaves thousands stranded across Europe

LONDON, 30 Jan—Thousands of air and rail passengers were left stranded and road traffic was paralyzed across Europe on Thursday after a cold snap brought heavy snow and bitterly cold temperatures from London to Moscow.

Snow drifts and ice caused the cancel-lation of many flights at Britain’s Heathrow, the world’s busiest airport.

In Belgium, heavy snowfall forced most flights to be delayed or cancelled at Brus-sels International Airport as crews worked to remove ice from planes and runways. More flights might be disrupted if the weather did not improve, a spokesman said.

Flights destined for Brussels were also being cancelled due to similar conditions at other European airports, he said. In Frank-furt, at least 20 flights were cancelled and dozens more were delayed due to snow.

Heavy snowfall across the central region of Tuscany cut Italy in two on Thursday.

Thousands of drivers shivered in their stationary cars and police closed the motor-way between Bologna and Florence, handing out blankets and warm drinks to stranded motorists.

Further north in the Italian Alps, the mercury dropped to –35 degrees Celsius (–31 Fahrenheit). And on the island of Sardinia, usually a sun-drenched tourist hot spot, electricity lines came down under the weight of ice.

In Britain, snowfall ranging from two to 28 centimetres (a half-inch to 11 inches) blanketed most of the country on Wednesday, and temperatures dropped to minus 5C (23 F) overnight.

Conditions were still severe in the Netherlands on Thursday, however, where snow, ice, hail and driving winds hit morning rush hour traffic across the country.—MNA/Reuters

Steve Job, co-founder of Apple Computer, shows his latest creation, a laptop whose display can be tilted to 170 degrees, at Macworld Conference and Expo in San Francisco Thursday.

A snowflow clears country roads near Cambrai in northern France, on 29 Jan, 2004.
Ones, Larrios win WBC awards

MEXICO CITY, 30 Jan—American Roy Jones and Mexico's Oscar Larrios tied the voting for the World Boxing Council Boxers of the Year for 2003. Jones, 34, became only the second heavyweight in history to take a heavyweight title when he beat Puerto Rico's John Ruiz for the WBC light heavyweight.

Larios, 27, successfully defended his super bantamweight title three times. The fight between world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis of Britain and Ukrainian Vitali Kличko of Germany was named Fight of the Year.

Lewis defeated Klitschko in Los Angeles last June when the fight was stopped at the end of the sixth round because of a deep cut over Klitschko's left eye. Klitschko was leading 58-56 on all three judges' cards at the time. The World Boxing Council regrouped 162 countries represented by nine continental federations holding thirty-five votes in the WBC Board of Governors. Both Jones and Larrios won 12 votes.— MNA/Reuters

China beat Russia 3-0 at four-nation soccer tournament

LUZHOU, 30 Jan—The Chinese Under-23 soccer team jumped to a good start in the Four-Nation friendly tournament here on Wednesday as they breezed past Russia 3-0 in the opening round.

Goals from Xu Liang, Du Zhenyu and Liu Zhuzhou gave China a 3-0 lead in their opening match against Russia in front of 1,000 local fans at the Luzhou Sports Complex.

The Chinese players, most under 21, were clearly no match for their stronger and older opponents, whose stamina amazed even the intensive training in the past two months.

"The players did reap good experience from the game and we also found some loop holes," said Chinese head coach Chen Xiaofu. "I am especially satisfied with the new hands in the team," added Shen, who has been coaching the U-23 team, also called the Olympic team, for three years.— MNA/Kinhua

Tunisia qualify for Nations Cup quarterfinals

RABAT (Tunisia), 30 Jan—Tunisia became the first side to qualify for the African Nations Cup quarterfinals with a controversial 3-0 win on Wednesday over Democratic Republic of Congo, the first team to be eliminated.

The Congolese had captain Lomana LuaLua sent off following an off-the-ball incident in the first half, effectively setting Tunisia up for the win after the break.

Brazilian-born Francisco dos Santos scored twice and Najeh Braham once as the North African country's national side was defended by four Orientals in the second half, effectively setting Tunisia up for the win after the break. The performance reflected a turbulent period for the Super Eagles.

An attempt by the Nigerian Football Association (NFA) to sign former England captain Bryan Robson was vetoed by Sports Minister Musa Mohammed because they had not followed "due process". As a result, Chukwu was kept on as caretaker coach.

Preparations for the Nations Cup were further delayed as Parliament discussed the federal budget for 2004, which includes money for the national team.

The NFA then held a training camp for 41 national team hopefuls in Portugal at the end of December but, despite begging some players to turn up, only around half of them appeared.— MNA/Reuters

Nations-favourites make spluttering start

MONTPELLIER (Tunisia), 30 Jan—African Nations Cup favourites Nigeria, Senegal and Cameroon have been left without a win between them following the Super Eagles’ shock defeat 1-0 to Morocco on Tuesday.

Nigeria’s defeat came after Cameroon and Senegal were held to draws in their opening games by Algeria and Burkina Faso respectively, with Cameroon the only one of the big three managing to score a goal. But while Cameroon and Senegal can both consider themselves unlucky not to have won their matches, Nigeria’s lacklustre display on Tuesday gave the impression that the players would rather have been back in their beachside hotel.

Playmaker Austin "Jay-Jay" Okocha, given few options by his teammates, was reduced to thumping hopeful long-balls up the pitch.

At one point, he picked up the ball and, with nobody to pass to, attempted to chip the Moroccan goalkeeper from just inside his own half. The ball flew yards wide of the goal. Arsenal’s Nwankwo Kana, playing in midfield, barely touched the ball and Isaac Okoronkwo had a torrid time in defence.

Coach Christian Chukwu accused his team of taking the match too lightly.

"The major problem was that the players did not take the game seriously and that cost us," Chukwu said. "We told them it was going to be a difficult match. But in the first half, you could see, they were so relaxed."

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Milan moves top of Serie A

MILAN, 30 Jan— European champions AC Milan moved top of Serie A on Wednesday after goals from Brazilian Kaká and Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson gave them a 2-1 win over Siena. Carlo Ancelotti’s side lead with 45 points with Roma two points behind and Juventus in third on 40 points.

Milan went ahead in the 38th minute when Amoroso’s cross was headed in by Dos Santos, who finished easily. The result gave the Basque side a 4-3 aggregate to the second round last weekend, stay seventh on 30 points.

Siena has a great chance to draw level with Roma when they meet in the last round of the Serie A campaign and will then look to get back on track before the break when their Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo was pulled down by Milan captain Paolo Maldini, but Brazilian Fernando’s weak 39th-minute penalty was saved by his compatriot, Dida in the Milan goal. Milan’s second came nine minutes after the interval when Alves keeper Jean Pablo Fimbula gave a Gustavo Lopez free kick midway through the second half.

Sevilla put behind them the sale of their talented Argentine Betanzos to Liverpool by booking their place in the semi-finals, completing an emphatic 6-1 aggregate victory over Atletico Madrid with a 2-1 win at the Calderon.— MNA/Reuters

Els recovers, ready for more Johnnie Walker classic

BANGKOK, 30 Jan—Ernie Els has recovered from a stomach complaint and is all set to defend his Johnnie Walker Classic title in Thailand this week.

The South African had to call for a doctor during a practice round on Tuesday on the Alpine Sports and Country Club course for the $1.83 million event.

"I am over it now," he told reporters on the eve of the event. "The doctor gave me a shot and now I am looking forward to the week." — MNA/Reuters

Virginia Ruzo Pascal (L) from Spain and Paola Suarez (R) from Argentina hold the trophy after winning the Australian Open women’s doubles final in Melbourne on 30 Jan, 2004. Ruzo Pascal and Suarez defeated the Russian pair of Svetlana Kuznetsova and Elena Likhovtseva 6-4, 6-3.—INTERNET
Yangon 30 Jan—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay inspected the installation of the 14-inch gas pipeline connection at Nyaungdon-Ywama area. He also inspected the progress of work being done. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the site of Nyaungdon-Ywama 14-inch gas pipeline installation. Officials concerned reported on the work progress and the deputy minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Director (Oil Division) U Kyaw Hlaing of DSMU and Prof David Kelly of Australia carried out specialists of DSMU and Australia performed surgical operations.

Yangon 30 Jan—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay inspected the installation of the 14-inch gas pipeline. The deputy minister, the deputy ministers, officials and guests viewed the booth round the fair. They inspected progress in installation of steel beams to the bridge and laying of concrete. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the construction of the bridge. — MNA

Arrival of machinery. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to the officials concerned. They proceeded to the project site for construction of Hsinthein Creek Bridge linking Kyauktawyi village and Tadali village in Pyinmyana Township. Officials reported on work being done. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the construction work.

Afterwards, they inspected Ngalak Creek-Crossing Bridge Project. Officials reported on work progress, future asks and building of the approach bridge. They inspected progress in installation of steel beams to the bridge and laying of concrete. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the construction of the bridge. — MNA

Installation of gas pipeline inspected

YANGON 30 Jan—The Yangon Trade Fair 2004 was launched with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce and arrangement of the Quartz International Co Ltd at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Street here this morning.

It was attended by Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tin, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, departmental heads, officials, social organizations, staff of foreign embassies in Yangon, and entrepreneurs.

The minister and Managing Director of the Quartz International Co Ltd Daw Myat Thet Aye formally opened the fair. The minister, the deputy ministers, officials and guests viewed the booth round the fair. Displayed at the fair were local and foreign cosmetics and personal goods, textiles, utensils, foodstuff, electronic and electrical apparatus, construction materials, household utensils, stationery, gadgets, traditional medicines and medical equipment. The fair continues daily up to 2 February from 9 am to 6 pm. Admission is free. — MNA

Yangon Trade Fair 2004 launched

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects …

YANGON, 30 Jan—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, accompanied by Director (oil exploration and development) U Kyaw Hlaing of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, inspected the Nyaungdon oil and natural gas field this afternoon. Officials concerned reported on matters of exploration of new wells. The Deputy Minister gave necessary instructions. He also inspected the oil storage tank and drilling of No 21 well. Next, the deputy minister and party proceeded to the site of Nyaungdon-Ywama 14-inch gas pipeline installation.Officials concerned reported on the work progress and the deputy minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Committee U Myint O inspected progress in construction of road. Director U Kan Hla and Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project. Afterwards, they inspected Meiktila-Yamein section being undertaken by Yuzana Highway Co Ltd. Officials reported on progress of work. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions. They also inspected cotton plantations of farmer U Myo Win in Kantha Village, Pyawbye Township. Next, they inspected construction of a bridge on the creek at mile post No 272. On arrival at Bawdwinmyaung Village, Takyu Township, Project Manager U Bo Kyaw of Asia World Co Ltd reported on upgrading of the road, building of bridges on the road and

Specialists of DSMU and Australia perform surgical operations

YANGON, 30 Jan—A combined team comprising specialists of Defence Services Medical Unit and specialists of Australia successfully performed surgical operations on heart patients at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon from 26 to 30 January.

A group led by Prof Col Aung Kyaw Zaw of DSMU and Prof David Kelly of Australia carried out a disease diagnosis while a group led by Prof Lt-Col Tin Maung Aye of DSMU and Prof Alan Gale of Australia performed surgical operations on heart patients.

A combined team successfully performed surgical operations on eight heart patients. — MNA

WEATHER

Friday, 30 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin State, lower Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Mandalay Division, Chin and Rakhine States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (0°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 29-1-2004 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 30-1-2004 was 15.0°C (59°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-1-2004 was 59%. Total sunshine hours on 29-1-2004 was (8.8) hours approx. Rainfall recorded on 30-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 29-1-2004.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-1-2004: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST:

Weather is partly cloudy in the West and Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 31-1-2004: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-1-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-1-2004: Partly cloudy.

Wearather Outlook for last weekend of 31st January 2004: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

OBITUARY

DAW THEIN MIYNT @ MRS. AGNES HO

Retired Teacher, Methodist English High School

Daw Thein Miynt, daughter of (U A Lam and Daw Guye May), beloved wife of (K.T.Ho @ USi), eldest sister of (U Thun Tin @Hary-Daw Thein Nu @ Lily), (George Lee @ U Miyint Hla)@Pauline Lee, (U Mya Thang @ Spencer - Daw Thein Zin @ Margaret), beloved mother of Harry Soe Win (Asean Focus Group) @Daw Mu MeilleRosebud (Diplomatic School, Yangon)@beloved aunt of Dr Aung Kyaw - Dr Khin Than Tin @ Delphine, Lt Col Miynt Than @Melvin (Retd.) @Daw Win Shu Shio, Alannah @Daw Khin Soe Tin @ Susan, U Mya Ra @Maung Raumdawn @Daw Khin Swe Tin @Candy and beloved grandmother of Win Mu Aye @ Primeose, (Saw Si Soe) and Win Mu Soe @Elizabeth (Diplomatic School, Yangon) passed away peacefully at her residence, No 38 Bawdi Yertha Rd (Windermere) Bahan Township at 6:00 pm on 29th January, 2004 and cremated at 10:00 am at Ye Wa Cemetery on 30th January 2004.

Friends and Relatives, Please accept this as the only Intimation.

Bereaved Family.
**New Light of Myanmar**  
Saturday, 31 January, 2004

**Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife see off Laotian Deputy Prime Minister Dr Thongloun Sisolith and wife**

**YANGON, 30 Jan —** After paying a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar, at the invitation of State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Thaw Nwe, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Dr Thongloun Sisithol and wife Madame Naly Sisithol left here by air this morning.

The Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and wife and members of delegation were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Thaw Nwe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Huye, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Ambassador of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane and wife and the staff of the Laotian Embassy in Yangon.

Before their departure at the VIP lounge, the Secretary-1 presented a photo album and a video tape on the goodwill visit to the Laotian Deputy Prime Minister.

**MNA**

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Taungyay Dam Project in Kyaukpyaw division, bridges on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway**

**YANGON, 30 Jan —** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint yesterday morning inspected the construction progress of Taungyay Dam Project near Tepinke Village in Pyinmana Township.

At the briefing hall of the construction site, Director of Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department U Victor reported matters on construction of diversion tunnel, power plant and sluice gates. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. Next, he inspected land preparation, construction of spillway, installation of sluice gates and generators. Then he viewed round the dam project works by car. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party saw over Taungyay Dam Project, they inspected earth work for damming the creek. Officials reported on progress. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into construction of the 80.5-mile district-to-district road near Zayagyi village on the border between Kyaukpadaung and Meiktila. Deputy Superintendent Engineer of Mandalay Division Development Affairs U Victor reported matters on construction of the main dam and spillway, utilization of machinery, supply of construction materials, rainfalls, water flows of the river and other project tasks.

**Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project inspected**

**YANGON, 30 Jan —** State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and departmental officials yesterday morning inspected the Paunglaung multi-purpose dam project being implemented on Paunglaung River near Kyitaung Village in Pyinmana Township.

At the briefing hall of the construction site, Director of Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department U Victor reported matters on construction of the main dam and spillway, utilization of machinery, supply of construction materials, rainfalls, water flows of the river and other project tasks. Power Department U Soe Myint reported matters on construction of diversion tunnel, power plant and sluice gates. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. Next, he inspected land preparation, construction of spillway, installation of sluice gates and generators. Then they viewed round the dam project works by car. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party saw over Paunglaung-Mandalay Union Highway extension project of Dagon International Co. Next, they inspected construction of a bridge across No 6 tributary canal of Ngakei Dam. They proceeded to Yotbin bridge construction project site near Ywathit village. Officials reported on the work progress and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions and inspected round the site.

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Toungoo in Bago Division.** He met with military officers and other ranks of regiments and units at Taing Aung Hall of Pyinnmana Station and gave instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that Tatmadaw members are today performing not only national defence duties but also nation-building tasks. He asked the Tatmadawmen to observe discipline strictly and undertake agricultural and livestock breeding works on manageable scale. He also urged them to actively participate in community welfare activities and regional development works. Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families. — MNA