Prime Minister stresses importance of building of highly qualified national strength that can be relied on to keep abreast with others

Special Refresher Course No 1 for University and College Teachers concluded at CICS (Upper Myanmar)

YANGON, 31 Jan — The Special Refresher Course No 1 for University and College Teachers concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PymoOo, win Township, Mandalay Division, this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were the ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, the Mandalay mayor, the deputy chief justice of the Supreme Court (Mandalay), the deputy attorney-general, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the rector of CICS (Upper Myanmar) and the pro-rector, tutors, students and faculty members.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, the special refresher course for university and college teachers specially conducted by the government has concluded. Teachers of the institutions of higher learning are academicians 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-dissintegration of the Union, and build development infrastructures for harmonious progress of the entire Union nation from facing the evil legacy of the past and to safeguard the nation from facing the evil situation again in the future.

Let us pay profound respects to the three Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) who have distinctively emerged in the year 2004 (Page 11)

The treacherous writing of Myanmar history by colonialist historians (Page 9)

Our country, the Union of Myanmar, is home to various national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and so on residing together sharing joys and sorrows in friendship for many years countable by the thousand.

The national brethren, throughout history, have resided together with Union Spirit inherent in them and put up resistance unitedly against any danger that befell the nation as the saying goes, blood is thicker than water.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech at the closing of the Special Refresher Course No 1 for University and College Teachers. — mna

75th Anniversary Union Day commemorative special features on pages 7, 8 and 9.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Sunday, 1 February, 2004**

**Produce intellectuals and intelligentsia equipped with strong Union Spirit**

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 pressure on them.

At such a time, a developing country like Myanmar is needed to firmly build the highly qualified national forces that can be relied on in striving to stand shoulder to shoulder with others as an independent and sovereign nation, without harming the national interest.

The Special Refresher Course No 4 for University and College Teachers concluded at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, on 30 January, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his address the Prime Minister said that in this age, education is the most basic and firmest strength of the nation, and for Myanmar that is making self-reliant efforts, the education sector will have to fulfill her primary requirements namely the strengthening of the national economy, the advancement of the science and technologies in all development sectors, the emergence of brilliant intellectuals and intelligentsia having a clear national outlook, and the promotion of the national defence power, 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 unity 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, with positive attitude. Myanmar’s relations with the neighbours and regional countries are further improving.

As the UN, the ASEAN, neighbouring countries and regional countries are in support of the seven-point roadmap of the State, measures are under way to implement the programme. All the national organizations back the seven-point political programme of the State and lend themselves to that drive.

Teachers are urged to strive for continuously producing intellectuals and intelligentsia equipped with patriotism, nationalism and Union Spirit to defend and build a modern and developed nation.

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**Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win**

*(from page 16)*

Information can be sent to all parts of the nation by means of Telephone No 104 of Telecom Message Service Centre at the station in a short period and the receiver can reply the facts he want to reply to the sender. Under the programme, information can be sent and received to and from the regions where there is no telephone. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party proceeded to the FISCA enterprise at 9th-mile where they were welcomed by Managing Director U Zaw Weik and officials. Next, officials conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the show rooms of the enterprise. After that, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the production process of Printed Circuit Board (PCB). Next, they inspected installation of telephone exchange booths, production of small scale auto exchanges, research room and test room. At the briefing hall, General Manager U Zaw Min reported on establishment of FISCA enterprise. Later, Engineering Director U Zaw Win reported on production and installation of KY-1000 telephone exchange booths by the company for MPT under the guidance of the Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, arrangement being made for production of public exchanges and rural exchanges and future tasks.

In response to the report, Minister Brig.-Gen Thein Zaw presented a report on encouragement given for development of communication related companies. Next, the Secretary-1 gave instructions, saying that Myanmar companies are highly qualified in communication techniques and it is a sign of development. Strenuous efforts are to be made through innovation to penetrate foreign markets.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at the Myanma Ahmnn Automobile Industry of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone-4 in Shwepyitha Township. They heard a report presented by Chairman of the industry U Sai Myo Win on arrangement for production of small trucks.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the managing Director De Khin on production of oil pump, cooling water pump, shock absorber, air compressor, clutch pressure plate, pipe joint accessory, tool and cutters and fibre gear, and arrangement made for production of 10-ton vehicle. Next, they inspected production of auto spare parts with the use of CNC machine, Fibre Moulding machine, D.R.O System Milling machine and Lathe Machine. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win viewed construction of smelting plant of the company and gave instructions to officials. The Secretary-1 left the industrial zone at 4pm.

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**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external destructive elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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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**57th Anniversary Union Day objectives**

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

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**Salone Traditional Festival 2004**

(Sea Gypsy Festival)

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

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**All this needs to be known**

- *Do not be frightened whenever intimidated*
- *Do not be bolstered whenever flattered*
- *Do not be softened whenever appeased*

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**Prize-presentation ceremony held**

**YANGON**, 31 Jan

The 2002-2003 academic year prize-presentation ceremony of Mangalan Township BEHS-2 was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of Parent-Teacher Association at Aung San Thuriya Hall of the school this morning.

Present were Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence and senior military officers, teachers, students and guests. At the ceremony Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint presented prizes to six distinction winners Ma Sandy Win. Next, officials also presented other prizes to the winners. — MNA

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**Visitors at the Yangon Trade Fair 2004. — MNA**
Oil pollutes Iraq’s Tigris for second time in a month

TIRKIT, 31 Jan — A pipeline rupture sent large pools of oil flowing into Iraq’s Tigris River on Friday, prompting a US Army search for the origin of the second oil leak in the region’s major water source this month.

A spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division, based in Tikrit, said soldiers scoured the pipeline network and oil storage facilities in the region for the cause of the problem and discovered a pipeline leak on Friday.

“There is a leak in the pipeline, unfortunately, right where it crosses the river north of Baiji,” Major Joseph Aherle said. “They believe it is a faulty weld.”

The North Oil Company, the arm of the Iraq Petroleum Company responsible for oil assets in the northern oil field countries, is repairing the problem, said a company official.

Their team has installed floating barriers in the river to try and corral the oil while the weld is repaired, Aherle said. “It’s not up to our environmental standards, but they are working on it,” she said.

The 4th Infantry Division’s engineers support the North Oil Company and are ultimately responsible for the oil infrastructure in a region stretching from just south of Tikrit, which sits about 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, to the area around Kirkuk, which has massive oil reserves.

In the months since Washington declared major combat over in Iraq, the country’s oil infrastructure has been repeatedly attacked by looters looking to steal resources or by saboteurs trying to stop US authorities gaining access to the oil.

Repeated sabotage

The main oil export pipeline, which runs from the Baiji refinery southwest of Kirkuk to Turkey has been repeatedly sabotaged and oil has spilled from the line. The line runs close to the Tigris as the river winds south through the country.

On a bluffs overlooking the river at the division’s headquarters in one Saddam Hussein’s former palaces, dozens of thick, black pools of oil could been seen drifting in the flow.

Iraq police defuse bomb along oil route

BAGHDAD, 31 Jan — A car bomb on a major oil route in the north was defused, and Iraqi police killed an attacker after gunmen opened fire Friday at a checkpoint south of Kirkuk.

The car was discovered late Thursday on the Al-Hawija bridge on a highway used by coalition forces and oil tankers transporting crude from the northern oil fields in Kirkuk to Iraq’s biggest refinery in Beji, Kirkuk police chief Gen. Turhan Youssif said.

Al-Hawija bridge is just south of Kirkuk, which is 150 miles north of Baghdad. Youssif said Iraqi police found the car and informed coalition forces, who defused the bomb.

On Friday, six gunmen opened fire on a checkpoint of the Iraqi Civil Defense Forces in Salman Beg, 55 miles south of Kirkuk. One attacker was killed and another injured in retaliatory fire, said Gen. Anwar Amin, the ICDC chief in Kirkuk.

Many recent attacks appear to have been targeting Iraqis seen as collaborating with the US-led occupation. Eleven Iraqis, mostly members of the civil defense corps, were wounded Thursday in a roadside bombing in Baqubah, northeast of Baghdad.

Shopkeepers in Ramadi, a pro-Saddam city west of Baghdad, also reported receiving leaflets on Thursday warning Iraqis to stop working for or with Americans within 10 days or face death.

The undated statement was signed by a previously unknown group, “Anbar Mujahedeen Brigade, the Military Unit.” Anbar is the province that includes Ramadi.

Annan agrees to Kidman, Penn film at United Nations

UNited NATIONS, 31 Jan — The United Nations said on Thursday that a movie starring Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn would be made at UN headquarters in New York, where Hollywood has failed for decades to get permission to film.

The movie, to be directed by Sydney Pollack, is called “The Interpreter.” Kidman would play a Kenyan-born UN translator who overhears an assassination plot, becomes a target herself and helps stop the killing of an African leader addressing the UN General Assembly.

Shashi Tharoor, the UN undersecretary-general for public affairs, said it was the first time in recent memory the world body, including Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly, had allowed a feature film to be made in the building.

The United Nations rejected Alfred Hitchcock’s overtures to shoot part of the 1959 film “North by Northwest,” which opened with scenes of UN lounges.

Chilean Ambassador Heraldo Munoz, this month’s Security Council president, told Reuters earlier in the week the only query he received was from his Spanish colleague, Inocencio Arias, who wondered how one became an extra.

Two Hollywood studios sue Academy member for screener leaks

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan— Two major Hollywood movie studios sued Wednesday a longtime member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for leaking “screener” copies of movies that were later illegally posted on the Internet.

The British Petrol Industries and Warner Bros. filed the lawsuit in a federal court against Carmine Caridi, a 20-year academy member who has appeared in “The Godfather: Part II” and “NYPD Blue.”

Caridi, 70, has admitted sending VHS copies of about 60 movies he received each year to his friend Russell Sprague in Illinois, who was found using a software program to convert the VHS tape into DVD format and posted them on the Internet for illegal downloading. He then sent the original tapes back to Caridi.

Sprague was arrested and charged with criminal copyright infringement last week.

A search of Caridi’s Hollywood apartment turned up 36 original academy screener tapes, as well as large quantities of FedEx shipping labels bearing Sprague’s address. Caridi said he received no money for the films, adding that he just believed that Sprague was a film buff and merely wished to watch them.

Arkansas lawyer guilty of mailing deadly snake

LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas), 31 Jan— An Arkansas lawyer and his son will soon be heading to prison after pleading guilty to mailing a threatening communication — a poisonous snake.

Bob Sam Castleman, an attorney and former city judge in Pocahontas, Arkansas, and his son, Jerrod, were charged with mailing a cardboard box containing a venomous copperhead snake to a neighbour with whom they had feuded.

The charges were signed by a previously unknown group, “Anbar Mujahedeen Brigade, the Military Unit.” Anbar is the province that includes Ramadi.

An Iraqi man walks among debris which remained at the site of Wednesday’s explosion at a Baghdad hotel, where a suicide car bomb killed the bomber and three others.

Reporter at centre of Iraq inquiry quits BBC

LONDON, 31 Jan — Andrew Gilligan, whose radio report triggered the row between Downing Street and the BBC that preceded the suicide of Iraq weapons expert David Kelly said, has resigned from the public broadcaster.

In a statement to Britain’s domestic Press Association news agency, Gilligan acknowledged that part of his May 29 report — which alleged that Downing Street “sexed up” intelligence on Iraq — was wrong.

“I again apologise for it,” he said. “My departure (from the BBC) is at my own initiative. But the BBC collectively has been the victim of a grave injustice.”

“I accept my part in the crisis which has befallen the organisation. But a greater part has been played by the unbalanced judgments” contained in Lord Hutton’s report into Kelly’s death, he said.

Gilligan aired the 29 May report on BBC radio alleging that Prime Minister Tony Blair’s inner circle had “sexed up” a crucial September 2002 dossier on Iraq and its purported weapons of mass destruction.

He later retracted the claim that Downing Street “probably knew” that a key part of the dossier — that Iraq could deploy chemical or biological weapons in just 45 minutes — was wrong. But in his statement Friday, the 35-year-old journalist stood by the general thrust of his report, which Hutton dismissed as “unfounded,” that the intelligence dossier had been “exaggerated.”

Al-Hawija bridge is just south of Kirkuk, which is 150 miles north of Baghdad. Youssif said Iraqi police found the car and informed coalition forces, who defused the bomb.
Independent Iraq commission could pose serious threat to Bush

WASHINGtON, 31 JAN—An independent commission to investigate intelligence failures before last year’s invasion of Iraq being demanded by Democrats could pose a serious political threat to President George W Bush.

But analysts said with Bush’s Republican Party in control of both houses of Congress he stood a good chance of avoiding such an investigation, which would have raised both of their poll ratings and increased the chances of a senatorial election in November’s presidential election.

“The Administration wants little attention as possible paid to the process by which its case for war with Iraq was a good idea,” said Steven Walt, dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

“Despite the flurry of revelations, the Administration is waiting to see the news in a few more years. That’s the last thing they want,” he said.

Following Senate testimony on Wednesday from former US weapons inspector David Kay that US intelligence about Saddam Hussein’s suspected weapons of mass destruction had been fundamentally flawed, Democrats re- doubled their calls for an independent inquiry. Kay himself backed the idea.

In a worrying sign for the White House, Arizona, Republican Senator John McCain, known for his independent streak, broke party ranks to support the call.

“We need an independent commission to continue to investigate this because these questions need to be answered, including... why it is that we made the mark on this and other cases,” McCam said.

The Administration sent National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to appear on Thursday morning news shows on ABC, NBC and CBS to deflect the calls. “We simply believe that there is work still to be done. The Iraq Survey Group is trying to complete its work,” she told NBC’s Today Show.

University of Chicago political sci- entist Robert Pape said the fact Rice was on three shows suggested the White House was worried. The issue is certain to remain front and centre in the ongo- ing presidential campaign.

Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy had a starkly different view. “What has happened was more than a failure of intelligence — it was the result of manipulation of the intelli- gence to justify a decision to go to war,” he said. If the situation on the ground in Iraq were to deteriorate or more offi- cials came forward with information, whether by name or anonymously, pres- sure for an independent commission could mount. —MNA/Reuters

Turkey’s PM warns of ethnic-based
Iraq government

WASHINGtON, 31 JAN—Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday that establishing an ethnically based political structure in Iraq would be unhealthy for the country and a cause of regional concern for years to come.

While he insisted an eth- nically based federation that would allow Iraqi Kurds to govern an autonomous region, “weak possibility,” Erdogan said questions about Iraq’s future course remained, even after Presi- dent George W Bush re- newed his commitment to the country’s territorial integ- rity.

Erdogan, on his first of- ficial trip to Washington, praised President Bush’s vision of NATO ally Turkey as a model for Middle East democ- racy and outlined views on other topics in a speech to the American En- terprise Institute (AEI), a leading conservative think

China, Venezuela sign pact on railway rehabilitation

CARACAS, 31 JAN—China and Venezuela signed on Thursday an agreement to cooperate in the rehabilita- tion of Venezuela’s railway system.

The Complementary Ac- cord of the Economic and Technical Agreement for the Rehabilitation of the Mid- Western Railway System was signed by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Roy Chaderton, and Chinese Ambas- sador to Venezuela Ju Yijie.

Chaderton described the National Railway System as a “civilized, liberalizing instru- ment that allows meetings between Venezuelan citi- zens, facilitates our commu- nications and lowers the transportation cost, cheapens services and contrib- utes to the unification of the country”. The Chinese ambas- sador said the accord was the beginning of other new agreements between the two countries.

The governments of China and Venezuela are working on plans to build an aqueduct in the state of Falcon, rehabilitate gold mines and undertake other projects in regions of the South American country, Ju said.

The agreement signed Thursday provides for the participation of the Chinese Government in the rehabilita- tion of the railway system in two major projects including work on repair, maintenance and modernization.

The plan of the national railway system worked out by the Venezuelan Government includes a 4-kilo- metre network to be built over 20 years, and several sub-systems planned to meet the needs of economic, political and social activities. —MNA/Xinhua

Russia sends supply spacecraft to “ISS”

MOSCOW, 31 JAN—Russia on Thursday launched a cargo spacecraft bringing supplies to the International Space Station (ISS), the Mission Control outside Moscow said.

The Progress supply ship successfully blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 2.58 pm Moscow Time (1158 GMT) and is scheduled to dock with the orbiting space station Saturday, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Besides about 2.5 tons of food, water, fuel and equip- ment, the craft will also de- liver to the ISS two new Orlan-M spacesuits and two mannequins filled with ra- diation sensors to collect data neccessary for preparing a manned mission to Mars.

Vladislav Petrov, a senior researcher of Moscow Insti- tute of Biomedical Prob- lems, noted that the data would help determine radia- tion doses that human vital organs receive during a long stay in space.

The Russian-made man- nequin Matreshka-R will be placed in the cabin of cos- monaut Alexander Kaleri, who is working at the space station with American astro- naut Michael Foale. They will install the European mannequin Mister Rando on the station’s exterior during a space walk next month.

The Progress will also bring to the ISS an Ameri- can-designed drawing tube for a porthole. A crack in such tube caused an air leakage and a decrease of pressure that lasted for two weeks.

Chief of the Aerospace Agency Yuri Koptev said Thursday that Russia would launch a new mission and four supply vehicles to the ISS in 2004.

He pointed out that the 6.2- billion-ruble (219 million- US dollar) capital assigned for establishing a lab module in 2004 is insufficient to launch large-scale operations for the purpose. —MNA/Xinhua

A Dutch soldier sits on guard at a watchtower at the military base at dasaki in Samawa, southern Iraq, 30 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

Independent Iraq commission could pose serious threat to Bush

Washington, 31 Jan—An independent commission to investigate intelligence failures before last year’s invasion of Iraq being demanded by Democrats could pose a serious political threat to President George W Bush.

But analysts said with Bush’s Republican Party in control of both houses of Congress he stood a good chance of avoiding such an investigation, which would have raised both of their poll ratings and increased the chances of a senatorial election in November’s presidential election.

“The Administration wants little attention as possible paid to the process by which its case for war with Iraq was a good idea,” said Steven Walt, dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

“Despite the flurry of revelations, the Administration is waiting to see the news in a few more years. That’s the last thing they want,” he said.

Following Senate testimony on Wednesday from former US weapons inspector David Kay that US intelligence about Saddam Hussein’s suspected weapons of mass destruction had been fundamentally flawed, Democrats re- doubled their calls for an independent inquiry. Kay himself backed the idea.

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**Blair blasted on Iraq intelligence**

**London, 31 Jan—** A former member of British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s Labour government — who resigned over the Iraq war — says “the game is up” and Blair’s government should admit it went to war over “wildly wrong” intelligence.

“The intelligence was wildly wrong,” Robin Cook, a Labour member of the British Parliament and a former Foreign Secretary, said Friday.

“We were told there were weapons of mass destruction ready for firing in 45 minutes. We now can’t find any weapons of mass destruction ready to be fired in 45 minutes or any other period of time,” he said.

“Saddam Hussein was not a threat to Britain,” he said, “and of course, what that means is we did have the time. It’s just that the UN weapons inspectors finish the job, and then we could have found out there was no threat without having to fight a war to prove it.”

Across the Atlantic in Washington, politicians lined up to call for an investigation of intelligence failures — with some calling for CIA director George Tenet’s resignation — in the face of former top weapons hunter David Kay’s comments that Iraq was likely telling the truth when it said it had no weapons of mass destruction.

Kay blamed the intelligence agencies for the faulty information, leading some — Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry among them — to call for Tenet’s resignation.

“I called for George Tenet to resign several months ago,” the senator from Massachusetts told reporters on the campaign trail Thursday. “I think there has been a lack of accountability at the CIA. I regret it. I know him personally, but that’s the nature of responsibility.”

Calls for the CIA chief’s resignation also followed in the wake of last summer’s controversy over President Bush’s State of the Union declaration that Iraq had sought to buy uranium in Africa, an assertion proven to be wrong.

This is now, the administration has expressed its confidence in Tenet’s abilities, and the CIA itself cautioned that Kay’s criticism is premature and may be wrong.

Kerry and others — including Kay and Republican senator John McCain of Arizona — also called for an independent probe into why the intelligence was so wrong and what role, if any, the administration played.

“There has to be an outside commission investigating that and until that happens most Americans won’t be satisfied,” McCain said Thursday. “But importantly we have to have lessons learned so we don’t repeat the mistakes of the past.”

**Romanian helicopter crash kills three**

**Bucharest, 31 Jan —** A helicopter crashed Thursday morning in southeastern Romania, killing all three people aboard, the Romanian National Defence Ministry announced.

The IAR 316B Alouette helicopter belonged to the Romanian Air Force Military Education and Training School based at Boboc, Buzau.

It was carrying a weather-research mission in the unit’s flight area when it crashed at Posta Calnau, Buzau.

The cause of the accident is under investigation by an Air Force commission.

MNA/Xinhua

**US proposes $274m biosurveillance upgrade**

**Washington, 31 Jan —** The Bush Administration said on Thursday it wants to spend 274 million US dollars in 2005 in order to create a system that can detect and react to outbreaks of disease — natural or otherwise.

The money will be split between the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to use in beefing up the BioWatch detection system for biological warfare agents and for setting up an integrated disease reporting system.

“Whether bioagents are thrown at us by terrorists or by Mother Nature, our ability to respond quickly... will certainly save lives,” “Home- land Security Secretary Tom Ridge told a news conference.

Ridge and Thompson admitted they were virtually building programmes from the ground up, BioWatch, which has detectors in 30 cities across the country, had proven to be slow, labour-intensive and plagued by false positives, Ridge said.

“It’s not fail-safe, scientifically or technologically, yet,” Ridge said.

Part of the money will go to creating quicker and more accurate detectors which give instant results that do not require sending a sample to a laboratory for analysis.

Many experts have called for such a system, which would allow for real-time monitoring of disease outbreaks by reporting symptoms, drug use and disease diagnosis.

Then if a cluster of flu-like symptoms is seen in July, for instance, when influenza is rare, health officials could investigate quickly. It could also catch an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome or an anthrax attack, experts say.

“This is going to allow us to get information on a daily basis from doctors, clinics and pharmacies. We’ve never been connected with clinics and hospitals and pharmacies across America,” Thompson said.

A budget request to be made by President George W Bush will include 129 million US dollars for Homeland Security to expand and upgrade the BioWatch programme to create an integrated surveillance system to integrate surveillance data from across the government.

HHS would get 135 million US dollars to strengthen laboratories, and monitor disease. Most would go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but five million US dollars would go to the Food and Drug Administration to integrate with Homeland Security and improve food surveillance.

“In addition, the initiative provides 10 million US dollars to the Department of Agriculture to improve food and animal surveillance,” the departments said in a joint statement. — MNA/Reuters

**Chile, Philippines agree on shared goals**

**Santiago, 31 Jan —** The Chilean and Philippine governments have agreed on establishing a series of concrete goals under a bilateral agenda agreed to by the two countries. This was announced on Thursday on the arrival of a Chilean Foreign Minister Soledad Alvear in the Philippines, the Chilean Government said Thursday.

Alvear was in Manila to meet with her counterpart, Delia Albert, and take part, on Friday and Saturday, in the Forum on East Asia and Latin American Countries (FEALAC), which is co-chaired by Colombia and the Philippines. The statement said the Philippine Government said it was the first meeting between Alvear and Albert since the Philippine Foreign Min- ister took office last December.

They agreed to establish specific goals to advance firm and dialogue objectives, including issues in the economic, political dialogue and scientific and cultural cooperation.

The two foreign ministers agreed to continue working closely in ar- ight where the Philippines can share experiences with Chile, such as the Chilean program of social housing.

The statement said the two countries shared similar views on economic development, and this could help Chile’s entry to the Forum of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). — MNA/Xinhua

**Afghans say US troops killed in accidental blast**

**Kabul, 31 Jan—** An explosion at an arms dump that killed seven US soldiers in Afghanistan was an accident, authorities and military officials said today.

Thursday’s blast near the town of Ghazni was one of the worst single blows to US forces hunting al-Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan since their intervention in late 2001.

The explosion occurred when the soldiers were destroying a cache of weapons dating back to the war against the Soviets in the 1980s, according to the secretary to the provincial governor. “An American patrol was on a mission in Deh Ayen, in the Jaghato district,” he said.

“Villagers stopped the convoy and said there was an ammunition depot. The Americans went to evacuate the ordnance, which was stored there from the time of the jihad (holy war).”

“They began to destroy it. The incident happened when the person in charge of blowing it up made a mistake.”

Ghazni is about 75 miles south of Kabul. — MNA/Reuters

**MI6 chief faces Iraq weapons probe**

**London, 31 Jan—** Mr Tony Blair is facing an inquiry into the intelligence that led Britain into war with Iraq, dashing his hopes of drawing a line under an affair that has dogged his government for months.

The head of the intelligence service, MI6, is to be summoned before a new parliamentary inquiry, which will examine the accuracy of the information about Saddam Hussein’s weapons and will report in June, it was learnt last night.

The disclosure came on the day that Mr Greg Dyke resigned as the BBC director-general after it emerged that he had been trying for six months to force the departure of the BBC’s director of news and current affairs, Kate Silverton.

Mr Blair’s kesiveness to close the damaging battle was explained by the findings of a Times/Populus poll today showing that, despite the Hutton report’s exoneration of him, his ministers and of- ficials, the public believes that he has been damaged almost as much as the BBC by the affair.

Sir Richard Dearlove, the head of MI6, will appear before the Intelligence and Security Committee, headed by Ms Ann Taylor, the former Labour Cabinet min- ister, to give further evidence on why he believed that the intelligence on Saddam’s weapons was reliable and accurate.

It was MI6 that provided the bulk of the intelligence for the Downing Street doc- sier that underpinned Mr Blair’s decision to go to war.

Bush wants ‘facts’; US President Mr George W Bush today said he wants “the facts” about why US-led forces in Iraq have failed to find the weapons of mass destruction. But he declined to say whether he backed moving talks on an independ- ent inquiry into the matter. — AFP reports from Wash- ington. — Internet
Iraqi children fall victim to US-led war

More and more Iraqi children are becoming victims of the US-led war against Iraq.

Wounded people, including children, were rushed to hospitals by ambulances, which were not enough to carry children and others injured. It remains unknown how many children fell victim to US-led war.


An Iraqi girl, Heba Hachem Hussein, injured in clashes between supporters of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and Iraqi police and US troops, is held by her mother in a Baghdad hospital on 16 December, 2003.

A child walks out through a bullet-riddled entrance hit during a US Army attack in the town of Samaraa. The US military upped its death toll from intense clashes with guerrillas in the Iraqi town of Samarra to 54 amid reports by Iraqi doctors that eight civilians were killed by US fire in the exchanges.

Daud Salim holds his injured one-year-old son Benin, at al-Husseiniyah hospital in Karbala, Iraq, on Sunday, 28 December, 2003.

Iraq under US and allies’ occupation

Children deaths resulting from US invasion in Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Death toll</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26-3-2003</td>
<td>Rutbah</td>
<td>Children’s hospital bombed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-4-2003</td>
<td>Karbala</td>
<td>10-year old boy shot</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-4-2003</td>
<td>Fallujah</td>
<td>Demonstrators including pre-teen children shot</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5-2003</td>
<td>Basra</td>
<td>14-year old boy shot</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-5-2003</td>
<td>Tikrit</td>
<td>a child shot</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-7-2003</td>
<td>Mosul</td>
<td>14-year old son of Qusay Hussein killed</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-8-2003</td>
<td>Basra Highway</td>
<td>a child shot</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-9-2003</td>
<td>Fallujah</td>
<td>3-year old bystander shot</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-10-2003</td>
<td>Tikrit</td>
<td>4 years old boy hit</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-10-2003</td>
<td>Mosul</td>
<td>two children hit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-10-2003</td>
<td>Police station, Baghdad</td>
<td>children hit</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-11-2003</td>
<td>Near Fallujah</td>
<td>11-year old boy caught in crossfire</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-11-2003</td>
<td>Mosul town centre</td>
<td>ten-year old boy killed</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-11-2003</td>
<td>Fallujah</td>
<td>children killed</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-11-2003</td>
<td>Nasiriyah</td>
<td>children among dead</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-11-2003</td>
<td>Gun market in Baghdad</td>
<td>11 year old among dead</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-11-2003</td>
<td>Ramadi</td>
<td>tribal chief-a cousin and a 9-year old boy killed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-11-2003</td>
<td>Hay Masraf district, Mosul</td>
<td>12-year old boy in crossfire</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-12-2003</td>
<td>Karada district, Baghdad</td>
<td>two Iraqi children killed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong> 69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children deaths in Iraq

Iraqi infants are fed at the al-Alawiyah hospital in Baghdad where many children are suffering from malnutrition since the US-led intervention of Iraq. Medact warned that Iraq is facing a ‘considerable’ disruption of its health care system as a result of the US-led invasion.
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:
Development images of Chin State in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

The 57th Anniversary Union Day:
Development images of Chin State in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

The 480 feet long and 10 feet and 9 inches wide Kattel suspension bridge across Manipur river is located in Tiddim Township, Chin State.

Outpatient Department of the People’s Hospital in Haka, Chin State.

Var bridge in Falam Township, Chin State.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Sector</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3280 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddy (terrace)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24492 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddy (highland)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>84638 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>84187 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed and multiple cropping</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>139640 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edible oil crop</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40200 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial crop (sugarcane, mulberry, cotton)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial crop (apple, orange, avocado)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1923 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock breeding</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4268 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domesticated wild ox</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>21561</td>
<td>34675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>21552</td>
<td>36790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep, goat</td>
<td>8040</td>
<td>109941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>34009</td>
<td>52610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>6242</td>
<td>175260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarred road</td>
<td>53 miles</td>
<td>119 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel road</td>
<td>86 miles</td>
<td>315 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth road</td>
<td>607 miles</td>
<td>856 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalay-Haka Road (115 miles)</td>
<td>one night</td>
<td>around 9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangaw-Haka Road (70.5 miles)</td>
<td>one day</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyaung-U-Pakokku-Mindat Road</td>
<td>one night</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mindat Road</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (above 180 feet)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension bridge (under 180 feet)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 (Meswong suspension bridge) 360 feet (Tiddim Township)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (being built)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>360 feet (Tiddim Township)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric power</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydropower plant</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel-fired power plant</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (basic)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>1167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle school</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-primary school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (higher)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University &amp; college</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 (Kalay university, technological college, computer college)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital (100-bed)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station hospital (branch)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station hospital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural health centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural health care centre (branch)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV retransmission station</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV retransmission building</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV broadcasting station</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chin State located in the far corners of the nation is now witnessing progress in all sectors including the health, communication, livestock breeding and social sectors.

The photo shows the Microwave Station in Falam, Chin State.

Chin State located in the far corners of the nation is now witnessing progress in all sectors including the health, communication, livestock breeding and social sectors.

The photo shows the Microwave Station in Falam, Chin State.
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Tagaung Era is a historical era that really existed in the hearts of Myanmar people as well as on the pages of Myanmar history. From the point of view of the great historians of Glass Palace Chronicle, Tagaung is said to be the dawn of Myanmar history.

The colonialist historians who wrote Myanmar history however set it dating from the time of King Anawrahta. Sadly, that is the reason why Tagaung, which was in the hearts of Myanmar people, was like a legend.

The colonialist historians concluded that the Glass Palace Chronicle was compiled in AD 1829 because Tagaung was recorded only in Glass Palace History and was found nowhere in Ashin Maha Silavamsa’s Great History written in AD 1520 and U Kala’s Great History written in AD 1711. At that time, Myanmar lost the first Anglo-Myanmar war. They said the loss of war led to the downfall of the pride of Myanmar. Defeated in the first Anglo-Myanmar war, Myanmar had to sign the peace treaty in 1826. The colonialist historians wrote Myanmar history dating from the reign of King Anawrahta for the simple reason that the compilers of Glass Palace Chronicle tried to save the downgrading of Myanmar pride because of the defeat in the war by including the incidents of Tagaung in the Glass Palace Chronicle deliberately as the Glass Palace Chronicle was written only three years after the war.

The objects of writing Myanmar history by English people was to make Myanmar people think highly of them, the Europeans, and to make themselves feel small. No matter whatever is mentioned in Myanmar history and literature, they left out what they wanted to.

It was usual practice of writing history and national races should not be misled by their invention.

Although Harvey, who was one of the members of Indian Civil Service (ICS), was said to have compiled a Myanmar historical paper by making references to a great deal of data collected by the Myanmar Research Bureau for many years, the purpose of his work was merely to make Myanmar people think highly of the Europeans. In compiling the history, the colonialist historians were prone to refuse what was said in Myanmar history, Myanmar records and Myanmar stone inscriptions provided it was not in conformity with the colonialists’ observation.

The colonialists doctored the history of Tagaung in the Glass Palace Chronicle and the defeat in the war by including the incidents of Tagaung to the defeat in the war.

Besides, the British colonialists fabricate news about Tagaung history as if the creators of Glass Palace History doctored the history.

Moreover, they had such concepts lectured at colleges and high schools. Only after the colonialists fled from Myanmar soil did such kind of teaching program come to an end.

In that regard, Sayagg Zeya wrote in his article on the Glass Palace in Myawady magazine, Vol.1, No.2, December 1952 issue, that as a matter of fact, although high-ranking court officials of Myanmar Kingdom compiled Myanmar histories, they did not do anything in favour of righteous or wicked kings in such a way of a saying goes ‘To side with the king is to win the king’s heart’; that they told in praise of the king should he behave well. Otherwise, they condemned the king; and that the Myanmar pundits wrote the history with the intention of providing laws or lessons for the kingdom.

Members of the field survey team have found historical evidences in Pondaung region of Upper Myanmar to confirm the fact that Myanmar is the origin of human species.

Chit San Win

The treacherous writing of Myanmar history by colonialist historians

Unity is strength

The traditional culture of Myanmar lineage has lasted for years countable by the thousand. Since the primitive period of the world, there have been historical evidences concerning the primates in Myanmar.

Myanmar lineage has lived in accord with their own style on their own soil. Myanmar people have own thought, own literature and own civilization. Therefore, the era of Myanmar homo sapiens in Myanmar should be termed ‘Ba Hin’ era. Myanmar era has had historical evidences from the beginning.

As the relics of homo sapiens outnumber the fossil primates found in Pondaung region in Myanmar, they can be regarded as primitive homo sapiens and termed ‘Ba Hin’.

These primates are the fossils which have existed since 40 million years ago. Such findings are in fact the historical resources capable of tracing the history of the primitive people of the world in Myanmar.
The treacherous writing of Myanma history by colonialist historians

written by Stuart, who was Yangon Gazette Press owner, was out. The book was meant for the Europeans visiting Myanmar and those wanting to have a slight knowledge of Myanmar, not for Myanmar people. Though care was taken in writing the book, it was not much different from Grey’s and Cock’s. Though published twice in England, it did not gain popularity in Myanmar. Despite the colonialist historians wrongly stated Myanmar history, Dr Lao, prominent historian in the Europe who studied thoroughly the history of the East, concluded that the history books on Myanmar written by Myanmar people were correct and that there was no use exaggerating the good and bad things of Myanmar.

Germany history professor Leccine, who had made an especial study of Myanmar history, once wrote that there were history books containing the histories of Bago, Chiangmai and nearby areas; that the compilers expressed not only the good things but also the bad things in their history books; that the books were therefore considered to be true; and that the stone inscriptions also proved the authenticity of speeches described in those books.

The traditional culture of Myanmar lineages has lasted for years countable by the thousands. Since the primitive period of the world, there have been historical evidences concerning the primates in Myanmar. Myanmar lineage has lived in accord with their own style on their own soil. Myanmar people have own thought, own literature and own civilization. Therefore, the era of Myanmar homosapiens in Myanmar should be termed ‘Myanma’ and ‘Myanmar’ era. Myanmar era has had historical evidences from the beginning. As the relics of homosapiens outnumber the fossil primates found in Pondaung region in Myanmar, they can be regarded as primitive homosapiens and termed ‘Bahinia’.

These primates are the fossils which have existed since 40 million years ago. Such findings are in fact the historical resources capable of tracing the history of the primitive people of the world in Myanmar. Myanmar has a long history. With this, the patriotic spirit and Union Spirit of the national brethren has been firm and consolidated. No matter how the colonialists attempted to falsify Myanma history, it is incumbent upon all of us to be on alert every time by keeping our eyes wide open to their aggressive acts of destroying our Union.

Poem

Union Spirit

We ourselves
Are born of same Union, brethren
Even if it comes to arguing
'Tis just for a while and vanishes
Sparks of a fight do not grow
Prevented and smothered by water of loving kindness
Being far sighted, in peace
We believe, and go on building
Because we’re all Union citizens.
We ourselves
Remember aliens of another race
Insulting, suppressing us in the past
Didn’t allow suppression, found ways to be free
For the Land of Myanmar to be staunch and revere
Work together, hand in hand in unison
Because we’re all Union citizens.
An
Union citizen
Union strength
Union sword
Proudly we hold hands together
Nation’s pride we try to bring forth
For us not to fall into alien hands
Not to be enslaved, not to fall into quagmire
As patriots truly, we’re united
Union citizen, our spirit.
We shall raise pride of land, we’ll do it.
Will shine as the sun and the moon.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)
Prime Minister stresses importance…
(from page 1)

All the countries of the world are striving in competition to promote their national interest. A special requirement for a developing country like Myanmar is to firmly build the highly qualified national strength that can be relied on in striving to stand shoulder to shoulder with others as an independent and sovereign nation, without harming the national interest.

In this age, education, the development of national strength and the export-oriented economy are the key factors that are necessary to fulfill the national interest. In this regard, there are two considerations. One is to build the basic national strength and the other is to expand the international influence of the nation. The two are inter-related and should be given due emphasis.

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 unity for equality, peace, prosperity and progress.

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 countries.

ASEAN Vision 2020 was set by ASEAN in 1997. The Hanoi Plan of Action was laid down in 1998 to realize the ASEAN Vision 2020. The main economic cooperation objective of the ASEAN is to set up the ASEAN Free Trade Area and ASEAN Investment Area (AIA). Moreover, there are also programmes to facilitate and harmonize the financial functions among the member nations, to narrow the development gap, and to bridge the technology including the IT divide. The Association has planned many such good programs to develop and transport economy, and trade between the member countries.

The ninth summit in Bali has laid down the Bali Concord II. The Concord II is based on three pillars — the cultural heritage and regional countries; and to play their every part energetically in the realisation of the seven-point future political programme.

To sum up, the teachers are to strive for producing continuously intellectuals and intelligentsia whose patriotism, 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 bodies and minds, and also their capacity while Myanmar, as a member of ASEAN and regional countries, is to set up the ASEAN Free Trade Area. The harmonious participation of the entire national people and the supports of international community are of necessity for the successful realisation of the seven-point future political programme.

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Delegates to Seminar on Understanding Myanmar make study tour of Shan and Kachin States

YANGON, 31 Jan — Led by Chairman of Myanmar Strategies and International Studies Group Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar, the resident representative of UNICEF, retired ambassadors, researchers from China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam who attended the Seminar on Understanding Myanmar organized by the Institute of Myanmar Strategies and International Studies, resource persons and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an orientation meeting the next morning left here by air and arrived at Tachileik Airport in Shan State (East). They were welcomed there by Tactical Operation Commander Col Myint Han and departmental officials. The minister and party visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in Tachileik, viewed the scenery of the town and King Binnyaungmud Statue and had a group photo taken. They also visited Tachileik, Maesai friendship bridge, Talauli Market near the bridge and poppy-substitute cultivation camp. Next, they went to Kengtung and Maingzin poultry farm. Deputy Commander of Triangle-Region Command Col Wai Lin and officials conducted them round the farm. They then visited Kengtung People’s Hospital. The minister and party held a meeting regarding the study tour at Kengtung Hotel and attended a dinner hosted by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman Triangle Region Command Chairman Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw. Local nationals performed traditional songs and dances. Yesterday morning, the minister and the guests visited Akha Village weaving training school. Kengtung Degree College, Yattaungmu Pagoda, Thittapin Mountain and colleges under construction. Next, they went to Myitskyina Airport by special aircraft where Northern Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Fun and departmental officials welcomed them. They then proceeded to Putao Airport. Next, they visited Kheikang Village where the minister and party were welcomed there by Tactical Operation Commander Col Myint Han and departmental officials. The minister and party visited the mountain and viewed panoramic views of Putao and Kachinbazaar Mountain and visited Kachinbazaar National Garden. Afterwards, they went to Mulashiope Village by car and studied Mulashiope suspension bridge. The minister and party next visited Putao Airport and stopped over at Myitskyina Airport where the minister and party flew to Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe. Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Swe presented souvenirs to the minister and guests. Later, they left Putao and arrived back here in the evening.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun presents prize to a winner...

Golf tourney held

YANGON, 31 Jan — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President’s trophy golf tournament organized by the UMFFCCI Sports Affairs Committee and sponsored by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President’s trophy golf tournament organized by the UMFFCCI Sports Affairs Committee and sponsored by the Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd took place at Myoalw Golf Club (Myakanta) here this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, and UMFFCCI President U Win Myint and CEC members. After the tournament, officials presented prizes to the winners. The UMFFCCI president presented a certificate of honour to Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co U Kyaw Win. — MNA.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents model trainee award to Assistant Lecturer U Sithu Kyaw of Kyunke Technological College. — MNA.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun presents prize to a winner...

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Let us pay profound respects to the three Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) who have distinctively emerged in the year 2004

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, multiracial Buddhism, and Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar (Ministers) that are supporting and encouraging to carry out the noble task of the purification and propagation of the Buddha Sasana at home and abroad.

With a view to promoting and flourishing the Pariyatti Sasana (Laws and teachings) mainly leading, to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the world, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar is striving to hold the following religious examinations by religious examinations by religious organizations in the Union of Myanmar yearly.

(1) Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination
(2) Dhammacariya Exam
(3) Pahtamaegyi Exam
(4) Tipitakamatal Examination
(5) Pahtamange Exam
(6) Abhidhamma / Visuddhamaga Exam (only for laymen and nuns)
(7) Five Nikaya Exam

But before these seven kinds of religious examinations Sacred Tipitaka texts have passed at least at the Pahtamaegyi Examination. In fact, the sacred Tipitaka texts Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious examinations because the candidates who will appear for this examination must have to pass (3)Tipitaka texts (8026) pages of Tipitaka texts and the written portions of the Tipitaka texts (100) books of Tipitaka texts, Athikatha (Commentaries) and Tika (Sub—commentaries) of Tipitaka Canons respectively. Only candidates who have got through both oral and written portions of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Examination will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara, Tipitaka- kovida and candidates who have got through the oral portion will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara, Tipitakakovida Title Recipient.

Ven Ashin Sondhara

Ven Ashin Sondhara was born in Mindat, Zokhawthar, Mizoram State on 26 November 1977. He was novitiated at the age of 11, with sponsorship of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

He was ordained on 8th waxing of Taunguzun 1336 ME (the age of 19) with sponsorship of families of U Than and Dham Khin Hla, U Aung Thein, Daw Sein Yee and Daw Ni, U Win Maung and Daw Phyu and others. His preceptor was Ven Bhaddanta Kovidha of Dhamma Mandalay, Mandalay Division. He learnt and studied Buddhist scriptures under the famous and learned Mahatheras such as Ven Bhaddantar Kovidha of Mogaung Myeik, Myaing Township, Mandalay Division. And he was ordained at the age of 21, with sponsorship of U Than and Daw Aye Myat Mu’s family of Yangon; Dr Soe Lwin and Daw Daw Khin Myint’s family of Ethibhaya; U Maung Maung Luang and Daw Dein Khine’s family of Yangon. His preceptor was Ven Bhaddanta Nanda of Tummaung Monastery, Mandalay Division. Ven Bhaddanta Kovidha of Mogaung Myeik, Myaing Township, Mandalay Division, Ven Bhaddanta Kovidha of Dhamma Mandalay, Mandalay Division was his preceptor.

He learnt and studied Buddhist scriptures under the famous and learned Mahatheras such as Ven Bhaddantar Kovidha of Mogaung Myeik, Myaing Township, Mandalay Division.

Reedhakwadhar Border Trade Centre opened in Falam, Chin State

YANGON, 31 Jan — The Reedhakwadhar Border Trade Centre in Falam Township, Chin State, was launched on the top of the friendship bridge on the border of Myanmar and India yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Commerce Brin-Gyi-Pye Soe, Acting Prime Minister of Mizoram State and Minister of Home Affairs of India Mr. Achimga, Brin-Gyi Khun Maung Aye of Kalay Station, Chin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col. Tin Hla, local authorities, departmental personnel, officials of Indian Embassy to Myanmar, departmental heads from Mizoram State, distinguished guests and local people.

Minister Brin-Gyi-Pye Soe and Acting Prime Minister formally opened the trade centre.

Minister Brin-Gyi-Pye Soe delivered a speech. In his speech, he said that the purpose of the centre is to promote bilateral border trade. The two nations are doing maritime trade as well as border trade. Tamu Border Trade Centre was opened on 12 April 1995 and Reedhakwadhar Border Trade Centre, the northern one, is the second. And the border trade centre from India’s side is in Zokhawthar, Mizoram State. The emergence of the centre will contribute towards job opportunities and higher living standard of the people on the border areas of the two nations. It will also lead to development of infrastructures. The Indian Government constructed Kalay-Tamu Road, and it will provide assistance in building Falam-Reed Road and Tiddim Road.

The Indian Acting Prime Minister also gave an address. Minister Brin-Gyi-Pye Soe presented a gift to mark the opening ceremony to the Indian Acting Prime Minister.

The minister, the Indian Acting Prime Minister and guests walked through the friendship bridge and attended the opening of the border trade centre.

Minister Brin-Gyi-Pye Soe officially unveiled the stone plaque to mark the opening of the centre. The two ministers made addresses on the occasion.

In the afternoon, Minister Brin-Gyi-Pye Soe hosted a luncheon to the Indian Acting Prime Minister and the guests at Reedhakwadhar Guest House.

Minister Brin-Gyi-Pye Soe inspected vehicles and the choice of construction for a market. The minister also looked into construction of staff quarter in the unloading ground in Haimhowr village and attended to the needs. — MNA
Cholera kills 110 in Zambian capital

LUSAKA, 31 Jan—Cholera has killed 110 people in Zambia's capital Lusaka, prompting the impoverished southern African country to declare a disease alert, Health Minister Brian Chituwo said.

Chitwwo told Parliament late on Wednesday that cholera, which can kill victims within hours if not properly treated, began on 28 November, five days after the water-borne disease was a seasonal problem in southern Africa during the summer rains.

Villagers usually suffer acute diarrhoea and vomiting which can cause severe dehydration and death within hours without treatment. Treatment usually involves rehydration and can include antibiotics.

Authorities in neighbouring Mozambique have had around 10 people die of cholera since December, and said the outbreak there was expected to reach a peak in February.

WHO warns Philippines of possible bird flu virus importation

MANILA, 31 Jan—The World Health Organization (WHO) Thursday warned the Philippines that there is a threat of importation of the bird flu virus into the country as it has spread in large portions of Asia's poultry stock.

April 2004 12 THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 2 January, 2004

WHO warns Philippines of possible bird flu virus importation

MANILA, 31 Jan—The World Health Organization (WHO) Thursday warned the Philippines that there is a threat of importation of the bird flu virus into the country as it has spread in large portions of Asia's poultry stock.

Even without a complete understanding of the impact of H5N1 in the infected countries, it is clear that, with the virus so widespread within poultry, it will have many opportunities to alter its form and become transmissible between humans, which presents the danger of an escalating public health risk, and is cause for great concern, said Dr Jean-Marc Olive, WHO representative in the Philippines.

Olive said the immediate focus in the Philippines must be on prevention of possible importation, containment and control of the H5N1 virus within poultry. He added the WHO recommends some issues be considered as priorities, such as strengthening surveillance to detect HNS1 in poultry and humans with effective importation, containment and coordinated laboratory plans should be prepared in health care workers.

Other measures include containment of outbreaks in poultry by identifying affected areas and implementing appropriate control measures and protecting those who are at risk of acquiring H5N1 infection—those in contact with infected animals and health care workers. Likewise, a contingency plan should be prepared in case human-to-human transmission is established.
Harbin “city of ice” gives warm welcome to holidaymakers

Harbin, 31 Jan—Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province and known as “city of ice”, hosted 1.067 million tourists from home and abroad during the week-long Spring Festival holiday, which concluded on Wednesday.

The figure is 18.25 per cent higher than that the same period last year, according to the city’s tourism bureau.

The city earned 8.39 million yuan (101.45 million US dollars) in tourism income during the week-long holiday from January 22 to 28, up 21.06 per cent over the corresponding period of last year.

In recent years, as incomes increase, some Chinese have chosen to travel around China and even overseas to celebrate the Spring Festival, a traditional festival of family gatherings. Many holidaymakers to Harbin were from warmer southern and eastern China regions, as well as southeastern Asian countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines.

Skiing has become the most popular sport as temperatures in northeast China drop to 20 degrees below zero Celsius. Snow and ice sculptures also pull in the crowds.

Most four-star and three-star hotels in the city had been fully occupied over the past week. However, the swarms of tourists burdened local road, rail and air transport.

The Harbin-based Taiping International Airport handled 783 passenger flights from January 22 to 28, a year-on-year increase of 20.83 per cent. The airport handled 128 passenger flights on Wednesday alone.

With the Harbin Railway Station said the daily number of passengers leaving Harbin had topped 100,000 since Tuesday. Tourists in Harbin have been urged to book tickets early to avoid delays.

Ivanov invites Indian, Chinese colleagues for informal meet

Moscow, 31 Jan—Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has invited his Indian and Chinese counterparts for an informal trilateral meeting in the near future,” Ivanov told a press briefing here.

According to sources, the trilateral ministerial meet is most likely to be held after the parliamentary elections in India and the presidential polls in Russia.

It would be the third Foreign Minister-level meeting in the trilateral format since 2002. Earlier, they had met on the sidelines of UN General Assembly sessions in New York.

Harbin “city of ice” gives warm welcome to holidaymakers

Science Team Member Dr Matt Golombek shows a photo taken by the Hubble Space Telescope as he discusses how the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, on 28 January, 2004. Opportunity, NASA’s second of two roving Mars Exploration Robot vehicles, is due to land on the Martian surface on Tuesday, 12 January.

Wild Siberian tiger attacks former in Liaoning Province

Shenyang, 31 Jan—A Siberian tiger that attacked a farmer in northeast China’s Liaoning Province on 16 January is being probably the first Siberian tiger seen in the wild in the province in the past 300 years, the local wildlife protection station announced Thursday.

The 42-year-old farmer, surnamed Cao, in Xinpuchuan Autonomous County of Fushun City, was attacked and badly mauled by a tiger as he was going down a hill with three other people.

His wife said a yellow beast jumped onto the path and bit his arm. The others shouted loudly as the beast dragged him for several metres aside and then fled. The attack lasted less than two minutes.

The beast nearly severed the muscles from his left arm, said doctors.

Villagers said they had found unfamiliar large animal tracks in the hills before the attack.

The clear claw trace and yellow, white and black fur left at the scene indicated the beast was probably a Siberian tiger, said the man in charge of the station.

The State Forestry Bureau confirmed his words with a DNA test of its blood on 20 January, adding that the bear might have a slight injury.

However, the station also warned the public that the tiger might have escaped from zoo and they were checking the zoos in the vicinity.

Siberian tigers, the largest of all tigers, live mainly in Siberia of Russia and north-east China. It is believed there are some 300 Siberian tigers left in the wild, including less than 10 in China.

Most Siberian tigers in China live in the Lesser Hinggan Mountains in Heilongjiang Province and Changbai Mountain in Jilin Province. The World Wide Fund for Nature has included Siberian tigers in its list of the world’s 10 most endangered animals.

Record setting Britons reach South Pole

London, 31 Jan—A pair of British adventurers set two records on Thursday as they arrived at the South Pole at the end of a 680-mile unassisted trek across the frozen continent.

Former French Foreign Legionnaire turned businessman Simon Murray became, at the age of 63, the oldest person by a decade to make the gruelling journey — taking the title from fellow Briton Ranulph Fiennes who made the trek in 1993. His companion Pen Hadow also set a record by being the first person to walk unassisted to both the North and the South Poles — twin missions he managed to complete in less than 12 months.

“They are both exhausted and have lost a lot of weight. But they are also both in very high spirits,” a spokesman for the pair said in London.

In an email sent from the Amundsen-Scott South Pole base at the end of their 58-day marathon dragging 250 kilos, which steadily got lighter as they consumed their rations, the pair expressed delight and relief at their success.

“It’s not exactly my idea of a winter holiday but there is a strong sense of achievement arriving at the South Pole,” Murray wrote. The visual deprivation has been extreme — with nothing at all to focus on for 40 plus months except miles of featureless white landscape,” he added.

Berlusconi says wife made him do facelift

Rome, 31 Jan—The old adage that every successful man stands a woman appears to be true even for Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who says his wife persuaded him to have cosmetic surgery around the eyes.

“She convinced me to do it. Veronica is behind the whole thing,” he told reporters on Wednesday night at a meeting with fashion industry leaders.

He also suggested he had not seen the last of his plastic surgeons, saying “I’m not finished yet, as you can see.”

The 67-year-old Berlusconi, Italy’s richest man, was not seen in public for more than a month over the Christmas and New Year holidays before he returned to the scene a week ago to mark the 10th birthday of his Forza Italia Party.

American dueoses crying baby on Brazil-bound flight

Sao Paulo, 31 Jan—Poor Ronald Duffy. First he could not get into Brazil. Now he cannot get out.

The 35-year-old Pennsylvania native was barred entry in the South American country after he threw water on a baby whose crying anoyed him on the long flight from Miami, police said on Thursday. Duffy, who had been planning to spend Carrival with his Brazilian girl- friend in the city of Salvador, was arrested by federal police at Sao Paulo International Airport where the flight landed on Wednesday.

“I think I overreacted a little,” Duffy told Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper.

Police said Duffy appeared to be drunk on the flight. When the baby began to cry, he complained he could not sleep. He then asked for a glass of water and doused the toddler with it as the shocked parents watched.

India expected to join Russian space-based navigation system

Moscow, 31 Jan—India is likely to join the Russian space-based global navigation system “GLONASS” which is expected to be in place by 2007 as an alternative to the Pentagonal-controlled US Global Positioning System (GPS).

A Russian Aerospace Agency spokesman told a local newspaper “It is possible, and the Indian lawmakers have been discussing the matter.”

India will be the sixth country to join the system, a spokeswoman for the Indian Defence Ministry said in August.

The joint project has been in the pipeline since 2000 and will meet the needs of the Indian military and the navigation needs of the Indian public, the spokesman said.

The Russian government has offered to sell the Indian military a “full-scale agreement” to build a satellite under the Russian-German GLONASS-M system.

With the participation of India it would be realistic to place all the planned 18 satellites on orbit by 2007, Koptyev said.
**SPORTS**

**Safin stops Agassi in Australian Open**

**CANNBERA, 31 Jan—** Russian Marat Safin ended Andre Agassi's five-year winning streak at the Australian Open, beating the Ameri- 
can reigning champion 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) and 6-3 to 
the 35th minute of their marathon semifinal.

**Solano signs for Aston Villa**

**LONDON, 31 Jan—** Aston Villa have signed midfield-er Noberto Solano from Per-

tremer League rivals Newcastle. 

**China beats Macedonia 1-0 in soccer friendly**

**SUZHOU (China), 31 Jan—** China scored a 1-0 victory over Macedonia in a soccer friendly here 

Thursday. Zheng Zhi scored his first goal in the 29th minute.

**Zaragoza beat Barcelona to reach Cup semifinals**

**MADRID, 31 Jan—** Real Zaragoza edged past Barcelona 

and into the semifinals of the King's Cup on Thursday, 

drawing the second leg 1-1 to clinch a 2-1 aggregate victory. 

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

1 Electrical power units
2 Preparing a hot meat
8 Reprimand
9 Wise
10 Type of nut
11 Beseech
12 Fencing weapon
15 Does up
17 Extremely cold
20 Overdue
22 School bag
24 Sag
26 Danger signal
27 Very old
28 Lockjaw
29 Uter slowly

**DOWN**

1 Venerate
2 Precious stone
3 Glowered
4 Refreshing drink
5 Planetary path
6 Examine
7 Visitor
10 Ordinarily
14 Long wooden post
16 Draw out
18 Down in price
19 Chief city
21 Every time
22 Barely sufficient
23 Mortal
25 Greek letter

**Algeria pull off shock win at Nations Cup**

**SOUSSE, 31 Jan—** Ten-man Algeria scored a late winner to pull off a shock 2-1 win 

over Egypt in Group C of the African Nations Cup on Thursday and join defending 

champions Cameroon at the top of the standings.

**Manosour Boutabout to strengthen their defence, a 

bul to hold on for the draw, 

before they profited from a brilliant individual effort from 

Achour. 

The win sparked off mass- 

ive scenes of celebration at 

the 22,000 capacity stadium. 

Algeria will now fancy their chances of progressing to the quarter-finals when they meet Zimbabwe in Susse next week. 

Zimbabwe, after two suc- 

cessive defeats, have already been eliminated. 

Egyt will have to beat Cameroon to stand any chance of making the last eight.

**France’s Ebbe Sand (R) from Denmark scores against Borussia Dortmund’s goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz from France, while Dortmund’s Christian Woerns (L) watches during a German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Dortmund on 30 Jan, 2004. Schalke won the match 0-1.—INTERNET**

**Wales keeper Jones rejoins Wolves**

**LONDON, 31 Jan—** Wales goalkeeper Paul Jones has completed a move from Southhampton to Wolver- 
hampton Wanderers for an undisclosed fee. 

**Arsenal football club manager Arsene Wenger (L) and new signing Spain’s Jose Antonio Reyes pose for photos- 

graphs at the club’s training ground in London on 30 Jan, 2004. Twenty-year-old winger Reyes signed from 

Sevilla for a four and half year deal worth up to 17.5 million pounds sterling.—INTERNET**

**China only unleashed its defending kept them at bay. 

Algeria took off striker Solano leave.**

**“We are sorry to lose Nobby but we do have other players who can play in his position. The loss of Nobby won't affect the side.” Solano joined Newcastle from Boca Juniors in 1998 for 2.5 million pounds.**

**China scored a goal through Mamar Mokhtari in the 29th minute. 

However, Macedonia lost its golden chance in the 20th minute with a hit against the pole.**

**China beats Macedonia 1-0 in a soccer friendly**

**MNA/Xinhua**
Development of the State... (from page 16) country. He said roads and bridges are the strength of the nation. The government has undertaken road and bridge construction projects and is building roads linking divisions, states, towns and rural areas for development of trading, production and socio-economic life.

The Thagara-Koebin Yoma Road was formerly a timber extraction path and it was upgraded to 30 feet wide earth road by the Ministry of Forestry under the guidance of H.E. The President. It is one of the five roads crossing Bago Yoma, namely, Oktwin-Paukhkaung Road, Myagyaung-Seinkantlant Road, Letpadan-Zaungtuy Road and Taikkyi-Bago Road.

It is the third road after construction of Oktwin-Paukhkaung Road and Myagyaung-Seinkantlant Road. The 10-mile and one furlong of the road was paved with gravel and the rest are earth roads. The road will be upgraded to tar road year by year, he said.

He said the opening of the road saves time and villages along the road will develop. Teak and other hard wood can be extracted by the use of the road. He said Pokya camp was established as a camp based on eco-tourism.

The government is implementing the three major development projects for harmonious development of the Union—border areas and national races development project, 24-development special zone project and project on five rural development tasks. Trading and tourism and social and economic conditions of the people in the regions will improve in the future, he added. In conclusion, he called for maintenance of the road in the interest of the region and the State.

A local resident from Thagara, Yedasa Township, expressed words of thanks to the State for construction of the road.

Commander Brig-Gen Ko Kyo, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the road.

Together with local people, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party posed for a documentary photo in front of the archway. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed the newly-opened facility and had a cordial conversation with local residents.

Next, they went to Kyaukmahsin forest reserve, where they were welcomed by Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min and officials. They attended the opening of Thagara-Koebin Yoma Road (Koebin side) held near Koebin village, Sinbunwe Township.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that Thagara-Koebin road links Thagara village in Yedasa Township, Bago Division, and Koebin village in Sinbunwe Township. Magway Division, passing through Bago Yoma mountain range. The eastern part of the facility was opened by Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than in the morning, and he opened the Koebin side on the occasion.

With the emergence of new roads linking east and west of Bago Yoma, there will be better transport. It is known to all that in the past, in travelling between east and west of Bago Division east of Bago Division, one had to make a detour through dense Bago Yoma forest. So, the ministry could carry out construction tasks only in open season. The service personnel of the ministry built the facility overcoming hardships and difficulties in the interest of the people. The 96-mile earth road will have to be upgraded to gravel one then to tarred road.

The development of the State and the transport sector goes together. Thus, with better transport, the standards of social, economic, health and education standards of local people will rise, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said.

The Ministry of Forestry had to face hardships in constructing the road as well as selecting the axis that runs through dense Bago Yoma forest.

So, in conclusion, he expressed thanks to those who contributed towards the facility, and he called on them to strive for upgrading the road. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung handed over the documents related to the road to Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the road (Koebin side). Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted local people. — MNA

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WEATHER
Saturday, 1 January 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C above normal in Mon State, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Magway Divisions about normal in Kachin, Shan, Mon, Chin, Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Magway Divisions.

Maximum temperature on 31-1-2004 was 35.2°C. Minimum temperature on 31-1-2004 was 6.4°C. Relative humidity on 31-1-2004 was 42%. Relative humidity on 31-1-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 30-1-2004 was 8.8 hours approx. Rainfall on 31-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon.
YANGON, 31 Jan—In commemoration of the 24th Myanmar Dental Conference and the 5th joint meeting of World Dental Federation-FDI and Myanmar Dental Association, a dinner was hosted at the Trackers’ Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here at 7.20 pm today, attended by Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of NHC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the NHC members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, representatives of FDI, Chairman of Myanmar Dental Association Professor U Ba Myint, executives and members, delegates to the conference, resident representatives of UN agencies and guests.

On arrival at the dinner at 7.20 pm, the Prime Minister was welcomed by Chairman of Myanmar Dental Association Professor U Ba Myint and members, representatives of FDI and dental surgeons. First, MDA Chairman Professor U Ba Myint presented prizes to Dr Ko Ko Maw and Dr Soe Naing who won the best resource person awards at the paper reading sessions of the 24th Myanmar Dental Conference and the 5th joint meeting of World Dental Federation-FDI and Myanmar Dental Association.

Next, dinner was hosted to those present.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner to mark Myanmar Dental Conference and the fifth joint meeting of World Dental Federation.

SECRETARY-1 LT-GEN SOE WIN INSPECTS COMMUNICATION TASKS, SHWEPYITHA INDUSTRIAL ZONE

YANGON, 31 Jan—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected the functions of overseas call station at 8th-mile in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

On arrival at the station at noon, the Secretary-1 was welcomed by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telephones Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department.

At the briefing hall, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported to the Secretary-1 on services of auto telephones, mobile telephones, radio telephones and rural telephones, installation of international telephone link, communication work being undertaken in cooperation with foreign nations, and measures taken for development of state and division-wise communication sector.

Next, Deputy General Manager U Tin Lwin reported on arrangements being made for global telematics services.

After that, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win looked into communication equipment to be used for global telematics services.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected Myanmar packet network room, Internet room and transit exchange room at the station.

Next, the Secretary-1 heard a report presented by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on information service-164 for sending news to far-flung regions through telephone communication system and receiving news. (See page 2)

Toward a 96-mile 3-furlong long Thagara-Koebin Yoma Road opened in Yedashe Township

YANGON, 31 Jan—The 96-mile 3-furlong long Thagara-Koebin Yoma Road linking Thagara Village in Yedashe Township, Bago Division (East) and Koebin Village in Hsinphyewwe Township built by the Ministry of Forestry was held at Thagara Village in Yedashe Township yesterday, attended by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, teachers, students, members of Kayin don dance troupe, guests and local people totalling over 3,000.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address. He said the State Peace and Development Council is making endeavours for development of all sectors such as economic, education, health and transport sectors with greater momentum for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation, a national goal. The government has laid down development projects and is implementing them day and night for development of the Union made up of 14 states and divisions in order to narrow the gap between one region after another, he said. Transport is an important basic requirement for development of a region. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, new motor and rail roads were constructed after laying down strategies for linking eastern, western, northern and southern parts of the country. There were 13,635 miles of motor roads in 1988-89 and now there are 18,111 miles of motor roads. There are many roads under construction, he added. He said bridges across rivers were built in construction of the roads. Based on guidance of the Head of State, Public Works successfully built 166 bridges which are 180 feet and above, Myanmar Railways six, Defence Services engineering unit five totalling 177 in the whole

Development of State and transport sector goes together

(See page 15)