

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 266

2nd Waning of Pyatho 1365 ME

Thursday, 8 January, 2004

Foreign Head of State sends felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

YANGON, 7 Jan — The following is the message of felicitations from President of Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Duc Luong to State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

“On behalf of the State and people of Vietnam and in my own name, I would like to extend to Your Excellency and, through Your Excellency, to the people of Myanmar, our warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

It is our wish that the people of Myanmar will continue to accord further achievements in the course of

construction and development of Myanmar into a prosperous country and for the happiness of the Myanmar people.

We are delighted to note that our relations of traditional friendship and multi-faceted cooperation have achieved new encouraging developments in recent years, thus contributing to the further consolidation of the existing fine relationship between our two countries, for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world over.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your good health, happiness and the assurances of my highest consideration”.

MNA

Foreign Head of Government sends felicitations to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 7 Jan — The following is the message of felicitations from Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai to Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

“On behalf of the Government and people of Vietnam, I would like to extend to Your Excellency and, through Your Excellency, to the Government and people of Myanmar, our warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am very satisfied at the fine recent developments of

the relations of the traditional friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and Myanmar and I firmly believe that, with the common efforts made by our two Governments and peoples, our relationship will be further consolidated and developed on the bilateral basis as well as in the framework of ASEAN, regional and international organisations for the interests of our two peoples and that of peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world over.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your good health, happiness and the assurances of my highest consideration”.

MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairman of Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization U Takeh and party — MNA

Prime Minister receives Shan national race leaders

YANGON, 7 Jan — Border Areas and National Races Development Work Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Chairman U Takeh of Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization, Secretary U Chit Maung, CEC member U Sein Win Naung, In-Charge (Regional Development Tasks) U Peter and Deputy In-Charge (Relation and Commerce) U Maung Maung Win at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthar here at 4 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein

Nyunt, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General U Soe Tint of Government Office and senior officers of Military Intelligence.

At the meeting, the national race leaders expressed their support for the seven-point future political programme of the State and pledged to take part in the tasks to successfully implement the programme under the leadership of the government. Afterwards, they reported on regional development tasks, road and bridge construction tasks and economic matters.— MNA

INSIDE

- Perspectives**
New roads and bridges for regional development (Page 2)
- 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Organizing Management Committee meets (Page 16)

Article

The developing Pakokku region (Page 7)

The YCDC Engineering Department's efforts to supply enough clean water to Yangon (Page 10)

Circulation

23,285

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 8 January, 2004

New roads and bridges for regional development

Smooth and easy transport is the most important and fundamental requirement for the development of a nation or a region. Improved transportation contributes not only to the trade and economic growth of a region but also to the development of its other sectors such as health and education. This being so, the government is building new roads and bridges wherever necessary for the development of each and every region of the Union.

The opening ceremony of the Puhtolon bridge constructed by the Directorate of Military Engineers under the supervision of the office of the Quartermaster-General was held in Kani Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division, on 3 January. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo spoke on the occasion and member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence formally opened the bridge.

The bridge is 450 feet long and situated on the Monywa-Yargyi-Kalaywa road. It was designed by Myanmar engineers and built with the use of beams produced by the State-owned steel plant. It is something Myanmar engineers can be proud of.

The opening of the bridge will surely contribute not only to the socio-economic development of Sagaing Division and Chin State but also to the growth of border trade with India. The old road linking Monywa, Kalay and Kalaywa is 160 miles long and the new road linking Monywa, Yargyi and Kalaywa is 45 miles shorter. The new road and the new bridge will lead to rapid development of the region on the west bank of the Chindwin river.

We believe that the entire national people and members of the armed forces will fully cooperate with the Government and so its efforts for the parallel development of various regions across the Union will meet with a complete success.

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Construction of Sabbanñu Stupa inspected

YANGON, 7 Jan—Chairman of the Committee for Construction of Sabbanñu Stupa Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspected progress in construction of the stupa in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division, yesterday afternoon.

In response to the reports presented by officials, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe also looked into the tasks for greening of the environs of the stupa. — MNA



Under the arrangements made by the Bahan Township IPRD, a mobile library, wall Magazine, photo competition and talks were opened on 7-1-2004. Headmistress Daw Sein Myaing, Bo Cho ward 2 WPDC Chairman U Nay Win and Staff of the IPRD Daw Khin Htay formally open the mobile library. —(H)



SCHOOL FAMILY DAY CELEBRATED: The School Family Day was celebrated on 3 January 2004 at the Bahan BEPS-25. Fourth standard students seen performing Kayin Don dance at the ceremony. —(H)

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

- ၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသက်ရှောင် အသားဝါရောဂါ၊ အသည်းခြောက်ရောဂါ၊ အသည်းကင်ဆာရောဂါ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS) နှင့်၊ စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများ စသည်တို့ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့်အပြင်၊ စီးပွားရေးနှင့် လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူရခြင်းတို့ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
- ၂။ တို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှတစ်ဆင့်မေ့ရန်၊ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံများတွင်၊ မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



The AIDS educative billboard at the corner of Pyay Road and Mindhamma Road in Insein Township. —(H)

AIDS educative billboard put up in Insein

YANGON, 7 Jan—An AIDS educative billboard was put up at the corner of Pyay Road and Mindhamma Road in Sawbawgyigon Ward in Insein Township this morning.

The ceremony was organized under the anti-AIDS project and Ranbaxy-Myanmar. Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Soe Aung and Country Manager of Ranbaxy Mr Dinesh Kapoor formally unveiled the billboard. — MNA

AIDS is a national concern.

Syrian, Turkish leaders meet amid concern over Kurds in Iraq

ANKARA, 7 Jan — The leaders of Iraq's neighbours, Syria and Turkey, insisted Tuesday that Iraq remain united, issuing a warning to Kurds who may aspire to create an independent state in the north of the country.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States believes the Iraqis should decide the future of the overwhelmingly Kurdish northern region, but "it is absolutely clear" it must remain part of Iraq.

The statements came as Iraq's Governing Council has been hammering out details of a new government for Iraq. Iraqi Kurdish leaders are asking for greater autonomy for the oil-rich north and a federal Iraq based on two ethnic states.

Although Iraqi Kurdish leaders are not asking for independence, Turkey fears that increased autonomy and states based on ethnic identity will encourage separatism.

Turkish Kurdish rebels fought a 15-year war for autonomy in south-eastern Turkey that claimed some 37,000 lives.

Turkish leaders have repeatedly said they will not tolerate Kurdish independence in Iraq, which they say will lead to the disintegration of the country and the destabilization of the region. Iran, Syria and Turkey all have large Kurdish minorities in regions bordering Iraq.

"We condemn all approaches that pose a threat to Iraq's territorial integrity," Syrian President Bashar Assad said after flying to Ankara in the first visit to Turkey by a Syrian head of state and meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Necdet Sezer.

Sezer added that Syria and Turkey "share the same views on the protection of Iraq's territorial integrity and of its national unity.... We confirmed that Turkey and Syria, as two countries of the region that neighbor Iraq, are determined to effectively watch over these goals."

Earlier, Assad told CNN Turk television that "if there is no territorial integrity in Iraq, we cannot talk about stability in Iraq or in our countries. ... We are not only against a Kurdish state, but any state that would break the integrity of Iraq."

The warnings came in statements delivered at the end of a ceremony to mark the signing of agreements to promote mutual cooperation.

Northern Iraq is a largely autonomous area that is one of the relatively stable regions of the country with few US troops.

Turkey is particularly worried about Kurdish control over the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk. Iraqi Kurdish fighters moved into the city after the fall of Saddam Hussein, and control over its resources would make a possible state more economically viable. — Internet

ထုတ်ဖော်ပြောဆိုမှုများ

Syrian and Turkish leaders ask that Iraq does not split in two

ANKARA, 7 Jan—Iraqi Kurdish leaders have been calling on the Iraqi Governing Council to create a federal Iraqi nation divided into two ethnic states, one of them Kurdish. This Kurdish state would be in the North where most Kurds live among oil riches.

The leaders of Syria and Turkey are warning the Kurds against an autonomous state and said today Iraq should be one united state. Turkey fought Turkish Kurdish rebels for 15 years and 37,000 people were killed. Syria has a large Kurdish minority too.

Secretary of State Colin Powell says that the Northern Kurdish area should be part of Iraq but it is up to the Iraqis to decide what happens with it. Turkey fears ethnic states will create more differences that could eventually split Iraq.

Syrian President Bashar Assad Tuesday condemned all approaches that posed a threat to Iraq's territorial integrity. His remarks came after flying to Ankara in the first visit to Turkey by a Syrian head of state and meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Necdet Sezer. —Internet

UN's Annan presses US on Iraq meeting

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Jan—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he expects the United States to send senior officials to a January 19 meeting he is hosting with Iraqi leaders on the UN's future role in Iraq.

As the United States and Britain prepare to hand over power to Iraqis at the end of June, Annan wants to know what will be expected of the United Nations — and what security measures will be in place to protect UN personnel.

The UN chief will meet officials from the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council to try to thrash out the UN's role but the United States has been non-committal about attending.

"I would expect the US government to send a senior delegation, hopefully including people from Baghdad," Annan told reporters. "I expect all the parties to attend."

The Washington Post reported Monday that US officials felt they had been "repeatedly burned" on the Iraq issue at the United Nations, where Washington failed last year to get strong international support for the Iraq war.

It cited officials saying that it was now time for Iraqis themselves to make their case at the world body as they prepare to take over power when the US occupation formally ends in six months.

Annan will host an Iraqi delegation headed by Adnan Pachachi, the current President of the Governing Council and said Jeremy Greenstock, the top British envoy in Iraq, was likely to attend. —Internet



United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan addresses the media at UN headquarters on Tuesday, 6 Jan, 2004. Annan said he expects the United States to attend a January 19 meeting with him and the Iraqi Governing Council to determine the United Nations' role in Iraq as the country moves to self-government. —INTERNET

Austrian jet makes emergency landing in German field

BERLIN, 7 Jan—A passenger jet has made an emergency landing in a field near Munich Airport after the pilot reported problems with one of the engines, police said on Monday. No one was hurt.

The Fokker 70 plane carrying around 30 passengers landed between two and three kilometres short of Munich Airport, a police spokesman said. An airport spokesman said the plane belonged to Austrian Airlines.

MNA/Reuters

Russia, China, Britain hail Vajpayee-Musharraf meeting

MOSCOW, 7 Jan — Russia, joined by China and Britain, Monday hailed as "positive" the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad, and hoped this would lead to the resumption of full-scale dialogue between the two countries on the basis of Simla and Lahore accords.

"Moscow positively views the meeting between the Prime Minister of India A B Vajpayee and President P Musharraf of Pakistan on 5 January on the sidelines of 12th SAARC summit," Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"We express hope that the meeting... would become the starting point for the resumption of full-scale dialogue between India and Pakistan on the basis of Simla accord and Lahore agreement with the aim to resolve outstanding issues faced by them, and would play a substantial role in strengthening the foundations of stability and security, good neighbourliness and cooperation in the South Asian region."

In London, a spokeswoman of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office termed the meeting as a "positive sign".

"We warmly welcome the meeting between Vajpayee and Musharraf and also welcome the continued improvement in the bilateral relations between India and Pakistan," She said.

"We see it as a positive sign and hope it will lead to increased momentum in the process of normalization of relations between the two countries."

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Kong Quan said China expresses welcome and appreciation for the efforts made by the leadership of the two countries to improve bilateral ties.

"As friend and neighbour of the two countries, China wholeheartedly hopes India and Pakistan can maintain the momentum of detente and make concerted efforts for peace, stability and development in the region," Kong was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua news agency. — MNA/PTI

Canadian company to mine Tanzania gold

OTTAWA, 7 Jan — Canada's Northern Mining Explorations Ltd and a subsidiary of Barrick Gold Corp are to start mining gold in Tanzania, it was reported here Monday.

The Tulawaka gold mine will begin production immediately following approval of an environmental impact study completed last September and the granting of a special mining licence in November by the Tanzanian Government.

Northern Mining holds a 30-per-cent interest in the project while Pangea Goldfields Inc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Barrick and the project's operator, owns

the remaining 70 per cent.

Northern Mining said it has accepted from Barrick a project debt financing offer for Northern's entire share of the project's capital cost.

Northern Mining also has a majority interest in four gold and base metal exploration projects in the east African country of Eritrea and in four gold projects in Canada's Quebec Province. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police arrest a man in the city of Basra, on 5 Jan, 2004, after a protest over lack of jobs turned into a riot. —INTERNET

Vietnam posts GDP of 7.24%

HANOI, 7 Jan— Vietnam achieved 7.24 per cent growth in gross domestic product (GDP), which stood at 38.8 billion US dollars, in 2003, ranking second in Asia after China.

Of the GDP growth, the industry and construction sector contributed 3.86 per cent, the service sector 2.68 per cent, and the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector 0.7 per cent, the General Statistics Office told Xinhua on Monday.

Last year, the industry and construction sector posted a growth rate of 10.34 per cent, and totalled 15.5 billion US dollars. It made up 39.97 per cent of Vietnam's GDP.

Meanwhile, values of the service sector and the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector made up 38.23 per cent and 21.8 per cent of the GDP, respectively. In 2003, Vietnam recorded exports of 19.843 billion US dollars, a year-on-year rise of 18.8 per cent, and imports of 24.995 billion US dollars, up 26.7 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

US army battles to keep soldiers in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan

LONDON, 7 Jan—The US army is introducing a series of measures to prevent soldiers serving in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan from leaving the service.

Those who were planning to retire or leave in the next few months will now have to remain with their unit.

Soldiers whose terms of enlistment have expired will be offered up to \$10,000 to serve another three years.

An army spokesman said the moves were designed to maintain cohesion and combat effectiveness.

BBC Pentagon correspondent Nick Childs says it is another sign of the strain the US army is under because of the operation in Iraq.

He adds that it will encourage critics who say the military simply does not have enough troops.

The "stop loss order" to troops currently in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan means they will have to remain in ser-

vice while their units are deployed - and for up to 90 days after they return to their home bases.

A correspondent says there are already some stop loss orders in place and US army officials are playing down the significance of this planned new extension.

But he adds that it could mean real hardship for some soldiers.

Army spokesman Major Steve Stover said the order would affect about 7,000 soldiers currently in Iraq who were either due to end their service or retire before their unit redeployed.

They are likely to be in leadership positions because of their level of experience.

"The combatant commanders said

that if you replace them by taking them out now, it's going to cause turbulence and confusion, because you're taking away key leaders at a key time when a unit is currently in operation," said Major Stover.

Ted Carpenter, a defence analyst with the Cato Institute think tank, said the stop loss decision went against the concept of volunteer military service.

"Clearly, if large numbers of personnel have their terms extended against their will, that violates the principle of volunteerism," he said.

"It also suggests just how strained the military is in trying to provide for the Iraqi occupation plus all the other US obligations around the world."

Internet

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Crash kills British soldier on duty in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Jan—Member of the Cheshire Regiment in Iraq has died in Baghdad. Sergeant Norman Patterson, who came from Staffordshire, died in the early hours of New Year's Day.

It is not yet known where in Staffordshire he lived. Sgt Patterson died alongside Major James Stenner when the vehicle they were travelling in crashed into a wall.

The deaths of British servicemen in Iraq, which include Staffordshire soldiers Corporal Stephen Allbutt and Trooper David Clarke, bring total British losses in Iraq to 55 since the conflict began.

Maj Stenner, aged 30, of the Welsh Guards, was married and came from Monmouthshire. Sgt Patterson, aged 28, was single. Most British troops are serving in the south of the country around Basra. —Internet



Iraqis run for cover after a protest by former Iraqi soldiers turned violent in the southern Iraq city of Basra, on 6 Jan, 2004. Iraqi police opened fire on soldiers of the former Iraqi army as they staged a protest, witnesses said. — INTERNET

India may capture 56% of offshore BPO market by 2006

NEW DELHI, 7 Jan—India is likely to capture 56 per cent share of offshore business process outsourcing (BPO) business by 2006 with the demand for BPO services increasing at an annual growth rate of 50 per cent during 2004-06, according to a report by credit rating agency ICRA.

However, the prospects of a US BPO backlash may act as a constraining factor for the offshore BPO market and in such a scenario, India may be able to capture only 42 per cent share of the offshore market by 2006, the report said.

The size of the Indian BPO market is likely to be around 9-12 billion US dollar by 2006 and will employ around 0.4 million people, ICRA said in its Indian BPO industry report.

Indicating a consolidation trend within the industry, the report points out that even though there are a large number of BPO players in the Indian market at around 400, the percentage of third party vendors to total BPO players have declined from 57.4 per cent in FY 2001 to 42.2 per cent in FY 2003 while that of captive players have increased from 42.6 per cent to 57.8 per cent during the same period.

The relative decline in the share of third party vendors may be explained by the mergers and acquisitions currently taking place within the industry, it said.

With a projection of 50 per cent annual growth for BPO industry over 2004-06, the ICRA report said that established BPO players are likely to move up the value chain in quest for better price realization.

For BPO service providers, moving up the value chain is critical, given the attrition rates in the industry which are on an average higher in low value-added segments (in call centres) as compared to higher value-added segments like engineering, the report said.

As these Indian firms scale up rapidly, ICRA expects that some of the big players in the market may use the IPO route to raise funds for moving up the ladder. It said a number of countries have emerged in the BPO segment like Australia, Philippines, China and Ireland. — MNA/PTI

200-year-old marriage law uncovered in S-W China

GUIYANG, 7 Jan—Cultural heritage authorities in the southwest China province of Guizhou have uncovered two stone tablets inscribed with the "dos and don'ts" of marriage more than 200 years ago.

The tablets, inscribed during the reigns of Qian Long (1736-1795) and Jia Qing (1796-1820), emperors of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), outlawed marriage between close relations, elopement, blackmail or unilateral breach of engagement, and granted the widowed the right to remarry.

"They can be called a systematic marriage law," said Wang Zongxun, head of the Archives of Jinping County, where the tablets are kept. "It's quite rare for the ethnic people in an underdeveloped region to make laws like this 200 years ago." —MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis say US killed two civilians in Baquba

BAQUBA (Iraq), 7 Jan—Crowds of angry Iraqis gathered in the central town of Baquba on Tuesday to bury two men they said were civilians killed by US soldiers while walking home from a coffee shop on Monday evening.

Relatives said the two men were returning to their homes in a village near Baquba at around 7 pm (1600 GMT) on Monday when they were shot by US tanks.

A US military spokeswoman said she had no information about an incident in the area.

Crowds gathered for the funeral on Tuesday, chanting "America is the enemy of God" and other anti-US slogans.

"They just wanted to cross the street to go home and there were tanks standing in their way, so they walked along the river," one resident said. "When they wanted to enter their homes, they were killed."

US forces have mounted major operations in and around Baquba, 40 miles north of the capital, to try to capture insurgents they blame for attacks on US forces. — MNA/Reuters

Middle-school graduates line up to join Air Force in China

BEIJING, 7 Jan—Over 60,000 Chinese middle-school graduates have registered for the 2004 recruitment exam for Air Force pilots, 23 per cent more than last year.

Officials with the Chinese Air Force Draft Board said the preliminary interview, which started last October, had concluded and the students who had passed were advised to prepare for the second-round test.

Candidates who received qualified academic results and passed the physical exam during the second-round test lasting from February to August, would be accepted by the China Air Force Aviation College.

The college has started recruiting and training high-calibre candidates to match the increasing complexity of weapons and

facilities in recent years.

Last June, it recruited the first group of 19 graduates specializing in sciences and engineering from thousands of applicants from 74 Chinese universities.

They were the first batch without military backgrounds to be recruited since the reform of military aviation college enrollment in 1987.

In June last year, China's first group of 20 Air Force pilots with bachelor degrees left the training centre for service in operational units flying new fighter planes.

MNA/Xinhua



At the base: US soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division wait to leave their base in Tikrit recently. — INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Armed Iraqi police rush into a crowd of protesting former soldiers in the southern Iraq city of Basra on 6 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET



A US soldier guards a group of Iraqis as they stand and wait for work near the 101st Airborne's divisional headquarters in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, northwest of Baghdad, on 6 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET



US Army soldiers of the 1-22 Infantry Division sit on their humvee as they leave their military base in Tikrit, Iraq, on 6 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET



British Army troops take position near a crowd of protesting former Iraqi soldiers after stones were thrown in the southern Iraq city of Basra on 6 Jan, 2004. Iraqi police opened fire on soldiers of the former Iraqi army in Basra on Tuesday as they staged a protest, witnesses said.

INTERNET



A US soldier secures the area after their supply truck came under roadside explosive attack, injuring the driver in the Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib on 6 Jan, 2004.

INTERNET



Iraqi man Ali Al Jibouri, 40, walks across his cousin's farmland past an unexploded mortar round in the Baghdad suburb of Arab Jibour on 5 Jan, 2004.

INTERNET



Iraqi kicked to death by British soldiers

BAGHDAD, 7 Jan—Eight young Iraqis arrested in the southern Iraqi town of Basra last year were assaulted by British soldiers and one of them died of his injuries, a British newspaper has reported.

Baha Musa's body was returned to his family covered in bruises and with his nose broken, after he and seven other men were arrested by British forces in September 2003, according to the Sunday edition of the *Independent* newspaper.

They were held in military custody for three days, the UK paper reported.

The newspaper said in its report by veteran Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk that it had seen military and medical records of the case, showing that the father

of two suffered his injuries in a severe beating. British military authorities offered Musa's family \$8000 in compensation, providing they were not held responsible for his death, but his relatives planned to take Britain's Ministry of Defence (MoD) to court.

A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman declined to give details about the case. "There is an ongoing military police investigation into a death that we had in custody," she said. —Internet



British soldiers guard the British Embassy in Baghdad. Two British soldiers serving in Iraq were killed in a road traffic accident in Baghdad in the early hours of New Year's Day.

INTERNET



Philippines isolates 34 at home over SARS scare

MANILA, 7 Jan—The Philippines has ordered 34 people to stay at home after they had contact with a woman suspected of contracting SARS while working as a maid in Hong Kong, a health department spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

The 42-year-old woman and her husband are in isolation but health authorities will have to wait until Wednesday to confirm if she has flu-like severe acute respiratory syndrome, which killed 800 people around the world during an outbreak last year.

"The woman's condition, her breathing, has slightly improved since last night," said Dr Luningning Villa, a spokeswoman for the health department. "Both of them are in a stable condition."

Villa said 34 people who had contact with the woman at a government-run hospital in Laguna Province, south of Manila, were placed in home quarantine, including two doctors who initially treated her. Local authorities have also closed an elementary school.

"We are trying to trace all people who had social contact with the woman from the time she had fever," said Pepito Diwajon, the mayor of the town of Luisiana.

MNA/Reuters

Study warns of eye injuries from paintball game

CHICAGO, 6 Jan—Hundreds of US children suffer eye injuries each year from paintballs while playing a simulated war game in which guns fire gelatin capsules filled with paint, a researcher said on Monday.

Teen-aged boys playing informal versions of the war game often dispense with protective gear, leaving them vulnerable to disabling eye injuries, said study author David Listman of St. Barnabas Hospital in New York.

Based on data from between 1997 and 2000, Listman estimated there were more than 500 eye injuries annually from paintballs to US children aged 15 or

younger.

"Children are 'playing' in backyards, woods, and basements — not organized paintball centres that both provide and require face masks," Listman wrote in *Pediatrics*, a medical journal published by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Some children avoid using protective face masks or goggles because they can fog up or become dislodged while running. —MNA/Reuters

Japan eyes Australia, NZ to replace US beef

SYDNEY, 7 Jan—Japanese officials will visit Australia and New Zealand to discuss increasing beef imports from the two countries after Tokyo banned US beef because of its first case of mad cow disease.

Officials from the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture were due to arrive in Australia on Thursday to meet cattle farmers in northern Queensland State before heading to New Zealand on the weekend, a Japanese Embassy spokesman in Sydney said on Tuesday.

Japan, the top overseas market for US beef, suspended beef imports from the United States immediately after the December 23 announcement of the first US

case of mad cow disease.

"They decided to (investigate) Australia and New Zealand's export potential," Koji Otani, a vice-consul at the Japanese Embassy, told *Reuters*. Japan imported about 534,000 tons of beef in the year through March 2003. Almost half, 240,000 tons, came from the United States.

Australia is Japan's other major supplier. It exported 277,300 tons of beef to Japan worth 1.4 billion Australian dollars (1.1 billion US dollars) in the year through June 2003, Meat and Livestock Australia figures show. New Zealand exported 10,962 tons of beef and veal to Japan in 2002. —MNA/Reuters



Biscuit, a snow leopard born at the Bronx Zoo in June 2003, rests his head on top of his mother Shikari at New York's Bronx Zoo, on 6 Jan, 2004. Snow leopards thrive in cold weather and snow but Biscuit's first winter has been one of clear ground and mild temperatures except for the 20 inch snowfall in early December 2003. —INTERNET

မြို့ခြံရွှေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

Bulgarian troops reject Iraq duty

LONDON, 7 Jan—More than 40 Bulgarian soldiers have refused to serve in Iraq following a suicide attack which killed five of their compatriots there last month.

Army Chief of Staff General Nikola Kolev said no action would be taken against them, because participation in the mission was voluntary.

The soldiers were to be part of a 500-strong battalion replacing another Bulgarian unit in Karbala this month.

The general said the mission would go ahead regardless.

Twenty-six Bulgarian soldiers were wounded in the

attacks in Karbala on 27 December, in addition to the five who died.

Pull-out clause

They were among a total of 19 people who died and 200 who were wounded.

General Kolev said a few soldiers who had decided immediately after the attack not to go to Iraq had since changed their minds.

He said most of the soldiers who had dropped out

were from logistical units.

A Bulgarian radio report cited by the AFP news agency said soldiers going ahead with the mission had demanded a clause in their contracts stipulating that they can pull out at any time and return home.

Bulgarian Prime Minister, Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, insisted after the attacks that his country would keep its contingent in Iraq as a matter "of principle". — Internet

More Iraqi refugees return home

GENEVA, 7 Jan—United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced on Tuesday that some 630 Iraqis have returned home from refugee camps in Iran and Saudi Arabia in the last two days.

"A convoy carrying 330 refugees arrived today in southern Iraq, ending their long exile in Saudi Arabia," said UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond.

The UNHCR has been facilitating returns of Iraqis from Rafha refugee camp in Saudi Arabia since last July. Tuesday's convoy was the 14th group of Iraqis to leave Rafha.

"On Monday, some 300 Iraqis also returned from camps in Iran, where some of them have been exiled for more than two decades," Redmond said.

UNHCR distributed the usual assistance package and tents, if needed, and the returnees were also enrolled in Iraq's country-wide food distribution system, he said.

The returning refugees have undergone mine awareness training before departure. "UNHCR is not encouraging anyone to go back to Iraq, only facilitating the repatriation of those people who are desperate to go home despite the security problems and precarious humanitarian and economic situation in the country," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

42 journalists killed in 2003

MADRID, 7 Jan — Forty-two journalists were killed throughout the world during 2003, the highest figure since 1995, and 14 of them lost their lives while covering the Iraq war, a document by Reporters Without Borders (RWB) revealed Tuesday.

The document showed that at the beginning of 2004, 124 reporters remained imprisoned in different countries because of their opinions and professional activities.

The RWB said "the most dangerous zone for the practice of journalism" last year was the Middle East, where 14 reporters were killed and 15 injured while reporting the Iraq war, and two cameramen were killed in Palestine.

The RWB termed 2003 a "black year". It was also the most dangerous year for Philippines journalists since 1987. Seven were killed in the Philippines after denouncing corruption and local mafias.

One journalist was killed in Nepal, another in Indonesia, and three in India. An Iranian-Canadian photographer was killed in Iran and two in Cote d'Ivoire.

It was also recorded that, one in Cambodia, and four in Colombia were killed. In Brazil two were killed and one reporter lost his life in Guatemala.

MNA/Xinhua

The developing Pakokku region

Tekkatho Tin Kha

From a less developed region to ...

Head of State of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe has often visited the Anya region (Upper Myanmar), and Pakokku is one of the most important regions during his inspection tours. Clean water supply project has been achieving significant success in the endeavours of the Head of State to develop the nation. Building of 155 dams and 265 water pumping stations serve as the proof to his endeavours.

The Head of State attended the ceremony to open the North Pinle Dam in Myingyan Township on 13 April 1996. At the ceremony, he gave guidance, saying, "As I was born and brought up in Anya region, I have know the hardships of the farmers of the region since childhood days.

The people of Anya want water not gold. And when they have water, they feel happy as if they got

people of the region were in deep poverty facing difficulties. They lagged behind in development as they were experiencing a lot of hardships in food, clothing and transport. Hence, it was like a place lying in a farflung way area."

The population of the Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions in Anya is over 17 million. A sound environmental development plan has been launched in the region, with the nine-district greening project as the initial stage, since 1993, for long-term interest of the local people and for the conservation of land and water.

The Anya region would have become a desert if nothing had been done to improve its condition. Thanks to the collective endeavours of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people, the nine-district greening project has gained success, and the Pakokku region is starting to enjoy the coolness and pleasantness of the trees. The State

Pakokku has been upgraded to the regional capital on the west bank. It is also covered by the 24 development-zone project. The development drive has reached not only the Pakokku town, but also the rural areas around it. The 24 development-zone project is bringing progress to every part of the nation. All required infrastructures have been developed and built in and around the Pakokku region. The Pakokku region development project also covers the southern part of China that borders the region.

The nation is witnessing all-round progress of the Pakokku region. The region will achieve more progress in the coming years. As the region has few water resources, efforts are being made to find more water for irrigation. And thanks to the efforts, the agricultural sector is developing and the social standard of the local people is improving.

Kyetmauk and Leti



Senior General Than Shwe meets with local authorities, departmental officials, members of USDA, social organizations and townselders.

Bridge and Nwetame Bridge have been built. Myitha River Bridge was built on Gangaw-Haka road; and Natho Creek Bridge on Pauk-Kyaukhtu road. At the same time, Pakokku - Yesagyo - ChaungU road and Hsinmyushin Bridge on Chindwin River were built. ChaungU - Pakokku - Myaing-Gangaw-Kale railroad was also built in the area. The facilities, the re-

under cotton, beans and pulses and edible oil crops.

More factories are being built in the Pakokku region to generate job opportunities. A textile and garment factory is being built at Kywete village three miles from Pakokku. Test run of the factory will start in May 2005. In addition to agriculture, the Government has been developing the industrial sector for regional development and creating

ment.

"Only hard work is needed as the nation is already endowed with rich natural resources. In addition, the human resources, indispensable for progress of the State, is available in the nation.

"We will always strive with goodwill for the State's interest, and national and regional development."

The Senior General's inspection tour of the



Dignataries at the meeting between Senior General Than Shwe and local authorities, departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and townselders at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku.

gold. In this regard, the Government has been striving with utmost efforts for providing water and bringing prosperity to the region. As water is now available in the region, the local people will have to work harder." The Head of State met with departmental personnel, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and other social organizations and local elders in Pakokku on 16 December 2003. At the meeting, he said, "I was assigned to Pakokku region when I was young. Thus, I am familiar with the region. The rural

is using its financial resources, with sincere goodwill, to green the region.

Firm development of Pakokku region

In the past Pakokku lying on the west bank of Ayeyawady River lagged behind in development. But now the west bank including Pakokku region has developed much. The Government has built a number of new motorways, railroads and major bridges to facilitate its transport sector. The Ayeyawady river can no longer hinder development of Pakokku on the west bank of Ayeyawady.

regulating dams were opened in Myaing Township in Pakokku on 14 August 2000. Irrigation facilities play a key role in extending cultivation of the four main crops — paddy, cotton, sugarcane, and beans and pulses. Because of its dry weather and poor transport, Pakokku region lagged behind in development in the past.

At present, Minbu-Pwintthu-Salin-Seikphyu-Pakokku-Yesagyo road has been upgraded to an all-weather facility. In addition, Mann Creek Bridge, Mone Creek Bridge, Yaw Creek

sults of the collective endeavours of State, the Tatmadaw and the people, have cut the travelling time between the places of the Pakokku region and also the region and other areas of the Union.

Because of the assistance rendered by the State, the Magway Division, where Pakokku region is located, can now put 6.3 million acres of land under paddy, up from 3.6 million acres in 1988-89. The region can now fulfil up to 72 per cent of the local consumption. Over 5.6 million acres of land have been put

new jobs.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said, "The Government is striving with goodwill for progress of the whole nation including the Pakokku region. Likewise, the government staff assigned to various places must lead the people for the successful implementation of the government tasks and the projects.

"In this regard, I would like to urge the people to harmoniously take part in the Government's endeavours for national modernization and develop-

Pakokku region in Anya will become a milestone in history. The Pakokku region will become an oasis as the regional capital on the west bank of Ayeyawady river. Because of the completion of the Magway Bridge, areas in the southern parts of Chin State can also look forward to harmonious progress. In addition to the agricultural sector, the industrial sector will certainly develop.

Thus, the Head of State's visit to the Pakokku region will be recorded in history as a milestone.

(Translation: TMT)

Cash and kind donated to MNWAF

YANGON, 7 Jan — Wellwishers donated cash and kind to Myanmar National Women's Affairs Federation at a ceremony held at the hall of Social Welfare Department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff, MNWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Adviser Daw Khin Than Nwe, Vice-Presidents Professor Dr Daw May May Yee, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, guests and wellwishers.

The president of the MNWAF expressed her thanks and presented K 100,000 to the federation through Vice-President Professor Dr Daw May May Yee, who then presented a certificate of honour to her. The adviser presented K 150,000 donated by

wives of members of the State Peace and Development Council to the MNWAF president, who then presented a certificate of honour to her.

Next, the Chinese embassy to Myanmar presented five sets of computer and printer worth K 3,530,900; the Ministry of Information, K 300,000; and Myanmar War Veterans Organization, K 500,000.

The MNWAF president accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Tint Hsan - Dr Htay Htay Nyein of ACE Construction Group presented K 5 million; the leading panel of patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, K 110,000; Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Nay Win Tun (Chairman, Ruby Dragon and Jade Dragon Co)-Daw Nan Aye Aye Myint and family, K 3 million; (U Maung Maung Nyunt)-Daw Khin Swe Yu (Managing

Director, Science & Technology Advisory Group Co Ltd), K 3 million; Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Thein Win-Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Ni and family (Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd), K 1 million; Tampawady Co Group Chairman U Maung Maung Lwin-Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Daw Sein Sein and family, K 1 million; Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Hse (Ngwe Yadana Co), K 500,000; U Thein Maung-Daw Pa Pa (Sandi Traditional Medicine Enterprise), K 500,090, MNWAF law enforcement work group, K 130,000; and finance and administration work group, K 70,000. Vice-Presidents Daw Khin Lay Thet and Daw Than Than Nwe accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to them. Today's donations amounted to over K 18.8 million. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepts five computer sets donated by Chinese Embassy to Myanmar. — MNA

Livestock breeding tasks inspected in Yangon Command

YANGON, 7 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the livestock breeding farms of the command today and gave necessary instructions.

First, the commander arrived at No 1 Livestock Breeding Farm in Sawbwagiyon, Insein Township, at 2.30 pm. In-charge of the farm Maj Soe Myint Aung reported to the commander on breeding, production and incubation of broilers at the briefing hall of the farm. Next, Secretary Lt-Col Thein Sint of the Yangon Command Leading Committee for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding briefed the com-

mander on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks being carried out in the command.

After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions on taking measures to fulfil the meat and fish requirement of the people in Yangon.

Afterwards, the commander inspected the briquette factory and incubators in the farm and gave instruction on systematic breeding of broilers and cultivation of vegetables.

Next, the commander inspected Tai Shwegon vegetables, meat and fish shop of the command in Sawbwagiyon and gave necessary instructions.

Later, the commander proceeded to the main fish breeding pond of the com-

mand in Mingaladon Township.

In-charge of the ponds Maj Thet Hlaing reported to the commander on breeding and hatching of fish, breeding of pigs and layers. The commander then fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander inspected round the fish breeding ponds and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the commander inspected the poultry farm of the camp commandant office of the command gave necessary instructions.

The command engages in agriculture and livestock breeding tasks systematically and distributes meat, fish, eggs and vegetables to the public through tax-free markets in Yangon.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the fish breeding works in Mingaladon Township. — YGN COMMAND



NEW SHOP OPENED: A new sports shop named Winner International Sports Service was opened with ceremony on 6-1-2004 on Maha Bandoa Garden Street in Yangon. Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Manijotadhara Dr Khin Shwe formally opens the shop. — NLM

Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 7 Jan — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received President Ms Fang Fang and party of China National Building Material Equipment Corporation (CBMEC) of the Republic of China at his office here yesterday morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-general and managing directors of the departments under the ministry.—MNA

Minister receives Japanese ambassador

YANGON, 7 Jan — Minister for Labour U Tin Winn received Japanese ambassador Mr Yuiji Miyamoto at his office here yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Soe Nyunt of Labour Department and officials.

MNA



Minister Col Tin Hlaing being seen off at the airport. (News on page 16) — MNA

Independence Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 7 Jan — The 56th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Exhibition continued for the fifth day at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre on U Wisara Road here from 9 am to 5 pm today.

Visitors took great interest in the booths on Myanmar: origin of man, ancient and first, second and third Myanmar Kingdoms, independence struggle of Myanmar, regaining and safeguarding of independence, photos of scenic Myanmar, national culture

and peaceful and developed Myanmar, march towards the new and developed nation and development of contemporary Myanmar, and booths of ministries and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control.

Students also took part in computer quiz. The News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Informa-

tion has opened NPE Book Shop along with the Sarpay Beikman Book Shop of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise near the exhibition hall.

Monks, students and the public totalling 7653 visited the exhibition today. It will be kept open daily till 11 January. Admission is free. —MNA

DRIVE SAFELY

US begins fingerprinting foreign visitors

ATLANTA, 7 Jan — The United States began fingerprinting and photographing visitors from most countries on Monday in a controversial programme to try to prevent potential terrorists from slipping in through the borders.

The programme was launched at 115 airports and 14 cruise shipports across the country, but not yet at land borders, which account for a large part of traffic into the United States.

Tourists and business travellers on short visits from 27 mostly European nations are exempt from the new measures. Canadians, who fall under special immigration rules, are also exempt. Some foreign nationals have complained of discrimina-

tion and Brazil last week began finger printing and photographing all arriving US citizens.

Federal officials said the measures, which were ordered by Congress in response to the September 11, 2001 hijacked plane attacks, would tighten security without causing any undue inconvenience to travellers.

"It is easy for travellers to use, but hard for terrorists to avoid," Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told a news conference at Atlanta's international airport shortly after the system began.

Ridge greeted and shook hands with the first travellers to be processed in Atlanta under the US-Visit system. — MNA/Reuters

Traffic accident kills 13 in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 7 Jan — Thirteen people were killed and five others injured Monday in a five-car pile-up between Ermelo and Piet Retief, about 450 kilometres southeast of Johannesburg, South African police said.

Sergeant Charles Nkosi, a spokesman for the Mpumalanga provincial police, said a minibus taxi was attempting to pass another vehicle at 1:50 p.m. (1150 GMT) when it slammed into an on-coming truck. Three other vehicles were involved in the accident.

The 13 dead — including the driver — were all travelling in the taxi.

Another two taxi passengers were injured and taken

to hospital. The driver of the truck was also injured and hospitalized.

Nkosi said all those injured were in a serious but stable condition. He said it was difficult at this stage to say where the taxi had come from and what its destination was, but papers indicated the vehicle had been registered in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

He said it was overcast but not raining at the time of the accident and that the particular stretch of road was not especially dangerous.

Police were working hard to identify those injured and killed and to notify their next-of-kin as soon as possible.

MNA/Xinhua

Narcotic drugs and paraphernalia seized along with arms and ammunition

YANGON, 7 Jan — Acting on information, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and the Special Anti-drug Squad searched a farm hut at an estimated map reference (LP-5382), where Sai Pyan, son of U Ho Jian, near Kaungkyan village in Kengtung Township, at 9.30 pm on 31 December.

The authorities seized Sai Pyan there and launched another search at the hill slope some 200 yards east of the hut. The authorities seized one SR brand machine used for producing stimulant tablets, one Bonny brand grinder, one iron tray used for drying stimulant tablets, one scale, 60 packs of chemical powder used for producing stimulant tablets, one gun, and three books.

According to the confessions made by Sai Pyan, the combined team raided his house at Ward 5 in Kengtung and seized one van with licence number plates Ba/524, one



The Traditional Medicine University Construction Project being implemented in Mandalay. (News reported) — MNA

Stringent control on US-bound passengers enforced in Mexico

MEXICO CITY 7 Jan — The Mexico City International Airport started to enforce more stringent controls on US-bound passengers Monday, leading to cancelled flights and delays of up to five hours.

Passengers leaving for Los Angeles were subject to special scrutiny. They were demanded to wait for boarding in a cordoned area.

US agents are working discretely at the airport, but they do not participate in checking passengers.

Three Aeromexico flights from Mexico City to Los Angeles were cancelled last week due to US concerns about possible terror attacks.

Mexican President Vicente Fox said on Sunday

that "vigilance in the airports has doubled," highlighting the close cooperation with US security agencies.

Also on Monday, the United States started photographing and fingerprinting foreign citizens entering the country. Only those travelling visa-free are exempted from the procedures.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey sends \$707,000 aid to Iran

ANKARA, 7 Jan — Turkey has sent foodstuff, medicine and medical equipment worth more than 707,000 US dollars to earthquake-hit Iran, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Sahin's Office said on Monday.

ECLAC calls for economic integration in Latin America

SANTIAGO, 7 Jan — The UN Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) on Monday called for economic integration in the sub-region, saying that instability and economic risks are looming large.

ECLAC economist Victor Tokman said in an article that structural changes in the world economy and the handling of public policies have

affected employment, poverty reduction and foreign investment which results in more insecurity and economic uncertainty in the sub-region.

"Latin America is nowadays a more socially and economically insecure region, which leads to uncertainties and causes tensions, affecting people, families and society as a whole," said Tokman.

It is necessary to push for economic integration in the region to help abate instability and risks, he said.

In the article, the Santiago-based UN agency analyzed the effects of a more open global economy especially in relation to the most vulnerable groups.

Tokman said in the article that Latin America has been witnessing economic adjustment for two decades which has resulted in varying rates of economic performance and social consequences characterized by a greater insecurity, unemployment and increasing poverty.

MNA/Xinhua

Costa Rica, US resume free trade negotiations

SAN JOSE, 7 Jan — Costa Rica and the United States on Monday resumed their negotiations over a free trade agreement (FTA) in Washington, said the Costa Rican Foreign Trade Ministry.

Ministry spokeswoman Carol Uriza said the two countries would endeavour to overcome their differences in this round of talks scheduled to finish on January 9.

The second round is scheduled to kick off on January 19, while the date of closing has yet to be determined, she said.

Costa Rica is the only Central American country that has not yet signed the Cen-

tral American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) with the United States due to differences on such issues as telecommunications, insurance, textiles and agriculture.

The other four Central American countries Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador completed their negotiations with Washington on December 17, 2003.

Costa Rica has demanded an increase in its sugar export quota to the United States, seeks better trade conditions for its textile exports and is anxious to protect its meat, poultry, potato and oil producers.

MNA/Xinhua



Sai Pyan and Sai Shen with seized narcotic drugs and paraphernalia in Kengtung Township. — MNA



Seized paraphernalia used for production of narcotic drugs. — MNA

The YCDC Engineering Department's efforts to supply enough clean water to Yangon

Article and photos by Than SWE (Pabedan)

"To supply enough clean water for Yangonites" is the motto of the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of the Yangon City Development Committee. And to realize the motto, the department is carrying out its work in accord with the five objectives.

Daily supply of enough clean water that meets the hygienic standard for the city dwellers is one of the five objectives. To realize the objective, the department is using the Gyobu Reservoir, the Phugyi Reservoir and the Hlawga Reservoir as the main lakes in supplying clean water to the city. In the past, 56-inch pipes were used to directly provide water from

age of 300 million gallons of water daily from the outlet channel during the period. In this regard, the department diverted the surplus water from the reservoir into the Gyobu pipeline that is supplying water to the city. Thanks to the programme, the Gyobu reservoir can reduce its volume of water supply to the city, while having more time to store water. A team led by the head of department U Thauing Yin presented the programme to the executives of the YCDC.

The programme is helping the Gyobu to store 3.36 billion more gallons of water; the Phugyi, 324 million more gallons; and the Hlawga, 1.2 billion more gallons annually.



Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, member Col Tin Soe and party inspect erection of a booster station.

As the staff of the department are working night and day, it is hoped that the station will start to run

equipped with taps have been erected on roadsides.

The Engineering Department (Water and

of water to the metropolis, and more water will be provided to Pale Myothit, Waybagi, Shwe-

paukkan and Thuwunna and Dagon Myothit, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun and Thakayta townships.

As the daily provision of water to the city is 90 million gallons, roughly, individual consumption of tap water in the metropolis of five million people is 18 gallons. But some places in the city still face water shortage, and in some places people are consuming water much more than necessary.

In this regard, installation of meters at every tap of a household will help reduce the unnecessary water consumption, and will help provide more water to the places facing water shortage.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alin, 30-12-2003.



Good inflow from watershed areas have filled the Phugyi Reservoir to the brim.

the Gyobu Reservoir to the city. The Phugyi supplied water to Hlawga with 60-inch reinforced concrete pipes, and then water from the latter lake was piped to the city.

Working round the clock, the department staff are providing 90 million gallons of water to downtown and uptown Yangon and its satellite towns daily to ensure that the people of the metropolis never face water shortage. In the past daily supply of water to the city was 85 million gallons.

Annually, the inflow of water into the Phugyi exceeds the reservoir's storage capacity of 23 billion gallons for about 60 days in the rainy season. Thus, it had to release an aver-

As a section, stretching 5,000 feet, of the pipeline from the Gyobu goes up and down the unlevelled terrain in passing over the low hills of the Bago Mountain range, building of a booster station near Pyawbwe village in Hmawby Township becomes a requisite to boost its daily water supply capacity from 90 million gallons to between 12 million gallons and 15 million gallons. The station will help increase water supply to North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thingangyun and Thakayta townships. Moreover it needs to run for only one month in the summer. The project to build the station started in December 2003.

in the second week of March 2004.

And thanks to another booster station in Yankin Township, that will start its operation in the last week of March 2004, Tarmway, Botah-taung, Pazundaung, Kyauktada, Latha and Lanmadaw townships will get more water. In line with its duty, the department is repairing old pipes or substituting them with new ones to ensure that not a single township in the city faces water shortage. As some townships including North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa and Thingangyun townships cannot afford piped water for every household in the wards, water tanks

Sanitation) of the YCDC in cooperation with the Fire Services Department, has made arrangements to repair the old fire hydrants and installed new ones at important places in the city. The new fire hydrants are ready to supply water for fire engines round the clock. Some of the fire hydrants can fill the 1,600-gallon tank of a fire engine within three minutes.

At present, plans are under way to provide the city with water from the Ngamoeyek Reservoir. The reservoir is 30 miles from the city, and pipe laying has been completed up to ten miles. When the whole project is completed, it will supply another 90 million gallons



Fire hydrants like the one shown in the picture are ready round the clock to provide water for firefighters in case of emergency need.

Japanese minister plans push for nuclear fusion plant

TOKYO, 7 Jan— Japan's Science Minister plans to visit Russia and China next week to try to win backing for Tokyo's bid to host an experimental nuclear fusion programme, a ministry spokesman said recently.

The campaigning tour, which may start on January 14 and which would include South Korea, is the latest move in a tug-of-war between the European Union and Japan, both of which are bidding for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

The European Union is backing Cadarache in southern France, while Tokyo is pushing Rokkasho, a remote fishing village in northern Japan as its proposed site for the world's first attempt at generating energy in the same way as the sun.

At a meeting in Washington on De-

cember 20, the six members of the ITER joint venture failed to reach agreement, with the United States and South Korea backing Japan, while Russia and China favoured France. The six countries are set to meet again next month.

France has proposed a compromise whereby the reactor would be in Cadarache, but data analysis could take place elsewhere.

Nuclear fusion has been touted as a solution to the world's energy problems, as it would be low in pollution and would theoretically use seawater as fuel.

MNA/Reuters

Source of new confirmed SARS case remains unclear

GENEVA, 7 Jan— Though results from laboratory tests received Monday have confirmed a case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in southern China, the source of infection for the case remains unclear, World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Monday.

Epidemiological investigations in China have not yet been able to link the patient to exposure to wild animals or any other known or suspected source of the virus, the WHO said.

Several lines of investigation last year suggest that SARS may have originated from contact with wild animals sold for human consumption at live markets in southern China.

Studies conducted last year detected a SARS-like virus in some animal species, including the masked palm civet.

Retrospective analysis of patient records has linked several of the earliest cases, which surfaced in Guangdong in mid-November 2002, to contact with wild animals. However, no animal reservoir of the SARS coronavirus has been conclusively identified to date, the WHO said. — MNA/Xinhua



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects tasks for renovation of Central Women's Hospital in Mandalay on 6-1-2004. (News reported). — MNA

Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Awards presented

YANGON, 7 Jan — The Second Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award Presenting ceremony was held at MICT Park in Hline Township here this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tun

(Hla Tun - Twantay) and the Joint-Secretaries and CEC members, Leader of the Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee MWJA CEC member U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and members, literati, prize-winning writers, contestant writers, family members of Sayawun Tin Shwe and invited guests.

MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) made an opening speech. U

Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) explained scrutinizing tasks for the award.

Afterwards, the MWJA Chairman presented literary awards to U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) for his book entitled "Upadiyok (Appearance)" and U Tin Oo (Naga Tin Oo) for his book entitled "Sanaytha-ei-bawa-taik-pwe-mya (Life struggles of the Saturday-born man)".

Daw Aye Thant, wife of the late Sayawun Tin



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greets Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization leaders. (News on page 1). — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Mandalay City Development Committee's city hospital construction project in Mandalay on 6-1-2004. (News reported). — MNA

Paper reading session on 10 Jan

YANGON, 7 Jan — Under the sponsorship of the Myanmar Engineering Society, a paper reading session will be held at the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Hline Township here at 1 pm on 10 January. The paper on 'Higher standard and efficiency of electrical industries in shaping a modern and developed nation' will be read there. Those interested are invited to the paper reading session. — MNA

Iranian authorities strive to restore water supply to Bam

BAM (Iran), Jan 7 — Iranian authorities are striving to restore water supply to the earthquake-stricken city of Bam, as part of the government efforts for rebuilding the city.

In the city proper, government officials are directing efforts to repair water systems damaged in the December 26 earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale that left 30,000 people dead, and to restore water supply to survivors.

As the water supply system in most part of Bam is damaged, the government has operated numerous water distribution points throughout the city.

Bam was formerly supplied with water coming from 11 boreholes located outside the city, which are around 200 metres deep. Nine of the boreholes are still full functional following the devastating earthquake.

The water was stored in four underground water tanks, three with a capacity of 10,000 cubic metres and the other 5,000 cubic metres. It is likely that the earthquake has not damaged the tanks.

Two main lines are supplying water to the city through a distribution network.

The first cement line of 700 millimetres in diameter is still functioning, but the second ductile line of 600

millimetres in diameter is out of order after the earthquake, according to Iranian Government sources.

The network is currently providing water to 20 per cent of the city, while other parts of the city are supplied through 80 water trucks at 60 distribution points.

A compound of military barracks in Bam used for temporarily accommodating foreign relief workers and journalists, including Xinhua reporters, is also supplied with water from water trucks.

The quality of water has not yet been evaluated following the earthquake. However, it is most likely that the water is clean and potable due to its nature and chlorine gas in the water tanks, Iranian Government sources said.

The sources said that 20 of the wells supplying the surrounding villages with water have been damaged and are out of use.

Currently, some 60 villages in the region have to be supplied by external water and some 70 water tankers are circulating among them.

The lack of sufficient water tankers has been proven to be a major problem, but the expected arrival of a number of bladder tanks appears to be able to ease this problem

MNA/xinhua



MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) makes a speech at Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Awards Presenting ceremony. — MNA

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

Malaysian paints, coatings sector to achieve high growth rate

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Jan—Malaysia's paints and coatings industry is expected to hit a 14-per-cent annual growth in the next five years, an industry study released on Monday predicted.

This bullish outlook is on the back of both domestic and external demand, said the study entitled "Paints and Coatings Industry: Key Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects in the Malaysian and Global Markets".

The study was conducted and released by the Consultancy Services of the Rating Agency Malaysia, the top evaluation institution in the country.

The total sales value of the paints and coatings sector was estimated at 342 million US dollars in 2002, up 9.2 per cent over the previous year, it revealed. Over the last 12 years, the sector's average annual growth was 10.5 per cent, it added.

The industry's favourable outlook is due to an expected upturn in the electrical and electronics sector as well as the broad-based demand from the automotive, industrial equipment, metal products and marine industries, according to the study.

However, there are only a few local players in this segment, the chief operating officer for the study, Yeah Kim Leng, said

when releasing the study.

"Paints and coatings are both an intermediate and final product which protects, enhances performance and raises the aesthetic appeal of Malaysian-made goods and structures. Having a strong paints and coatings industry will facilitate Malaysia's ongoing industrialization and export thrust," Yeah said.

He said that the industry has benefitted from a significant multinational presence that forms part of the global supply chain.

"Despite the competitive environment, proprietary technical know-how and high quality standards, it is heartening to find successful Malaysian-owned companies in the industry," he said.

Besides import-substitution opportunities, Yeah pointed to the growing regional market where various end user industries are expected to expand more rapidly as South-east and East Asia maintain its status as the fastest growing region in the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Watchdog sues music labels over copy-protected CDs

LONDON, 7 Jan—A European consumer watchdog body is suing the world's largest music companies for selling copy protected compact discs that will not play in car stereos and on computers, the Belgium-based organization said on Monday.

The group, known in Dutch as Test-Aankoop, said it has received more than 200 complaints from consumers who objected to a technology that prevents consumers from making a back-up version on a blank disc and limits playback on certain devices.

Industry observers believe Test-Aankoop's suit is the biggest European legal challenge yet to the music industry's controversial campaign to release copy-protected discs, to minimize the impact that digital piracy is having on sales.

MNA/Reuters

Novel allele found to help leukemia treatment

BEIJING, 7 Jan—Chinese scientists have identified a new allele in a girl in southwest China's Sichuan Province, which they said would enhance the success rates of bone marrow transplants for leukemia treatment.

The discovery of the HLA-B allele was made at the HLA (human leukocyte antigen) Typing Laboratory of the Institute of Blood Transfusion under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences when researchers were HLA typing a blood sample of a potential female bone marrow donor in the provincial capital city of Chengdu.

The 25-year-old girl known as "Angel" was found to have something abnormal in the length of her HLA-B gene in the early 2003.

"It looked different compared with normal reaction patterns," said Dr Chen Qiang, a research fellow. "It

doesn't seem like gene mutation. I think it's rare, but I'm not quite sure that it definitely is a new allele."

The laboratory, with the help of its counterparts in the United States, checked all the 1,267 bases of Angel's entire HLA-B gene, using DNA-based typing and molecular cloning methods.

The result confirmed the existence of a novel allele since there was no match of any combination of the known HLA-B alleles observed so far.

"The reason I want to become a volunteer donor is simple," Angel said. "I just want to help those diseased."

MNA/Xinhua

NASA shows off Spirit's 'post card' from Mars

PASADENA, 7 Jan—NASA scientists on Tuesday showed off their first colour "post card" of Mars taken by the robot explorer Spirit, a high-definition portrait revealing the rocky, wind-swept surface of the red planet in greater detail than ever seen before.

The photograph, actually a mosaic of a dozen three-colour frames shot by Spirit's twin panoramic cameras, brought into sharp focus such vivid details as the shape and texture of rocks, the soil trails left by dust devils, nearby hills, and a tantalizing but distant mesa.

One of the most intriguing features noticed by scientists was a darkened patch of the martian surface at the edge of the lander, where the soil had been scraped by Spirit's air bags, leaving a crinkled pattern with a mud-like cohesive appearance.

"It looks like mud but it can't be mud," said Steven Squyres, the principal investigator for the team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "It's very cohesive. It holds together well."

The picture also revealed that the surface of the rocks surrounding Spirit in its landing site at Gusev Crater appeared to have been worn clean by the sand-blasting effects of high winds. A close-up of one small rock showed it to be pitted with tiny craters of its own.

Jim Bell, the team's leading camera specialist, said the "post card" image was 16 times higher resolution than the earlier black-and-white panoramic photos taken by Spirit's navigation cameras and three to four times sharper than the best pictures ever shot on Mars before, those taken by the Mars Pathfinder mission in 1997.

Still, scientists said the best is yet to come. Tues-

day's 12-million-pixel photo, though higher definition than earlier pictures, represents about one-eighth of the entire 360-degree panorama that the twin pan cams are capable of shooting.

In a matter of days, the JPL teams expects to acquire a full 360-degree shot in three-dimensional, four-colour, splendor, Bell said. "This is just the tip of the iceberg," Squyres added.

Earlier on Tuesday, the mission managers at JPL received a telephone call from US President George W Bush, who congratulated the team on their accomplishments. "Then we had a little chat about quantum physics and string theory," joked JPL director Charles Elachi.

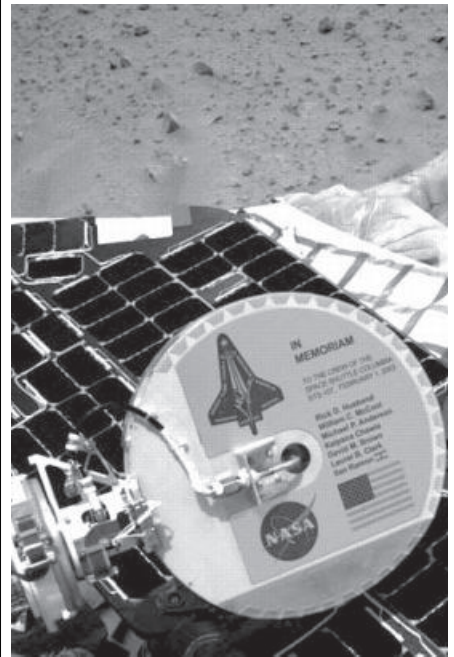
MNA/Reuters

South Asian nations seal free trade pact

ISLAMABAD, 7 Jan—Leaders of the seven South Asian countries here on Tuesday inked the Framework Agreement of the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA), at the conclusion of the 12th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The SAFTA accord, which topped the agenda of the summit, will enter into force by January 1, 2006, after the completion of the required formalities, including the ratification by all the member states.

Under the treaty, the non-least developed countries (NLDC) in the region will reduce their tariffs from an average 30 per cent to zero to 5 per cent, in a period of seven years, from the date of coming into force of the agreement. —MNA/Xinhua



A plaque commemorating the STS-107 Space Shuttle Columbia crew is shown on the Mars Spirit rover on Mars in this image released by NASA on 6 Jan, 2004. The plaque is mounted on the back of Spirit's high-gain antenna, a disc-shaped tool used for communicating directly with Earth.—INTERNET

Cold wave death toll reaches 63 in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 Jan—At least 11 more Nepali people died from cold wave on Monday, raising the death toll in the country to 63, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported Tuesday.

The cold wave paralyzed normal life in the Terai Belt in southern Nepal as five deaths have been reported from Mahottari District alone, while another six died in Rautahat and Morang districts, the independent English daily quoted a local official as saying. A total of 63 Nepali people, mostly the poor, aged or sick, have already died of the winter cold that took the country in its grip since the end of 2003, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The cold waves also adversely affected agriculture, education, transportation and

communications in southern Nepal. Flights to the Terai Belt were cancelled or delayed as thick fog intermittently blanketed the airports there. Meteorologists forecast that there is no immediate respite from the cold wave, and the present foggy and cold conditions will continue for several days.

The cold wave generally hits the Himalayan kingdom in the beginning of January and continues for one or two weeks every year. As many as 80 Nepali people died of a cold wave that continued for one month in early 2003. —MNA/Xinhua



A butterfly searches for pollen from a flower at the Copenhagen Zoo on 6 Jan, 2004. Thousands of butterflies are hatched in the dead of winter to fill an enclosure which exhibits tropical wildlife.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Late penalty lifts Porto five points clear

LISBON, 7 Jan— South African striker Benni McCarthy slotted home an injury time penalty to give Porto a 1-0 home win over Rio Ave on Monday, enabling the reigning champions to move five points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Victory over their mid-table opponents, moved the unbeaten Porto onto 42 points after 16 matches, ahead of Sporting on 37 and Benfica on 33 in third place. Porto struggled without injured Brazilian striker Derlei Silva but were able to clinch victory after Rio Ave defender Rui Mendes brought down Lithuanian striker Edgaras Jankauskas to concede the spot kick.

Sporting beat Benfica 3-1 in the Lisbon derby on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

Spanish striker Moreno joins Bolton on loan

LONDON, 7 Jan— Spanish striker Javi Moreno has joined Bolton Wanderers on loan until the end of the season, the English Premier League club said on Monday.

The 29-year-old's move from Atletico Madrid is subject to a medical but Bolton's official web site said Moreno was expected to be in the squad for their home league game against champions Manchester United on Wednesday.

Formerly with AC Milan and Spanish team Alaves, Moreno helped the latter club to reach the 2001 UEFA Cup final and scored twice in their 5-4 golden goal defeat by Liverpool in Dortmund.

"He's a proven goalscorer and at this stage we need somebody to score crucial goals in the premiership," Allardyce told the Bolton web site.

"He's strong and quick, and will add a new dimension to our squad."

Bolton lie 12th in the 20-team Premier League but are only five points above the relegation places. Moreno has five Spain caps.—MNA/Reuters



Juventus's Pavel Nedved, of the Czech Republic, right, receives the Golden Ball award for best player of the year from the director of France Football magazine, Gerard Ernaut, before the start of the Italian Serie A top league soccer match between Juventus and Perugia, in Turin, northern Italy, on 6 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

Milan sink Roma as Nedved keeps Juve in touch

MILAN, 7 Jan— European champions AC Milan ended Serie A leaders AS Roma's unbeaten run on Tuesday, Andriy Shevchenko scoring both goals in an impressive 2-1 victory in the capital. A thundering 25-metre strike from European footballer of the year Pavel Nedved gave Italian champions Juventus a 1-0 win over Perugia moving them within three points of AS Roma.

Roma, who were unbeaten in their previous 14 games this season, still lead Serie A on 36 points from Juventus and Milan on 33, although Milan have a game in hand.

Fourth-placed Inter Milan came from behind to beat Lecce 3-1 at the San Siro with second-half goals from Julio Ricardo Cruz, Ivan Cordoba and Christian Vieri's 100th strike for the club.

But Lazio, who had won their last three games, suffered a setback, losing 2-1 to Reggina after taking a first-half lead through Fabio Liverani.

Former European player of the year Roberto Baggio scored twice for Brescia in their 4-2 win over Siena.

Milan delivered a commanding display at the Olympic stadium with a performance and result that indicated the race for the honours could well remain tight until the end.

Milan took the lead in the 25th minute with a beautifully constructed goal. Clarence Seedorf picked out Shevchenko with a perfect cross-field pass which the Ukrainian chested down and expertly lofted over Roma keeper Ivan Pelizzoli.

Fabio Capello's Roma fought back to level just before the break when Antonio Cassano tapped in at the back post.

But Serie A's top scorer Shevchenko was in devastating form and he grabbed the winner with his 14th goal of the season, latching on to a fine pass from Rui Costa and rifling it past Pelizzoli. "I am delighted above all for the team," Shevchenko told Sky Sport.

"We were missing some key players and we showed great character here. We have nothing to prove to anyone. We are a great team," he said.

Juve, bidding for a third successive title, struggled against winless Perugia but Nedved, who showed off his Golden Ball award before the game, made the difference once again.

The Czech surged from midfield and unleashed a fierce right-foot drive from outside the area that whistled past Perugia's Australian keeper Zeljko Kalac.

Alessandro Del Piero hit the post for Juve five minutes after the break before Perugia broke away and hit the woodwork themselves through English forward Jay Bothroyd.

Inter also had to endure some difficulty before finally running out comfortable winners against Lecce.

The visitors went ahead in the third minute with a Cesare Bovo header after the Inter defence stood and watched a corner bounce across the area.

Argentine striker Julio Ricardo Cruz brought Inter level five minutes after the break with a well struck free kick which flew in off the inside of the post.

Colombian Ivan Cordoba put Alberto Zaccheroni's side ahead on the hour, meeting an Emre Belozoglu corner with an angled header at the near post.

Five minutes from the end, Vieri raced clear of the defence and rounded Lecce keeper Vukasjin Poleksic before slotting the ball home to secure the win.

Ancona 0 Parma 2

Parma briefly put the financial scandal at parent company Parmalat behind them with this easy win against bottom-placed Ancona. Simone Barone gave the visitors the lead in the 27th minute, when he turned a Domenico Morfeo cross past Ancona keeper Sergio Marcon. The 25-year-old midfielder then sealed the win midway through the second half.



Siena Brazilian midfielder Rodrigo Taddei Ferrante, left, kicks the ball over his head as Brescia midfielder Matteo Brighi looks on during their Italian first division soccer match in Brescia, Italy, on 6 Jan, 2004. Brescia won 4-2.

INTERNET

Villa jump to sixth after win over valiant Portsmouth

LONDON, 7 Jan— Aston Villa jumped to sixth in the English Premier League on Tuesday after beating promoted Portsmouth 2-1 with goals from Juan Pablo Angel and Darius Vassell.

Angel scored in the 22nd minute, heading home a cross from Gareth Barry.

Lively Portsmouth looked likely to steal a point after equalizing in the 49th minute through Yakubu Ayegbeni.

But Darius Vassell claimed Villa's winner in the 83rd minute after a goalmouth melee during which the ball rebounded off several players.

The result allowed Villa to leapfrog city rivals Birmingham, Southampton, Newcastle and Liverpool who all play on Wednesday in the Premier League.

Harry Redknapp's Portsmouth side remain fifth from bottom a point clear of the relegation zone.

MNA/Reuters

Deportivo hold Atletico to Cup draw in Madrid

MADRID, 7 Jan— Atletico Madrid and Deportivo Coruna played out a tame goalless draw in the opening leg of their King's Cup third round tie on Tuesday.

Atletico, the nine-times Cup winners, started well enough, with Ariel Ibagaza and Fernando Torres combining to go close to an opening goal after just two minutes.

The game quickly settled down into a midfield battle, though, as an injury-hit Deportivo side sat back, occasionally looking to hit on the break.

Deportivo, who won the Cup for the second time in 2002, came closest to a goal four minutes from time, when Jose Emilio Amavisca broke through on the left and forced a fine save from Atletico keeper Juanma.

With the clock ticking down, Atletico then missed two excellent chances in the space of a minute, with Depor's reserve keeper Gustavo Munua punching away a shot from Torres and the visiting defence clearing a volley from Jorge off the line.—MNA/Reuters



Udinese forward Carsten Jancker of Germany, right, challenges for the ball with Sampdoria defender Giulio Falcone during their Italian first division soccer match at Friuli Stadium in Udine, on 6 Jan, 2004.—INTERNET

MRTV-3



**8-1-2004 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Sagaing Pagoda-Stud-
ded Hills
9:10 National News
9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-water Prawn
Soup)
9:15 National News
9:20 Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
9:25 Traditional PaO Dance
9:30 National News
9:35 Traditional Chin Li-
queur (Khaung Yay)
9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flowers"
9:42 Safari In Style
9:45 National News
9:50 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**8-1-2004 (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
15:36 Sagaing Pagoda-Stud-
ded Hills
15:40 National News
15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-water Prawn
Soup)
15:45 National News

- 15:50 Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
15:55 Traditional PaO Dance
16:00 National News
16:05 Traditional Chin Li-
queur (Khaung Yay)
16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flowers"
16:12 Safari In Style
16:15 National News
16:20 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30 National News
16:35 Mandalay-Lashio-
Muse Union Highway
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
16:45 National News
16:50 Travel & Description
(Yangon to Thanlyin-
Kyauk Tan)
16:55 Nay Yar Daw Khin
17:00 National News
17:05 Thamee Hla Island
Song on Screen
"Through My Eyes"
17:15 National News
17:20 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
17:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36 Peaceful & Developed
Dawei
19:40 National News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Loach fish
curry in oil)
19:45 National News
19:50 Breeding of Mythun
19:55 The Solo Dance
20:00 National News
20:05 Aungpan Oranges
20:10 Song "Everlasting"
20:12 Shan Market Day
20:15 National News
20:20 Nipa Palm Forest
20:25 Song "Truth and
Beauty"
20:30 National News

- 20:35 Electronic Library
(Sagaing)
20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Monhinga"
20:45 National News
20:50 The Zingyike Waterfall
20:55 Kayan Dance
21:00 National News
21:05 Preservation of
Myanmar Star Tortoise
21:10 Song "Lovely Dusk"
21:12 Fisheries work in
Pyapon
21:15 National News
21:20 Fabulous Bagan (III)
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
21:35 Sagaing Pagoda-Stud-
ded Hills
21:40 National News
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-water Prawn
Soup)
21:45 National News
21:50 Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
21:55 Traditional PaO Dance
22:00 National News
22:05 Traditional Chin Li-
queur (Khaung Yay)
22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flowers"
22:12 Safari In Style
22:15 National News
22:20 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
22:25 Song "Loving Smile"
22:30 National News
22:35 Mandalay-Lashio-
Muse Union Highway
22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
22:45 National News
22:50 Travel & Description
(Yangon to Thanlyin-
Kyauk Tan)
22:55 Nay Yar Daw Khin
23:00 National News
23:05 Thamee Hla Island
23:10 Song on Screen
"Through My Eyes"
23:15 National News
23:20 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**8-1-2004 (Thursday) &
9-1-2004 (Friday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

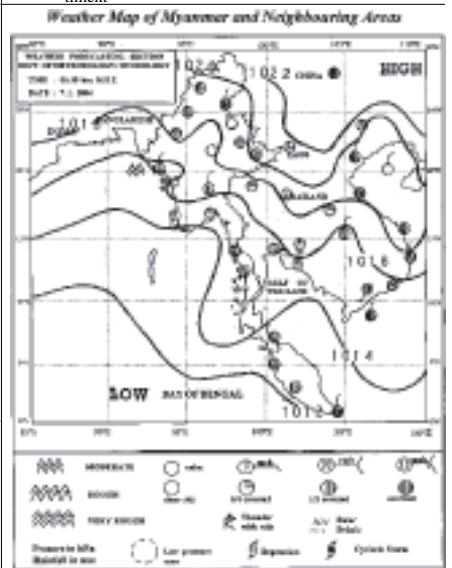
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
23:36 Sagaing Pagoda-Stud-
ded Hills
23:42 **Headline News**
Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-water Prawn
Soup)
23:45 National News
23:50 Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
23:55 Traditional PaO Dance
24:00 National News
00:05 Traditional Chin Li-
queur (Khaung Yay)
00:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flowers"
00:12 Safari In Style
00:15 National News
00:20 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30 National News
00:35 Mandalay-Lashio-
Muse Union Highway
00:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
00:45 National News
00:50 Travel & Description
(Yangon to Thanlyin-
Kyauk Tan)
00:55 Nay Yar Daw Khin
01:00 National News
01:05 Thamee Hla Island
01:10 Song on Screen
"Through My Eyes"
01:15 National News
01:20 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
01:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**9-1-2004 (Friday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune

- Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 Peaceful & Developed
Dawei
03:40 National News
03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Loach fish
curry in oil)
03:45 National News
03:50 Breeding of Mythun
03:55 The Solo Dance
04:00 National News
04:05 Aungpan Oranges
04:10 Song "Everlasting"
04:12 Shan Market Day
04:15 National News
04:20 Nipa Palm Forest
04:25 Song "Truth and
Beauty"
04:30 National News
04:35 Electronic Library
(Sagaing)
04:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Monhinga"
04:45 National News
04:50 The Zingyike Waterfall
04:55 Kayan Dance
05:00 National News
05:05 Preservation of
Myanmar Star Tortoise
05:10 Song "Lovely Dusk"
05:12 Fisheries work in
Pyapon
05:15 National News
05:20 Fabulous Bagan (III)
05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"

- 05:35 Sagaing Pagoda-Stud-
ded Hills
05:40 National News
05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Hot and Sour
Fresh-water Prawn
Soup)
05:45 National News
05:50 Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
05:55 Traditional PaO Dance
06:00 National News
06:05 Traditional Chin Li-
queur (Khaung Yay)
06:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Towering
Flowers"
06:12 Safari In Style
06:15 National News
06:20 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
06:25 Song "Loving Smile"
06:30 National News
06:35 Mandalay-Lashio-
Muse Union Highway
06:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Potato Pudding"
06:45 National News
06:50 Travel & Description
(Yangon to Thanlyin-
Kyauk Tan)
06:55 Nay Yar Daw Khin
07:00 National News
07:05 Thamee Hla Island
07:10 Song on Screen
"Through My Eyes"
07:15 National News
07:20 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"



WEATHER

Wednesday, 7 January, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin State, (4°C) to (5°C) above normal in Northern Shan, Mon States, Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant night temperature was (0°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 6-1-2004 was 34.0°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 7-1-2004 was 15.0°C (59°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-1-2004 was 86%. Total sunshine hours on 6-1-2004 was (8.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 7-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Northerly at (11:45) hours MST on 6-1-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the West Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-1-2004: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin and Chin States and weather will be partly cloudy 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:** Weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-1-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-1-2004:** Partly cloudy.



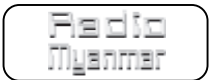
Thursday, January 8

View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. ဇော့ကုလ်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံသေ ဗဟာ
ရာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
အဘိဓမ္မာရာဇဂူရု အဘိဓမ္မာ
ဟောသဗ္ဗမ္မဓာတ်ကတိဝိသုဒ္ဓိ
ရေမုဒ္ဓာတာဒါရိကဆရာတော်
ဘန္တုဝိဇ္ဇာသာရာဘိဝံသ၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:15 am
2. ဝိသုဒ္ဓိကရမုဒ္ဓာတာဒါရိကအဂ္ဂဟော
ပရိတ်တရားအသိရိတော်သံသေ
(ဟောဆရာတော်)ဟောကြားတော်မူ
အဘိဓမ္မာရာဇဂူရုအဘိဓမ္မာ
7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
4. Morning news
7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
6. Dance of national races
8:00 am
7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:15 am**
8. Dance variety
8:20 am
9. အိုင်းဒီးလေ့သောတံခွန်
8:30 am
10. International news
8:45 am
11. Let's Go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National
Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday
Use
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. အပေးသင်တန်းသို့ပညာရေးစနစ်ပြင်
သိကြားသင်နေ့စာ - ပထမနှစ်
(သုံးဆယ့်ပြည့်နှစ်) (ခါတုရား)
5:15 pm
6. လေ့လာမှုတံခွန်ပေး ပေးသင်ပြင်
သိကြား (တပ်မတော်နေ့)
5:30 pm
7. လာအိုကုန်းပေး ဂီတတေး
5:40 pm
8. Musical programme
5:50 pm
9. နိုင်ငံအထူး သင်တန်းစွမ်းပြပွဲ
စိမ်းထန်နေရာပွဲ

- 6:00 pm**
10. "ရုပ်သေစံရုံ ရုပ်သေစံရုံ"
ရာဇာဓိပုဏ္ဏား နိုင်ငံပိုင်
(ခါနီးကတော့-နီနီနီ)
6:15 pm
11. ၂၀၀၃-၂၀၀၄ ပညာသင်နှစ်
ပညာရေးနည်းစနစ်
"ပညာရေးစီမံခန့်ခွဲရေး
ဦးစီးဌာန" လေ့လာပြင်ပွဲ
6:30 pm
12. Evening news
7:00 pm
13. Weather report
7:05 pm
14. Milo success in soccer
7:10 pm
15. နိုင်ငံခြားတော်လှန်မှု
"ရုပ်သေစံရုံ" (ခါနီးကတော့-နီနီနီ)
7:50 pm
16. (၄၆)နှစ်မြောက် လုပ်ငန်းရေးစနစ်ပြင်
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. "လေ့လာမှုသင်တန်းစွမ်းပြပွဲ"
အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲအားဖြင့်
ကော်မတီအဖွဲ့က ကျင်းပ
တိုင်ကြား(အမှုပွဲ) ပြုတ်တော်မူသောကြောင့်
နိုင်ငံအထူး သင်တန်းစွမ်းပြပွဲ
(ခါနီးကတော့-နီနီနီ)
21. The next day's
programme



Thursday, January 8

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
8.35 am Music
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.50 am National news/
Slogan
9.00 am Music
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music
9.15 am News/Slogan
9.20 am Lunch time music
- All by my self -
Celine Dion
- I don't want to take
about it-Rod Steward
Aspects of Myanmar
- Fired Banana
Article/Music
9.10 pm Topics potpourri
- Singapore develops
flu detection chip
- Shanghai schools
try out bilingual
education
9.30 pm Favourite songs
chosen by "Aung
Soe Tint"
- Ob La di, Ob La di
(The Beatles)
- Only you
- Enrique Iglesias
- When you say
nothing at all -
Ronan Keating
News/Slogan
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Organizing Management Committee meets

YANGON, 7 Jan — Management Committee for Organizing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Resistance Park here this afternoon, with an address by the Chairman of the committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Camp Commandant of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein, members of the committee, chairmen and members of the work groups, officials and guests.

Speaking at the meeting, the commander said dutiful performances of the members of the committee and work groups are required to hold the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day on a grand scale in accord with the objectives — to strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point policy programme; to crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia strategy; to implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people;



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses the 2nd coordination meeting of Management Committee for Observance of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day (2004). — MNA

and to build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'.

They will have to make harmonious efforts sector-wise for the soldiers of the parade columns to march with full energy and high spirit, so that the ceremony will help raise the dignity of the nation. Heads of the administrative camps should make preparations for the convenience of the soldiers of the parade columns during their stay at the hostels. They will have to look into the requirements to ensure that every sector is in accord with hygienic conditions.

Secretary of the committee Staff Officers (Grade-1) of Yangon Command Lt-Col Min Naing explained the minutes of the previous meeting and accomplishments.

Chairman of the Parade Work Committee Maj-Gen Win Myint, chairmen of the other work groups and officials presented progress of work and future programmes. Officials of the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services, Myanmar Red Cross Society and departments also gave suggestions, followed by a general round of discussions. The commander looked into the requirements. — MNA

National Convention Management Committee meets

YANGON, 7 Jan — The National Convention Management Committee held a work coordination meeting in Pyidaungsu Hall at Kyaikkasan Grounds here this morning.

Present were Chairman of the NCMC Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairmen Director of Supply and Transport of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Than Htay and Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, and members of the NCMC and subcommittees.

Chairman of the NCMC Maj-Gen Lun Maung gave a speech.

Chairmen and officials of the Decoration Subcommittee, Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee, Reception Subcommittee, Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee, Transport Subcommittee, Information Subcommittee, Health Subcommittee, Financial Subcommittee and Security Subcommittee presented work done and requirements sector-wise.

The chairman and the vice-chairmen gave suggestions, followed by a general round of discussions.

The chairman then gave concluding remarks.

MNA

Construction of water treatment plant inspected

YANGON, 7 Jan — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by officials, inspected the tasks being carried out at the construction project of YCDC's Water Treatment Plant in Botahtaung Township this afternoon and gave instructions.

At the briefing hall of the project, the mayor heard reports on tasks being carried out at the project by Dr Tun Than Tun. Next, the mayor attended to the requirements and looked into the project site.

The mayor also inspected the progress of the tarring of the six-lane Strand Road, construction of drains on both sides of the road, and the laying of tiles on the pavement. — MNA



Maj-Gen Lun Maung speaks at the meeting of National Convention Convening Management Committee. — MNA

Minister leaves to attend fourth ASEAN Ministers' meeting on control of transnational crimes

YANGON, 7 Jan — Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing left here this morning to attend the fourth ASEAN Ministers' meeting on control of transnational crimes and the first ASEAN+3 Ministers meeting to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7

to 10 January 2004.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, heads of departments of Myanmar Police Force and departments under the ministry and families. — MNA

Drug pushers get jail terms

YANGON, 7 Jan — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit, the criminal investigation department and Taunggyi Anti-drug Squad, stopped and searched a passenger bus with number plates Tha/8065 leaving Taunggyi for Mandalay at Kayinmayehwet in Sao San Htun, Taunggyi, on 11 April 2003. The authorities dis-

covered 4,407 kilos of raw opium from passenger Tin Soe.

Taunggyi No 2 Police Station filed a lawsuit against Tin Soe, son of U Tun Kyaw of Lonkhin in Phakant under Sections 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Later on 8 September, Taunggyi District Court handed down 25 years'

imprisonment on him under Section 19(a).

In a similar action, a team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Tachilek Anti-drug Squad, acting on information, searched the house of Aik Sai (a) Aik Shen in Tachilek on 25 May 2003. The authorities found Aik Rong in the house together with 1.1 litres of opium oil, 0.06 kilo of opium gel, and

0.024 kilo of opium along with 50 stimulant tablets.

Tachilek Police Station filed a lawsuit against Aik Rong, son of U Aik Sam of Tachilek under Sections 15/19(a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Later, Tachilek District Court sentenced him on 20 years' imprisonment under Section 19(a) on 6 October. — MNA