

Panditanañ ca sevana, to associate with the wise; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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Tuesday, 3 February, 2004

Propagation of Union Spirit, a task undertaken in all seriousness

The State Peace and Development Council, seeing that only with the consolidation of national unity would it be possible to make an all-out efforts for national development, has tried on a wider and deeper scale for national reconsolidation and propagation of Union Spirit by adopting the national policy—Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 56th Anniversary Union Day)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials for holding discussions on promotion of Myanmar sports standard. — MNA

57th Anniversary Union Day
commemorative special features on pages 7, 8 and 9.



Prime Minister inspects construction of multi-purpose hall

YANGON, 2 Feb —Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrived at the construction site of the multi-purpose hall on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township here this morning, where he was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the YCDC.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected construc-

tion of the multi-purpose hall. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin conducted him around the building.

At the briefing hall there, the Yangon Mayor and Head of Engineering Department (Buildings) U Zaw Win reported on completion of construction tasks and future tasks, arrangements for installation of power line and audio equipment and landscaping. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions on making efforts for early completion of the multi-purpose hall. —MNA



The multi-purpose hall under construction on Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township. — MNA

Raising of Myanmar sports standard discussed

YANGON, 2 Feb — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office arrived at Thuwunna youth training centre in Thingangyun

Township this afternoon. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Patron of Myanmar Football Federation Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials reported on selection of athletes for various sports sectors including football and camp training. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered a speech. He said some sports including football, a national sport, have gained success in international competitions. He said he met with the minister and sports officials to give instructions to make preparations for making more success in South-East Asia.

(See page 11)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 3 February, 2004

Success of sectorwise objectives through collective efforts

The leadership of the State laid down national plans to ensure harmonious development in all parts of the Union and to enhance the social status. Responsible personnel at the central level made frequent tours of all the states and divisions down to rural areas and fulfilled whatever necessary for regional development.

Through the exposure to the contact with rural people, responsible personnel at the central level themselves made field trips down to grass-roots level and rendered assistance to development measures for better economic security of national people, promotion of education and health standards, and smooth and secure transportation.

On 31 January morning, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of Yamethin District and Township Peace and Development Councils and departmental officials at the hall of Pyinmana People's Hospital.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended to the education and health needs and spoke of the need for departmental officials to have a deep sense of duty that the materialisation of all objectives being implemented by the responsible personnel at central level for higher living standard of the people was also their concern. Officials at different levels should tour rural areas, meet with the local people, seek their necessity and provide them so as to ensure better transport; the success of agriculture, livestock breeding and business transactions; and the promotion of education and health infrastructure through the comfortable living of the public.

Officers in-charge of departments at township level are most responsible for rural development. Only when they are close to the general public and provide public requirements will rural areas develop.

Departmental officials should play a leading role actively and in taking measures for rural development.

Harmonious efforts are to be exerted to successfully implement sectorwise objectives through cooperation and collective leadership.

Yangon Trade Fair-2004 concludes

YANGON, 2 Feb — Yangon Trade Fair-2004, organized by Quartz International Co Ltd, continued for the last day today at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Street here. It was packed with business entrepreneurs and public.

Under the lucky draw programme, the winner, Ma

Haymar Aung of No 4 Kyaung Street in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township was presented K 100,000 and pickled tea by Managing Director of Quartz International Co. Baskets of flowers were presented to companies that participated in the fair.

MNA



The MD of Quartz International Co Ltd presents gift to the Director of Great Summit Int'l Co Ltd. — MNA

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 everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Ovada sought from Sayadaws for reconstruction of prayer hall

YANGON, 2 Feb — The ceremony to seek Ovada from the Ovadacariya Sayadaws to reconstruct Koehsu prayer hall of Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township was held at the new Dhammayon of the pagoda this morning.

Ovadacariya of the pagoda Presiding Sayadaw of Phayabyu monastery in the township Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotiakhajha Bhaddanta Narin dabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Chairman of central leading committee for renovation of Settawya prayer hall and Koehsu prayer hall Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, member of the committee departmental heads, officials of sub-committees and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotiakhajha Bhaddanta Narin-



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan discusses reconstruction of Koehsu prayer hall. —MNA

dabhivamsa. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, members of the pagoda board of trustees and officials presented offertories to the Ovadacariya Sayadaws.

The minister supplicated on matters related to reconstruction of Koehsu prayer hall. The Ovadacariya Sayadaws gave Ovadakathas. The presiding Sayadaw of

Phayabyu monastery delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

Afterwards, the ceremony came to a close with three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu*. After the ceremony, the Ovadacariya Sayadaws viewed the Settawya prayer hall which was already renovated. The minister and officials reported on renovation tasks. The minister, the deputy

minister and departmental heads offered *soon* to Ovadacariya Sayadaws.

The coordination meeting to reconstruct Koehsu prayer hall was held at Dhammayon Thit in the afternoon.

The minister made an opening speech. Officials of sub-committees reported on tasks of the respective sub-committees. The minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Myanmar Forestry School concludes its course on forestry

YANGON, 2 Feb — The Forest Department's Myanmar Forestry School concluded its 98th course on forestry today at the parade ground of the school yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein

Aung, Commander of PyinOoLwin Station Brig-Gen Min Aung Hline, departmental officials, advisers and others. Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung presented outstanding awards to winning trainees. Speaking on the occasion, the minister urged the

trainees to uphold our three main national causes, to collectively implement the seven-point future programme of the State, to make the six forest policies known to the public, and to carry out the five directives of the Head of State.

Forest Department

Director-General U Soe Win Hline also spoke on the occasion. Later, the minister and directors-general presented awards to outstanding trainees. A total of 162 trainees completed the course, which lasted for one year and half.

MNA

At least 56 dead in Iraq suicide bombing

IRBIL, 2 Feb—Two suicide bombers with explosives wired to their bodies struck the offices of the country's two main Kurdish parties in nearly simultaneous attacks Sunday, killing at least 56 people and wounding more than 235 in the deadliest assault in Iraq in six months.

The attacks struck in the Kurdistan heartland and took a heavy toll among senior leaders of Iraq's most pro-American ethnic group.

The Irbil attackers slipped into the offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan along with hundreds of well-wishers gathering for the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice.

Kurdish television said both bombers were dressed as Muslim clerics.

Leaders of both parties, whose militias fought alongside US soldiers during the invasion of Iraq last year, were receiving hundreds of visitors to mark

the start of the four-day holiday when the blasts went off.

Guards said they did not search people because of the tradition of receiving guests during the holiday. Neither party's top leader — Jalal Talabani of the PUK and Massoud Barzani of the KDP — was in Irbil when the attacks occurred.

Although Iraq has suffered numerous suicide bombings in recent months, the attack Sunday marked the first time perpetrators have worn explosives rather than using vehicles.

Sunday's blasts came a day after a car bomb outside a police station in the northern city of Mosul killed at least

nine people. Hours later, a mortar attack hit a Baghdad neighbourhood, killing five people and wounding four.

The US command in Baghdad put the casualty toll at 56 dead and more than 200 injured. Irbil city morgue director Tawana Kareem told the AP that 57 bodies were brought to the morgue and "figures are increasing." At least 235 people were admitted to the city's three hospitals with injuries, hospital officials said.

Officials said the death toll may be far higher, with some bodies buried in the rubble or taken away by relatives.

Internet

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Tragic accident kills British soldier in southern Iraq

LONDON, 2 Feb—The British Ministry of Defence announced Sunday that another British soldier has been killed in a "tragic accident" in Iraq.

Robert Thomson, 22, Iron West Lothian in Scotland, a sapper with the 35th Engineer Regiment which was normally based in Germany, was killed in Iraq's southern city of Basra on Saturday, the ministry said.

"The death was engineering-related, and was not as a result of a road crash, or enemy fire," a spokesman for the ministry said.

"Our thoughts are very much with his family at this difficult time," the spokeswoman added.

An inquiry into the accident has been launched.

MNA/Xinhua



A joint American-Iraqi military patrol on the streets of Baghdad on 1 Feb, 2004. Two suicide bombers launched nearly simultaneous attacks on offices of two Kurdish parties in Iraq on Sunday, killing and wounding as many as 200 people, officials said.—INTERNET

Kay questions US preemptive strike doctrine

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — The former top US weapons hunter in Iraq David Kay said on Sunday flaws in US intelligence in prewar Iraq brought into question President George W Bush's policy of preemptive strike against countries deemed a threat to the United States.

Bush based his decision to invade Iraq on what he called a "grave and gathering danger" posed by Iraq's biological and chemical weapons and warranted assertion of his post-September 11, 2001, doctrine of preemptive military action to guard US security in the face of new terror threats.

"If you cannot rely on good, accurate intelligence that is credible to the American people and to others abroad, you certainly can't have a policy of preemption," Kay said on Fox News Sunday.

"Pristine intelligence — good, accurate intelligence — is a fundamental benchmark of any sort of policy of preemption to even be thought about."

Kay, who resigned last week, concluded Iraq had no stockpiles of biological or chemical weapons, and the White House has said it will review its prewar intelligence.

Until the investigation is complete, Kay said, it would be difficult for the Bush Administration to make a convincing case to allies for action in the next security crisis.

It is necessary, he said, that "they understand that we've taken the steps to be sure that we're correct and that, in fact, we're honest about what we're talking about," he said.

Democratic Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware, a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, warned of damage to US credibility around the world as a result of the intelligence failures.

Recalling former French president Charles De Gaulle's statement that he so trusted president John F Kennedy's word he did not

need to see satellite photos of Soviet missiles near Cuba, Biden told CNN: "No leader in the world would respond to President Bush that way today."

Senator Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican, agreed the faulty intelligence needed to be addressed to prevent future miscalculations that damage US credibility. "It's not just the intelligence capability... the credibility of who we are around the world and the trust of our government and our leaders" is at stake, Hagel told CNN.—MNA/Reuters

Road accident leaves 7 dead in western Canada

OTTAWA, 2 Feb — Seven people were dead following a multi-car collision on the Sea-to-Sky Highway in Canada's western province of British Columbia on Saturday, according to reports reaching here Sunday.

Police said a minivan and a car were involved in a head-on collision near the town of Squamish, about 50 kilometres from the city of Vancouver.

The narrow and twisting Sea-to-Sky Highway runs between Vancouver and the ski resort of Whistler.

Upgrade of the road is planned as part of Vancouver's 2010 Olympic Winter Games project. The accident occurred on a narrow but straight stretch.

Six of the victims died at the scene while the seventh was pronounced dead at the Squamish General Hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

Transatlantic flights cancelled, airport security tightened over terror risks

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb—Security remained tight at airports across the United States, sparked by the fear that al-Qaeda is trying to smuggle a chemical, biological or radiological weapon aboard a US-bound commercial airliner.

Security concerns forced the cancellation of 10 flights between Britain and France and the United States, which airline officials feared could be used to repeat the deadly September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"There was specific credible threat information that was shared with some foreign governments, including the British and French governments, and the decisions were made to cancel these flights," said a US Homeland Security Department source, who asked not to be named.

"We remain concerned about al-Qaeda's desire to target international aviation."

The official said there were no plans to

raise the nation's threat level, which has been at "elevated" since January 9.

The Washington Post, citing unnamed senior administration officials, reported Sunday that the flight cancellations were prompted in part by intelligence indicating al-Qaeda was seeking to release a chemical or biological agent aboard an airliner, or transport a radiological device in a cargo hold. Three airlines — Air France, British Airways and Continental Airways — took the decision to ground transatlantic flights which had been scheduled to depart Sunday and Monday.

"We have cancelled the ... flights ... for security reasons, so as a result, the return flights on those same days ... have also been cancelled," Marie-Joseph Male, vice president and general manager of Air France USA, said.

The British carrier said on its website the flights had been halted for "security reasons." In Washington Sunday, top US lawmakers said the cancellations were the proper move given the risk to US security.

"They can't be ignored, when you've got information or some intelligence that some individual or group of individuals may be trying to sabotage or commandeer an aircraft," US Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi told Fox News. Another lawmaker, US Senator Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, told the network that such terror threats are difficult to defend, given current aviation security measures.—Internet

All evacuees return to hometown in Xinjiang flood areas

URUMQI, 2 Feb—All the people evacuated from areas flooded during a breach of the Bayi Reservoir dyke, in northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, had returned to their hometown by Friday.

Most people returned to their homes, but 4,000 are still in temporary accommodation awaiting repairs to their houses. They had been given daily necessities, said Li Renyong, commander of the 102 Regiment of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corporation. "We have coal, flour, edible oil and bedding," said Zhu Dingrong, of the fourth company of the regiment, whose family of four was accommodated in a temporary home of 25 square metres.

MNA/Xinhua



Polish soldiers patrol a road in Iraq on 2 Feb. A Polish spokesman for the multi-national force in Iraq revealed that at least five people were killed when a large munitions dump exploded in a desert area 180 kilometres southwest of Karbala.—INTERNET

BBC staff furious, Iraq suspicions dog Blair

LONDON, 2 Feb—Indignant BBC staff defended their ex-boss on Saturday and there were renewed demands for an inquiry into Britain's case for war in Iraq as the fallout from an explosive report showed no sign of abating.

Dismayed by judge Lord Hutton's strong censure of the BBC and near-total exoneration of the government over the suicide of Iraq weapons expert David Kelly, hundreds of BBC employees paid for a full-page newspaper ad to vent their feelings.

"Greg Dyke stood for brave, independent and rigorous BBC journalism that was fearless in its search for the truth," they said of the BBC's former director-general who resigned a day after Wednesday's Hutton report.

In a remarkable implosion at one of the world's best-known media, BBC chairman of the board of governors Gavyn Davies also stepped down on Wednesday and the investigative reporter at the centre of the storm, Andrew Gilligan, resigned on Friday.

"We are resolute that the BBC should not step back from its determination to investigate the facts in pursuit of the truth," added the BBC staff, some of whom walked out in protest at offices across the country on Thursday.

Gilligan's broadcast last year claimed Prime Minister Tony Blair's government had "sexed up" the threat from former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in an intelligence

dossier.

Government scientist Kelly was the anonymous source for Gilligan's story and committed suicide when his name came out.

The BBC accepted Gilligan's report had errors. But many were shocked by the severity of Hutton's criticism of the BBC, versus his lightness with the government. Critics say Blair officials' involvement in the outing of Kelly was papered over, while the underlying question of Blair's case for war was ignored.

"If Lord Hutton had fairly considered the evidence he heard, he would have concluded that most of my story was right. The government did sex up the dossier, transforming possibilities and probabilities into certainties, removing vital caveats," Gilligan said in his resignation statement.

"Some of my story was wrong...But the BBC collectively has been the victim of a grave injustice."

Such suspicions are likely to dog Blair for some time despite his survival of a week that some had predicted might be his last in office.

MNA/Reuters

US Senator blasts Bush

KANSAS CITY (Missouri), 2 Feb—Running strong in Missouri, the prize in next week's seven Democratic state contests, US Senator John Kerry blasted US President George W Bush on Saturday for a "reckless and ideological" foreign policy and vowed to turn him from office.

Kerry took his energized campaign to the pivotal Midwest with the latest polls giving him a whopping lead in Missouri three days before a crucial round of voting. He was met by a crowd of about 1,000 supporters who roared approval as he blasted Bush.

"I think they can hear you all the way in (White House adviser) Karl Rove's office... They hear us coming," Kerry cried. "They are scared. They are worried."

He criticized Bush for pandering to "lobbyists and special interests" he said can

come and go at the White House, and said the president had alienated the rest of the world with the US-led invasion of Iraq.

"I believe President Bush has run the most arrogant, inept, reckless and ideological foreign policy in modern American history," said Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran.

"We're here today to mark the beginning of the end of the Bush presidency," he said. "We are going to send George Bush back to Texas."

MNA/Reuters

Dyke says British govt "bullied" BBC over Iraq

LONDON, 2 Feb — British Prime Minister Tony Blair's government systematically bullied the BBC over its Iraq war coverage, bombarding it with complaints to try to push its own point of view, the BBC's former boss said on Sunday.

Greg Dyke resigned as director-general of the publicly funded broadcaster last week after senior judge Lord Hutton criticized the BBC in his inquiry into the death of weapons expert David Kelly.

Dyke said Blair's top spin doctor Alastair Campbell had written letter after letter throughout the conflict.

"What Alastair Campbell was clearly trying to do was intimidate the BBC so

that we reported what he wanted us to report as opposed to what we wanted to report," he said.

The Hutton inquiry lambasted the BBC for a report accusing the government of exaggerating the case for war against Iraq, putting the broadcaster's status as a self-governing pillar of British life in doubt.

MNA/Reuters



A car burns following an explosion in front of a local police station in the Iraqi city of Mosul, on 31 January, 2004. — INTERNET

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US soldier killed, 12 wounded in rocket attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 Feb—A US soldier was killed Sunday and 12 others were wounded when an American base was attacked by rockets in northern Iraq, a US military spokesman said.

Insurgents fired seven rockets around 1.15 pm (1015 GMT) at the base in Balad, some 80 kilometres north of Baghdad, said the spokesman.

One 4th Infantry Division soldier was killed and 12 others were wounded including two in critical condition, he added. Following the attack, US troops conducted a massive search in the area and captured 12 men and four women. The latest death brought to 251 the number of US soldiers killed by hostile fire since US President George W. Bush declared the major fighting over on 1 May.

MNA/Xinhua



A protester holds a placard picturing US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, during a London protest against the US and British-led war in Iraq, on 31 Jan, 2004.

INTERNET



Ex-Gen Clark rips Bush over Iraq

MESILLA (New Mexico), 2 Feb — Shrinking his battlefield in the February 3 Democratic primaries to essentially three states, retired General Wesley Clark launched an assault on Saturday against President George W Bush, saying he knew more about national security than the President.

The retired NATO commander flew from Arizona to New Mexico to Oklahoma, three states where the polls show him strongest in next Tuesday's seven primaries that could further define the battle for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In his first two appearances, one here in the town where legendary outlaw Billy the Kid was killed and the other in the southern Arizona military retirement town of Sierra Vista, Clark aimed his harshest words at Bush and his conduct over the Iraq war — a conflict the retired four-star general charges is unnecessary and messy.

"I led 19 nations into war, I know more about national security than George Bush has ever thought about," the man who led NATO in the war in Kosovo told a cheering crowd of about 200 people in Mesilla's sunny classic Old West Town Square.

Saying he expected the Republican "mean machine" to go after him, Clark called the President "the most divisive leader in recent American history".

He also ridiculed Bush as fighting his father's old war in Iraq, reviving Ronald Reagan's tax cuts and now embarking on reinventing John F Kennedy's space programme with a hugely expensive effort to explore Mars.

MNA/Reuters

British Virgin plane turns back after burning smell

LONDON, 2 Feb—A Virgin Atlantic flight from London to New York turned back on Saturday when a burning smell was detected in the cabin, the British airline said.

"There was no threat to security," a Virgin spokeswoman said, adding that the plane had landed safely back in London. "This looks like a small technical fault."

The Flight VS45, with 181 passengers on board, was two-and-a-half hours away from London's Heathrow Airport, on the way to John F Kennedy Airport in New York, when the captain smelled something burning in the cabin.

"He decided to turn back as a safety precaution. We don't know exactly what it was, it is being investigated," the spokeswoman added.

MNA/Reuters

Pressure builds for Bush decision on Iraq WMD probe

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — The White House and key congressional leaders on Sunday negotiated details of an independent commission to investigate intelligence failures before the Iraq war and a senior Democrat said the probe should include whether decision-makers misused information.

President George W Bush, who had earlier opposed such a commission, was under strong pressure from members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, to support an independent probe into intelligence that said Iraq possessed chemical and biological weapons when in fact none have been found.

The weapons issue was the main reason cited by Bush for the war, in which more than 500 US troops have now died.

"I understand that they are looking at the situation and want to get the whole story," Mississippi Republican Senator Trent Lott, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told Fox News Sunday.

Bush was expected to make a final decision soon on the intelligence inquiry, according to sources familiar with discussions the White House has been having with congressional officials. An announcement was expected soon.

Democratic Senator Jay Rockefeller, the Senate Intelligence Committee's vice-chairman, said the probe had to get under way before the November election and should include

how the intelligence was used by those who decided to go to war. "It has to have that included. And that is still not settled," he said.

Senators Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, and Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican, said it is essential to have an independent probe.

"I don't think there is anyway way around it," said Hagel, appearing with Biden on CNN's "Late Edition." Biden said, "America's credibility is at stake."

Biden said he had no evidence intelligence analysts had been pressured into tailoring their findings, but said it should be determined if the administration had properly used the information that these analysts provided.

A Democratic candidate for President, Howard Dean, who has been sharply critical of the Iraq war, accused Bush of not being truthful with the American people.

"The President was not truthful with the American people about why we went into Iraq. We don't know why he was not truthful," he told NBC's "Meet the Press."

MNA/Reuters

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Kurd official says Iraq attack toll may be dozens

ARBIL (Iraq), 2 Feb — Dozens of people may have been killed in the twin suicide attacks that ravaged the headquarters of two Kurdish parties in northern Iraq on Sunday, a Kurdish official told CNN.

Asked how many may have been killed. Qubad Talabani, an official with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), told CNN; "It could well be in the dozens unfortunately and those numbers appear to be rising by the minute."

He said senior party officials would likely have been among the crowds celebrating a Muslim feast at the time of the explosions. Witnesses said earlier the two suicide bombers killed at least 10 other people. —MNA/Reuters

Poll shows Britons want probe over Iraq war case

LONDON, 2 Feb — The majority of British people want an independent inquiry into pre-war intelligence cited by Prime Minister Tony Blair's government to justify backing the US-led invasion of Iraq, new polls showed on Sunday.

They mirrored growing pressure across the Atlantic for US President George W Bush to authorize a similar probe.

Two surveys published in *The Mail* on Sunday and the *Sunday Times* showed 61 per cent and 54 per cent respectively in favour of an investigation into London's much-criticized evidence of Saddam Hussein's supposed weapons of mass destruction.

The polls add momentum to calls from British opposition politicians and anti-war protesters for an

inquiry.

Howard, in an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph*, said he would this week table a parliamentary motion urging an inquiry.

"The Prime Minister is finding himself increasingly isolated in apparently refusing to face up to the facts," he said.

One newspaper summed that up with a cartoon showing a gleeful Blair exclaiming "I'm off the hook!" as he freed himself from a small fish-hook marked "Hutton" — unaware of a vast anchor-like hook holding him from

behind marked "WMD".

Hutton's report into the death of scientist David Kelly, who slashed his wrists after being outed as the source for a BBC report that Blair's officials "sexed up" intelligence over Iraq, was widely attacked at the weekend. Critics said it ignored government officials' role in the leaking of Kelly's name, side-stepped the underlying controversy over the British case for war, and was over-harsh on the BBC for the report by investigative journalist Andrew Gilligan.

MNA/Reuters



Guerillas killed nine people in a car bomb blast outside a police station in the Iraq city of Mosul on 31 January, 2004, and a separate bomb attack on a US convoy north of Baghdad killed three American soldiers. Police and hospital officials in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, said 44 people were wounded in the car bomb attack, which sent debris flying more than 300 metres (yards) and left body parts littering the scorched ground. —INTERNET

"Opportunity" roving on Mars, sends home photos

PASADENA (California), 2 Feb — The NASA rover *Opportunity* made tracks on Saturday across the vast gray plain where it landed on Mars, driving down the front ramp of its landing pad until its three pairs of wheels touched the planet's surface.

The rover then aimed its onboard cameras for a last look back at the spacecraft that cushioned its crash landing on the Meridiani Planum near the planet's equator seven days ago.

Opportunity's 3-metre (10-foot) jaunt at 12:30 am PST (3:30 am EST/0830 GMT) marks the first time that two mobile robots have simultaneously explored another planet.

Opportunity's twin, *Spirit*, landed on the other side of Mars on 3 January and began exploring the massive Gusev Crater for signs of ancient water 12 days later.

A crowd of engineers and

scientists — some fresh off 12-hour shifts piloting *Spirit* — whooped and clapped as the images confirming *Opportunity's* successful egress reached them at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena at 3:01 am PST (6:01 EST/1101 GMT) via the Mars orbiter *Odyssey*.

"We're two for two! One dozen wheels on the soil," flight director Chris Lewicki announced to the packed control room.

The photos taken by the rover's hazard and navigation cameras showed two straight, rough tracks in the powdery surface leading away from the empty lander.

"That was probably the scariest part of the drive we're going to have on Mars," mission manager James Erickson said. The next couple of martian days, or sols, will be devoted to calibrating the scientific instruments on *Opportunity's* robotic arm, which the rover will then use to test and photograph the soil in the small crater where it landed.

On Sunday, *Spirit* is expected to resume scientific duties that were interrupted on 22 January when the rover's computer memory malfunctioned and it stopped communicating with NASA.

MNA/Reuters

Shanghai reports 62 new patent applications every day

SHANGHAI, 2 Feb — Shanghai, the leading technology research centre in China, saw an average 62 new patent applications every day in 2003, an all time high.

The city received 22,374 patent applications last year, a rise of 12 per cent over the previous year. Applications

from universities and colleges totalled 1,794, exceeding all other institutes of higher learning in China. Applications from industrial enterprises came to 15,289, up by 7 per cent over a year ago. Meanwhile, Shanghai has built ties with 16 provinces and regions to enhance an

inter-regional crackdown on patent infringement.

An expert with the Shanghai Municipal Intellectual Property Rights Bureau said a big rise in patent applications showed that local technicians had a stronger sense of property rights protection.

MNA/Xinhua



US Army troops comb the wreckage of a bomb attack at Baghdad's Sheheen hotel in this 28 January, 2004 file photo. —INTERNET

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Rebuilding of Iraq faces difficulties

Rebuilding of Iraq will cost between US\$ 50,000 million and US\$ 100,000 million, said Paul Bremer, the US administrator in Iraq. The earnings from sale of oil will not be sufficient to cover the reconstruction cost.

The US was criticized for taking control on Iraq, a country with second largest oil deposit in the world. During the war against Iraq, many oil facilities were bombed and as a result reconstruction for Iraq's economy has faced many difficulties.

Iraqi's houses were destroyed during the US bombing of the town of Rahmadi in Iraq.



After the war against Iraq, there increased unemployment. The photo shows jobless people submitting their applications.



Cost for Iraq reconstruction under UN up to 2007

Local administration and civil society	\$313m
Health, education, employment	\$7,190m
Infrastructure	\$24,204m
Agriculture, water resources	\$3,027m
Other	\$855m
Total	\$35,589m




Two elderly Iraqi women telling their sufferings to a US soldier in Assada Village, three miles north of Baghdad.

Cost for Iraq reconstruction under US and allies up to 2007


Security and police	\$5,000m
Oil	\$8,000m
Culture, religious affairs	\$1,540m
Other	\$4900m
Total	\$19,440m

Oil spill from a pipeline destroyed during the US bombing against Iraq in northern part of the country.





Communication centre of Iraq in Baghdad seen in flames during the US missile strike against Baghdad.





Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Development images of Mon State in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Annual paddy output (basket)	32 million	50 million
Pepper sown acreage	-	10000
Belleric myrobalan	-	10403
Irrigated acres	1357	44000
Irrigation facility	-	6
Education		
University, college	1	4
School (basic)	1205	1354
Health		
Hospital (16 to 300-bed)	7	10
Station hospital	10	15
Traditional hospital	-	1
Traditional clinic	4	10
Communication		
Post office	58	63
Telegraph office	3	5
Auto-exchange	11	26
Telephone	2490	7647



Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) under construction on Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Kawthoung road. On completion, it will be the longest bridge in Myanmar with 26,466 feet in length.



The Zaikkaye Sluice Gate near Aungkantha Village in Thaton Township, Mon State. It benefits 20,000 acres of farmland.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Transport		
Miles of road	988	1564
Miles of railroad	182	213
Bridge (above 180 feet)	3	6
Information		
TV retransmission station	3	14
Information & Public Relations Department	-	10
Library	-	10
Electric power		
Diesel-fired, gas-fired or hydel power plant	16	18



No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory of Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2 in Thaton, Mon State.



The three-storey library of Mawlamyine University in Mawlamyine, Mon State, which was opened on 25 January 2004.



Ye river crossing bridge in Ye Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State. The 857.5-foot-long facility was opened on 25-11-2003.

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



Unity is strength

Myanmar faced armed conflicts soon after regaining the independence. The Burma Communist Party (BCP) holding the extreme leftist dogmatism launched armed opposition against the AFPFL government on 28 March 1948. Later, some national race groups followed the armed struggle line based on extreme racism and under the instigation of the colonialists in the early 1949.

The armed conflicts broke out in many parts of the nation, disrupting the social lives of the people and claiming many civilian lives.

The armed insurgency hampered the na-

tional development drive, and put the State and the national races onto the rough road to face hardships. In this regard, the AFPFL government, the Pa-ha-sa (Union) and the Burma Socialist Programme Party Governments issued general amnesty and held meetings with the armed groups to end the internal insurgency. But the nation experienced continued internal armed insurgency. Peace was away even in the dreams of the people.

The BCP had to leave its headquarters on Bago Yoma when its chairman and secretary were killed in March 1975. The BCP later

moved its headquarters to the north-east region of the nation.

After 1980, the BCP shamelessly resorted to heroin refining and trafficking business as it did not receive foreign assistance anymore. And because of the offensives of the Tatmadaw, it became

Kokang race, who were deceived by the BCP, began to realize that their people would benefit nothing if they continued to join forces of the BCP.

Thus, the Kokang leaders tried to break away from the communist insurgents. When the BCP began to learn that

formed the Tatmadaw through the peace negotiators that it ceased fire and that it would like to make peace.

The Tatmadaw representatives went to the Kokang region and met with the Kokang leaders there on 13 April. Since then, the Government has been carrying out the Kokang regional development task. The Government has designated the Shan State (North) Special Region 1 after making peace with the Kokang armed group, and rendered assistance for its progress.

Similarly, the Wa armed group broke away from the BCP and met the representatives of the Tatmadaw. The Wa armed group returned to the legal fold on 9 May 1989. The State is launching the project to totally wipe out narcotic drugs from the Wa region. The Government designated Wa region as the Shan State (North) Special Region 2.

The Wa people are building infrastructures including power stations and roads with the Government's assistance.

They are also launching land reclamation and opium substitute crops programmes hand in hand with the Government.

Similarly, the Shan State Liberation

Army that was under the command of the BCP north-east region tried to break away from the BCP. The group announced on 19 April 1989 that it broke away from the BCP.

Later it reached the ceasefire agreement with the Tatmadaw and expressed its desire to hold the peace negotiations. The Tatmadaw representatives met with its leaders on 30 May and 7 June. The group returned to the legal on 30 June 1989.

With the assistance of the Government, the group has been carrying out regional development tasks and long-term and short-term cultivation projects, running factories and building infrastructures. Mongla region was declared as an opium free zone on 22 April 1997. The regions has restored peace and stability and achieved rapid progress.

The Shan State Army (SSA) which had also left BCP informed the Tatmadaw about its desire to hold peace negotiations through the peace negotiators on 4 September 1989.

The representatives of the Tatmadaw met with SSA leader U Hse Htin in Lashio on 20 September 1989. The SSA returned to the legal fold on 24 September 1989.

(See page 9)

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Peace, our interest and unity, our strength



Chairman of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Head of State Senior General Than Shwe presents gifts to national race leaders in Nagmon in Kachin State.

Lagun Ein

weak in military strength and manpower.

The BCP was in a state of decline as it did not receive any foreign assistance and lacked a firm policy. In that situation, the leaders of

the Kokang people were going to leave, it tried to reorganize them, but in vain. The Kokang group broke away from the BCP on 12 March 1989. On 21 March, the Kokang armed group in-



After realizing the goodwill and deeds of the government, members of BCP (Rakhine State) returned to the legal fold.

Peace, our interest and unity, our strength

Its region was designated as the Shan State Special Region-3. It has been carrying out regional development undertakings together with the local people since then. Other armed groups began to see and understand the results of peace and goodwill of the Government. As a

fact that national solidarity leads to progress. The national people including those from the border areas are enjoying the fruits of peace and development.

Thus, the national races armed groups have begun to see the light after living in suspicion and doubt for over 40

Party on 21 March 1995; New Mon State Party on 29 June 1996; and BCP (Rakhine State) on 6 April 1997.

As the groups are taking part in the regional development tasks together with the Government, their confidence in the Government has increased.

armed groups understanding its goodwill have returned to the legal fold and are working in the interest of the State and the people together with the Government and the national races.

The development of the social lives of the people is the result of the peace and stability pre-



As national race leaders are taking part in regional development tasks hand in hand with the government, Mongla of Shan State (East) has developed significantly.

result, the BCP military region 101 returned to the legal fold on 15 December 1989. Its region was designated as Kachin State Special Region 1. It is carrying out the regional development tasks in all sectors.

At the same time, U Matu Naw made contacts with the Tatmadaw to restore peace. The Tatmadaw representatives led by the commander of North-East Command and the delegates of the KIA brigade 4 led by U Matu Naw held discussions on 14 January 1991 in Lashio. The group came back to the legal fold on 11 January 1991. Its region was designated as Shan State (North) Special Region 5. The group has been launching regional development tasks in all sectors and wiping out drugs hand in hand with the Government.

The groups have trust in the Government and come to understand

years. The Pa-O National Organization returned to the legal fold on 18 February 1991; the Palaung State Liberation Army (PSLA) on 1 April 1991; the Kayan National Guards (KNG) on 27 February 1992; and Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) on 24 February 1994. They are working together with the Tatmadaw for regional development and are achieving progress.

Proving with the developments of the regions where armed groups have returned to the legal fold, the Government has continued to extend an olive branch to the remaining armed groups of the national races.

Of the remaining groups, Kayinni People's Liberation Front returned to the legal fold on 9 May 1994; Kayan Pyithit Party on 26 July 1994; Ethnic Shan Races Liberation Organization on 9 October 1994; Kayinni National Progressive

As the MTA led by U Khun Sa began to understand the Government's sympathy for the groups, and the development endeavours being carried out with the family spirit and trust, its forces made the unconditional surrender at Lwelan on 5 January 1996; at MTA headquarters in Homein on 7 and 18 January; at Lwetun and Mongkun regions on 12, 13, 14 and 16 January; at Monehtaw and Monehta regions on 15 and 26 January; at Nonghline and Paphan region in northern Shan State on 23 January; at Monehin and Monetha regions in northern Shan State on 25 January; at Namhsan on 28 February; at Wanhsein village on 20 January; and at Tachilek on 30 January and 10 February.

The Tatmadaw Government since assumption of the State duties has been launching the national re-consolidation programme on a wider scale. Thus, the 17

vailing in the whole nation. The task to build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation can be successfully carried out with the strength of the entire national people.

Peace serves the national interest and unity brings strength to us. In other words, peace is our interest and unity is our strength.

(Translation:TMT)

Poem

From unity to development

- * Maikha and Malikha
Beginning of Ayeyawady River.
Continue journey to the plains
How satisfying.
It likes Sittaung
Thanlwin feels elated
When the wind blows gently
It sings a song.
- * Let the forests meander if they must
Or the hills go steep.
River Ayeyar gathers strength
And flows downward on them.
- * No matter how different the lay of the land
The people are real kin.
Where the wide expanse flows into the ocean
We will surely meet.
Let the storm be fierce
And the wind play as it likes.
The sea water never dries up
It's cool as ever.
- * With this stream and the stream
as example
Unity is strengthened.
For development of our land Myanmar
We should be thinking.
Nationals all of us
Harmoniously joining hands.
With ten Suns and ten Moons shining
It shall be magnificent.

Soe Moe (Pathein)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)

The Tatmadaw Government since assumption of the State duties has been launching the national re-consolidation programme on a wider scale. Thus, the 17 armed groups understanding its goodwill have returned to the legal fold and are working in the interest of the State and the people together with the Government and the national races.



Realizing the genuine goodwill of the government, members of MTA have returned to the legal fold.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects cultivation of summer paddy in Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 2 Feb—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Col Hla Min gave a supplementary report.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions to officials.

At the meeting hall of the 250 ton Rice Mill in Letpadan, Thayawady District, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, social organizations, townsmen and local people and gave instructions on regional development.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families.

On arrival at the summer paddy field of Thetyingon Village-tract in Gyobingauk Township, Thayawady District, officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party on cultivation of summer paddy and arrangements being made for cultivation of summer paddy.

After speaking words of encouragement to local people, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected arrangements being made for cultivation of summer paddy with the use of water from the main canal of Bawbin Dam.

Next, they arrived at the Dam Yeiktha in Gyobingauk where Director U Tin Maung Ohn of Irrigation Department and officials reported on construction of canals of Bawbin Dam, water supply for summer paddy cultivation, arrangements made for meeting the target in extended cultivation of summer paddy and cultivation

of quality paddy strains.

Next, Chairman of Bago Division (West Branch) Peace and Development Council Col Hla Min gave a supplementary report.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions to officials.

At the meeting hall of the 250 ton Rice Mill in Letpadan, Thayawady District, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, social organizations, townsmen and local people and gave instructions on regional development.

At the meeting, Chairman of Letpadan Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Than reported on geographical conditions of the township, cultivation of project crops and progress in cultivation of summer paddy.

Responding to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that community peace and prevalence of law and order is of utmost im-

portance for the emergence of a new modern and developed nation. To ensure the emergence of a new modern and developed nation economic development as well as development of human resources play a pivotal role.

As peace and tranquillity prevails in the nation, efforts are being made for development of human resources and economic development. Bago Division has exceeded the target in monsoon paddy cultivation and efforts are to be made to meet the target in summer paddy cultivation, he said.

As Letpadan Township is in Bago Division, strenuous efforts are to be made to meet the target in cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy in the township, he noted.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at the temporary briefing hall of Farmer Training Centre No 1 of MAS in Chanthagon, Letpadan Township where he heard a report by officials on test-cultivation of sum-

mer paddy, progress in cultivation of summer paddy in Letpadan Township.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions.

After that, he met with local people and farmers and gave instructions on exceeding the target acres in summer paddy cultivation in the township and boosting the per acre yield up to 100 baskets.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the test-paddy field in Ngabyugalay Village, Thayawady District where Deputy Supervisor Daw Ma Ma Aung reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on cultivation of summer paddy in the test-paddy field and progress in cultivation of summer paddy in 2003-2004 in the township.

Next, he inspected cultivation of summer paddy.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Thayawady and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

Final rites of late Konlon Sayadaw to be held 9 February

YANGON, 2 Feb—Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Konlon Sayadaw, State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka of Galontaung Kyaungtaik in Pindaya, Shan State, passed away on 30 January 2004.

The remains will be kept in the casket for public obeisance on 7 February. The ceremony to open white umbrella over the remains of the Sayadaw will be held on 8 February.

The final rites and crematorial ceremony of the Sayadaw will be held at 1 pm on 9 February.

On 8 February, Chancellor of Thitagu World Buddhist University in Sagaing Hill Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotikadhaja Agga Maha Gandhavasaca Pandita Maha Dhammakahitka Bahu-janahitadhara Dr Nanisara will deliver a sermon.

MNA

Buddha Pujaniya of Maha Shwemyinthmo Sulamani Pagoda to be held

YANGON, 2 Feb—Under the leadership of Presiding Sayadaw of Yadana Manaung Tawya Kamahtan Taik in Pyay in Bago Division (West) Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Vijabala, the fourth Buddha Pujaniya

Festival and rice-offering ceremony of the Maha Shwemyinthmo Sulamani Pagoda will held on a grand scale from 7 to 11 February.

Those are invited to donate cash for the festival.

MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than discusses summer paddy cultivation with officials and farmers in Letpadan Township. —MNA



Runway expansion project inspected at Kengtung Airport

YANGON, 2 Feb—Member of the State Peace and Development Council and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council and Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, arrived at the runway expansion project at

Kengtung Airport in Kengtung on 31 January morning.

At the briefing hall of the project, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on tasks being carried out to expand the runway of the airport and gave instructions on speedy implementation of the project, timely completion of the project, supervision of fuel use for machinery, and measures for worksite safety. Af-

ter inspecting the construction site, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party left there.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at Mongphyat Station, where he met with officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of the station and gave instructions on measures for smooth and secure transport.

This morning at Kengtung Station, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win

also met with officers and other ranks and their families and gave instructions on successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State. He also greeted them cordially.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the construction of new school buildings at Kengtung No-6 BEMS and the construction site of the government computer college and gave instructions.—MNA

Minister inspects MSLE, IRD in Magway Division

YANGON, 2 Feb—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun together with General Manager of Myanmar Economic Bank (Head Office) Lt-Col Maung Maung Win and members met with departmental officials of the ministry in NyaungU Township at the office of Myanmar Economic Bank in NyaungU on 31 Janu-

ary.

In Chauk he inspected the Township Myanmar Economic Bank.

Inspecting the new building for the Township Myanmar Economic Bank, the Minister was briefed by officials on progress in construction of the building.

Afterwards, the minister and party looked into Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise and Internal Revenues Department in Chauk and left necessary instructions.

The minister and party this afternoon met with departmental officials of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Kyaukpadaung Township at the Township Myanmar Economic Bank in Kyaukpadaung and gave instructions.

Next, the minister and party inspected Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise and Internal Revenues Department in Kyaukpadaung and left necessary instructions.

MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meets with Tatmadaw members and families of Kengtung Station in Kengtung Township. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with youth footballers. — MNA

Raising of Myanmar sports...

(from page 1)

He said the government is giving encouragement to raising of Myanmar sports standard. He spoke of the need to concentrate on raising of sports standard including football to become the top in South-East Asia.

He said football U-16, U-18, U-20 and U-23 selected teams and women selected football team gained success. But their success has halted. He said continued efforts are to be made for achievement of success in those fields.

He said Myanmar Football Federation was reorganized and systematic arrangements are to be made for selection and training of football players.

He spoke of the need to

make arrangements for construction of training grounds and upgrading of existing grounds. Similarly, duties are to be assigned to qualified coaches with high efficiency in every selected football team. Selected footballers are to be chosen correctly with the coordination of officials of MFF, he said.

To be fit and strong, systematic camp training is needed for athletes.

He also spoke at length on close supervision of accommodations for athletes, supply of enriched food to them and medical check-up.

He said the government would provide financial assistance, track suits and sports equipment to the athletes.

Officials concerned are to make arrangements for accommodations, health care services and systematic training of the footballers and other athletes, he added.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected hostel-1 for U-17 and U-18 football teams, messing hall and hostel for women selected athletes and cordially greeted the athletes.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Sports and Physical Education Institute in Kyaikkasan Grounds.

The Prime Minister inspected conditions for construction of training grounds. The Prime Minister and party inspected training of athletes chosen by the institute.

MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein ...

(from page 16)

Brig-Gen Tint Swe, officials from Maubin District and Nyaungdon Township PDCs, in-charge of the camp Major Lyan Khant Kyin and officials.

Major Lyan Khant Kyin reported to Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein on breeding of fish, netting of fish for

distribution and construction of road in the camp. The Secretary-2 gave instructions and viewed netting of fish at pond No C-7.

Afterwards, the Secretary-2 and party visited the 1,000 acre fish breeding project of MWVO (Head Office) in Meethwaychaung, Maubin Township. In-charge

of the camp Major Aung Min briefed on digging of ponds, breeding of fish and future tasks. The Secretary-2 spoke of the need to strive in the interests of the organization, the region and the country.

In 2003-2004 fiscal year, the MWVO fish breeding camp distributed over 300,000 viss of fish to Yangonites.

The Secretary-2 and party arrived at Nyaungdonkyun wetland reclamation project for agriculture and livestock breeding being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Wa Wa Win International Co Ltd. Company Chairman U Shwe Kyaing and Project Manager Daw San San Myint reported on completion of land reclamation and agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

The Secretary-2 gave instructions on meeting the set target and distribution of fish at reasonable prices. He also spoke of the need to strive for regional development tasks.

Wa Wa Win Co Ltd has reclaimed 500 acres for paddy fields and 5,000 acres for fish breeding tasks out of 10,000 acres of land in the Nyaungdon wetland. Reclamation tasks for more paddy fields and fish ponds are underway.

After signing in the visitors' book of the project, the Secretary-2 inspected growing of summer paddy and other crops in the region and left necessary instructions there. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Nyaunggai Dam Project in Padaung Township, Bago Division. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than ...

(from page 16)

to medical battalion of the station.

The farm raises 721 Babcock poultry, 250 domestic poultry, 10 CP pigs, 39 domestic pigs and 29 goats.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with Tatmadawmen and their families at the hall of medical battalion and gave instructions on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, convenience tasks, health and education matters.

He arrived at the local battalion in Toungoo Station and met with Tatmadawmen and families at the hall there. He gave instructions on education, health and convenience tasks.

On 30 January morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended opening of the Tagara-Koebin mountain pass at Phokyar Mountain Resort of Myanma Timber Enterprise 10 miles from Tagara Vil-

lage. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed teak plantations and teak plants in Soeya and Kyaukmahsin forest reserves.

The next morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party together with Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and Bago Division (West) PDC Chairman Col Hla Min and officials, left Pyay and arrived at Khawa dam project five miles from the Patheingyi Road in Padaung Township. At the briefing hall, Director U Tin Maung Ohn of Construction-2 of Irrigation Department and Director U Khin Maung Chit of the Irrigation Department (Head Office) reported on construction tasks and requirements. Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko presented a supplementary report.

The Khawa dam project is being implemented with a view to supplying water to 2,000 acres of land and help-

ing development tasks in the region. It is built across Khawa Creek near Chinyawgyi Village in Padaung Township. Construction of conduits has been completed up to 95 per cent, earthen works, 35 per cent and spillway, nearly cent per cent. The pipes with the diameter of six inches have been installed to supply drinking water to neighbouring villages. The project is being implemented with the target to open before raining season in 2004.

On arrival at the local battalion in Kyaukphe in Padaung Station, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party met with officers, other ranks and their families at the hall of the battalion and gave instructions on livestock breeding, education and health. He also greeted the families of the battalion cordially. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also looked into the chicken farm of the battalion and gave instructions on the breeding of other animals. Lt-Gen Khin Maung

Than and party arrived at the local battalion in Padaung Station in the afternoon. He also met with the Tatmadawmen of the battalion and gave instructions on agriculture, livestock breeding and public welfare.

Next, they arrived at Nyaunggai dam, two miles and two furlongs from Pyay-Taunggyi Road in Padaung Township. At the briefing hall, officials reported on water supply and utilization, and arrangements for cultivation of paddy and other crops. Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko then presented additional reports.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on supply of irrigation water fully to 3,000 acres of land and maintenance of canals and inspected the storage of water in the reservoir. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Khittaya industrial zone in Ywabe ward in Pyay. At the hall of the

industrial zone, he met with industrialists and gave instructions. He also heard reports on the birth of the industrial zone, import-substitute goods, and future tasks.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the State was rendering assistance to industrial development in Myanmar by establishing 18 industrial zones with the aim of improving the private industrial sector.

He added that industrialists should not depend on the State alone; they should seek means and ways to increase the productivity of agricultural implements, produce more passenger buses, enhance the quantity and quality of the products, and innovate new items of machinery.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party looked into the auto machine parts and farm implements displayed in the industrial zone.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party ar-

rived at the briefing hall of the office in Pyay and heard reports on the emergence of the industrial zone, land reclamation at the zone, measures being taken for supply of electricity and water, cement, oil price, demand of cement and fuel oil. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on installation of electricity and allotment of the land.

MNA

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အလှူ ထိမ်းမြားမင်္ဂလာ၊ အစည်းအဝေး အခမ်းအနားများတွင် ခေတ်မီ ပလတ်စတစ်စာပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ရှေးနှစ်သက်သာရာဖြစ် ငှားရမ်းနေပါသည်။
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WHO sending drugs to protect Asian chicken cullers

GENEVA, 2 Feb — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday it would send supplies of anti-influenza drug Tamiflu to Thailand and Vietnam to help protect workers culling chickens infected with bird flu.

There is still no vaccine to protect humans against the virus, which jumped the species barrier from poultry, but the UN health agency believes that taking the anti-viral medicine may stave off infection.

Eight people have died so far in the outbreak, six in

Vietnam and two in Thailand, which are amongst 10 Asian countries where the virus has led to the slaughter of millions of poultry.

"In theory if Tamiflu works against influenza A, then it could work against bird flu," said WHO spokesman Iain Simpson, echoing the words of Swiss healthcare group Roche which developed the drug.

Simpson said WHO's office in Manila has Tamiflu supplies which it was preparing to send to Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Reuters

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U KYI WIN,
B.Com., B.L.
for GILMAR S.P.A.
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 3rd February 2004

Oil regains footing after five-day slide

LONDON, 2 Feb — Oil prices steadied on Friday after a weeklong sell off as traders covered shorts ahead of the weekend on suspicion prices could yet bounce.

London Brent crude, which has fallen 1.75 US dollars since last Thursday, regained its footing to sit 23 cents up at 29.36 US dollars a barrel. US light crude for March rose 27 cents to 33.08 US dollars a barrel.

With much of the northern hemisphere winter over, traders and analysts said the longer term view pointed to a downward correction to end oil's four-month rally, which has seen prices gain 15 per cent to date since September.

But they added that the fund led sell-off of the last week may have gone too far, too fast, and that prices could rebound slightly before continuing on a path lower.

MNA/Reuters

မြည်တွင်းမြည်ကိုအားပေးပါ

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TIN OHNMAR TUN
B.(Law)/LL.B,LL.M(UK)
PO Box 109
Ph:248108/723043
(For Allen & Gledhill,
Advocates & Solicitors,
Singapore.)
Dated: 3 February, 2004

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Reg. No. 1094/1995

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Dated: 3 February 2004

Adviser denies drug allegation against Michael Jackson

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb — Michael Jackson's spiritual adviser Firpo Carr on Friday called the claims made by an author in an upcoming *Vanity Fair* article "false".

"Regarding Michael Jackson on drugs, first of all, we all know that there was the Pepsi incident. His hair caught on fire. He took painkillers for that. Like so many other people, yes, there was a challenge getting off those painkillers," said Carr at a news conference held at the Jackson family compound in Encino, California.

"The problem is not having been addicted to drugs, the problem is getting off of drugs," he stressed.

Supporters and family members said they could say little due to a gag order in the Jackson molestation case, but Jermaine Jackson has already called the article "slandorous".

The author of the article in *Vanity Fair*, Maureen Orth

Actor Crowe hurt while training for boxing film

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb — He fought off tigers without a scratch in "Gladiator" and hardly got his feet wet as a naval captain in "Master and Commander".

But actor Russell Crowe got TKO'd before shooting a single frame of boxing film "Cinderella Man".

The Oscar-winning star suffered a dislocated shoulder while training in the ring for his upcoming role as 1935 world heavyweight champion James Braddock, Universal Pictures studio said on Friday.

The mishap, which occurred in Sydney, Australia, is expected to delay the start of production on the film by about a month, with principal photography now set to begin in early April, the studio said.

MNA/Reuters

has, raised more allegations about Michael Jackson seducing boys by giving them soda cans filled with wine.

In February's edition of the magazine, the article's author cites an old interview with one of Jackson's former business advisers. "The young man who made the allegations said he was given wine in soda pop cans," said Orth.

Orth added that Jackson allegedly showed the boy and his brother pornography on the Internet and it was just another incident in what Orth claims is Jackson's history of abuse with other boys.

"In 1998, in Japan, Jackson allegedly gave another 13-year-old boy cans of white wine. The boy's father had just announced a big business deal with Jackson, and Jackson took the boy to an amusement park in Japan and the boy came back sick and the deal went sour," Orth said. —MNA/Xinhua

Whales flee harsh winter for Mexican waters

MEXICO CITY, 2 Feb — Gray whales are turning up in record numbers at their breeding grounds in Mexico this year as they flee harsh winter temperatures in the north Pacific, Mexico's Environment Ministry said on Friday.

Initial surveys show that more than 1,200 gray whales have already completed their

annual 6,250 miles migration from the icy Bering Sea off Alaska to their breeding grounds off Mexico's west coast — the highest number recorded in 10 years.

The surge comes as Arctic winds and record low temperatures sweep the northern United States and Alaska was suffering severe weather con-

ditions and freezing rain.

"The rise in the numbers of this marine mammal off our beaches is due to the harshness of the winter in the north which prompted a major migration of whales seeking the warmth of Mexican waters," the ministry said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

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Counter-trade scheme saves Philippines \$204m in two years

MANILA, 2 Feb — The Philippine Government saved 204 million US dollars in expenditures in 2002 and 2003 by counter-trading goods and services, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The savings were results of the government's aggressive efforts to integrate counter-trade in major imports of government agencies and offices, *The Philippine Star* quoted a report of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as saying. In the report, DTI-attached agency Philippine International Trading Corp. said the savings in the past two years were much higher compared to the 300 million dollars saved from counter-trade over a 12-year period up to 2001. The

agency believes the savings could still rise in the medium-term with the decision of various government agencies to tender international transactions. Of the 204 million dollars in savings, 133.6 million were derived from the government's importation of rice from Vietnam, India, China and Thailand; search and rescue vessels from Australia; weapons and ammunitions from Canada, Belgium and Italy; coal from Indonesia; and patrol cars from Japan. — MNA/Xinhua

Russian supply craft docks with Space Station

Moscow, 2 Feb — A Russian supply spacecraft docked with the International Space Station on Saturday, bringing food, water, equipment and two experimental dummies for the two-man crew aboard, a mission control spokesman said.

With Russia still providing the sole link to the 16-nation platform after the *Columbia* shuttle disaster a year ago, the *Progress M1-11* cargo ship blasted off from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in the Kazakh steppe on Thursday.

"Progress successfully docked with the station at 16.13 Moscow Time (1313

GMT)," the spokesman said from mission control outside Moscow. "It has brought to the ISS fuel, oxygen, water, letters, food and various other things." Among the items to be brought aboard were two dummies, shown wrapped in protective covering on Russian television and intended to simulate the effect of radiation on humans.

Results of the experiment will be used to pave the way for human travel to Mars — one of the goals set out by US President George W Bush in space plans announced this month.

MNA/Reuters



Gold and silver coins issued in Brazil, which is a five-time World Cup soccer champion nation, and commemorate the 100th anniversary of FIFA are displayed during a ceremony in Rio de Janeiro, on 30 Jan, 2004. France, Switzerland and Uruguay will also launch their coins today. — INTERNET

One out of every four GSM mobile phone users comes from China

BEIJING, 2 Feb — China has registered 250 million GSM mobile phone users, accounting for a quarter of the one billion GSM mobile phone users worldwide, according to an industry source. Statistics from China Mobile Communication Co Ltd showed that the company has landed 177 million GSM mobile phone clients, becoming the world's biggest mobile communication operator in terms of customers and GSM network capacity.

Another big telecommunication operator, China United Telecommunications Corp has 70 million GSM mobile phone users. It also operates CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) network as the core technology for its competition against China Mobile.

GSM refers to Global System for Mobile Communication.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korea to establish emergency health care system over bird flu virus

SEOUL, 2 Feb — South Korea Friday decided to establish an emergency health care system to prepare for possible human infections of bird flu, reported South Korean *Yonhap* news agency.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare said that the setup of the contingency system is in line with warnings from the World Health Organization (WHO) that a possible mutation of the H5N1 virus may cause infection in humans. "In hospitals located in affected areas, the government will closely monitor whether humans are infected and it will strengthen quarantine measures to prevent the spread of the virus," said the ministry in a meeting attended by local government officials.

The poultry disease has spread in South Korea since it was first detected in last December. But so far, there have been no reports that it has crossed to humans.

No one among the some 1,600 South Korean people who have been exposed to the flu tested positive up to now.

"We will continue to examine the health records of those engaged in spraying disinfectants and slaughtering birds," a ministry official was quoted by *Yonhap* as saying. "Farmers in affected areas will receive protective equipment and anti-virus medicines."

The Health Ministry will also step up efforts to develop test medicine to determine bird flu infections and plan to quarantine infected people, if any. South Korea has culled more than 2.4 million chickens and other fowl to stem the spread of the disease. A total of 17 poultry farms have been hit by the disease ever since late last year.

Some South Korean experts said the local outbreak of avian flu was a different variant of H5N1 from the one which has surfaced in Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

India asks Nepal to act as transit link between India, China

KATHMANDU, 2 Feb — India, which has been importing Chinese goods directly from Hong Kong and Shanghai mainly through sea routes, has proposed to Nepal to act as a transit link between it and China.

"We have made the offer to Nepal Government and Nepali side has responded positively, Commerce Secretary Dipak Chatterjee, who was here to participate in the

Indo-Nepali Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting, told *PTI*. At the conclusion of the three-day meeting today, India and Nepal agreed to set up a

mechanism on self-certification of Nepali food products meant for export to India to ensure the quality.

The two countries also agreed to enhance and upgrade facilities and infrastructure in the four major Customs points along Indo-Nepali border. Chatterjee said if Nepal can play a role of a transit link between India and China, the two economic giants of Asia, it would not only help India lower its transport cost but also help develop trading business in Nepal. After reaching an understanding both India and Nepal would have to work out procedures and modalities for this, Chatterjee, who had a courtesy call on Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa at his residence at Baluwatar on Saturday, said. Elaborating on the issues taken up during IGC meeting, he said "we discussed matters relating to bilateral trade and expanding investment opportunities between the two countries".

MNA/PTI

Chinese send 9.8 billion mobile phone messages around New Year

BEIJING, 2 Feb — Chinese people sent 9.8 billion Lunar New Year greeting messages through their mobile phones in the New Year's Eve and week-long holiday from January 22 to January 28, 3 billion more than last year.

Subscribers with China Mobile sent 7.8 billion short messages, while China Unicom clients sent over two billion pieces.

With the popularity of camera handsets, the number of multimedia messages also climbed during the festival.

Paying 0.1 yuan for each message on the average, subscribers spent around one billion yuan (120 million US dollars) over the holiday.

Liu Manqiang, vice-director of Information Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said short messages were popular because of their low price and high efficiency. Meanwhile, Internet services made short message business more booming.

By the end of 2003, China had 260 million mobile phone users and the number is growing rapidly.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's new coins being gobbled up

HANOI, 2 Feb — New coins introduced by Vietnam's Central Bank are being gobbled up — not by collectors, but rather by children who swallow them after mistaking them for sweets.

Since three coins were made available in mid-December after a two-decade absence, doctors have treated at least 17 children for swallowing them.

Over the recent Lunar New Year holidays, six children aged between two and 10 were treated in the central province of Quang Nam after swallowing coins, the *Tuoi Tre* (Youth) newspaper reported recently.

Money is a traditional good luck gift for children during the festival.

The mishaps are an unforeseen headache for Vietnam's central bank, which had hoped the coins would promote the use of vending machines and other conveniences.

The launch of Vietnam's new money has faced other glitches. Polymer-based, counterfeit proof banknotes

that were also introduced last month were hit by rumours that the bills would be withdrawn because they had no year of issue printed on them.

Then jewellery shops complained that their counting machines could not read the new notes.

The central bank has been forced to issue stern admonitions.

"Any individual who refuses to circulate the bank notes issued by the State Bank of Vietnam will be named as a lawbreaker and will face tough punishments," deputy governor Nguyen Thi Kim Phung said in December.

In addition to a new 500,000-dong (32-US-dollar) note, Vietnam also circulated a new design of its 50,000-dong note.

MNA/Reuters



Elephants participate in a game of soccer at the second Elephant Festival held at Kaziranga National Park, 267 km (116 miles) east of Guwahati, capital of the northeastern Indian state of Assam, on 30 January, 2004. The festival is being held to generate awareness in the local population on the need to cohabitate with local wild elephants and to reduce conflicts arising from herds damaging crops. — INTERNET

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စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

S P O R T S

Last-gasp Birmingham deny Newcastle

LONDON, 2 Feb — The race for fourth place in the Premier League got even tighter on Saturday as Newcastle United and Liverpool both drew while Charlton Athletic lost.

Newcastle seemed on course for all three points at St. Andrews thanks to Gary Speed's excellent 37th-minute shot but a last-minute equalizer by Stern John earned Birmingham City a 1-1 draw.

They remain sixth on 34 points, behind Liverpool on goal difference after Gerard Houllier's side were held to a goalless Anfield draw in an action-packed Merseyside derby against Everton.

Charlton are fourth on 37 points after losing 2-1 at home to Bolton Wanderers with Fulham seventh on 34 after a 2-1 home win over Tottenham Hotspur.

Aston Villa scored five goals in 25 second-half minutes to thrash Leicester City 5-0 away while Leeds United remain bottom after going down 3-0 at home to Middlesbrough. In the day's early game French striker Louis Saha scored on his Manchester United debut as the champions beat Southampton 3-2 at Old Trafford to go top of the league on 53 points.

MNA/Reuters

Celtic crush Kilmarnock 5-1, go 14 points clear

GLASGOW, 2 Feb — Celtic's John Hartson scored twice as the unbeaten Scottish Premier League leaders scored five second-half goals against Kilmarnock in a 5-1 win on Saturday that takes them 14 points clear at the top.

Second-placed Rangers can cut the deficit to 11 points again if they win at bottom club Patrick Thistle on Sunday.

Celtic's French winger Didier Agathe tormented Kilmarnock after the break and opened the scoring 10 minutes into the second half before goals from Hartson, Henrik Larsson and Stephen Pearson wrapped up the points for Martin O'Neill's side.

"Didier Agathe really picked up the tempo of the game for us in the second half scoring the important first, which was a great strike, and was involved in a few others after we never looked like breaking them down in the first half," said O'Neill.

After Agathe had slammed home Celtic's opener the speedy French winger glided over a cross for Welshman Hartson to head his team's second goal 10 minutes later.

With the visitors dishevelled, Agathe set up Larsson for the third on 76 minutes before Scotland midfielder Stephen Pearson netted his first home goal for Celtic with 13

minutes left. Eric Skora hit a beautiful long-range strike for Kilmarnock on 84 minutes but Celtic were not finished and Hartson's 89th minute header secured a satisfactory 21st straight SPL win for the home side.

Celtic have moved on to 64 points from 22 games with champions Rangers a distant second on 50 with a game in hand before their trip to Patrick Thistle.

Kilmarnock have the worst defensive record in the SPL having shipped 49 goals in 22 games but managed to make life difficult for the home side in the first period.

Celtic's Chris Sutton hit the underside of the bar with a header but Danny Invincible should have scored for the visitors and they paid dearly after the break.

O'Neill has also completed the signing of Australian keeper Danny Milosevic until the end of the season after Magnus Hedman joined Italian Serie A side Ancona on loan earlier this week. — MNA/Reuters

United beat spirited Saints 3-2 to go top

LONDON, 2 Feb — French striker Louis Saha scored on his debut and Ruud van Nistelrooy struck the winner as Manchester United beat Southampton 3-2 at Old Trafford to go top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Saints striker Kevin Phillips scored his side's goals either side of the break to put Southampton level after Paul Scholes had given United a two-goal lead in the 37th minute.

Van Nistelrooy then pounced in a goalmouth scramble to turn home the winner just after the hour of an exciting match in front of a record Premier League crowd of 67,758 that Saints twice came close to leveling in the final minutes.

It was the Dutchman's 99th goal for the club and ensured that United, who have not lost at home to Southampton since 1988, moved one point ahead of Arsenal, who meet Manchester City at home on Sunday.

Saha, signed from Fulham for 12.8 million pounds (23.2 million US dollars) eight days ago, opened the scoring with a free kick, which deflected off Phillips' head, in the 18th minute after Portuguese midfielder Cristiano Ronaldo had been brought down.

In the 37th, Antti Niemi failed to hold the Frenchman's low shot from outside the box and Scholes pounced to shoot under the Finnish keeper and put United further ahead.

Southampton struck back 61 seconds later when Phillips' shot from outside the penalty area took a slight deflection off fellow striker

Brett Ormerod and beat Tim Howard.

Howard was beaten again in the 53rd minute when Phillips' shot from 35 metres sneaked inside the right-hand bottom corner. Saints' French midfielder Fabrice Fernandes was lucky not to concede a penalty on the hour when he leapt with his hands raised at a free kick by Ronaldo and the ball struck his arm.

The referee awarded a free kick on the edge of the box but then van Nistelrooy

was not ruled offside when he clearly strayed forward at the kick.

Play continued and the ball came back to the Dutchman, now onside, for what proved to be the winner.

The visitors had two late chances to level the match when in the 82nd minute, Howard superbly tipped the ball over from defender Danny Higginbotham's overhead kick while Phillips missed a low cross in the six-yard box a minute later.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Louis Saha celebrates after scoring a free kick against Southampton. Manchester United have put boardroom turmoil engulfing the club to one side as they swept back to the top of the English Premiership with a 3-2 victory over Southampton. — INTERNET

Banned Cisse takes out on Bordeaux

PARIS, 2 Feb — France striker Djibril Cisse bounced back from his Euro 2004 ban by scoring twice and setting up another goal as AJ Auxerre demolished Girondins Bordeaux 5-0 in their Ligue 1 clash on Saturday.

The Liverpool-bound player, who will miss the European Championship after failing to overturn a five-match international ban for kicking an opponent in an Under 21 match, inspired Auxerre as they killed off the game with four first-half goals.

The Burgundy side are now third in the table with 41 points from 22 games, seven adrift of leaders Monaco who drew 1-1 with Paris St. Germain on Friday. Second-placed Olympique Lyon cut the gap on the principality team to four points with a 1-0 victory at Toulouse, courtesy of a clever second-half strike from midfielder Vikash Dhorasoo. — MNA/Reuters

Morocco punish comedic Benin defence

SFAX (Tunisia), 2 Feb — Morocco took advantage of a comedy of errors by the Benin defence to beat the African Nations Cup debutants 4-0 on Saturday and maintain their perfect record in Group D.

Striker Marouane Chamakh was gifted the opener in the 17th minute after Benin goalkeeper Rachad Chitou completely missed a cross.

Benin then held out and produced some good attacks of their own until their defence fell apart late in the game allowing substitute Youssef Mokhtari and defenders Abdelsam Ouaddou and Talal El Karkouri to score in a seven-minute spell.

Morocco, who have yet to concede a goal, lead Group D with six points and need to draw with South Africa to make sure of a quarterfinal place. Benin have lost both their games.

"We had a lot of difficulties in the first half when we were up against a very solid team," said Morocco coach Badou Ezaki. "In the second half, we scored three quick goals and won the match."

El Karkouri and midfielder Houcine Kharja both went close for Morocco in the opening five minutes and it was no surprise when they went ahead.

MNA/Reuters

Roma suffer setback with defeat at Brescia

MILAN, 2 Feb — AS Roma's title hopes suffered a setback on Saturday with a surprise 1-0 defeat at Brescia, leaving Serie A leaders AC Milan the chance to open up a five point lead on Sunday.

A 42nd minute Jonathan Bachi penalty gave Brescia, without the injured Roberto Baggio, victory over Fabio Capello's side in a scrappy game at the Rigamonti Stadium. Bachi converted after Roma defender Walter Samuel pulled down Brescia striker Simone del Nero inside the area. Milan, who are away to Bologna on Sunday, have 45 points to Roma's 43 with Juventus in third on 40. Two second-half penalties gave Reggina a 2-0 victory over Empoli.

Empoli keeper Luca Bucci conceded both spot-kicks, sliding through the back of Emiliano Bonazzoli's legs to allow Francesco Cossa to put Reggina ahead in the 51st minute. A minute from

the end of time Bucci was harshly ruled to have brought down David di Michele inside the area. The

Reggina striker then converted the penalty to secure three points for the Calabrians. — MNA/Reuters



AS Roma's Francesco Totti (L) and Luigi Di Biagio of Brescia challenge for the ball during their Serie A soccer match at Rigamonti Stadium, in Brescia, on 31 Jan. — INTERNET

Midfielder Stankovic moves to Inter from Lazio

ROME, 2 Feb — Serbia and Montenegro midfielder Dejan Stankovic signed for Inter Milan from Serie A rivals Lazio on Saturday just before the January transfer window closed.

According to Lazio, the 25-year-old's transfer was for four million euros (4.96 million US dollars).

"The midfielder has put pen to paper on a contract which will expire on June 30, 2008," Inter Milan said on their website.

Stankovic's future at Rome-based Lazio had been in doubt since talks over a new contract broke down.

His Lazio deal was set to expire in June and the cash-strapped club hoped to sell during the January transfer window rather than lose one of its top players for nothing at the end of the season.

"At Inter at last!" were Stankovic's first words after donning the blue-and-black striped No 11 Inter shirt.

MNA/Reuters

Health Minister inspects construction of Institute of Dental Medicine

YANGON, 2 Feb — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials, inspected the construction project of an institute of dental medicine and new hospital on Thanthuma Road in Thingangyun Township this morning.

At the briefing hall,

Managing Director of Myanmar Industrial Construction Services under the Ministry of Industry-2 U Ye Tun reported to the minister and party on progress of construction of the main building of the university and school buildings, and financial matters. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions and attended to

the requirements.

Next, the minister and party inspected round the construction site and gave instructions on the building of food shops and hostels. The minister also urged the officials to take measures for keeping school buildings clean and attractive and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister leaves for Indonesia

YANGON, 2 Feb — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win left here this afternoon to attend Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism to be held in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 and 5 February 2004.

The deputy minister was accompanied by alternate leader of the Myanmar delegation Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, and members Police Brig-Gen Winn Myaing from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Director U Denzil Abel from the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing and responsible personnel from the Ministries

MNA

Third Specialized Training on the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature for Trade Facilitation held

YANGON, 2 Feb — The Third Specialized Training on the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature for Trade Facilitation jointly sponsored by ASEAN General Secretariat and Customs

Department of Myanmar was held at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road here this morning with an address by Director-General of Customs Department Col Khin

Maung Linn.

The training course is being attended by 30 trainees—18 from ASEAN member nations and 12 from Myanmar.—MNA

Eight killed in Philippine bus collision

MANILA, 2 Feb — Eight people, including a boy, were killed and 14 others injured after two passenger buses collided early Saturday in the northern Philippines, police said. The accident occurred when a Manila-bound bus collided head-on with an incoming bus as it tried to overtake a tricycle on the highway in Botolan Town in the province of Zambales, the Philippine News Agency quoted a police report as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3

3-2-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)

Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Rakhine Ordination
Novitiation & Ear-
boring Auspicious
Ceremony
9:10 **Headline News**

9:12 Myanmar Cuisine
9:15 **National News**
9:20 Salone Traditional
Festival (2004)
Myanmar
9:25 Kachin Dance
9:30 **National News**
9:35 National Races Village
(Chin, Mon, Rakhine)
9:40 Songs on Screen "My
Arden Wish"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 ASOD's Tour of
Northern Shan State
(Part-1)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"



Tuesday, February 3

View today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. ကဗျာပုံစံသမိုင်း
8:00 am
6. Song of yesteryears
8:10 am
7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:20 am
8. ရက်သားတောရေစုရောင်းတံခံ
8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. Grammar made easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold
national spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
4:40 pm
4. Musical programme
4:50 pm
5. အစောဆုံးသတင်းစာ
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်တန်းစာ
- ပထမနှစ် (ရတနာ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ
အထူးပြုစာ) (ရုပ်ပုံစာ)
5:05 pm
6. Dance of national races
5:20 pm
7. ခံစားရားဆင်တေးစာတံခံ
5:30 pm
8. (ဂျပန်)မြန်မာပြည်ပြည်ထောင်စုစု
ဂုဏ်ပြုဆုအခွင့်
5:45 pm
9. (ဂျပန်)မြန်မာပြည်ပြည်ထောင်စုစု
အထိမ်းအမှတ် ကဗျာပြိုင်ပွဲအကြောင်း
သိစကားစာစု (အပိုင်း-၂)
5:55 pm
10. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. Milo success in soccer
7:10 pm
14. The mirror images of
musical oldies
7:20 pm
15. သားငါးမြို့ပြည့်အတိုင်း
7:30 pm
16. (ဂျပန်)မြန်မာပြည်ပြည်ထောင်စုစု
ဂုဏ်ပြုဆုအခွင့်
7:40 pm
17. ပြည်ထောင်စုစုစိတ်ဓာတ်ပြု
ရှင်သန်နိုင်စွမ်းစာစု ချီခံတော်
ဦးတော်စင်တော်စုစု
စေတနာပြု
8:00 pm
18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်းစာ
"ဟိုက်ယူ" (အပိုင်း-၂)
22. Calcio Serie A
highlight
23. The next day's
programme



MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win meets the press. — MNA

Press conference on ITF 14 and under Asian tennis championships held

YANGON, 25 Jan — The press conference on ITF 14 and Under Asian Tennis Championships Zone-2, organized by International Tennis Federation and Myanmar Tennis Federation from 12 to 19 January, was held at Theinbyu Tennis Plaza of the MTF at Theinbyu tennis court here this morning, with an opening address by MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win.

Present at the conference were Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information Col Soe Win, Director (News) U Hla Tun, chief editors of dailies, mediapersons, sports columnists, MTF President U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) and invited guests.

MTF Patron Maj-Gen Kyaw Win explained holding of the championships. MTF President U Zaw Zaw briefed on competing of Myanmar youth team.

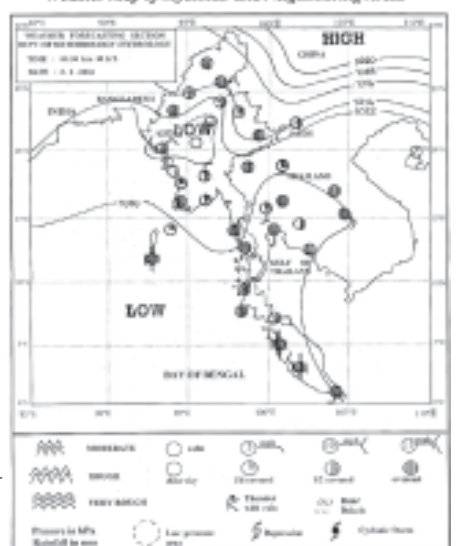
Afterwards, queries of journalists and sports columnists were replied. Phyo Min Tha who won first prizes in the men's singles event, men's doubles event and best player award, and Myanmar selected players Nyi Nyi Tun and Nge Hnang were introduced to

journalists and sports columnists who later held discussions on matters related to tennis.

Afterwards, those attended the conference viewed the accommodation of the selected players who were under training at MTF.

MNA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 2 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rains have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Mon State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 1-2-2004 was 36.0°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 2-2-2004 was 16.0°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-2-2004 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 1-2-2004 was (9.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 2-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from north at (11:10) hours MST on 1-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-2-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions 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: Possibility of isolated light rain in southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-2-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-2-2004:** Partly cloudy.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects all-round construction of religious edifices on Mindhamma Hill. — MNA

Prime Minister inspects all-round construction of Mindhamma Hill

YANGON, 2 Feb—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township this morning.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials

and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offered flowers and water and paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Image.

At the chamber hall, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko reported on holding of the third Buddha Pujaniya of Lawka Chantha

Abhaya Labha Muni Image and all-round construction of Mindhamma Hill.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister inspected all-round construction of religious edi-

fices on Mindhamma Hill.

After giving necessary instructions, the Prime Minister left the Mindhamma Hill.

MNA

Htamane-donation ceremony to be held

YANGON, 2 Feb —The Htamane will be donated to the public at Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township at 3 pm on 4 February. — 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

Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Nyaungdonkyun Wetland reclamation and Livestock breeding project. — MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects fish-breeding tasks of MWVO

YANGON, 2 Feb — Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein this morning inspected fish breeding camps, fish breeding project and land reclamation tasks in Ayeyawady Division.

Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with MWVOC Vice-Chairman Lt-Gen Kyi Min (Retd), member Defence Services Records Office Commandant Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials from the Ministry of Agri-

culture and Irrigation, arrived at Thazin Yay Kyaw fish breeding camp of MWVO (Head Office) in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division, where they were welcomed by South-West Command Deputy Commander (See page 11)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development projects, agriculture tasks in Bago Division

YANGON, 2 Feb — State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials from the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by air on 29 January

morning and arrived at Toungoo airport in Bago Division at 8 am.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were welcomed there by Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, Deputy

Commander Brig-Gen Thura Maung Ni, senior military officers from Toungoo Station and departmental officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party together with Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and officials proceeded (See page 11)

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Success of sectorwise objectives through collective efforts
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Peace, our interest and unity, our strength
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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Khawa Dam Project in Bago Division. — MNA

