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The State where Union Spirit is flowering

The success achieved in political, economic and social sectors can be ascribed to the concerted efforts exerted by the national people with Union Spirit under the leadership of the government and the strong national force.

The entire national people are required to, with constant vigil, ward off the danger to the stability, peace and tranquillity and development of the State where Union Spirit is flowering and the national force is strong.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 54th Anniversary Union Day.)



Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, newly accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Union of Myanmar. MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Sri Lankan President

YANGON, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4 February 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to Her Excellency Madame Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Thai Ambassador

YANGON, 3 Feb — Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, newly accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthar at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. — MNA

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State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 4 February, 2004

Strive for speedy completion of projects implemented by the State

The State Peace and Development Council, enlisting the strength of internal forces, is making every endeavour on self-reliance basis to enable the Union to keep abreast with the progress of other nations in the world. For this, it is striving for the development of all sectors of the economy with agriculture as the base.

While efforts are being made to boost the productivity of the agriculture sector, measures are being taken for the development of the industrial sector as well as for the extension of agro-based industries. Not only that, 18 industrial zones and branch industrial zones have been established in order to encourage the private industrial sector.

Development of the energy sector plays a vital role in trying to increase the productivity of the agriculture and the industrial sectors. To meet the energy need in everyday life of the people and the manufacturing industries, new energy deposits are being exploited. Oil and natural gas deposits were struck at Nyaungdon in 1999, at Thargyi-taung and Sabai-taung in 2001, at Inndaw in August, 2002 and in Rakhine State in December, 2003. At the same time, electrical power projects are being implemented to fulfil the increasing demand for electricity in manufacturing and service industries in urban areas.

Before 1988, hydo-electric power plants and gas-fired power plants produced 588 megawatts of electricity and it has been increased by 560 megawatts because more power plants were built after 1988. Moreover, nine hydro-electric power plants and one steam power plant under construction will generate a total of 1910 megawatts. Out of those under construction, Paunglaung, Mone-chaung and Tikiyt power plants are nearing completion.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 31 January visited the site of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project and exhorted all those responsible to make sure that all the irrigation work, power generation work and power distribution work are completed according to schedule, durable and meet the set standards. The Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project is situated 11 miles east of Pynmana and on completion, it will be able to irrigate 35,000 acres of farmland and generate 911 million kilowatt hours.

Therefore, we would like to urge all those responsible to try as hard as they can to be able to finish the projects according to schedule.

Township MCWA's new building opened

YANGON, 3 Feb — The opening of the newly-constructed building of Thingangyun Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Yangon East District took place at the building in Ward 25, Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, local authorities, officials and guests.

The patron delivered a speech in honour of the opening of the building and dealt with the tasks to be carried out by MCWA members. Next, Daw Khin Thet Htay, Township MCWA Patron Daw Khin Than Yee and President Daw Nan Nwe Nwe formally opened the building. The commander pressed the button to unveil the stone inscriptions of the building and sprinkled scented water on it. Then, the commander and wife, and officials viewed the building. — MNA

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.

Final rites of Konlon Sayadawgyi on 9 Feb

YANGON, 3 Feb— Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Konlon Sayadawgyi, State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka of Konlon Monastery in Pindaya, Shan State (South), 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 entombment 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 Dhammakaihtka Bahujanahitadhara Dr Nanisara will deliver a sermon.—MNA



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepts the cash donation. — MNA

Cash donated to MMCWA

YANGON, 3 Feb — Wellwishers donated cash and kind to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at a ceremony held at the association on Thanthuma and Parami roads in South Okkalapa Township here this morning.

It was attended by MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and CEC members, wellwishers and guests.

At the ceremony, the women's association of Chinese Embassy to

Myanmar presented K 500,000; U Aung Soe Tha and U Aung Zaw Ye Myint, intercoms worth K 660,000; and U Ko Lat-Daw Htay Htay and family, K 100,000 to the MMCWA president, who then presented certificates of honour to them and expressed words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the MMCWA president, the guests and the wellwishers viewed photos of activities of the association and the Early-childhood Development Centre.—MNA



Chairman of Myanmar Brewery Co Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye speaks at the press conference. — MNA

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

PM sends felicitations to Sri Lankan counterpart

YANGON, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4 February 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency, Honourable Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. — MNA

FM sends felicitations to Sri Lankan counterpart

YANGON, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4 February 2004, His Excellency U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency, Honourable Tyronne Fernando, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. — MNA

Course on diplomatic skills opened

YANGON, 3 Feb — The inauguration ceremony of the certificate course in basis diplomatic skills (BDS 10/2004) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzin Minyazar Hall of the ministry at 8 am today, with an address delivered by U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Present on the occasion were directors-general of the departments under the ministry, departmental officials, Myanmar ambassadors, senior diplomats, professors of universities and institutes concerned, and trainees.

Various subjects including international conferencing, international etiquette, protocol, international correspondence, international law, negotiation techniques are included in the course. A total of 160 trainees are attending the 12-week course. — MNA

Press conference on "Preference for Things Myanmar" held

YANGON, 3 Feb — A press conference on "Preference for Things Myanmar" of Myanmar Brewery Co took place at Karaweik Palace here at 10 am today.

It was attended by Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, Director (News) U Hla Tun and officials, Chairman of Myanmar Brewery Co Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye, General Manager Mr David Teng and officials, journalists, distributors and guests.

First, General Manager Mr David Teng extended greetings and Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye explained the purpose of holding of the press conference.

Next, Trade Mark In-Charge U Myint Swe clarified matters related to sale promotion and lucky draws of the company and programmes for cash donations to social welfare tasks.

Afterwards, Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye replied to queries raised by those present. —MNA

522 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb—As of Monday, 2 February, 522 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 363 died as a result of hostile action and 159 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 57 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; others, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each. Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 384 US soldiers have died — 248 as a result of hostile action and 136 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,590 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures as of Monday. Non-hostile injured numbered 402.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

The following soldiers were killed Saturday when their vehicle was hit by

an explosive in Kirkuk, Iraq; all were assigned to Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Hood, Texas:

- Army Sgt Eliu A. Miersandoval, 27, San Clemente, Calif.

- Army Cpl Juan C Cabralbanuelos, 25, Emporia, Kan.

- Army Pfc Holly J McGeogh, 19, Taylor, Mich. —Internet

Russia calls for early restoration of sovereignty in Iraq

Moscow, 3 Feb — Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov on Monday expressed concerns about the "complicated" situation in Iraq, calling for soonest possible restoration of Iraq's sovereignty.

Ivanov, who is on an official visit to Belarus, made the remark in the light of the recent terrorist acts in Iraq.

"Unfortunately, the recent terrorist acts show that it is premature to speak about settlement in Iraq since the situation there remains extremely complicated," Ivanov was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

He pledged that Russia, along with many other countries, would be able to take part in the political and economic rehabilitation of Iraq under the aegis of the UN after the war-torn country resumes its sovereignty.

Belarusian Foreign Minister Sergei Martynov echoed Ivanov's statement by expressing the hope that the sovereign right of the Iraqi people to decide on their own fate will be realized as soon as possible.

MNA/Xinhua



Kurdish policemen survey the damaged office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), following the suicide bomb attack in the town of Arbil, on 2 February, 2004. —INTERNET

Death toll rises in Iraq bombings

IRBIL, 3 Feb—American military officials raised the death toll in suicide bombings at two Kurdish party offices to 67 on Monday.

No group claimed responsibility for Sunday's attacks, the bloodiest in Iraq in six months.

The casualty figure — up from the earlier estimate of 56 dead — was released by military officials meeting with US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who was visiting troops in Mosul on Monday after spending a day in Baghdad. The officials said 267 people were injured in the attacks.

The near-simultaneous attacks Sunday killed many of the top leaders of the two parties, who were gathered to greet hundreds of ordinary Kurds on the first day of the four-day Eid-al-Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice, holiday.

The two party offices were eight miles apart in the heartland of Iraq's minority

Kurds, who have been the most supportive of the US invasion and occupation.

The US-installed Iraqi Governing Council declared a three-day period of national mourning beginning Monday during which flags will fly at half-staff and Quranic verses will be recited.

Also Sunday, a rocket attack on a US supplies base in Balad north of the capital Baghdad killed one American soldier and wounded 12, including two seriously. Another soldier was killed Sunday and two others were hurt when their Humvee overturned near the town of Haditha.

The two deaths mean 524 US service members have been killed since the Iraq conflict began in March.

Internet

Attackers fire grenade at army vehicle

MOSUL, 3 Feb—Attackers fired a rocket propelled grenade at an army vehicle Monday as Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz met with local officials across town.

No one was hurt and the Stryker infantry carrier vehicle was only slightly damaged, said Brig. General Carter Ham. Attackers in a passing car fired the RPG at the vehicle but its protective armour deflected the blast, Ham said.

Ham, the incoming commander of army forces in northern Iraq, said a Kiowa helicopter tried to locate the attackers' car but failed.

Wolfowitz at the time was on the opposite side of town meeting with officials in the newly refurbished City Hall.

He also visited a police station and court house Monday morning after travelling into the city in a convoy of Stryker vehicles.

However, Ham said, the targeted vehicle was not connected with the Wolfowitz visit.

Three months ago, on a visit to Baghdad, the hotel where Wolfowitz was staying came under rocket attack. He was not injured. —Internet

Romania extends support to India's bid for UNSC membership

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb—Romania on Saturday extended its support to India's candidature for permanent membership of an enlarged UN Security Council, saying it was a "natural contender" in view of its growing political and economic role in international fora.

"Romania also considers

India an important player at the regional level," according to a joint statement issued after talks between Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu here.

In the context of Indo-Pakistani relations, Romania welcomed the recent events that have reshaped the overall ties between the two neighbours, observing this has created the ground for a bilateral dialogue, which will help in regional and global stability, the statement said.

In the presence of the two leaders, the two sides signed four accords, including one on exemption of visa requirement for the holders of diplomatic passports.

Both countries condemned the growth of terrorism and religious extremism, which threatened international peace and security. They shared the view that terrorism could not be justified on any ground, whether political, ethnic, religious or others.

India and Romania agreed that every state has the duty to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in another country or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts.

They felt that countries must refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entitle or persons in terrorist acts.

MNA/PTI

China to establish 225 wetland reserves in seven years

BEIJING, 3 Feb—China will establish 225 wetland reserves from 2004 to 2010, according to a national wetland protection plan released by the State Forestry Administration.

The plan, jointly formulated by 10 departments under the State Council, proposes to establish 225 new wetland reserves in seven years, which will restore 715,000 hectare wetlands and 383,000 hectare wildlife habitat, the plan will include 45 national wetland reserves and 30 international wetland reserves.

By 2030, China will restore 1.4 million hectare of wetland, establish 53 national demonstration wetlands and 80 international key wetlands. The number of wetland reserves will reach 713 in 2030, covering 90 per cent of the wetlands in China, the plan said.

Dubbed "kidneys of the Earth", wetlands are extension areas of land and water, including lakes, swamps and tidelands. They play a crucial role in storing water, adjusting climate, alleviating pollution and preventing and controlling soil erosion and flooding. — MNA/Xinhua

Spain seizes 150 migrants off Canary Islands

MADRID, 3 Feb—Spanish authorities on Sunday seized a boat off the Canary Islands carrying 150 African migrants, some of them sick and weak from a 1,250-mile journey from Cape Verde, a government spokeswoman said.

The Navy and police intercepted the 81-yard boat with a Senegalese captain and a 14-strong Ghanaian crew some 80 nautical miles south of Gran Canaria.

"The boat was really in a sorry state... it had run out of petrol," said the spokeswoman for the central government's representative in the Canaries. —MNA/Reuters



A US soldier from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division, removes an explosive device after it was planted by two Iraqi men in Tikrit, some 180 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad. —INTERNET

Denmark closes Iraq mine clearing programme

COPENHAGEN (Denmark), 3 Feb—A Danish relief organization said Monday it was closing its mine clearing programme in Iraq after a remote-controlled bomb hit a car belonging to the Copenhagen-based group, slightly injuring three people.

"So far the biggest threats against our work has been attacks by robbers and thefts," said Lennart Skov-Hansen, a spokesman for Dan Churchaid, the non-governmental organization.

Saturday's blast, apparently from a homemade device, in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, sent shrapnel through the vehicle. "Even a lot of military and police haven't been able to protect us," he said. The 14 people working for the mine clearance programme, including Swedish, Dutch, British, Canadian and Danish personnel, have been sent home, Churchaid said in a statement.

Dan Churchaid has about 50 people in Basra. They clear unexploded ordnance from around hospitals and schools and help repair water and electricity lines.—Internet

CPJ condemns Iraq Council limiting Al Jazeera cover

NEW YORK, 3 Feb—The Committee to Protect Journalists on Monday condemned the Iraqi Governing Council's decision to ban the Arabic television station Al Jazeera from covering official Council events for a month.

Council spokeswoman Marouj Haider on Saturday said Al Jazeera would be barred over broadcasting remarks during a recent phone-in show that showed "disrespect to Iraq and its people and harmed prominent religious and national figures."

The figures included Mohsen al-Hakim, the son of Iraqi Shi'ite leader and Council member Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, and his sons as well as Mustafa Barzani, the late father of Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Massoud Barzani, she said.

The Council has in the past temporarily

limited operations of the Qatar-based satellite television station and its competitor, Dubai-based Al Arabiya, accusing them of inciting violence.

"The IGC (Iraqi Governing Council) should welcome an open debate about Iraq's future, even if it includes views that the IGC finds objectionable or distasteful," said the committee's Executive Director Ann Cooper. "By continuing to penalize media in Iraq, the IGC discredits its professed support of a free press."

Internet

Four Fort Hood soldiers killed in Iraq

FORT HOOD, (Texas), 3 Feb—Four soldiers stationed at Fort Hood were killed over the weekend when their vehicle struck a homemade explosive device near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, the Defence Department reported Monday.

The soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division were identified as Sgt Eliu Miersandoval, 27, of San Clemente, Calif.; Cpl Juan Cabralbanuelos, 25, of Riverdale, Utah; and Pfc. Holly McGeogh, 19, of Taylor, Mich.

All three were light-truck mechanics assigned to the Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, officials at Fort Hood said. Their vehicle hit the improvised mine while traveling as part of a

convoys about 27 miles south of Kirkuk.

Dan Hassett, a Fort Hood spokesman, said Monday that another soldier from the post near Killeen was killed Sunday in a separate incident, but that person's identity has not been released.

Counting the yet-unnamed casualty, 54 soldiers from Fort Hood have been killed in Iraq since the war started nearly a year ago, Hassett said.

Miersandoval, born in

Mexico, joined the Army in 1998 and spent nearly all of his military career at Fort Hood.

Cabralbanuelos, also born in Mexico, enlisted in 1996 and had been at Fort Hood since 1999.

McGeogh became a soldier in 2002 and was assigned to Fort Hood last March. The Army provided no other details about the fatal blast, but it said the incident was still being investigated.—Internet



A supporter of US Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry holds an anti-Bush placard during a rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on 2 February, 2004.—INTERNET

India, Romania share tradition of supporting each other

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb—Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam recently said India and Romania have a tradition of supporting each other on multilateral issues and working in tandem at the United Nations.

"Our cooperation at the United Nations provides us with an opportunity to share perceptions on issues of importance to both our countries," he said at a banquet in honour of visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu here.

Stating that the interaction between the two countries over the years have led to a symbiotic relationship that has brought cultural vitality to their traditions, he said the recent upsurge of interest among Romanians in Indian literature, dance, music, cinema and philosophy testified to the strong roots and vitality of the multifaceted ties.

"Now that membership of the European Union is on the horizon, Romania offers even more attractive trade and investment opportunities for Indian business," Kalam said.

The President said India-Romania trade which declined in the early 1990s is again on the upswing.

"We are conscious that considerable untapped opportunities remain and it is heartening that both our countries are seriously working at exploiting this potential for further growth. We would like to see at least a five-fold increase in our bilateral trade by 2005," he said.—MNA/PTI

US forces plan to reduce presence inside Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb—US forces plan to reduce their visible presence inside Baghdad in the coming months by moving to the perimeter of the city, leaving the main responsibility for security to Iraqi forces, officials said on Sunday.

US occupying forces come under daily attack in Iraq and the compound housing the US-led administration in Baghdad has come under mortar attack on several occasions. A suicide bomber killed at least 25 people at a gate to the compound last month.

Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who arrived in Iraq on Sunday, met military commanders on his third postwar visit to the country to see the situation on the ground and be briefed on plans for a massive rotation of forces in and out of Iraq.

By May there was expected to be a complete turnover of troops, but the numbers will be similar at about 110,000.

The 1st Armoured Division is building six base camps on the edge of the city which will be taken over by the 1st Cavalry Division, "so that when our successors came in behind us they would be on the outside looking in. We were very much on the inside looking out," Brigadier-General Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armoured

Division, told reporters with Wolfowitz.

When he took command in July there were 60 base camps through the city. "It comes along with sandbags, concrete barriers, concertina wire, and it just causes a lot of disruption that we are beyond now," he said.

"So we'll be on the perimeter of the city."

Currently there are 24 base camps in Baghdad and that will be reduced to eight by about May, two of which will still be in the Green Zone, a sprawling and heavily fortified area inside Baghdad including one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces.

The United States plans to hand over sovereignty to Iraqis by the end of June, but security continues to be a major issue.

One senior military officer said that back in early November it was believed that there were six to eight guerrilla cells in Baghdad but there were now thought to be 14 cells involving around 250 to 300 people.—MNA/Reuters



Kurdish men wait outside a hospital in Arbil to get information about relatives wounded in Sunday's twin suicide attacks in the Kurdish city in northern Iraq.—INTERNET

UN wants rules for bioprospecting in Antarctica

JOHANNESBURG, 3 Feb—The United Nations said on Sunday rules were needed to prevent a free-for-all search for unique Antarctic organisms that can be used for pharmaceutical and other commercial purposes.

"Bioprospectors are starting to turn their attention to many of the world's last frontiers, such as hydrothermal vents, the deep seabed, the water column of the high seas and polar ice caps," said a report by UN University, headquartered in Tokyo. Bioprospecting is the search for commercially valuable and exploitable organisms.

"Work should be stepped up on international agreements to oversee prospecting efforts in Antarctica by research institutions...and

pharmaceutical companies to discover and stake ownership to promising organisms," the report said.

Isolating and extracting the substances that allow organisms to survive in one of the earth's harshest environments could lead to new cancer treatment drugs, antibiotics and industrial compounds, it said.

"But in fragile Antarctica this optimism is offset by warnings of significant consequences if an unregulated international "free-for-all" is allowed to develop," it

said. Such organisms are known as "extremophiles" because of their ability to thrive in tough environmental conditions.

One valuable substance is glycoprotein, which functions as an 'antifreeze' in some Antarctic fish and prevents them from freezing in their sub-zero conditions.

Potential applications include raising the freeze-tolerance of commercial plants, improving farm fish production in cold climates and extending the shelf life of frozen food.—MNA/Reuters

US still sees Saddam loyalists as main enemy

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb — Saddam Hussein loyalists are still the main enemy fighting US occupiers in Baghdad, but big attacks like the suicide bombs in Arbil bear the hallmark of a different foe, a top US commander said on Monday.

Brigadier-General Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armoured Division which is in charge of security in the Baghdad region, told a news conference only a handful of foreign guerillas had been picked up in the capital.

"Until three days ago we had captured 19 foreigners in Baghdad out of several thousand individuals captured who were former regime loyalists," he said, adding that earlier on Monday two men believed to be Afghani and Iranian had been picked up while planting a roadside bomb in Baghdad.

"We are clearly still fighting as the principal enemy the former regime."

But Dempsey said the twin suicide bombs in Arbil, which killed at least 67 people on Sunday, and a major bomb in Baghdad on January 18 that killed at least 25 people, could have been carried out by other guerillas.

"The characterization or the quality of

those attacks are different from the sort of hit-and-run style of the former regime," he said.

"It concerns us that it could be another enemy, a different enemy, a foreign-influenced enemy, a terrorist network enemy."

Dempsey said intelligence units were trying to work out whether foreign fighters were cooperating with Saddam loyalists, or whether the foreign influence had maybe overtaken the Iraqi guerillas.

He said that in recent operations his soldiers had disrupted eight of a suspected 14 cells of insurgents in Baghdad. "The insurgency in Baghdad is much less organized than it was a month ago and much more fearful," he said.

"But the thing is it's a living organism, the act of defeating a piece of it one day, well it could regenerate itself."

MNA/Reuters

River protection project launched in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 3 Feb — The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) will launch a protection project to increase water in central Tanzania's Ruaha River, whose ecological environment has been severely disturbed in the past decade.

The programme, financed by the United States and Britain, aims to improve the river's water system so as to achieve a virtuous circle, local newspaper *Daily News* reported Monday.

The Ruaha River covers 84,000 square kilometres and is of great ecological significance to its nearby eight districts.

MNA/Xinhua

IOC to buy Premier Oil in Assam block

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb — Pursuing vertical integration, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) recently said it will buy British energy firm Premier Oil's 35 per cent stake in an oil and gas block in northeastern state of Assam and will bid to buy British Petroleum's retail business in Malaysia and Singapore.

"The Board of IOC today cleared a proposal to buy Premier Oil's 35 per cent stake in Cachar block in Assam-Arakan basin that is estimated to hold 3-5 trillion cubic feet of gas and 175 million barrels of oil reserves," IOC chairman M. S. Ramachandran told reporters here.

IOC, the country's largest oil refining and marketing firm with almost no equity in upstream exploration,

will pay Premier Oil 0.95 million dollars including past.

Ramachandran said his company will also bid for buying BP Plc's entire holding of 70 per cent in BP Malaysia Bhd which owns 272 petrol stations and a 50 million litres terminal and has 10 per cent of Malaysia's fuel market and 13 per cent of LPG sales.

IOC will also bid to buy BP Singapore that owns 30 petrol stations with 12 per cent market share and LPG business.

"Our investment in buying BP's Malaysia and Singapore operations would be in excess of two billion rupees," he said adding IOC would next month submit an initial expression of interest and would submit price bid after it is shortlisted from amongst a host of international firms.

The company, which has already begun fuel retailing in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, is also keen on venturing into petrol and diesel marketing in Indonesia.

MNA/PTI

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.



US soldiers patrol the Iraqi town of Khaldiyyah on 2 Feb. —INTERNET

သားငယ်များ ပြည်ထောင်စု



Homeless Iraqi families demonstrate in the southern city of Basra on 27 Jan, 2004 after the British military had said they would be evicted from abandoned government houses, where they have been squatting since the war ended, according to protesters.

INTERNET

China to start astronaut training for "Shenzhou VI" in March

BEIJING, 3 Feb — China's astronaut team is to start training in March for the nation's second manned space flight on *Shenzhou VI*, reported the *Beijing Youth Daily* on Monday.

The 14 astronauts have been resting since Yang Liwei, a member of the team, completed China's first manned space flight in October last year. They have done only light physical training and reviewed flight operations.

The training for *Shenzhou VI* would be mainly based on the training

courses of *Shenzhou V*, said Huang Weifen, director in charge of selection and training of astronauts in China. However, some changes would be made as two astronauts were expected to fly in *Shenzhou VI*, the *Beijing Youth Daily* quoted Huang as saying.

The 14 astronauts, including Yang Liwei, will be

divided into seven pairs according to their characteristics and cooperation. Three pairs will form a new team for China's second manned space flight and, finally one pair will fly *Shenzhou VI*.

China has made plans to select and train new astronauts as the 14 astronauts are all over 30.

MNA/Xinhua

China takes action against junk e-mails

BEIJING, 3 Feb — China has launched a campaign to fight junk e-mails, or "spam", during the first half of 2004, reported the *China Police Daily* last Saturday.

According to the circular jointly issued by the Ministries of Public Security, Education, and Information Industry, and the Information Office of the State Council, the campaign will focus on e-mail service providers and institutions with over 1,000 e-mail subscribers, including colleges, universities, institutions, and enterprises.

Statistics show that last year, about 70 million junk e-mails went to domestic e-

mail boxes every day, including many which were pornographic or reactionary, or promoted gambling or spread computer viruses, said the *China Police Daily*.

Over 80 per cent of the country's e-mail boxes and over 90 per cent of the e-mail servers are to have taken prevention measures against spam by the end of June, said the circular.

It urged prosecution of those involved in criminal behaviour such as spreading

illicit material and viruses.

Local publicity departments in charge of on-line news should cooperate with the departments to fight spam and ensure the normal operation of e-mail services during the campaign, said the circular.

The circular also suggested legislation to regulate preventative measures and promote the sound development of Internet services in China.

MNA/Xinhua

Average working hours of Japanese rise in 2003

TOKYO, 3 Feb — The average monthly working time of Japanese wage earners in 2003 rose for the first time in three years to 152.3 hours, backed by a mild pickup in economic activity, the Labour Ministry said Monday.

The scope of the year-on-year increase came to 0.1 per cent mainly due to a 10.2-per-cent jump in overtime in the manufacturing sector, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said in a preliminary report.

These increases at companies with five or more employees appeared to reflect a moderate improvement in the state of the Japanese economy.

On the wage front, the overall average monthly wage for 2003 — comprising both regular and overtime pays — slipped 0.4 per cent to 341,820 yen (about 3,200 US dollars), representing the third straight yearly drop, the ministry said.

But the size of the year-on-year fall was smaller than that of the previous year.

Backed by the trend of growing overtime, the over-

time portion of the overall monthly wage gained 4.0 per cent, the first increase in three years, the ministry said.

As for the employment situation, the number of workers on regular payrolls sagged 0.5 per cent, marking the fifth straight year of decline. The ministry attributed the slide to growing moves among businesses to use part-timers instead of full-timers. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Civilian deaths resulting from indiscriminate shooting of US troops in Iraq

The US military was criticized for firing on demonstrators indiscriminately in Iraq. They enter people's homes by force and answer people's demonstrations with bullets. This is their democracy, mercy and compromise. US-led troops in Iraq faced tougher times after the war when missiles and planes do not have much use. Bloodshed in Iraq is not a trivial matter. It makes Iraqis more angry and Americans more violent.

Indiscriminate shooting of US troops in Iraq

Date	Location	Victims	Death toll
4-4-2003	US checkpoint in Baghdad	civilians	6
7-4-2003	Highway-1, Baghdad	civilians including an old man	15
11-4-2003	US checkpoint, Baghdad	civilian vehicle	3
15-4-2003	Mosul	crowd hostile to pro-US governor	15
16-4-2003	Mosul	crowds	4
28-4-2003	Baghdad	demonstrators	15
30-4-2003	Baghdad	demonstrators	3
8-6-2003	Fallujah	a civilian mistaken for assailant	1
18-6-2003	Baghdad	protesters	2
27-6-2003	Baghdad	a boy mistaken for sniper	1
27-7-2003	Karbala	demonstrators	2
8-8-2003	US checkpoint in Baghdad	civilians on board cars	6
16-8-2003	Basra	unarmed fishermen	2
6-9-2003	Polish checkpoint in southern Iraq	a minibus driver	1
13-9-2003	Nasriyah	demonstrators	12
20-10-2003	Fallujah	a truck driver and handcuffed Iraqi	2
27-10-2003	Fallujah	civilians vehicles	6
2-11-2003	near Balad	pickup trucks	6
11-11-2003	entrance to Fallujah	chicken farmer's truck	5
17-11-2003	Baghdad	shoppers	3
15-12-2003	Ramadi	protesters	2
Total			112



US troops opened fire on demonstrators in Fallujah, Iraq, on 30 April, 2003. The city's mayor said two people were killed and 14 wounded.



An Iraqi man lies dead in the street as others, some injured, scramble for safety in Fallujah, Iraq, on 30 April, 2003. US troops opened fire on demonstrators for the second time during the week as Iraqis marched on 30 April to protest the previous shooting.



Protesters march in the street in Fallujah, Iraq, on 30 April, 2003, minutes before US soldiers in a convoy opened fire on them.



Iraqi youth Abbas Abed Ageel, 20, lies in his hospital bed as a doctor looks at the bullet holes on his shirt after he was allegedly shot by British soldiers in unclear circumstances, at the Basra, on 5 May, 2003.

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

The Energy Searcher Drilling Machine at work at the Shwe-1 test well in Block No A-1, offshore Rakhine coast. According to the geological condition, the deposit may yield from 4.2 trillion to 5.8 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture Sown acreage	861000	1080674
Meat & fish Fresh & sea water prawn breeding pond (acres)	60000	155533
Union highways Yangon-Sittway Thandwe-Taungup-Yangon Thandwe-Gwa- Ngathaingchaung-Yangon Kyaukpyu-Yangon	- - - -	628 miles 323 miles 235 miles 548 miles
Road under construction or upgraded Gwa-Thandwe Road An-Padekaw-Ma-ei Road Taungup-Kyaukpyu Road Taungup-Ma-ei Road Yangon-Sittway Road	- - - - -	83 miles 44 miles 42 miles 40 miles 202 miles
Bridge Above 180 feet Under construction	- -	26 6



Kissapanadi Bridge in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

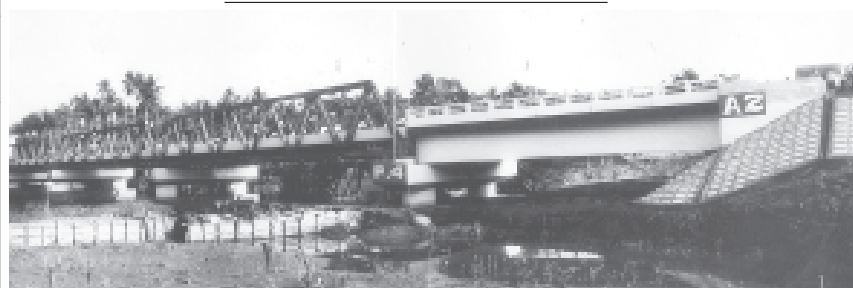


To promote the tourism industry, new hotels are being built while the old ones renovated. The photo shows Sittway Hotel in Sittway of Rakhine State.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Communication Post office Telegraph office Auto-exchange Auto telephone Dial telephone Ground satellite station Microwave station	44 20 16 800 700 - 5	80 25 41 2385 3429 1 10
Information Myanma Alin/Kyemon (sub-printing house) TV retransmission station	- 1	1 11
Education (basic) High school Middle school Primary school	36 109 2246	50 135 2517
Education (higher) University College	- -	1 3
Health Hospital (100-bed) Hospital (25-bed) Station hospital Rural health care centre Rural health care centre (branch) Nurses/midwifery training school	2 1 19 95 380 -	3 5 23 99 395 1



Sanepauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Road in An Township, Rakhine State.



Kinpon Bridge on Gwa-Thandwe Road in Rakhine State.

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



Unity is strength

Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address at the conclusion of the Special Refresher Course No 4 for University and College Teachers at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Yangon Division on 30 January 2004.

He said, "It is encouraging to see the fruits of success as Myanmar is promoting constructive relations and cooperation with the international community, neighbouring countries and regional countries."

"However, some big western countries are still putting pressure on Myanmar on various pretexts. Previously, they

accused Myanmar of violating human rights, and forced labour. Now, it is found that they have changed their course and start to open a new page on the accusation of child soldiers. Myanmar is trying to rebut their accusations by providing accurate data systematically."

The national brethren have achieved success in building foundations to develop the nation with Union Spirit since the Tatmadaw Government's assumption of the State power.

But the road that the Tatmadaw had marched to achieve the sound foundations was not smooth. It had to face a lot of hardships and difficulties to reach this point. It had to face the

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Foreign broadcasting stations harming the national unity



Those who were deceived by foreign radio stations to fled the country hold a news conference soon after arriving back to the motherland.

pressures and oppressions from inside and outside the nation. The media of neo-colonialist countries have been airing lies and slanderous accusations against Myanmar to transgress her independence and sovereignty.

The BBC and the VOA aired slanders with sinister schemes for the breaking out of the 1988

interview in which the so-called students cried and sobbed most emotionally while answering the questions of the interviewer. The programme was aired by the BBC at 8.45 pm on 6 August 1988. It was a big lie and an instigation to destroy the unity between the State and the national people.

But the girl who

to transgress Myanmar independence and sovereignty were exposed.

During the 1988 unrest, the two radio stations, without adhering to the journalism codes of conduct, continued to air rumours and lies to harm the interest of Myanmar and her people.

As the anarchy reigned over the nation during the time, the en-

tire people of Myanmar had nobody to rely on.

The national independence, sovereignty, unity and Union were on the verge of an abyss. In this regard, the Tatmadaw had to take over the State duties in accord with its national political role — to perpetuate the independence and sovereignty.

As things did not

Kyai Phyu

unrest. One of the slanders was that BBC correspondent Christopher Gunnis held a sham interview in which the interviewees said that they who had taken part in the unrest in March, were arrested and sexually assaulted. With the help of some unscrupulous persons, he created the in-

took part in the sham interview sent letters to the dailies in Myanmar by themselves on 23 August 1989, revealing that she did not participate in the unrest and was never arrested by the authorities; that she took part in the interview only at the request. The two radio stations' shameless attempts

The national brethren have achieved success in building foundations to develop the nation with Union Spirit since the Tatmadaw Government's assumption of the State power.

But the road that the Tatmadaw had marched to achieve the sound foundations was not smooth. It had to face a lot of hardships and difficulties to reach this point. It had to face the pressures and oppressions from inside and outside the nation. The media of neo-colonialist countries have been airing lies and slanderous accusations against Myanmar to transgress her independence and sovereignty.



Many persons who were misled by the foreign radio stations to arrive at the insurgent camps return to motherland after realizing the truth.

come their way, the neo-colonialists floated rumours through BBC, VOA and AIR under their control to destroy Myanmar.

They were trying to make the matters worse by exaggerating the news reports on the Tatmadaw actions to solve the problems as necessary for the restoration of peace and stability of the nation and the rule of law. The slanders to divide the Tatmadaw and the people had caused fear and public alarm. Some students arrived at the border through the connections of some members

(See page 9)

Foreign broadcasting stations harming the national unity



A book exposing all the big lies and slanders of the BBC and VOA.

(from page 8)
opposing the Government. In reality, it was the conspiracy of the foreign radio stations and internal anti-government elements to destroy the nation. It can also be said the political conspiracy of the leftists and rightists from inside and outside the country to grab power through short cut, with democracy as an excuse. Thus, we need to be aware of the scheme of the radio stations under the control of the colonialists to destroy the nation, and to weaken the unity of the national brethren and their Union Spirit.



A mother kisses her son who returns to the embrace of the motherland.



Tears of joy: the returnee from an insurgent camp receives a warm welcome from his family members.

Later, they continued to float slanderous news reports to discredit and ostracize Myanmar. They are still trying to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar. The BBC, the VOA and the AIR are airing almost daily the news reports and articles and interviews with the so-called academics to prevent foreign businesses and investment from coming to Myanmar. They are also floating slanders to disturb the international aids for the Tatmadaw Government's anti-narcotic drive, while exaggerating the nation's drug problem.

Everyday, they went on floating instigative

colonialists attempting to cause doubts among the national races and destroy the national unity, using the radio stations under their control as tools to realize their sinister aims. We all must have firm Union Spirit and political awareness.

We can prove with a lot of evidence that the radio stations are airing news reports and articles that are against our national development. They are trying to destroy the peace and understanding and drive a wedge between the Government and the armed groups that have returned to the legal fold.

Time and again, the radio stations are distrib-

news reports since the early 1999 to realize their scheme — the eruption of the four 9s unrest in 1999. They were shamelessly saying that cafes, shops and restaurants in Myanmar were closed for fear of the eruption of the four 9s unrest; that the religious buildings were deserted; and that soldiers were stationed at important places for national security. In reality, there were no disturbances and all the business and other activities were in normal situation in Myanmar. Public places and religious edifices were packed with people. There were no soldiers on the roads.

All those incidents were the acts of the

uting false information concerning the women-folk of Myanmar to divide their unity and discredit them. The team led by Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe of the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and the Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs have been touring the states and divisions to organize and educate the local young women from being deceived into accepting the wrong vision and believing the instigation.

These radio stations are also trying to destroy the friendly relations between Myanmar and her neighbours and to break up the ASEAN unity. They are working in ac-

Poem

Right up to the sky

With throne and palace
With strength that thunders to the sky
That was the era, if reminisced
Flag of patriotism keeps fluttering
To bring down all enemies to the ground
As if they were foot-scrappers
Bring them to the crouch and termination
Bravery and capability beyond belief
Known by all throughout the world
Myanmar's honour was truly high.

Regalia lost, palace lost and city lost
With the three losses, we were defeated
The glittering palace, razed as if firewood
But those ambers rose skyward
Burning furiously, threatening the enemy
While not frightened, independence
We demanded immediately
We got together in strength and fought
Not allowing aliens to take Myanmar
Allowing not to touch, we gave the battle cry
Bravely repulsed them and we won
Myanmar's pride shone as ever.

New era of history had dawned
We had known how we sank as slave
We've emerged as true heroes, patriots
We, the Myanmar nationals have
Have remained united, with one mind
With bravery and strength as that of the lion
United correctly, with togetherness
Act tenaciously, with strength of mind
Dignity of nation, shines like the Sun
Pride of Myanmar that persists
Will be strong and rise right up to the sky.

Khun Ye Thwe (Aye Thaya) (Trs)
(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)

We can prove with a lot of evidence that the radio stations are airing news reports and articles that are against our national development. They are trying to destroy the peace and understanding and drive a wedge between the Government and the armed groups that have returned to the legal fold.

cord with the wish of their colonial masters who do not want to see flourishing of friendship among the nations and who want to destroy regional peace and unity.

The acts of the BBC Chairman of the Board of Governors Mr Gavyn Davies and BBC Director-General Greg Dyke to broadcast false information on the death of armed inspector David Kelly and the Iraqi WMD were revealed. So, they had to resign from their posts in embarrassment. The radio station is still trying to manipulate the nations with its big lies. It is not strange that they are trying to transgress

Myanmar's independence and sovereignty with its lies. Thus the acts of the radio stations are against the endeavours for the flourishing of democracy. Their perpetration will make a nation further away from the course of democracy.

However, the slanderous news reports, articles, interviews and letters to the editor are not able to destroy the consolidated unity and strong Union Spirit of the Myanmar people and disturb the nation's march towards a peaceful, modern and developed democratic society in the future.

(Translation: TMT)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the Myanmar-Thai economic cooperation under the programme of Bagan Summit Economic Cooperation. — MNA

Coordination meeting on Myanmar-Thai economic cooperation held

YANGON, 3 Feb—A coordination meeting on Myanmar-Thai economic cooperation under the programme of Bagan Summit Economic Cooperation took place at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyitha here at 3 pm today with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and responsible officials.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the Strategic Summit on four nations—Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand—economic cooperation was held in Bagan in November 2003. At

the meeting, the four nations reached an agreement to ensure economic cooperation among the four nations or between the two nations, he added.

Under the agreement of Bagan Summit, Myanmar and Thailand held a coordination meeting for economic cooperation.

If factories and mills in Thailand are moved to and set up in Myanmar, it will not only create jobs in Myanmar but also benefit much both nations economically and socially, he noted.

In addition, the two nations reached an agreement to the effect that Thailand will provide aids to Myanmar to the most possible degree for development

of transport, industrial and infrastructure sectors and economic development. Therefore, the ministries concerned are to discuss the requirements including machinery that will contribute to development of transport, industry and economy, he stressed.

Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported on measures to be taken under the programme of Myanmar-Thai economic cooperation.

Next, ministers and deputy ministers reported on work to be carried out by the respective ministries under the programme of Myanmar-Thai economic cooperation. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Prime Minister.— MNA

State spending large amount...

(from page 16)

In the health sector, priority has been given to the health research and development.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, three Health Research Departments — one in the lower Myanmar, another in the upper Myanmar, and the other in the central Myanmar.

At present, the Government is striving for the nation to keep abreast with the global nations in terms of development. It is also making arrangements for all the people of Myanmar to fully enjoy the good results of progress and to further raise their economic and social standards.

With the hope of extending the public health care cover and capability, efforts are being made in all sectors for progress of the medical science in accord with the changing situations, for the health sector to apply the advanced technologies, and diagnosis, treatment and hospital equipment of the international level brands, and continuous emergence of the academics in the health field.

The health research sector plays a key role in development and success of the lofty national objectives, goals, national-scale health promotion programmes, and broader and delicate health care promotion projects in accord with the vision of the nation.

The health research sector will have to play a leading role for progress of all the branches of the health profession on common interest, harmonious development of the entire sector in line with the advancing international medical science, and enabling the health sector apply the most advanced equipment.

The researchers are required to make preparations in advance to address all the matters ranging from the national development and the raising of the social living standard to facing and solving delicate health problems and challenges resulting from global changes and the globalization process. In addition, systematic arrangements are also needed for the national health research work to meet the international level, the progress of the health research programmes that will effectively help promote the national health status, and the development of the health research programmes to address all the health hazards and programmes of the future. The State has been extending the special centres including the National Blood Research Centre, the National Poison Control Centre and the Hepatitis B vaccine factory to deal with the increasing and unusual health challenges.

Spending a large amount of capital, the State has been providing the advanced equipment for the research sector. And using advanced equipment including Capillary Electrophoresis or Automatic Micro Drug Analyzer, Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrophotometer, High Performance Liquid Chromatography, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, Fluorescent Spectrophotometer, Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer and Microfuge 22 R, the Government

is conducting advanced research programmes. Similarly, other sophisticated equipment including Pantro-60 Haematology Analyzer, Eliza Reader, Microwave Lab Station, Near Infrared Analyzer and Infrared Gas Monitor are being used in the research programmes.

He said the government spent nearly US \$ 700,000 for purchase of modern equipment used in research work in 2001 and 2002. He said modern equipment used in research were installed with the assistance of JICA, KOICA and IAEA. Therefore, Myanmar researchers can now conduct research on health. Moreover, he said, hepatitis-B vaccine factory is being built at a cost of US\$ 12.6 million. The hepatitis-B produced from blood serum and DNA-technology-used vaccine can be manufactured soon. He said now Myanmar researchers can do research on vaccine, blood and poison as the government has provided them with equipment used in research and other facilities.

In 2003 a significant achievement was made. Recently, the World Health Organization has acknowledged Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) as a WHO Collaboration Centre for Malaria. He said during the past ten years the department successfully and widely conducted over 400 research works relating to malaria, one of the priorities of the health problem in Myanmar. It was a honourable success both for the State and for respective researchers, he added. He said it was found that the department widely carried out various research works on dengue fever, reproductive health, elimination of leprosy. Its research works effectively contribute towards the health and fitness of the people, he said. He said the government is promoting traditional medicine research with high standard in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. With the aim of giving effective treatment to six major diseases, traditional research works were conducted. Arrangements are being made for systematic production of potent medicines for those diseases, he said.

At a time when health research works are successful, with the combination of the encouragement of the government, efforts of the researchers, all researchers and officials are to make continued efforts in development of health research, prevention of health problems from outbreak among the people and conducting regular research for prosperity of the nation and its people and health and fitness of the entire nation, he said.

He said the government has built necessary infrastructures and better foundations for keeping abreast with the international communities, uplift of health, fitness and education, turning out brilliant intellectuals and intelligentsia and high efficiency in various development sectors. It will continue to build them in accord with future requirements, he added. He said it is a national duty for the researchers and intellectuals and intelligentsia gathering here to endeavour for development, employing the better foundations effectively for national interest in accord with national objectives. He called on all the re-

searchers who are Myanmar citizens with patriotism, nationalist spirit, national solidarity spirit and the Union spirit to participate in marching toward the national goal of a peaceful, modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation hand in hand with other national forces.

In conclusion, he urged them to make efforts for development of health research works that bring about national interest with the aim of raising national health standard, emerging human resources on health of international standard and promoting health care services of the people and basic knowledge on health and to work hard for emergence of outstanding researchers with clear national outlook and progress of medical science and research development.

The Prime Minister and party observed research posters. Resource persons and researchers explained their works. They also visited medicines and medical equipment exhibition of Myanmar Medical Research Conference.

The Prime Minister posed for documentary photos together with the researchers. The conference continues till 7 February and 80 papers and 17 posters will be submitted to the congress.

MNA



Mr Kim Sun In and U Aye Ko present documents relating to the donations to Col Myint Maung. — PUPR

Ambulances donated

YANGON, 3 Jan — The SOS Dahan Motors Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea donated two ambulances to the Defence Service Medical Unit at the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Director of the Directorate of Medical Services Col Myint Maung, Commandant of No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed) Brig-Gen Min Naing, Commandant of the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) Lt-Col Tun Tun, officials, specialists, physicians and medical officers. Managing Director of the company Mr Kim Sun In and Director U Aye Ko presented documents related to the donations to Col Myint Maung, who next presented a certificate of honour to them. Afterwards, Col Myint Maung handed over an ambulance each to two hospitals. — MNA

Hailing the Leprosy Elimination Commemorative Day: 6-2-2004**Future programmes to be done after elimination of leprosy at country-level***Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein***Introduction**

Among nations of the world, Myanmar was once listed as one of the endemic countries. Anti-leprosy Campaigns had been marked as a prioritized programme and implemented after regaining independence since the initiation of National Health Plan. The plan launched in 1950-51 found out hyper-endemic nature of leprosy in the country. And when systematic surveys were done in 1973, the total patient outnumbered the expected one even up to 700,000 cases. (1973 LAT Results)

Experienced Problems

During those days, as the patients outnumbered the health workers in ratio, there were problems of giving treatment for every patient, taking daily doses by patients and ineffectiveness of Dapsone. Efforts were made to overcome the problems by inventing new tactics and doing therapeutic research.

Integrating Basic Health Services

To be able to give punctual medical treatment to patients, launching a treatment system integrated to basic health services and midwives, who have been working with full capacity reaching remote villages was considered commencing from 1969-70. Afterwards, not only giving therapeutic services to the old patients, tasks searching for new patients and giving educative talks on leprosy for the community have been also carried out under the supervision of the Health Assistance and Township Health Department Head (Township Medical Officers) and with the skilled technical assistance of the anti-leprosy campaign staff. Because of outstanding services of the midwives not only known patients were cured, but also new patients were discovered for treatment.

Benefit of MDT

Introduction of MDT programme in Myanmar in 1986 changed the history of fighting against leprosy by not only replacing un-effective Dapsone therapy, it also shortened the duration of treatment.

Assistance of Friendly Organizations

With the services offered by Basic Health Staff including the helpful midwives, the MDT treatment could be extended throughout the nation in 1995. To be able to perform in such a way, necessary assistance was given by the World Health Organization, the foundations, the agencies and the Global Alliance for the Elimination of Leprosy.

Leadership of the State

In accord with the guidance of the Union of Myanmar National Health Committee, under the leadership of Health Department and other departments, under the supervision and with the assistance of different regional administrative organizations, leprosy elimination tasks have been done successfully.

Reaching Objective Prior to the Schedule

For global elimination of leprosy, when the objectives had been laid down in 1991, at the World Health Assembly, though there were 122 countries listed as endemic, in other words, there were more than one leprosy patients in 10,000 population, there were only 15 countries including Myanmar in 2000. But the remaining countries had more extent of leprosy problem previously than the other countries. For the countries still listed as endemic, the target was reset to achieve elimination by the year 2005, but Myanmar achieves the set target prior to the schedule successfully. One of the causes of attaining the target is the health system practiced by the State. To achieve elimination of leprosy, not only the health services staff, such domestic forces as relevant departments, regional administrative organizations, the media personnel and entire citizens of Myanmar also actively participated in leprosy elimination endeavours.

An Advanced Step of Myanmar

In the Yangon Declaration issued by the Third Meeting of the Global Alliance for the Elimination of Leprosy, covered in Yangon, in February 2003, it emphasizes the need to accelerate the process of integrating the specialized leprosy-specific structures and provide leprosy services to all communities through the existing general health services, but as Union of Myanmar advanced one step forward hand in hand with health services staff and friendly organizations, such benefits were enjoyed.

Achievement of Myanmar and Congratulations of the World

To fight leprosy, the efforts had been made by Anti-Leprosy Campaign in 1950-51, and after 1970, inte-

gration with the basic health services staff; under the leadership of the regional authorities in 1997; with the participation and assistance of the social organizations and the media, more elimination tasks were carried out commencing from 1999, and rate of endemicity was gradually decreasing.

In 1988, the rate of leprosy patients to the country's population was 39.9 to 10,000 and at the end of 2002, the rate became 1.04 to 10,000, dropping in a short time. At the end of January 2003, it was less than 1 to 10,000 and it means the rate is even below the set leprosy elimination target. Therefore, at the Third Meeting of the Global Alliance for the Elimination of Leprosy, the World Health Organization and Union of Myanmar declared Myanmar attain Leprosy Elimination at the National Level. In the paragraph 6 of the Yangon Declaration issued at that GAEL meeting, it was stated unanimously: Congratulate the Government of the Union of Myanmar for setting a shining example by effectively applying the global strategy and reaching the national goal of elimination in a most cost-effective manner.

Current Situation

At the end of October 2003, the rate has become 0.6 to 10,000 only. 255,152 patients were free from leprosy after taking MDT.

According to the contagion nature of leprosy, and according to the patients' habits and their environment, communications, regional customary practices, commencement of elimination tasks, inaccessible to some of the remaining patients, occurrence of new patients from previously latent patients, to prevent the re-emergence of the disease, for elimination of leprosy in State and Division levels and township levels and to contain it, there are still tasks to be done. The rehabilitation care for the disabled persons is to be carried out.

Of a total of 324 townships in Myanmar, there are more than one patient per 10,000 in only 50 township. Elimination activities must be accelerated in those townships to reach a rate of less than 1 to 10,000 by the year 2005. It is necessary to take care of the remaining patients and the annual incident cases.

Elimination and Eradication

Some might think that elimination of leprosy means there are no more leprosy patients in the society. But eradication of a certain disease means all the diseased have been cured and germs causing the disease have been wiped out totally. Elimination of a disease means by reduction of the number of the diseased to an extent, contagion or infection of that disease amidst people has been contained and health, social and economic problems of the community caused by that disease have been prevented.

In every country including Myanmar which has achieved and sustained elimination, few leprosy patients would be seen in years to come. Unless the sustained measures would have been taken against the disease, as leprosy has been a chronic infectious disease, the quantity of patient would increase again.

Exposing and giving Treatment to the Remainder

We would like to present the nature of the remaining patients, here. Leprosy is being a contagious disease, the people who live closely with the patients have probability to contract the disease. On the other hand, as there have been wrong assumptions and superstition on leprosy contagion, the patient and the family stay away from the community and hide themselves. Only after organizing and educating them again and again, they come out to have medical treatment. Since some have no obvious symptom and as they have been casual labour, only when the symptom get worse, they rush to the health services. Some have gone back to their respective native places.

Tasks exposing the leprosy patients have been done giving more time and doing more carefully than the previous years. Whenever the hidden patients had been looked for the areas listed as endemic, at least one patient was found after combing through two or three villages until last three-four-year period. At present, to expose a patient, from 15 to 20 villages have been combed. Especially, those of the fringes of the urban areas, townships and districts have been left unexposed.

Also in townships, States and Divisions which have reached the goal of total elimination, to keep attaining the sustaining situations, the would-be new patients and patients among the migrants on social and economic grounds must be watched carefully and exposed

accordingly.

Having known the nature of the said patients; through proper educating, organizing and giving treatment; by extending the exposure of the reminding areas; by watching and investigating constantly the new residents; by using new means of effective case finding; the re-emergence of the disease must be checked according to the endemic nature.

Task to be done

The long term objectives of the leprosy elimination plan are: to attain total elimination stage throughout the nation; to sustain the present result; to make the would-be patients come out bravely to the health services and to make the community consider leprosy as other diseases. Moreover, tasks to prevent the patients not to be deformed and activities for rehabilitation must be carried out continuously.

Role of the Media and Social Organizations

Not only health services staff, but through various communication channels of the media and the social organizations also educate the communities from urban to primary rural areas, the state has been striving to let go the endemic grip of leprosy. Information on initial symptoms of leprosy, on being a curable disease, free treatment giving centers and personnel has been spreading rapidly among the public.

The facts to be emphasized and informed continuously are: leprosy is a contagious disease; traditional or customary assumptions are wrong: as it is being a disease which can be contagious in any social class, when anybody finds suspicious symptoms on the body should have a medical check-up; leprosy is similar to other diseases; it is a curable disease after taking proper medical treatment; and deformities caused by leprosy can be prevented by taking MDT.

The public, families and the patients should be given educative talks to speak out their suspicion of the disease. Cooperation with the able personnel of the different sectors, and by taking necessary measures, when the outlook and awareness of the patients and the public get improved, their manners, habits and living styles would be uniform in health knowledge.

Duty of Health Services Staff

Health services staff, based on their respective regional situation, have to accelerate the momentum of activities; to mark the places of the remaining patients; to give the patients proper treatment; to keep an eye on the situation of contagion; to sustain the elimination tasks to prevent leprosy re-emergence; to maintain the right outlook on leprosy among the community; to prevent the deformities and to rehabilitate the deformed patients.

Advantages of Leprosy Elimination

As Myanmar has attained the goal of eliminating leprosy, her people gain the under mentioned advantages; the patients have been cured from the disease; the patient and family members regain self-confidence in the community; since leprosy has been wiped out, number of disabled people have been reduced; as the rate of contagion has been lowered, people are free from leprosy; because of the participation of entire people in health sector, the nation attain the goal of eliminating leprosy, and that good experience can be used in other health activities; and as everyone with full national spirit, dutifully endeavours to get rid of leprosy, the State can stand tall among the nations of the world.

Conclusion

To be able to enjoy possessing the advantages of free from leprosy at country level evermore, and to attain the elimination at the remaining district and township levels by the year 2005, the relevant departments, internal and external organizations, foundation, agencies, the media, health services staff and the entire people have been urged to ardently carry out the elimination of leprosy tasks without hindering the current momentum.

Self-reliant tar road opened

YANGON, 3 Feb — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day, two tarred roads named Khayawa road and Kyeeni-Kyeewa road linking with Bogoyoke Road of Hawleek ward, Tachilek, were opened with ceremonies on 27 January 2004. Tachilek Station Commander Col Myint Hlaing, District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Zaw Moe Aye and Akha national race leader U Ahji formally opened the new roads. — MNA

(၇) (၈) (၉) (၁၀) စာသင်သားများအတွက်
သင်ရိုးညွှန်းတမ်းနှင့်အညီ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ သင်ခန်းစာများပါရှိပါသည်။



JUNIOR LEADER

အတွဲ(၅) အမှတ် (၄၆) ပြန်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာအုပ်စင်လုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ စာပေဓာနစာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လိုသူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

TRADE MARK CAUTION
NOTICE is hereby given that LUXOTTICA S.R.L. of Via Valcozzena 10, 32021 AGORDO (province of Belluno), Italy is the Owner and proprietor of the following trademark:-

PERSOL

(Reg: No. IV/2726/1997 & Reg: No. IV/3950/2003) in respect of:- "Scientific, nautical, surveying, electric, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring, signaling, checking (supervision), life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound of images; magnetic data carriers, recording discs, automatic vending machines and mechanism for coin-operated apparatus; cash registers, calculating machines, date processing equipment and computers; fire-extinguishing apparatus; software" - Int'l Cl: 9

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win, B.Com., B.L for LUXOTTICA S.R.L. P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon. Phone: 372416 Dated: 4th February 2004

Lawyer says Belgian police detain Bahraini royal

BRUSSELS, 3 Feb — Belgian police pulled a member of the Bahraini royal family on a business trip off an airliner, detained and questioned him, his lawyer said on Sunday. French lawyer Sylvain Maier told Reuters that Fawaz Abdullah Mohammed al-Khalifa, head of the private office of the King of Bahrain, had been in Belgium to meet local authorities and business officials about investments when the incident occurred.

Shortly before he was due to fly to Berlin last Thursday, two police officers asked him to leave the plane to check his identity and searched his personal belongings, the lawyer said.

He said al-Khalifa, 33, who was carrying a special passport identifying him as a member of the royal family, was interrogated "like a criminal" for several hours before being allowed to continue his journey.

The Kortrijk public prosecutor's office said an investigation was under way and he could not comment.

The Belgian Foreign Ministry denied there had been any incident involving a Bahraini official. "We have no indication of an incident with a diplomat, senior civil servant or politician from Bahrain," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လှည့်အားပေးပါ

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (077)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (077) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE
CONTAINER LINE

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့
ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် ၆/၂၀၀၄
(၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၇ ရက်)
လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အဖွဲ့အစည်းနှင့်ဆက်သွယ်ရန်အတွက် အဖွဲ့အစည်း၏ ဌာနတွင် လက်လှည့်လှည့်စား အောက်ဖော်ပြပါရာထူးအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများ အလုံလုံပါသည်။

ရာထူး: ပညာအရည်အချင်း: လစ်လပ်
ဦးစီးအရာရှိ တိရစ္ဆာန်မဟာဆေးသိပ္ပံ (M.V.Sc) ၈ နေရာ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-

(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။

(ခ) ၂၄-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၄-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက် စာပို့ရမည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့်စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၆/-ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နည်းလမ်း၊ ချေးမြဲ နှုတ်ဖြေစစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့ကကြေညာချက်အမှတ် ၁/၉၁ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် ၆/၂၀၀၄ နေ့တွင် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၅။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့် မန္တလေးမြို့များတွင် ရေးမြေစာမေးပွဲစာစစ်ဌာနများထားရှိမည်။ မိမိမြေဆိုလိုသောစာစစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်းတိကျစွာ ဖော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ နှစ်ပြုချက်ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၄-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက်စာပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို ဓာတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်စာပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၁၃-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ နံနက် ၁၄-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ်ရေးမြေ စာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။ ၁၁-၂-၂၀၀၄ နေ့မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်းအေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီရုံးနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးတို့တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတ်ပြားများကိုထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စုံစမ်းဆန်းခြုံငုံလိုပါက ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း၊ ခရိုင်နှင့် မြို့နယ်အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီရုံးများ၊ ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်း၊ မြို့နယ်အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာနရုံးများတွင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် (၃၇၈၁၆၃)သို့ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

France's "tough cop" Sarkozy bolts from hecklers

PARIS, 3 Feb — A Saturday visit to a Paris subway turned nasty for France's tough Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy when youths besieged his entourage, heckling and hissing at him, French newspapers reported on Sunday.

According to France's *Le Journal du Dimanche* news-

paper, Sarkozy — who has run a successful anti-crime campaign — turned up at the sprawling Les Halles station to discuss public transport security measures with regional police.

The atmosphere turned tense when some youths started hissing and hurling insults at his bodyguards ral-

MyDoom net worm scores hit, knocks out SCO site

LONDON, 3 Feb — The MyDoom Internet worm claimed its first scalp on Sunday, paralysing the web site of American software firm SCO Group <SCOX.O> with a massive data blitz.

In a statement issued on Sunday morning, the Utah-based company confirmed MyDoom knocked its site, <http://www.sco.com>, out of commission.

"Internet traffic began building momentum on Saturday evening and by midnight Eastern Time the SCO web site was flooded with requests beyond its capacity," the statement read.

"While we expect this attack to continue throughout the next few weeks, we have a series of contingency plans to deal with this problem and we will begin communicating those plans on Monday morning," Jeff Carlon, worldwide director of Information Technology infrastructure, The SCO Group, said in the statement.

The speed and severity of the attack surprised security officials. "It was spectacularly successful," said Mikko Hypponen, research manager at Finnish anti-virus firm F-Secure.

As intended, Sco.com was the only discernible victim on Sunday. There were no other reports of outages or slowdowns elsewhere online due to the worm.

MyDoom.A, also known as Novarg or Shimgapi, emerged on Monday in the form of a spam e-mail message that contained a well-disguised virus attachment.

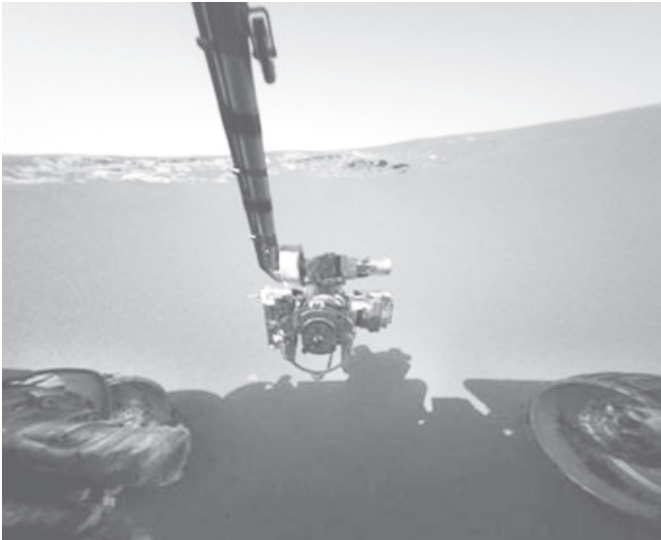
It was programmed to take control of unsuspecting computer users' PCs from which it would launch a debilitating denial-of-service attack on SCO on Sunday.

SCO has drawn the ire of the so-called "open source" programming community who object to SCO's claims they have copyright control over key pieces of the Linux operating system.

MNA/Reuters

Donate blood

မညာရက်ဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု



NASA unveiled Monday, on 2 Feb, 2004, this photograph of the Mars rover Opportunity's robotic arm as it stretched over the surface of Mars. NASA's Opportunity and its twin Spirit reached out their complex robotic arms to touch the surface of Mars on Monday, marking the first day of the joint \$820 million mission when both unmanned spacecraft were in full swing.—INTERNET

Mars rover "Spirit" declared healthy again by NASA

LOS ANGELES, 3 Feb—NASA's Mars rover *Spirit* was up and running again on Sunday for the first time since it developed communications problems 10 days ago, and just a day after its twin *Opportunity* rolled onto martian soil on the other side of the planet.

With *Spirit* declared "healthy" again, NASA said it was the first time in history that two mobile robots were exploring the surface of another planet at the same time.

"We have confirmed that *Spirit* is booting up normally. Tomorrow we'll be doing some preventive maintenance," said Dr Mark Adler, mission manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. NASA scientists were able to restore *Spirit* to working order by deleting thousands of files, many left over from its seven-month flight to Mars, from its flash memory—a type of re-writable electronic memory that retains information even when power is off.

Spirit had trouble managing its flash memory, triggering its computer to reset itself about once an hour. Two days after *Spirit*'s problems arose on January 22, engineers began sending commands to the rover every day that avoided use of its flash memory.

Now, however, *Spirit*'s computer is stable even when operating in the normal mode,

which utilizes its flash memory, NASA scientists said.

But to be safe, NASA will reformat *Spirit*'s flash memory on Monday and "start again with a clean slate," Adler said. Everything stored in *Spirit*'s flash file system will be erased and a clean version of the flight software will be installed.

Spirit, which landed in Mars' Gusev Crater on January 3, will over the next few days complete its examination of the surface of a football-shaped rock nicknamed Adirondack, which it was exploring when it short-circuited, NASA said.

The rover will then make its way toward a crater nicknamed Bonneville about 800 feet away, taking time to investigate two nearby pale rocks dubbed Cake and Blanco.

The golf cart-sized *Spirit* and *Opportunity* are each equipped with a mobile laboratory of geologic tools designed to search for evidence that there was once potentially life-sustaining water on the barren martian surface.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia allocates funds for youth development programme

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Feb—The government has allocated 368.42 million US dollars for youth development programmes this year and next year, a senior official said on Monday.

The sum was part of the total allocation of 5.2 billion ringgit (1.36 billion US dollars) set aside for the youth development under the Eighth Malaysia Plan (2001-2005). Deputy Finance Minister Shafie Salleh said at a gathering in Banting, central Malaysia.

For the 2001-2003 period, one billion US dollars was spent for running 624 courses in industrial, business and management training, benefiting 27,646 youths, he said.

Among the programmes planned for 2004 and 2005 were entrepreneur develop-

ment, healthy lifestyle, rehabilitation, sports, social and leadership courses, the official said.

Also under the Eighth Plan, a total of 6.68 billion US dollars had been allocated for family and community development programmes to benefit women, children and youths, he said.

According to the 2003 statistics, of the 4.7 million youths between the ages of 15 and 24, about 52.1 per cent were working while the rest had either just completed their education or undergoing training.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai Royal project wins global prize for crop substitution

BANGKOK, 3 Feb—A project sponsored by the King of Thailand has shone over 300 agencies from around the world to win the prestigious Colombo Plan award for solving the problem of opium poppy cultivation, according to the *Thai News Agency* Sunday.

Announcing the award Saturday, Pornnan Phusawang, head of the Royal Project Foundation's Public Relations Department, said that the project had received the Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) award in Sri Lanka last December.

The Royal Project Foundation, which works on crop

substitution in Thailand's mountainous regions, was praised for being the only organization in the world to successfully solve the problem of opium poppy cultivation.

The Colombo Plan was established in 1951 to develop the economy and society in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The DAP was set up as a

drugs advisory panel in 1972, with support from the United States Government.

The Royal Project Foundation was selected from among over 300 organizations from the Colombo Plan's 24 member states.

Other awards were won by projects in Sri Lanka and India, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Guangdong-France trade surged 13.7% in 2003

GUANGZHOU, 3 Feb—Trade between China's Guangdong Province and France surged 31.7 per cent year-on-year to reach 2.89 billion US dollars last year, accounting for 21.6 per cent of the total trade volume between China and France.

Among European countries, France is the fourth biggest trade partner of Guangdong.

The trade volume between Guangdong and France, reached 19.22 billion US dollars in the 10-year period from 1994 to 2003, Customs figures show. Guangdong has reported increasing exports to France since 1995, with the annual trade surplus reaching 350 million US dollars between

1995 and 2001.

Benefiting from China's entry to the World Trade Organization in late 2001, Guangdong's exports to France expanded, with its trade surplus surging to 540 million US dollars in 2002 and 1.33 billion US dollars last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing reported record software exports in 2003

BEIJING, 3 Feb—China's capital, Beijing, reported record software exports worth 138 million US dollars in 2003, up 48.2 per cent from the previous year, according to Customs statistics.

Beijing took the leading position both in the growth rate and the trade volume of software exports, which accounted for 37 per cent of the total from 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in the country.

Exports to Japan, a key receiver, reached 94.9 million US dollars, or 68.8 per cent of its total last year, when software exports to South Korea also increased.

Foreign-funded enterprises were the main exporters, accounting for 90 per cent, while the state-owned companies exported 8.48 million US dollars of software, rising by 64.3 per cent from 2002.—MNA/Xinhua

US, Europe deadlocked over satellite navigation

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—US and European negotiators have failed to break a deadlock over signal structure for Europe's planned multi billion-dollar *Galileo* satellite navigation tool, a European spokesman said Sunday night.

The United States has offered to share its satellite know-how if the Europeans accept a US-proposed technical standard. But some critics say the offer is designed to serve US commercial interests under the guise of promoting national security.

"We agree it would be good that we both use the same frequency," said Anthony Gooch, a spokesman in Washington for the European Commission, which is negotiating on behalf of the 15-nation European Union.

But in talks that wound up here Friday, the EC stuck to its preferred option—known as Binary Offset Carrier or BOC (1.5, 1.5)—rather than accepting the US-backed structure known as BOC 1.1. Gooch said.

"And we hope the US will see the merits of adopting 1.5" for the civilian

signal on its own next generation of Global Positioning System satellites, he said.

Both the United States and the EU want *Galileo* and GPS—a dual-use system to support both civil and military users—to mesh as seamlessly as possible for the benefit of users, manufacturers and service providers.

Any harmonization agreement could unleash vast private-sector investments in the so-called Open Service of Europe's planned 30-satellite *Galileo* system, which is scheduled to begin operations in 2008.

The EC holds that the 1.5 signal would give consumers far more accuracy than the one pushed by Washington, and Europeans are keen to have a "state-of-the-art" system, Gooch said.

MNA/Reuters



A computer image shows three satellites that will form part of the European *Galileo* navigation system network. The EU welcomed signs that the US is overcoming its objections to the *Galileo* system.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Inter's Materazzi in trouble after punch-up

MILAN, 3 Feb— Inter Milan defender Marco Materazzi faces a fine from his club and a possible suspension from soccer authorities after hitting Siena defender Bruno Cirillo at the end of a Serie A match at the San Siro Stadium.

Materazzi, who is out injured, did not feature in the Inter team who beat Siena 4-0 on Sunday but clashed with Cirillo in the tunnel of the stadium after the final whistle.

Cirillo later appeared on Italian television with a thick lip and a cut face. "This is what Materazzi did to me," said Cirillo. "I want to say it to everyone so that the people know who that person is."

He said Materazzi had been taunting him from the sideline throughout the game and then hit him in the tunnel.

Italy international Materazzi apologized saying there had been a "scuffle" but added that it was former Inter defender Cirillo who had confronted him after the game.

Inter president Giacinto Facchetti, who was attending his first game since taking over as club president from Massimo Moratti, said Materazzi would face sanction.

"I am not interested in knowing who was in the right. I know only that certain things should not happen and for that reason the player will be punished," said Facchetti.

MNA/Reuters

Italian Serie A match reports

ROME, 3 Feb— Reports of Serie A matches played on Sunday:

Ancona 0 — Lecce 2

Giovanni Galeone's first game in charge at winless Ancona started poorly when Uruguayan international Ernesto Chevanton scored just 47 seconds into the match.

Lecce doubled their lead when Cedric Konan added a second on the hour mark as the visitors came away with a vital victory in their plight to avoid the drop.

Juventus 1 — Chievo Verona 0

Mauro Camoranesi's 10th-minute volley was enough to give defending champions Juventus all three points against Chievo Verona.

Luigi Del Neri's side have lost all six meetings against Juve, who attacked from the start and could have added to the score but for poor finishing from striker Marco Di Vaio. With the win, Marcello Lippi's side remain five points behind AC Milan, but are now level with AS Roma on 43 points.

Perugia 2 — Parma 2

Winless Perugia began brightly with

Dario Hubner giving them an eighth-minute lead but the score was level after 35 minutes when Alberto Gilardino dribbled past two defenders and lifted the ball over sliding keeper Zeljko Kalac.

Domenico Morfeo put Parma deservedly ahead with a powerful close-range blast two minutes later, but four minutes before the break Brazilian Ze Maria restored parity with a dubious penalty, awarded for a foul on Hubner.

Udinese 1 — Modena 0

A last-gasp free-kick two minutes into injury-time by substitute Vincenzo Iaquinta gave Udinese an unexpected victory over relegation strugglers Modena, who had dominated the match.

Modena forward Stephen Makinwa almost put them in front on 23 minutes when he broke clear of the defence but, after rounding keeper Morgan DeSanctis, his effort came off the post.

MNA/Reuters

Primera Liga reports

MADRID, 3 Feb— Brief reports of matches played in the Primera Liga on Sunday:

Barcelona 5 — Albacete 0

Barca bounced back from the disappointment of their midweek exit from the King's Cup with their biggest win of the season.

Midfielder Xavi put them ahead with a deflected shot on 16 minutes and the Catalans put the result beyond doubt with four more goals in the second half.

Argentine striker Javier Saviola, winger Ricardo Quaresma and new signing Edgar Davids made it 4-0 before substitute Luis Enrique completed the rout, racing clear to score a minute into injury time.

Albacete were reduced to 10 men when midfielder Ludovic Delparte was sent off 13 minutes from time for a second booking.

Deportivo Coruna 1 — Sevilla 0

Deportivo stayed in touch with the top two thanks to this narrow home win over a determined Sevilla, who have now lost three in a row.

Striker Diego Tristan scored the only goal of a tight contest when he cracked in a 28th-minute penalty, having been held back in the area by Sevilla defender Pablo Alfaro.

Murcia 1 — Real Zaragoza 0

Murcia recorded their second win of the season, and their first under John Toshack, against fellow strugglers Zaragoza, but it

was not enough to lift them off the bottom of the table.

Striker Richi scored the winner when given time and space to turn on the edge of the area, steering the ball wide of Zaragoza keeper Cesar Lainez 10 minutes before the break.

Real Mallorca 1 — Athletic Bilbao 3

Bilbao renewed their challenge for a place in Europe with an emphatic win over disappointing Mallorca.

Midfielder Francisco Yeste caught Mallorca keeper Leo Franco off guard when he struck with a quickly taken 25-metre free kick on 18 minutes, but the islanders levelled before the break when defender Carlos Gurpegi turned a Arnold Bruggink free kick into his own net.

Bilbao went ahead again when Joseba Etxeberria headed in at the near post on 58 minutes after good work from fellow midfielder Santi Ezquerro and victory was ensured late on when Franco scored an own goal after miscuing a clearance.

Real Sociedad 1 — Racing Santander 0

Sociedad continued their early year revival with a fifth consecutive win, ending Racing's six-match unbeaten run into the bargain.

MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's Luis Garcia (R) runs for the ball challenged by Albacete's Paco Pena during their Spanish first division match in Barcelona on 1 Feb, 2004. Barcelona won 5-0.

INTERNET

Federer storms to Australian Open title

MELBOURNE, 3 Feb— Switzerland's Roger Federer demolished Russian Marat Safin 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 to win the Australian Open on Sunday.

Wimbledon champion Federer celebrated his ascent to the top of the world rankings with a second grand slam title, outclassing Safin in an awe-inspiring display on Rod Laver Arena.

"What a great start to the year for me to win this Australian Open and to become number one in the world. Now to fulfil my dream...is

great," said Federer.

Second seed Federer assured he will become the first Swiss man to reach number one in the world by thrashing Juan Carlos Ferrero in the semifinals.

Former number one Safin, who has slumped to 86th in the rankings after an injury-plagued 2003, had beaten top seed Andy Roddick and defending champion Andre Agassi on his way to the final.

However, the 2002 runner-up simply had no answer to Federer's power and precision.

Federer won a see-saw first set on a tiebreak, taking it 7-3 with a pummeling forehand down the line.

He then broke Safin in the fifth game of the second and closed out the set with a big serve down the middle to take a stranglehold on the

match.

Federer seized a double break in the third set with a whipped forehand pass to take a 4-1 lead and the 22-year-old put an exasperated Safin out of his misery on his first match point, forcing him into a wild forehand after two hours, 15 minutes.

"Congratulations to Roger. First of all becoming number one in the world and beating me today... (it) was really impressive tennis," said Safin.

"I'm very glad to be in the finals again and play my best tennis after the injuries last year. I'm really sorry I just ran out of gas today."

Safin, the 2000 US Open champion, was bidding to become the first unseeded player to win the Melbourne title since Australian Mark Edmondson in 1976.

MNA/Reuters



Roger Federer of Switzerland poses with the winner's trophy as the crowd cheers at a photo shoot following his victory over Marat Safin of Russia in the men's final at the Australian Open in Melbourne.—INTERNET

Nigerian Obiorah re-joins Lokomotiv Moscow

Moscow, 3 Feb— Nigerian striker James Obiorah left Spanish Second Division side Cadiz to re-sign with Lokomotiv Moscow for a two-year contract, the Russian Premier Soccer League club said on Sunday.

Obiorah, 25, who played for Lokomotiv from 2001 to 2003, was the club's leading scorer in his first season. During his stay in Moscow, he had run-ins with the Lokomotiv management before being axed in May 2003.

Lokomotiv coach Yuri Syomin said: "We parted company with Obiorah then but kept close tabs on him since ... he is a talented player and when we found out that he wouldn't mind coming back here we decided to give him another chance."

Obiorah is eligible to play for the Russians in the Champions League this season when Lokomotiv faces Monaco in the first knockout round on February 24 and March 10.

MNA/Xinhua

Minister attends meetings on energy in India and Malaysia

YANGON, 3 Feb — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the meeting on the Prospects of Cooperation between India and Myanmar in Energy and Gas sectors held in India and the meeting on Promotion of Myanmar Offshore Gas Production held in Malaysia.

On 29 January morning in India, the minister met with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India Mr Ram Naik, State Minister Mdm Mahajan and officials and discussed with them matters related to co-

operation in gas production between the two countries and the exploitation of gas found at Rakhine offshore in Myanmar.

The minister also met with officials of Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) that produces and sells gas most in India and Angelique International Ltd that will sell gas pipes to Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and discussed the more exploitation of oil and gas in Rakhine offshore and the early shipment of the gas pipes. During his stay in India, the minister also met with staff and

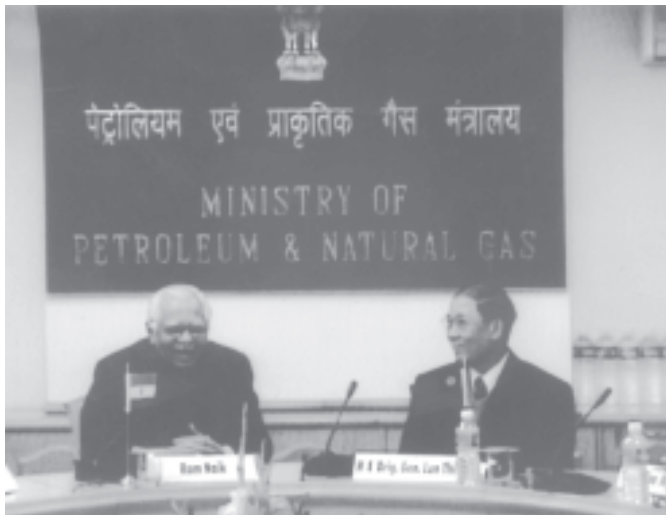
families of Myanmar Embassy in India and explained to them the economic and political developments in Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation led by the minister proceeded to Malaysia on 31 January and there he met with officials of a Malaysian oil company. They discussed matters on the speedy realization of oil and gas exploitation businesses in Taninthayi offshore and arrangements for putting the gas into the market.

The minister arrived back here yesterday and

was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, and heads of departments of the Ministry of Energy.

Those who accompanied the minister Director-General of the Energy Planning Department U Soe Myint, Adviser to the Ministry of Energy U Tin Myint, and Assistant Executive Engineer of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise U Kyaw Khine Thein also arrived back on the same flight. *MNA*



Minister for Energy of Myanmar Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India Mr Ram Naik seen at the meeting. — MNA

Entry photos invited for Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo competition

YANGON, 3 Feb — The work committee for 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 Commemorative Literary and Colour Photo Competition will organize colour photo competitions. Two titles for the colour photo competition are 'Prosperous and pleasant Myanmar' and 'Preserve cultural heritage'. Any photo enthusiasts can send up to four entries for each title.

The size of the print photo entry should measure 10" by 12" and above. As those who had won first, second and third prizes in previous similar competitions will be categorized into separate groups, it means that there are many chances of winning prizes for those who have not yet won any prizes.

The negative must be presented should the entry win a prize in the competition. Data and caption regarding the photo should be provided on a separate sheet of

paper and enclosed. If there are any models in the photo, their consent will be needed.

The entry photo must be a never-before-published work and prize-winning work of local and foreign photo competitions. The entry photos taken by digital camera will not be considered.

Winners standing first, second and third will be awarded in Yangon on 27 March 2004, when the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day will be observed.

Consolation prizes will also be given to winners at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremonies to be held at the military command and LID concerned. The entry photos should be sent to U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, No 22/24, Pansodan Street, Yangon, before 29 February. — MNA

Coord meeting on treatment of severe malaria held

YANGON, 3 Feb — A coordination meeting on a multi centre randomised comparison of artesunate versus quinine in the treatment of severe malaria in Myanmar was held at the meeting hall of National Health Committee, the Ministry of Health on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road

in Dagon Township here this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Present at the meeting were Myanmar Ambassador to UK Dr Kyaw Win, directors-general of the departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, directors, profes-

sors, officials of Directorate of Medical Services, Dr F H Nosten of Wellcome Trust of UK and members of Malaria Research Collaboration in Myanmar Task Force Committee.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Ambassador Dr Kyaw Win made speeches at the meeting. — MNA.

Myanmar Health Research Congress begins

YANGON, 3 Feb — The first-day session of Myanmar Health Research Congress of the Ministry of Health took place at the meeting hall of the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township here this morning.

On the occasion, resource persons read out their papers, followed by discussions held by researchers. A total of 22 papers were read out at today's congress and those present raised queries concerning the papers.

The conference continues till 7 February, and the best fundamental research, practical research and health research awards and the best poster award will be presented to winners on the last day of the conference. — MNA



Wednesday, February 4

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music
- 9.15 am** News/Slogan
- 9.20 am** Lunch time music
- 9.25 am** - Every morning (Sugar Ray)
- 9.30 am** - Don't hate me (Medasun)
- 9.35 am** 57th Anniversary Union Day Commemorative Talk "The Traditional Kachin Manaw Festival"
- 9.40 am** Article/Music
- 9.45 am** Music at your request
- 9.50 am** - Urgently in love (Billy Crowford)
- 9.55 am** - Especially for you (Eylie Minogue)
- 10.00 am** News/Slogan
- 10.05 am** PEL

Major gas find in Myanmar*

Prognosticated reserves 14 to 42 trillion cubic feet.

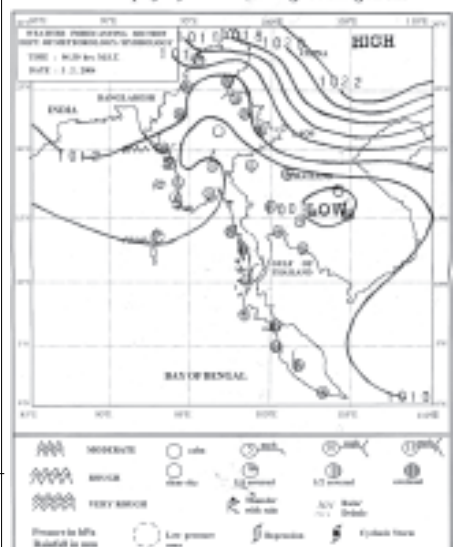
Gail to bring its share of equity gas to India.

In addition, Gail partners in 4 onshore and 7 offshore domestic blocks.



News on major gas find in Myanmar featured in *β*30-1-2004 issue of *Hindustan Times*. — ENERGY

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 3 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C above normal in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, 5°C above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 2-2-2004 was 36.0°C. Minimum temperature on 3-2-2004 was 16.0°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-2-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 2-2-2004 was 7.6 hours approx. Rainfall on 3-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3mm at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from East at 14:30 hours MST on 2-2-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 4-2-2004:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing 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:** Partly cloudy in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-2-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-2-2004:** Partly cloudy.

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

State spending large amount of capital, providing advanced equipment for health research programmes

Myanmar Health Research Congress opens

YANGON, 3 Feb — The Myanmar Health Research Congress of the Ministry of Health began at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the NHC members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the chairman and members of the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science, directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Health, deputy directors-general, advisers, rectors, professors, medical superintendent, members of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Nurses Association,

Myanmar Dental Association, Myanmar Health Assistants Association and the respective bodies for holding the congress, officials, resource persons and academics.

The Prime Minister said that at present, the objective—health and fitness of the entire nation—has been laid down and efforts are being made in all sectors to raise the national health standard.

At this juncture, the holding of the annual congress in which the research-

ers of multi branches of the health sector are the participants will contribute much to their professional skills and the national interest. Holding of the congress annually will produce many sound results including the opportunity to share and exchange the research finds and effectively apply them in the respective fields of the health care sector.

The research and development sector plays a vital role in helping develop a nation. Thus, the sector is

not only important for researchers, but also for the State officials and management officials. The countries of the world are striving in competition to conduct advanced research programmes in the interest of the nation and the people. The Union of Myanmar is giving encouragement to the progress of the well-developed research work in harmony with the science and technological advancement in all the development sectors.

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech at the opening of Myanmar Health Research Congress.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 3 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Emeritus Professor of Hitotsubashi University of Japan Komosuke Odaka,

leader of Task Force of the Japan-Myanmar Cooperation for Economic Structural Adjustment, and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 4.45 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and

Training Board Dr Than Nyun, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Emeritus Professor Komosuke Odaka.—MNA

Myanmar pledges K 1,546,635 for UNICEF activities

YANGON, 3 Feb — At the 2003 UN Pledging Conference for UNICEF held on 21 January 2004 in New York, Myanmar pledged a sum of Kyats 1,546,635 for UNICEF activities, it is learnt. —MNA

Cruise-liner "Thanlwin" to leave for Kawthoung

YANGON, 3 Feb — With the sponsorship of the Ministry of Transport, the Cruise-liner "Thanlwin" of the Myanma Five Star Line will leave Thakayta Jetty at 3 pm on 12 February 2004 for Kawthoung. The trip covers Thahtay Island and Salone Island. Ten per cent discount is offered to those who were on a trip to the Coco Island.

Available on board are Chinese, Myanmar and European foods with Karaoke and entertainment programmes. Ship fare (ordinary class) is K 50,000 per head (native) and children are admitted half-price, and 300 units for a foreigner. Companies and organizations can enjoy special rate.

Tickets are available at Yamonna Co Ltd, No 11/A, Myaynu Street, Myenigon (Tel: 526722), Shwe Ein Gabar Co Ltd, No 251, first floor (right), 37th Street (Upper), Kyauktada (Tel: 09-99-26131, 249118, OCEANWIDE International Myanmar, No 277, Bo Gyoke Aung San Street, Aisa Plaza, room No 23, 7th floor, (Tel: 240875) and U Myint Soe (Tel: 224489). —MNA