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Thursday, 5 February, 2004

National policy that must always be safeguarded

National policies to be embraced and implemented by successive generations of all the national people of the Union have already been laid down with aims of perpetuating of the future Union and promoting of the interests of the Union by the entire national people of the Union. Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty are national conviction and national concepts of all national races of the Union, and accordingly these conviction and concepts are the most important national policy that must always be safeguarded by all Union nationals.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 52nd Anniversary Union Day.)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets U Maha Ja of the national race group of Homein region. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Homein region national race group

YANGON, 4 Feb — Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received the national race group of Homein region led by U Maha Ja at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta, here at 5 pm today.

Also present were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and senior officials of the Military Intelligence.

Leaders of the group said that their group would make harmonious efforts with the leadership of the State. They then presented plans for the State to render assistance in the education, health, agricultural, transport and economic sectors for regional development. — MNA

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23,085

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives U Maha Ja and party of Homein region national race group. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 February, 2004

For development of medical science and health research

It hardly need be emphasized that research and development plays a pivotal role in bringing about the development of a nation. This being the case, every nation in the world tries to serve the best interest of their people by focusing their attention on research and development. The Union of Myanmar is also encouraging research and development work in every sector.

The opening ceremony of the Myanmar Health Research Congress of the Ministry of Health took place at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Yangon on the morning of 3 February and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of the National Health Committee, delivered a speech on the occasion. The Prime Minister, in his address, said that, at a time when the Government was expending its efforts to raise the health standard of people by laying down the noble objective, viz, health and fitness of the entire nation, the annual holding of the congress with full participation of researchers from all areas of medical science would contribute a lot to the professional skills of the researchers as well as to the national interests. Moreover, the congress will enable the researchers to exchange experiences and to apply the findings of their research effectively in the health care services.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, health research departments were opened not only in the City of Yangon but also in the Upper and the Lower Myanmar. Moreover, the Government has opened the National Blood Research Centre, the National Poison Control Centre and the Hepatitis B Vaccine Factory to deal with various health challenges and spent a lot of money on health research facilities, about US\$ 700,000 in the years 2001 and 2002 to say exactly. Researches on Myanmar traditional medicines are being encouraged to be able to treat the six major diseases with traditional medicines and production of traditional medicines are well under way.

We would like to call upon all those responsible and researchers to try to the best of their abilities for the development of medical science and health research.



The delegation seen before departure for Japan at the Yangon International Airport. — UMFCCI

Delegation leaves for Japan

YANGON, 4 Feb— A 36-member delegation of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry led by UMFCFI Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing left here by air yesterday evening to attend the Sixth Joint Meeting of Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee (MJBCC) to be held in Tokyo, Japan, on 5 February.

UMFCCI President U Win Myint and officials saw them off at the Yangon International Airport. — 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, 4 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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

Japanese delegation calls on UMFCCI General Secretary

YANGON, 4 Feb— A 3-member delegation headed by President of Higashihiroshima City Council Mr Kihara Ryoji of Japan this morning called on Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and CEC member U Tun Aung at the UMFCFI Office here.

They discussed matters on internal and external rice trading, sending of a delegation to the 6th Joint Meeting of Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee (MJBCC), bilateral trade affairs and education & training affairs. — MNA

Don't smoke

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



Shwe Naing-Ngan Journal comes out

YANGON, 4 Feb — Volume 2, No 21 of Shwe Naing-Ngan Journal, published by the education affairs committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, came out today.

News on the courtesy call of Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and delegation paid to State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe; the opening ceremony of Third Myanmar ICT Week 2004 attended by Myanmar Computer Development Council Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt; interesting and informative reading matters by well-known writers; features on endeavours for regional development by USDA members; and international news are carried in the latest issue. — MNA

Drug traffickers jailed

YANGON, 4 Feb — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and the Criminal Investigation Department, acting on information, searched the house of Moe Kyaw (a) Sony of Ward 3 in Hmawby on 16 May 2002. A total of 87.71 grams of marijuana were seized there, but house owner Moe Kyaw was on the run. Later, Hmawby Police Station filed a lawsuit against him under Sections 15/19(A)/23 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation into the case led to the capture of Moe Kyaw, son of U Kyi, on 6 February 2003. The case was later handed to Yangon North District Court, which handed down indefinite imprisonment on him on 24 December 2003 under Sections 19(A)/23. In a similar action, members of Hline Township Police Station, on a tip-off, searched the house of Ma Khin Myat Myat Swe at Room-1204 of Parami Condominium, Ward 16, Hline Township, on 12 May 2003. The authorities found Ma Khin Myat Myat Swe and Tun Aung together with 348 stimulant tablets bearing letters 'WY' at the house.

Lawsuit was filed against Ma Khin Myat Myat Swe, daughter of U Ye Than Win, and Tun Aung, son of U Maung Tin of Muse by the police station concerned under Sections 15/19(A)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On 12 December 2003, Yangon North District Court handed down 20 years' imprisonment to Ma Khin Myat Myat Swe, and 25 years' imprisonment to Tun Aung.

MNA

Death toll in Iraq blasts soars to 101

IRBIL, 4 Feb—A video camera captured images of a man shaking hands with a Kurdish official seconds before blowing himself up in one of the two suicide bombings during holiday celebrations. The death toll soared to 101, the US-led coalition said Tuesday.

Meanwhile Tuesday, an American soldier was killed and a second was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded during an operation to clear such weapons, the US military said. The explosion occurred near Iskandariyah, 35 miles south Baghdad, the statement said.

Kurds blamed Ansar al-Islam, a militant group allegedly linked to al-Qaida, for the weekend attacks.

The video shows the suicide bomber mingling with hundreds of well-wishers

greeting officials of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, or PUK, on Sunday, the first day of the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha. A second attacker slipped into a gathering of the Kurdish Democratic Party across town.

In Baghdad, Brig General Mark Kimmitt said Tuesday the US investigation has not determined who was behind the Sunday attack, although he said it could have been carried out by Ansar al-Islam or al-Qaida.

Kimmitt also said there were an

average of 23 engagements a day between US soldiers and Iraqi insurgents over the past week, compared with 18 the week before.

On Monday, the two main Kurdish parties — both US allies but often at odds with each other — held a joint memorial at the largest mosque in Irbil, the heartland of the Kurdish self-rule region. US military officials said Tuesday that 101 people were killed in the two blasts, up from 67 deaths reported earlier. —Internet

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US and UK pressured to widen Iraq inquiries

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb—The US and UK governments are facing political pressure to expand the scope of inquiries into the prewar intelligence on Iraq, with critics saying the investigations must examine the issue of whether the intelligence was politically influenced to build the case for war.

The British government said on Tuesday that an independent inquiry would look at the intelligence coverage on mass destruction weapons in all "countries of concern", as well as at the specific question of the information on Iraq's weapons prior to last year's conflict.

It will report by this summer, well ahead of the general election expected next year and months before a parallel inquiry in the US is concluded.

The US investigation, which has yet to be formally announced by the White House, is expected to have a similarly broad mandate but will not be completed until next year, after the November presidential elections.

However, opposition parties in both countries are insisting that the inquiries must consider not only the quality of the intelligence, but also how top government officials used that intelligence in the run-up to the war. — Internet

British teenager sentenced for hacking US research lab

LONDON, 4 Feb—A London teenager was sentenced on Monday to 200 hours of community service for hacking into the computer system of a US physics research laboratory to store his personal collection of music and film files.

Joseph James McElroy, 18, of Woodford Green, told Southwark Crown Court in London that he hacked into 17 computer systems at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago over a two-week period in June 2002 to store and exchange hundreds of gigabytes worth of computer files with his friends. The US Department of Energy had sought 21,000 pounds in compensation for the breach, which forced technicians to shut down a portion of the computer network for three days, the court was told. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese Vice-Premier meets Citigroup CEO

BEIJING, 4 Feb— Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju met here Tuesday with Charles Prince, chief executive officer of Citigroup Inc of the United States and his party.

Huang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, praised the Citigroup for its cooperation with Chinese enterprises, financial institutions in particular.

The Vice-Premier said

he hopes Citigroup would increase such cooperation and pay more attention to development projects in rural and western China.

Huang also expressed hope Citigroup would help improve management of Chinese financial bodies. —MNA/Xinhua

China to build new northeast railway to Russia

BEIJING, 4 Feb — China plans to build a railway linking the port of Dalian with Russia, the latest project to help pump new life into its dilapidated northeast, the *China Daily* said on Wednesday.

The 840-mile railway will hug the coastline of Liaoning Province before ending at Suifenhe, not far from the Russian port city of Vladivostok, the newspaper said.

"Most of the places the railway runs through boast quite rich and varied resources, such as lumber and minerals, but with lagging economies," it said.

China is trying to revive the downtrodden region, dubbed the "rust belt" for its run-down factories, by pumping in funds to set up new industries and tap natural resources.

Local industry, once the crown jewel of China's centrally planned economy, collapsed during more than two decades of market reforms.

On Tuesday, state media said the area, home to 110 million people, would receive around 7.4 billion US dollars for dozens of projects including petrochemicals and raw materials ventures as well as a new bank.

"The shortage of efficient transportation lines to the outside world has been a long-existing problem for those inland and remote

areas which have long needed a shot in the arm to boost trade and economic lustre," the newspaper said.

China has also been seeking stronger trade ties with Russia. In January to November of 2003, the latest period for which data is available, China exported 5.4 billion US dollars worth of goods to Russia, up 68 per cent from a year earlier.

Imports from Russia rose an annual 16.5 per cent in the period to 8.9 billion US dollars.

Russia's state-owned railways company said last month it would be able to ship 240,000 barrels, or 12 million tons, a day of crude from oil giant YUKOS to China by 2006.

YUKOS has been seeking to build a pipeline to China but the Russian Government has yet to make a final decision.

The planned railway would take 15 years to complete and would link 10 major cities and bring improved transport to 18 million people, the newspaper said.

MNA/Reuters

Russia, Spain to hold first joint manoeuvres in 2004

Moscow, 4 Feb— Russia and Spain plan to hold their first joint military exercise this year, Spanish Defence Minister Federico Trillo said in an interview published by Russian newspaper *Izvestia* on Monday.

The agreement to launch the drill was made during Trillo's talks last week with his Russian counterpart Sergei Ivanov, the paper said. Trillo stressed that they also reached agreement on other measures that will scale up military cooperation including using

Russian military transport planes for relocating Spanish forces and equipment during international operations, joint development of new weapons and communications, and visits by Russian and Spanish warships to each other's ports. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian police hunt baby-selling gang

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Feb— Malaysian police are hunting for a suspected Indonesian baby-selling gang after a two-week-old girl was snatched at gun-point from her Indonesian mother, a newspaper said on Tuesday.

The five men who abducted the infant on Friday in Johor, Malaysia's southern state neighbouring Singapore, also took cash and jewellery worth around 950 US dollars from its mother, *The Star* daily reported.

The mother, who went to report the abduction to police, was arrested after being found to be an illegal immigrant.

"I have directed...a manhunt for the five robbers, whom we believe to be Indonesians as well," the *Star* quoted Johor police chief Musa Hassan as saying.

"We have not ruled out the possibility that the men might be involved in a baby-selling syndicate," he added.

MNA/Reuters



A US soldier patrols in a Humvee in front of the United Nations Building in Baghdad, on 3 February, 2004. —INTERNET



An Andalusian horseman rides in the bullring during the opening ceremony show, at the World Bull Fair in Seville, on 3 Feb, 2004. The show pays homage to the bulls used in traditional bullfights around Spain, and the fair will run from February 3 to 8. —INTERNET

Roadside bombs create major Iraq threat

TIKRIT, 4 Feb— Silent and thoughtful, the soldiers were returning to their base this week after a memorial service for three comrades killed by a roadside bomb. Just outside the gate, they nearly became the next victims.

As the convoy was leaving the service, troops in a guard tower at the 4th Infantry Division headquarters spotted an Iraqi depositing something close to bushes in the central median strip. It turned out to be a 120 mm artillery shell, rigged to explode.

This time, the device was defused and the convoy drove safely back to base.

"It would have been very deadly had it exploded," said Lt Col Steven Russell of Del City, Okla., who was among the soldiers in that convoy Monday.

Roadside bombs, which the military calls Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, are among the most dangerous threats to American troops in Iraq.

In January, 23 American soldiers were killed by IEDs, according to figures from the U.S. military command. That was more than half the 39 U.S. soldiers killed in action here

last month.

"Going from point A to point B in a convoy is like Russian roulette," said Staff Sgt. Temu Gibson of Schenectady, N.Y. "I'd rather go into a gunfight than worry about an IED."

Some roadside bombs are detonated by timers or by wire. Iraqis have proven adept at disguising the bombs — using soft-drink cans, hiding them in mounds of trash or in the carcasses of dead animals along the side of the road.

Many of the explosives are believed to have come from Iraqi military depots looted during last year's U.S.-led invasion.

"It's easier for an Iraqi to get the materials needed for an IED than it is for him to get a can of Coca-Cola," said Maj Josslyn Aberle, a spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division.—*Internet*

Cuba blames US policy for situation in Latin America

HAVANA, 4 Feb— The policy of the United States — and not that of Cuba or Venezuela — is responsible for the present situation of Latin America, the local daily *Granma* claimed on Tuesday.

The daily's editorial was referring to an article published on February 1 by US newspaper, *The Wall Street Journal*.

The Cuban paper said: "If Latin America is an unstable region today the reason is not to be found in imaginary and macabre plans by Cuba and Venezuela."

The reason, it said, lays in the real results of the "imperialistic policy" to impose "a perverse model of the most savage capitalism" on the Latin American and Caribbean people. The article published by *The Wall Street Journal* said the Venezuelan Government had become Cuba's main financial support, and the latter had accumulated in the last three years a debt of 752 million US dollars for oil sent by the Venezuela's state-run oil company, PDVSA.

The US paper said: "Washington believes that the

combination of the thousands of millions coming from Venezuelan oil and Castro's refined skills could give problems to the United States in an uneasy Latin America".

It quoted the White House special envoy for the Western Hemisphere, Otto Reich, as saying: "The Cuban-Venezuelan axis is getting deeper and bigger".

In response, the Cuban paper said both Reich and the US Assistant Secretary of State Roger Noriega sought to create a climate of artificial hysteria that justified, for US public opinion, a military adventure against the island, including the physical elimination of President Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders.

MNA/Xinhua

India to purchase multiple launch rocket systems from Russia

Moscow, 4 Feb— India intends to purchase the Smerch and Grad multiple launch rocket systems from Russia, the manufacturers said on Monday.

"At present, the parties are discussing the price terms of the contract for the delivery of these systems to the Indian Army," a spokesman for Rosoboronexport Enterprises was quoted as saying by *ITAR-TASS* news agency.

In 2002, the Smerch rocket system was tested in India and its performance found satisfactory, he added.

The multiple launch rocket systems manufactured in Russia are the most powerful and highly effective at a distance of 40 to 90 kilometres.

The systems will feature prominently in the Russian exposition at the international arms exhibition 'Def Expo India 2004' that opens in New Delhi on Wednesday, the agency reported. — *MNA/PTI*

China unveils plans to better protect wetlands

BEIJING, 4 Feb— China plans to restore 1.4 million hectares of wetlands and put 90 per cent of its total wetlands, covering 6.6 million hectares, under effective protection by 2030, according to the State Forestry Administration.

The Project Plan for National Wetlands Protection, newly approved by the State Council, requires the realization of the sustainable use of wetlands, which are important for the conservation of biological diversity and for sustaining life through ecological and hydrological functions.

The plan defines eight categories of protection zones for wetlands across the country with adjustments for local conditions.

Under the plan, the government will set up 53 national demonstration zones for wetland protection and use, increase the

total number of national wetland reserves to 713 and designate 80 wetlands of international importance.

China will also establish an improved system for integrating laws, policies and scientific research on wetland protection, administration and use.

To date, 40 per cent of the natural wetlands of the country have been protected while 21 wetlands of international importance were designated by the Convention on Wetlands.

MNA/Xinhua



Howard says Iraq weapons intelligence may be wrong

CANBERRA, 4 Feb— Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Tuesday that the intelligence on Iraq's banned weapons could prove to be wrong.

He made the remarks after Washington launched inquiry into its intelligence on Iraq which was used to justify the coalition forces' attack on the Middle East country last year.

"It might be demonstrated that the advice was inaccurate," he told Perth radio 6PR.

But the Prime Minister said it was also wrong to suggest the intelligence was bogus, or that intelligence agencies made up material in their pre-war assessments on Iraq.

Howard's government has been facing criticism from the opposition and the public that it misled the public when sending troops to the Iraq War.

Howard said he was waiting for a parliamentary report of inquiry into the country's intelligence late this month.

He explained that most of Australia's intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction "was of course from British and American sources".— *MNA/Xinhua*



Japanese demonstrators hold up a placard showing a picture of US President George W Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, along with his ministers, in protest against Japan's dispatching troops to Iraq, outside the Defence Agency in Tokyo on 3 Feb, 2004.—*INTERNET*



In this image from television, rescuers go to the aid of a suicide bomb victim at the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan headquarters on Sunday, 1 Feb, 2004 in Irbil, northern Iraq. A second suicide attacker exploded a bomb at a gathering of the Kurdish Democratic Party also in Irbil on Sunday. — *INTERNET*

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

BAGHDAD, 4 Feb—As of Tuesday, 3 Feb, 525 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 366 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 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 387 US soldiers have died — 251 as a result of hostile action and 136 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,594 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile

action, according to the Defense Department's figures as of Tuesday. Non-hostile injured numbered 402.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

—A US soldier was killed Tuesday when a roadside bomb exploded during an operation to clear such weapons. The explosion occurred near Iskandariyah, 35 miles south Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

— Army Staff Sgt Roger C Turner Jr, 37, Parkersburg, W Va; killed Sunday by a

mortar attack in Anaconda, Iraq; assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division; Fort Hood, Texas.

— Army Pfc Armando Soriano, 20, Houston; died Sunday in Haditha, Iraq, when weather conditions caused his vehicle to slide off the road and roll over; assigned to the Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment; Fort Carson, Colo.

Internet

Int'l biotech symposium to be held in Beijing

BEIJING, 4 Feb—The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) announced here Tuesday that an international symposium on biotechnology is to be held from July 18 to 23 in Beijing.

The 10th International Symposium of the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) will be sponsored by the CAS, the SCBA, Beijing University, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Engineering and concerned governmental departments.

With the theme "Science for a Better Life", the symposium is expected to promote global collaboration on genomics and biotechnology, said a CAS official.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia calls for swift UN clarification of Iraq's WMD issue

MOSCOW, 4 Feb — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov on Tuesday called on the United Nations to make a speedy and final conclusion on whether Iraq has weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

"We have an ambiguous situation where the sanctions have been removed from Iraq and the disarmament process has not been completed formally," *Interfax* quoted Fedotov as saying prior to a meeting with Demetrius Perricos, acting chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC).

It's time to put an end to the lingering issue and it is necessary to decide now how UNMOVIC can complete its work in Iraq, Fedotov said.

He also urged the UN inspectors, who withdrew in March just before the US-led war was staged, to return to the war-ravaged country.

If no WMD could be found in Iraq, the

UNMOVIC should report to the UN Security Council so a corresponding decision can be made, he said.

"If the coalition forces find any materials or types of weapons, these finds must be certified and confirmed by independent international experts," Fedotov insisted, saying the issue must be clarified as soon as possible.

As an alternative, Fedotov also proposed that the coalition provide the UN commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency with the appropriate materials and results of their search for WMD. "In any case, we are waiting for the UN Security Council report on this issue," Fedotov said.

MNA/Xinhua



Peshmergas with the Kurdistan Democratic Party walk through the room inside the KDP headquarters in Irbil, Iraq, on 2 Feb, 2004, where a suicide bombing took place on Sunday. —INTERNET

Shanghai vows fewer papers, more concrete work

SHANGHAI, 4 Feb — China's commercial centre Shanghai has vowed to cut back on official documents and do more concrete work in a new regulation designed to reform government administration and its excessive reliance on papers.

The regulation, which will go into effect on 1 May, has raised the requirements for the issuance of official documents that regulate individual and corporate behaviour in social, economic and cultural affairs, and demands closer scrutiny to ensure they are legitimate and impartial.

It has authorized government offices at city, district, county, township levels the right to issue such regulatory documents, commonly known as "red-titled documents". Interim administrations and subordinate branches of local governments are no longer enti-

tled to do so, it says.

Drafts should be submitted to their legal affairs offices for close scrutiny before the documents are finalized, the regulation says.

Meanwhile, Shanghai government has requested all local governments to release their "red-titled documents" on their official web sites and bulletins to ensure easy access and transparency. Hard copies of these files should also be available at local archives.

The Shanghai municipal government would reform administration and improve efficiency, said Shanghai Mayor

Han Zheng when he announced the regulation to the media on Monday.

Excessive papers in government administrations have posed problems in Shanghai, as some organizations and individuals abused their power by issuing papers for personal profit.

In 2001, departments of the Shanghai municipal government issued 1,610 regulatory documents, three times the number in Beijing and ten times as many as that of neighbouring Zhejiang Province.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia agrees to lend Japan artifacts for touring exhibition

PHNOM PENH, 4 Feb — The Cambodian Government has agreed to lend more than 100 Angkorian artifacts to a Japanese company for a touring exhibition, the *Cambodia Daily* reported Tuesday.

"Through the exhibition, we hope that those artifacts can draw more tourists to visit Cambodia," said Chuch Phoeurng, undersecretary of state of the Culture and Fine Arts Ministry.

Japanese film production company Toey will take 130 artifacts on a 14-month tour of eight Japanese cities.

The bulk of the exhibition will consist of artifacts from the warehouses of

the National Museum and the Siem Reap Museum, items not currently on display.

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts is still compiling the list of artifacts to be lent to Japan, before presenting it to Prime Minister Hun Sen for his approval.

The Angkorian exhibition is scheduled to begin its tour of Japan in July 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Gold shops in Macao experience "golden month"

MACAO, 4 Feb — Gold shops in the Macao Special Administrative Region have experienced a "golden month" since the last Christmas holidays, with some famous shops' sale growing by 30 per cent.

According to Lai Zi Fong, director of the Association of Gold Shops of Macao, good business is expected to last until mid February, mainly due to the large number of individual tourists from China's Mainland.

Lai added that the gold industry in

Macao will also benefit from the full implementation of the Mainland/Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and the establishment of the cross-border industrial park.

On the recent upsurge of gold price, Lai said that the current gold price, 108 Hong Kong dollars per gramme, up 20 per cent to 30 per cent over the same period of last year, is far less than the record price of nearly 130 Hong Kong dollars per gramme.

MNA/Xinhua



US Capitol Policemen dressed in biochemical hazard gear check their gas masks as they make their way into an elevator at the Dirksen Senate Building in Washington on 2 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Great cost of rebuilding Iraq

Everywhere in the capital city of Iraq there are ample evidences US air raid missile strikes were incredibly devastating and the country's environment was largely damaged by US-led war against Iraq. The use of Uranium coated ammunitions in the war against Iraq has contaminated the water resources and agricultural lands since there is no practical way to eliminate the negative and harmful effects of uranium contamination.

Cost of rebuilding Iraq

Electricity system	\$ 12 bn
Water and sanitation	\$ 6 bn
Education	\$ 4.8bn
Telecoms and transport	\$ 3.4bn
Agriculture	\$ 3 bn
Housing and urban development	\$ 1.8bn
Health	\$ 1.6bn
Police	\$ 5 bn
Environment	\$ 3.5bn
Oil industry	\$ 8 bn
Total	\$ 49.1 bn

An Iraqi woman cries as she walks in front of a bakery that was destroyed in Baghdad on 6 April, 2003.

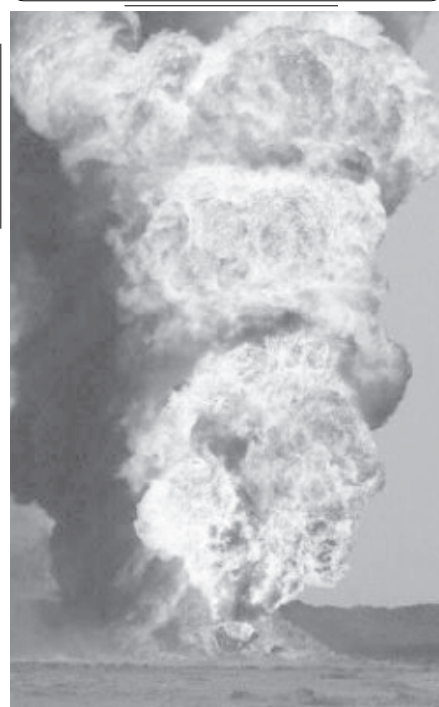


Fire and black smoke rise from the gas-oil plant in Rumeila oil fields outside Baghdad, on 1 May, 2003.



The taps in Iraq's major cities are dry and residents have no choice but to tap whatever source they can to quench their thirst, like this puddle that formed from a burst pipe on the outskirts of Basra.

Iraqis drive by a house reportedly destroyed in an overnight missile attack in Baghdad, on 30 March, 2003.



An oil well fire burns out of control in Rumaila, Iraq. Smoke from oil well fires and burning oil trenches had caused local air pollution and soil contamination.

Picture, released on 30 March, 2003, of families continuing to leave Basra in southern Iraq, across a bridge of the town manned by British soldiers.



Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

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



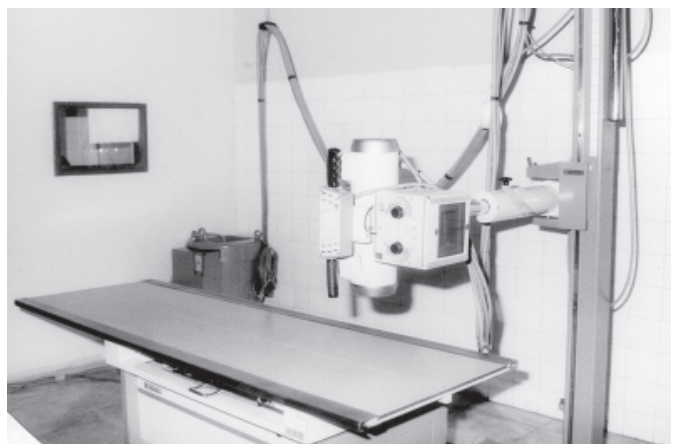
Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Sown acreage (paddy)	326079	361574
Irrigation facility		
Dam	3	4
Water pumping station	-	3
Sluice gate	19	48
Road & bridge		
Miles of road	386	483
Bridge (above 180 feet)	3	14
Bridge (under 180 feet)	602	878
Communication		
Post office	27	32
Telegraph office	7	12
Auto telephone	528	3003
Manual telephone	663	680
Microwave station	1	3



The Government is continuing its efforts to build new roads and bridges. The photo shows Gyaing Bridge (Zathabyin) that links Kayin and Mon States across the Gyaing River.



Thanlwin river crossing bridge (Hpa-an) was opened on 5 August 1997. The bridge is linking Myainggalay with Hpa-an in Kayin State.



For promoting the health care services of rural people, ways and means are sought for providing health care services by specialists to the public right down to the grassroots level. The photo shows the modern medical equipment installed at Kayin State People's Hospital in Hpa-an.

Tayokehla river water pumping project is being implemented in Tayokehla village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State.



Repair of uphill and downhill roads in Thandaunggyi, Kayin State, was carried out with might and main. The photo shows the repair of 12 miles long and 18 feet wide old road in Thandaunggyi which will become a hill resort.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Electric power		
Diesel-fired power plant	7	12
Information		
TV retransmission station	-	7
Information & Public Relations Department	-	7
Library	-	10
Education (basic)		
High school	20	31
Middle school	65	78
Primary school	1064	1142
Education (higher)		
University	-	1
College	1	2
Health		
Hospital	8	10
Station hospital	13	17
Rural health care centre	44	47
Rural health care centre (branch)	153	201

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



Unity is strength

Interviewer: Maung Maung Kyaw.
Photographer: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

We will work to the best of our ability together with the State

Pa-O are frank and sincere people. The land of the Pa-O is fertile, with plenty of water resources. A team from the Myanma Alin Daily visited Kyauktalone region in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State, on 10 January 2004 to study the land and its people. The team interviewed U Aung Hkam Hti, the Pa-O leader, working in the interest of the nation and the region. The interview is featured in this article.

There was no progress in the regional development task covering the health, education, economic, and transport sectors. Let alone hospitals and station hospitals, even the running of a delivery centre was difficult then.

Alin: What is the present situation?

Hti: All sectors are in the process of de-

veloping. We can transport our products to Taunggyi. Our people now have extra money to save, and spend in the major towns. As they are familiar with urban life, their knowledge becomes richer. People can travel by rail or by car.

Alin: What's your opinion of the development?

Hti: The main thing is



U Aung Hkam Hti has many points to explain about the regional development at the interview.

enjoying a better life. They become richer as they can effectively use the land. Our advantage is the flowing of the large Tabet Creek in our region. In the past, there were only monastic education schools. But now, our region has primary, middle and high schools. The root cause of the development is the State's goodwill and love for the people.

Alin: Please elaborate on the conviction to be adopted by all the people to further promote regional development together with Union Spirit at present.

Hti: All the national

racings have the duty to forge Union Spirit. Ours is a home to various national races. Our nation is like a garden where various species of flowers grow and blossom. There may be different types of literature and languages. But in general, we all are the same. We are standing in unity, and the Pali word for it is Samagganam tapo sukho. Peace and happiness is there if all work in co-operation. We should not be narrow-minded. We must have the wide vision. We, the national races, must live in unity (See page 9)



The new buildings in the village stand proof to the development of the Pa-O region in all aspects.

The Government has given priority to the national consolidation in laying down and implementing the national policy, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes. Seventeen armed groups have returned to the legal fold, after understanding the State's goodwill and building mutual trust with it.

After paying special attention to the national solidarity, the Government has been able to effectively carry out the task to develop the border areas and national races. In addition, the people of the nation are also enjoying the fruits of peace to an unprecedented degree.

In an interview with

the Myanma Alin daily, Pa-O leader U Aung Hkam Hti of Shan State (South) Special Region 6 explained the fruits of peace the national races are enjoying and the regional development tasks being carried out with firm Union Spirit.

Alin: Let me know the Pa-O regional development undertakings in the past.

Hti: The present regional development is self-evident. Because of the lack of peace in the past, we could not do anything for regional development, however strong our desire was for ensuring peace and prosperity for our people.

velopment at present. Because of the goodwill of the State, the people are able to do things in accord with the degree of their will, desire and perseverance. But we cannot say everything is complete. We are now on the threshold of progress. Gradually we will achieve progress. Let alone Mandalay and other major cities, the people aged 60 and above of the region had never been even to Taunggyi in the past. Later, there emerged motor roads and railroads, so we

the State's goodwill and love for our people. And because of its goodwill, the hill regions and the plains are developing in harmony. The people are



Pa-O region is included in the three highland plains of southern Shan State. Tabet Creek, flowing through the centre of the plain, serves as the main source of water for the regional cultivation. We can see in the photo the green gram fields stretching the Pa-O region as far as the eye can see.

We will work to the best of our ability together with the State

(from page 8)

under the administration of the Government.

Alin: Could you tell us the role of the entire national races in developing the nation?

Hti: We suffered the same fate during the World War II.

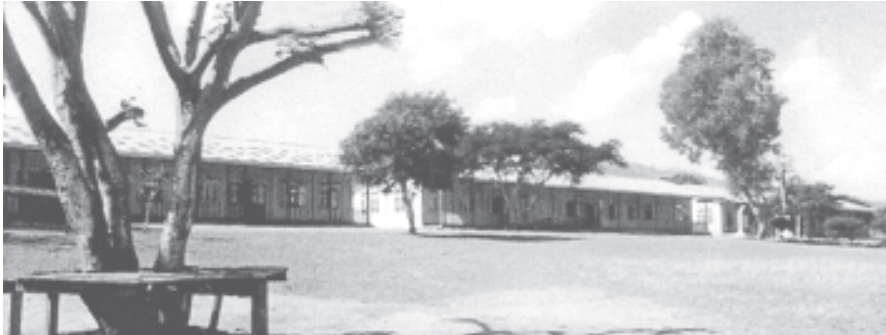
Union is the stem, we, the national brethren, are its branches. The branches will grow well and the fruits and buds thrive only if the stem is strong.

Alin: Please explain the difference between the wrong opinion

ence. We all are brethren as we resemble one another in feature. Since the time of our forefathers, we have been living together on this same land sharing joys and sorrows from what the mother nature and

oped than in the past. I am sure young persons will see this point even better.

What U Aung Hkam Hti told us in the interview reflects the nation's objective conditions. All in all, he said that due to the instigation of the



Local Pa-O boys and girls are attending classes at the affiliated high school in Pinya Model Village in Kyauktalone region.

When our country regained independence, we were declaring with pride that we were free people living in an independent nation. The situation of our nation demands unity and collective intellectual and physical efforts for its progress. If the

of the past and the correct vision at present.

Hti: We, the national races, are predestined to live together in unity. From the religious point of view, I can say that we live together in the present life, because of our deeds of the past exist-

the fate have offered us. Differences in the acts and ideologies will bring us nothing. They will only waste our precious time and hurt our nation. We lagged behind in development, as we had been reckless daredevils believing the foreigners because of the political disagreements that appeared soon after regaining of the independence in 1948. Otherwise, we would be enjoying greater progress than we are at present.

Alin: Let us know the future programmes for the national development.

Hti: We will have to take the lessons of the past. We must totally accept and follow the State's leadership, work in unity, with clear vision, while discarding the old racial suspicions. Soon, our nation will be able to catch up with the nations of the region. We can see with our own eyes that even now, we are more devel-

colonialists, the national brethren came to conceive the wrong thoughts that led to hampering the national development. And when

tions. They were like urban areas with hospitals and schools where the students are pursuing education happily and peacefully. It would be unbelievable to ears, but all the facilities and

and prosperity are the results of the valuable land and water resources of the nation, the sincere efforts of the local people, and the good deeds and goodwill of the State.



"I have been cultivating crops for ten years. I grow garlic, mustard and beans. The increase in the crop per acre yield has made me prosper", Daw Nang Aung, a Pa-O race of Pinya Model Village, explains the writer.

we listened to him explaining the consolidated national unity and peace and prosperity the regional people were enjoying, we were eager to have a firsthand knowledge of the region.

During our visit to the villages in the region, they looked great in many aspects. They were not like villages. The brick houses have TV antennas, and electricity generated by mini-hydel power sta-

situation stand witness to the regional development.

Regional peace and stability and tranquillity

In other words, they are the fruits of solidarity and Union Spirit of the national brethren.

(Translation: TMT)

Poem

Let these be new energies

- * River Ayeyawady
Sweet splashing sounds as if in music
Listen and let it sink in, Union Citizens
Let these be new energies...
- * Along Yoma Range are forests
As if they're gold, these paddy stalks
Myanmar's economy, Union Citizens...
Let these be new energies.
- * Roads and bridges, plenty as they be
To east and west, north, south they stretch
Wherever you go, Union Citizens
Let these be new energies...
- * Union's beauty, in all regions
Blooms of smiles, spread out all anew
They beautify, Union Citizens
Let these be new energies...
- * From Panglong land, it was conceived
In unity, we won victory
Born of Motherland, Union Citizens
Let these be new energies...
- * This great Union, continues its journey
Hands held firmly, with a vow
Strong and proud, Union Citizens
Let these be new energies.

Hinthada Myint Ngwe (Trs)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)



The Government's rural water supply project ensures potable water for Pa-O people of the Pinya Model Village.

"The situation of our nation demands unity and collective intellectual and physical efforts for its progress. If the Union is the stem, we, the national brethren, are its branches. The branches will grow well and the fruits and buds thrive only if the stem is strong."

Tailoring and fruit arrangement courses conclude

YANGON, 4 Feb — The closing ceremony of tailoring course No 31/2003 and fruits arrangement course No 2/2004 in conjunction with the opening of tailoring course No 32/2004 organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association took place at the association at the corner of Thanthumar and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and CEC members, members of the course supervisory committee, course instructors and guests.

The MMCWA president gave a speech. The MMCWA president and the MMCWA Secretary and officials presented completion certificates to the trainees, and prizes to outstanding trainees. Altogether 25 trainees are attending the 2-month tailoring course. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe addresses the closing of tailoring course No 31 and fruit arrangement course 2/2004 and opening of tailoring course No 32. — MNA



NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION: The embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka held a reception to mark the Sri Lankan National Day at the embassy on 4-2-2004. Photo shows Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr D.M.M Ranaraja greeting Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung. — MNA

Myanmar's participation in China-ASEAN Expo discussed

YANGON, 4 Feb — A coordination meeting on Myanmar's participation in China-ASEAN Expo to be held in Nanning, Quanjiao region in China, from 3 to 7

November was held at the Ministry of Commerce this evening.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone spoke of the need to build booths in

Myanmar style. Location of Myanmar and its economic data are to be presented at the exposition.

Next, Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye reported on China-ASEAN Expo.

Those present took part in the discussions. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remark by the minister. — MNA



Minister U Win Aung signs in the book of condolences. — MNA

FM signs book of condolences

YANGON, 4 Feb — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung signed in the Book of Condolences at the embassy of the Republic of the Philippines at 10 am, in memory of the late His Excellency Mr Salvador H. Laurel, former Vice-President and former Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Htamane Festival held

YANGON, 4 Feb — The Htamane making festival of the Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda of Pazundaung Township here was held at 3.30 pm today at the pagoda.

Pagoda Trustee Board Chairman U Ko Ko Gyi spoke about the Htamane making ceremony on the occasion.

Later those present on the occasion were served with Htamane. — MNA

Myanmar and India tie goalless draw in U-18 soccer tournament

YANGON, 4 Feb — The first under 18 BIMST-EC soccer tournament (2004) continued at Phuket, Thailand, this afternoon.

In group B, Myanmar held goalless draw with India. — MNA

Minister inspects drill of fire brigade parade column

YANGON, 4 Feb — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa arrived at Nawaday Sports Ground in Mayangon Township, here, this morning.

The minister, together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thauang, the

director-general of the Fire Services Department and senior officials, inspected the drill of the fire brigade parade column that will take part in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

The minister gave necessary instructions to the members of the column that are undergoing training and officials. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects the drill of the fire brigade parade column. — MNA

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

All brethren shall continue to march together for peace, progress and prosperity

Min Kyaw Min

Remember the story grandmother used to tell us again and again when we were young? We liked it, and when we grew up we told it to our children. In their turn, they will tell it to the next generation.

It is the story of the old man who got his sons together and asked each to break a bundle of sticks. They couldn't. He untied the bundle, and in disarray, the sons could pick up the sticks one by one and break them. Together, they were strong. Separated, they were weak. Alone, each could be broken easily.

Fable, it may be, but there is a ringing truth, the moral being strength in unity and weakness in disunity. This moral applies everywhere, specially when the virtue is to be emphasized.

This nation offers a good example of unity in diversity. Ours is a Union of nationalities, national groups numbering over 100 comprising the main races and the sub-races each of which have their distinctive features — dress, language, folklore, tradition and culture — which form a colourful array of diversity. Yet, we brethren who share this great Union, in times of both weal and woe, have been able to find unity, especially when it is most needed.

We were a sovereign nation. We were independent. When foreigners tried to take our land, deprive us of sovereignty and independence, we fought back with whatever arm we could lay our hands on. We fought three major wars with plenty of skirmishes in between, and, many times, we came out the victor.

Despite our invincible spirit, they eventually took possession of our land and usurped our freedom. Outmanoeuvred and outgunned, we had to give in. Still, there was this Freedom struggle ever since our last sovereign, King Thibaw was taken away to exile in India. It was a long and hard struggle, compounded by the arrival of World War II, and, with it, another foreign intrusion.

In the closing chapter of colonial rule over Myanmar, there was a decisive period when, much as we had expected, the colonialists, true to their divide-and-rule policy, strove to leave our brethren in disarray, talking of separate independence for what they then called the Frontier Areas. This meant they would still keep us disunited.

That was not to be, for the patriots of the plains and the hills got together, as they always did in times of adversity, and charted out a united stand.

Among the misty Shan hills, in the small town called Panglong, those who held unity dear, put their heads together and said "No" to divisive schemes.

At the historic meeting, brethren in unison, in one voice, expressed resolve, rallying together to the national cause and signed the Panglong Agreement on 12 February 1947. Enshrined in it was the Union Spirit, the spirit of Panglong, that held uppermost the further cementing of already strong brotherly ties among the national kin.

The alien forces that tried to drive a wedge between brethren failed and the resounding message of unity reverberated throughout the world.

That message of unity plus the will to win through prevailed. On 4 January 1948, we were able to haul the Union Jack down and hoist our Union Flag up.

The newly-won independence meant we won our sovereign rights, together with greater responsibilities to stay united in new nationhood.

The war had left most cities in shambles. There was much to do for national reconstruction. Just as might had



been expected, the colonialists had sown dissent and division in some quarters that ballooned into an internal insurrection and wounds that took a long time to heal. Due to discord precipitated by the machinations of elements hostile to national unity, in the wake of suspicion and distrust, we have experienced hard times that pushed the Union to the verge of disintegration.

We must fully grasp the value of unity, of working together for peace, progress and prosperity which only unity can bring. Now, unprecedented unity has been gained with brethren having better understanding of each other and what cohesiveness can bring. Yet, the threat of subversion, of outside interference in our internal affairs, is very much apparent. Day in and day out there are attempts to sow discord at every chance. We must fully realize the danger that lurks. And ward it away.

Today, the State Peace and Development Council Government has laid down 12 political, economic and social objectives in line with Our Three Main National Causes. We have already laid down the seven-step Roadmap to march towards disciplined democratic Union.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance to exert efforts for expediting industrial development of the country. Indeed, the industrial development will lead us to rapid development. In line with the guidance, concerted efforts are being made to achieve remarkable development in the industrial sector within four years beginning now. The agricultural sector alone cannot lead to rapid development. Thus, we must strive to achieve industrial development. In this context, the Government today is providing necessary assistance and encourage-

ment to develop SMIs (small and medium industries). It has also been planned to boost the production of electricity with the target set at the end of 2005. It is aimed to ensure sufficient supply of electric power to SMIs. On the other hand, strenuous efforts are being made to turn our conventional farming into mechanised farming. In addition, emphasis is being laid on ensuring better transportation all over the country.

This year, the 57th Anniversary Union day Objectives are also laid down. They are:

- 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 under mining 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.

The strength of the Union lies within. With unity further forged, with hands joined in accord, we shall build a peaceful, prosperous and discipline-flourishing democratic modern nation in the years ahead. Peace and development will be enhanced with all of us working unitedly together.

Entries invited for Armed Forces Day colour photo competition

YANGON, 4 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 in 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

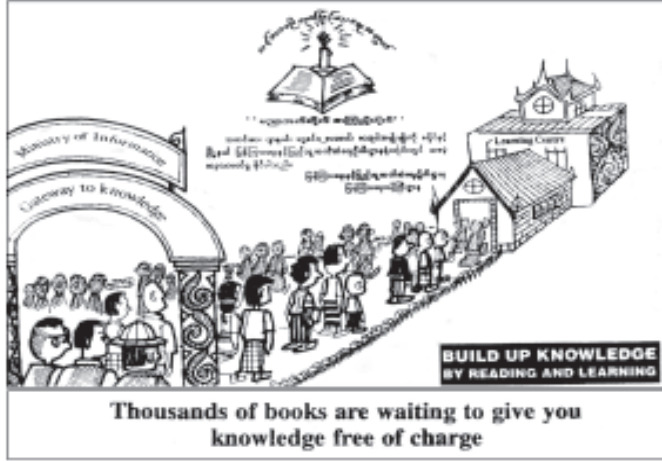
ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါ ရောဂါ၊ အသည်းခြောက်ရောဂါ၊ အသည်းကင်ဆာရောဂါ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS) နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါများ စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့်အပြင် စီးပွားရေးနှင့် လူမှုရေးများထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူ ခံရခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

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Linn Thar Oo Guest House and Restaurant Partnership situated at No. 1, Lone Thar Street, Linn Thar Village, Thandwe Township, Rakhine State are the Partnership Business the Partners of which are (1) U Myint Hlaing (Citizenship Card No. 11/Tha Ta Na (Naing) 028530), (2) U Tin Aung (Citizenship Card No. 12/La Ma Ta (Naing) 008508), (3) U Aung Thu Myaing (Citizenship Card No. 12/Ya Ka Na (Naing) 025977).

It is hereby warned that all movable and immovable properties belonging to the said partnership shall not be sold, rented, mortgaged or transferred in anyway without the concurrent decision of all partners made at the meeting.

Notice is hereby given that action will be taken according to the existing law against those who fail to observe the above warning.

Under instruction-

U Win Sein

B.A. (Law), LL.B., D.B.L., D.M.L
Advocate

No. A-5, Shwe Nguwar Street, Shwe Sabai Avenue,
Bayintnaung Main Road, Kamaryut Township, Yangon.

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for Hempel A/S

P.O Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 5 February 2004

Europe joins race to put man on Mars

LONDON, 4 Feb — A European could step out onto the surface of Mars within three decades, under European Space Agency (ESA) plans spelled out on Tuesday.

The plans are more precise than the broad US goals of sending a man back to the moon by 2020 and to Mars by 2030, revealed last month by President George W Bush.

"We think it is technically feasible to have a manned mission to the moon between 2020 and 2025 and then to Mars between 2030 and 2035," said Franco Ongaro, project manager of the ESA's fledgling Aurora space exploration programme.

"We need to go back to the moon before we can go to Mars," he told an audience of space scientists, academics and industrialists.

"None of the people who worked on the Apollo programme are around now. We need to learn how to walk

before we can run," he added.

Ongaro denied there was open competition with the US space agency NASA, and said he expected the Americans, Europeans and Russians — all of whom have Martian goals — to be in contact with each other.

Under ESA plans, there will be a mission in 2007 to test a vehicle that can withstand far higher re-entry speeds than currently experienced by those returning from the moon.

This will be followed two years later by ExoMars, a robot mission to Mars in search of life — past and present — and in 2014 by a mission to bring Martian material back to earth.

Colin Pillinger, the chief scientist behind the missing Beagle 2 Mars probe that was supposed to land on the planet on Christmas Day but was never heard from, said it was crucial to find out if there was life there before a human arrives.

MNA/Reuters

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Macao's new border-gate building opens for service

MACAO, 4 Feb — Macao's new border-gate building, the largest land checkpoint that is adjacent to Gongbei Customs in Zhuhai City in south China's Guangdong Province, began service on Monday.

The new building's two halls for entry and exit, respectively can handle 300,000 passengers per day, said a Customs staff at the bordergate.

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ လေလံကြော်ငြာ

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီမှ ၂၀၀၄-၂၀၀၅ ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှစ်အတွက် ကော်မတီပိုင်လုပ်ငန်းများအား ရွေးချယ်စနစ်ဖြင့် လေလံတင်အငှားချထားခြင်းနှင့် ကော်မတီပိုင်ပစ္စည်းများ လေလံတင်ရောင်းချခြင်းကို ယှဉ်တွဲဖော်ပြပါ နေရက်များတွင် မြို့တော်ခန်းမ၌ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	လုပ်ငန်း/ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား	လေလံပွဲကျင်းပမည့်	
		နေရက်	အချိန်
၁	အခွန်ဌာနမှလိုင်စင်ရ ပုဂ္ဂလိက ငွေချေးလုပ်ငန်းများ၊ တန်ဖိုးကြေးကောက်ခံမှုလုပ်ငန်းများ၊ ငမိုးရိပ်တံတား ဖြတ်သန်းခ ကောက်ခံမှုလုပ်ငန်း၊ သိမ်ဖြူယာဉ်မောင်း သင်ကွင်း ယာဉ်ဝင်ခနှင့် လေ့ကျင့်ကြေး ကောက်ခံမှုလုပ်ငန်း၊ စော်ဘွားကြီးကုန်း အောင်မင်္ဂလာ၊ ဒဂုံ-ဧရာ အဝေးပြေးယာဉ်ရပ်နားစခန်းယာဉ်ဝင်ခနှင့် ညအိပ်ခွန်ကောက် ခံခြင်းလုပ်ငန်းများ၊ ယာဉ်ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးစခန်းများရှိ ယာဉ်ဝင်ခ နှင့်ညအိပ်ခွန်ကောက်ခံခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ မင်းဆွေလမ်း ယာဉ်ရပ်နားခ ကောက်ခံခြင်းလုပ်ငန်းများ၊ စော်ဘွားကြီးကုန်း၊ ဘုရင့်နောင် စခန်းဝင်းရှိ ရေချိုး၊ သန့်စင်ခန်းလုပ်ငန်းများ၊ ယာယီစုပုံလုပ်ငန်း ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် မြေကွက်အငှားချထားခြင်းနှင့် ကူးသိုလုပ်ငန်းများ၊ အင်ဂျင်နီယာဌာန (လမ်းနှင့်တံတား)မှ ကန့်သတ်ရန်နှင့် ကန့်သတ်နေရာများအတွက် ယာဉ်ရပ်နားခ ကောက်ခံခြင်း လုပ်ငန်းများ၊	၁-၃-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္လာနေ့)	၀၉း၀၀
၂	ပန်းဥယျာဉ်နှင့်အားကစားကွင်းများဌာနမှပရိဝင်ငွေရလုပ်ငန်းများ၊	၃-၃-၂၀၀၄ (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့)	၀၉း၀၀
၃	ရွေးချယ်ငှားရမ်းမှု သန့်စင်ခန်းနှင့် ယာဉ်ရပ်နားခ ကောက်ခံခြင်း လုပ်ငန်းများ၊	၂	၂
၄	ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနှင့် သန့်ရှင်းရေးဌာနမှ သန့်စင်ခန်းများ၊	၂	၂
၅	ဆိုင်ခန်းများအငှားချထားခြင်းနှင့် ခဝါရ်လုပ်ငန်း၊	၂	၂
၆	မြို့တော်ဂေါက်ကွင်းရှိစားသောက်ဆိုင်များ၊ လူသုံးကုန်ဆိုင်ခန်းများ အငှားချထားခြင်း၊	၂	၂
၇	ရွေးချယ်ငှားရမ်းမှုဘုရင့်နောင်ရွေးနှစ်ထပ်ရုံဆိုင်ခန်းများရောင်းချခြင်း၊	၄-၃-၂၀၀၄ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့)	၀၉း၀၀
၈	အခွန်ဌာနမှ ဒဂုံ-ဧရာပုံရုံနှင့် အဝေးပြေးဆိုင်ခန်းများ၊ ကျိုက္ကဆံ ယာဉ်အပိုပစ္စည်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးစခန်းမှဆိုင်ခန်းများ၊ ဒဂုံမြို့သစ် (တောင်ပိုင်း) အမှတ်(၃) စီးပွားရေးဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဇုန်မှ ဆိုင်ခန်းများ ရောင်းချခြင်း၊	၂	၂
၉	ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနှင့် သန့်ရှင်းရေးဌာနမှ အမှိုက်သိမ်း ယာဉ်ကိုင်ယာဉ်ဆောင်ရွက်ပိုင်းများ၊ Tractor များရောင်းချခြင်း၊	၂	၂
၁၀	အနွေးယာဉ်ဆွဲကားပစ္စည်းဟောင်းများ၊ စက်ဘီး၊ မြက်မြတ်စက် အဟောင်းများ၊ တာယာအသစ်များ၊ တာယာအဟောင်းများ၊ (၂) ပေမီးချောင်း၊ (၄)ပေမီးချောင်းနှင့် ဖရိုက်အဟောင်းများ၊ လမ်းအ ချက်ပြုမီးအဟောင်းများ၊ ပိတ်စအဟောင်းများ၊ ပရိဘောဂအပျက် များ၊ မီးသတ်ဆေးဘူးအခွံများ၊ Tryton Joint Lubricant နှင့် Black Varnish များ၊ မီးစလောင်းဟောင်းများ၊ ရေ ပန်အဟောင်း၊ ဘာဂီသုံးဘတ္တရီဟောင်းများ၊ ဘတ္တရီခိုးများ၊ ပလပ်စတစ်ထိုင်ခုံနှင့် ပလပ်စတစ်ပစ္စည်းများ၊ အမှိုက်ပုံးများ၊ မီးဖိုများ၊ ခေါက်စားပွဲများ၊ ထီးခေါက်အမိုးများ၊ လက်တွန်းလှည်း ပျက်၊ ကွမ်းယာခုံ၊ သစ်သားရေခဲခြစ်ခုံများ၊ ရေခဲခုံ၊ ရေခဲခုံ၊ ဖန်ခွက်များ၊ စတီးပန်ကန်ပြားများ၊ ဇလုံ၊ ကြွေးပန်းကန်များ၊ လင်ဗန်းများ၊ပိုက်ဆက်ပစ္စည်းများ၊ ဝက်အူချိုးခုံ၊ ကတ္တရာပုခွံ (ကတ္တရာပြား)၊ ကိုးစလပ်ပုံးခွံများ၊ Printer နှင့် မိတ္တူကူးစက် ဟောင်းများ၊	၂	၂

လေလံလျှောက်လွှာပုံစံများနှင့်စည်းကမ်းချက်များကို ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၊ မြို့တော်ခန်းမအနီးရှိ ဆယ်ထပ်ရုံး [အင်ဂျင်နီယာဌာန(အဆောက်အအုံ) ပဉ္စမထပ်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဝယ်ယူလျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။ လေလံလျှောက်လွှာပုံစံတရက်မှာ ၂၄-၂-၂၀၀၄ (သောကြာနေ့) ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များသိရှိလိုပါက အင်ဂျင်နီယာဌာန (အဆောက်အအုံ) (ဖုန်း-၂၄၉၅၂၅၊ ၂၄၈၁၂- လိုင်းခွဲ(၂၄၉) သို့ မေးမြန်းစုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

လေလံတင်ရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MAS SUTRA VOY NO (052)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAS SUTRA Voy No (052) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 PREMIER SPECTRUM**
Phone : 256908/378316/376797

ရှောင်လေဝေးဝေး မူးယစ်ဆေး။

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Chinese, Gabonese presidents meet on bilateral, global issues

LIBREVILLE (Gabon), 4 Feb— Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday held talks with his Gabonese counterpart El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba on bilateral relations and other issues of common concern.

Hu said China highly values the development of China-Gabon relationship since the two countries established diplomatic relations 30 years ago.

The smooth and stable development, said Hu, has been witnessed by frequent exchange of visits of leaders, fruitful cooperation in economy, trade, culture, education and public health, as well as close consultations and coordination in international affairs. The Chinese leader expressed his appreciation for Gabon's adherence to the One-China policy and support for China's reunification, noting China values the traditional friendship with Gabon.

Hu made suggestions for promoting the bilateral friendly cooperation by keeping the momentum of high-level exchanges, and enhancing economic and trade cooperation with emphasis on agriculture, infrastructure, resources development and human resources.

He said the two countries should strengthen consultation and cooperation in international affairs, make joint efforts to meet challenges brought about by changes in international situation, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing

countries as well as make contribution to peace and development of Africa and the whole world.

Economic and trade cooperation between China and Gabon, said Hu, has been mutually beneficial and fruitful, noting the Chinese Government would continue to encourage and support various forms of cooperation between Chinese and Gabonese enterprises.

He said China is willing to work closely with all African countries to promote the new partnership characterized by comprehensive cooperation and mutual development.

The Chinese President said China's fundamental policy towards Africa is to consolidate and develop traditional friendship between the two peoples, respect the model for development chosen by the African people, support each other in international and regional affairs, as well as defend the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

He also vowed to continue to aid the African countries within China's capability on the basis of mutual respect, learning from each other, mutual benefit and equality.

MNA/Reuters

Philippines, Czech Republic to enhance defence cooperation

MANILA, 4 Feb— The Philippines and the Czech Republic Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation between the two governments, the Philippine Presidential Palace said.

The MoU is centred on eight areas of cooperation in defence and military matters, containing eight specific activities and projects aimed at enhancing defence cooperation and consolidation of defense capabilities of the two countries, the palace said in a statement.

The MoU is also seen as a significant factor in paving the way for a Philippine-Czech partnership in the modernization efforts of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The document was signed by visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Cyril Svoboda and Philippine Defence Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Svoboda on Monday called on Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who expressed the hope that the MoU will

further improve relations between the two countries.

During the courtesy call, Arroyo and Svoboda also discussed the two countries' active involvement in safeguarding the international community's security and peace, particularly in the war against global terrorism.

Svoboda, who is on an official visit to the Philippines, is also scheduled to meet with Secretary Leandro Mendoza of the Department of Transportation and Communications and other officials.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert, after her meeting with Svoboda, identified possible areas of cooperation between the Philippines and the Czech Republic, specially in the areas of trade, transportation and communications, public utilities, defence and tourism. —MNA/Xinhua

United States, Vietnam to strengthen aviation ties

HANOI, 4 Feb— The United States will review safety issues of Vietnam's aviation industry and offer relevant training shortly, in a move to fully implement the recently approved Air Services Agreement, top US aviation official said here on Monday.

The United States plans to start conducting a technical review on Vietnam's com-

pliance of with international aviation safety standards, and assisting the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam (CAAV) in training personnel in the next few months, deputy administrator for the US Federal Aviation Administration Robert A. Sturgell said in a Press briefing.

"It is important for Vietnam to invest in CAAV so it can meet required international standards... Developing the aviation capability of Vietnam will bring greater trade, tourism and direct investment to Vietnam," he stated.

To date, a number of US and Vietnamese carriers, including American Airlines, United Airlines, Continental Airlines and Vietnam Airlines have shown their interest in conducting direct and code-sharing flights between the two countries, said Sturgell.

The US Department of Transportation is reviewing

the application for code-sharing flights of American Airlines and Vietnam Airlines, he revealed.

Under the Air Services Agreement approved by Vietnam in early December 2003, only two US and two Vietnamese passenger airlines can fly between the two countries for the first two years, Sturgell said, adding that the agreement does not limit the number of carriers involved in cargo transport services.

On Monday, he discussed issues on safety, the potential for direct and code-sharing flights, and aviation training programmes with officials of the CAAV, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and US and Vietnamese airline industry representatives.

His one-day visit to Vietnam is the first stop on a regional tour which also includes Thailand and India.

MNA/Xinhua

Thousand-year-old stone tablet recovered in Liaoning

SHENYANG, 4 Feb— A stone tablet that is nearly 1,000 years old and inscribed in different periods of history, 200 years apart from each other, has come to light in the northeastern China province of Liaoning.

The mammoth tablet, bearing some 5,000 Chinese characters, was first inscribed in the Liao Dynasty (916 - 1125) in commemoration of disastrous floods in Yizhou Town, today's Tayingzi Town in Fuxin Mongolian Autonomous County, and the local residents' building of bridges and embankments to fight the floods. The tablet was inscribed on four sides, including names of ancient villages, officials and civilians, but inscriptions on one side were removed and a head portrait — probably of Liu Hong, the last magistrate serving in Yizhou Town in the Liao Dynasty — was carved in its place.

Archaeologists say they assume the portrait was carved in the Jin Dynasty (1115 - 1234) because the epigraph next to it was done by Wang Ji, a Jin citizen.

The tablet was first dis-

covered and carried in a horse cart to the county government by a local farmer in the 1960s, but was almost forgotten after it was buried by officials to protect it from being damaged or stolen.

No one knew the whereabouts of the tablet, though the local government tried several times to find it out in the 1980s. In 2002, local archaeologists started to see into the case again, and got clues that a huge tablet was spotted in 1994 at the construction site of a major department store. But unaware of its value, no one took the trouble to dig it out.

Early in January 2004, archaeologists were finally able to retrieve the tablet close to the Global Shopping Centre in the central areas of the old town. Archaeologists say its inscriptions are still largely legible, though some characters have blurred over the years. —MNA/Xinhua



Actress Drew Barrymore smiles as she is honoured with a star in Hollywood's Walk of Fame, on 3 Feb, 2004, in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles. Amy Pascal, Song Pictures vice chairman, is behind Barrymore. —INTERNET

Indonesian Defence Chief conferred Singapore's highest military award

SINGAPORE, 4 Feb — Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian National Defence Forces, General Endriartono Sutarto, was conferred Singapore's highest military award, the Distinguished Service Order by Singapore President S R Nathan on Tuesday.

The Distinguished Service Order was awarded to Sutarto for his role in forging closer ties between the Singapore Armed Forces and the Indonesian National Defence Forces, said Singapore's Ministry of Defence on Tuesday.

Sutarto also called on Singapore Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong later in the day. —MNA/Xinhua

Interpol to establish anti-doping database in France

PARIS, 4 Feb— France's Sports Minister Jean-Francois Lamour announced the establishment of an Interpol-administered anti-doping database on Monday.

Lamour, who has intensified his government's

anti-doping fight following the arrest of people connected with French cycling team Cofidis for doping offences, met Interpol chief Ronald Noble at the global policing agency's headquarters in Lyon on Monday. —MNA/Xinhua

Indian Govt may considers to charge for ground water use

NEW DELHI, 4 Feb— Indian Government may soon think in terms of charging soft drink companies and others for extracting ground water and using it for commercial and industrial purposes.

At present, the only charges companies pay for using ground water in soft drinks, bottled water and other products is an insignificant amount called "water cess", which is being levied by the State Pollution Control Boards under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, sources said here on Monday. In its presentation before the Joint Parliamentary Committee probing allegations of pesticides in soft drinks, the Environment and Forests Min-

istry has assured the panel that "in future perhaps the water, if used for commercial and industrial purposes will have to be charged". While lambasting the government as well as the companies which use water for commercial purposes for their respective lack of sensitivity on the issue, the panel has asked the Ministry of Water Resources to pursue the matter of charging for commercial use of water and regulate its use.

MNA/PTI

SPORTS

Baptista in Brazil squad for Ireland game, Rivaldo absent

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 Feb— Sevilla midfielder Julio Baptista was called up by Brazil for the first time on Tuesday for the friendly against Ireland in Dublin on February 18.

However, striker Rivaldo has been left out of the squad as he will be playing in the Libertadores Cup for his Brazilian club Cruzeiro.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira picked 20 European-based players and only two playing in Brazil — World Cup-winning goalkeeper Marcos of Palmeiras and forward Luis Fabiano of Sao Paulo.

The absence of Rivaldo, the former world player of the year who recently returned to play in Brazil for the first time in seven years after being released by AC Milan, will disappoint Irish fans.

The squad does include midfielders Kaka of AC Milan and Kleberson of Manchester United, Barcelona forward Ronaldinho and Real Madrid striker Ronaldo.

The game in Dublin is part of Brazil's preparations for the World Cup qualifier against Paraguay on March 30.

MNA/Reuters



Djibril Cisse of Auxerre, centre, and Jeremy Toulalan of Nantes, right, struggle for the ball as Emerse Fae of Nantes, left, looks on during their semi-final French league cup final on Tuesday at the expense of AJ Auxerre.

Landreau heroics send Nantes into first League Cup final

NANTES (France), 4 Feb— A remarkable performance by goalkeeper Mickael Landreau in a tense penalty shootout sent Nantes into their first French League Cup final on Tuesday at the expense of AJ Auxerre.

After a goalless 120 minutes the 25-year-old French international saved three penalties, with the referee twice allowing Auxerre strikers a second attempt, before scoring the winner himself as Nantes won the shootout 5-4.

Nantes were unbeaten in 10 games before the clash while Auxerre had won their six matches this year without conceding a goal. Their last defeat had been in the same La Beaujoire stadium

in a Ligue 1 match in December.

Chances were scarce but Nantes had a goal disallowed in the 32nd minute when Nicolas Gillet was judged off-side.

Auxerre took the upper hand in the second half with some swift counter-attacks led by Djibril Cisse and Ivory Coast's Bonaventure Kalou.

But as extra time progressed a shootout looked inevitable. Landreau, a pe-

nalty shootout specialist, stopped attempts by Cisse, Yohann Radet and Philippe Violleau before scoring the winner.

In the final Nantes will meet the winners of the other semi-final between St Etienne and Sochaux, to be played on Wednesday.

The League Cup is the only domestic competition both Nantes and Auxerre have yet to win.

MNA/Reuters

Two late goals seal Cup win for 10-man Werder

BERLIN, 4 Feb— Bundesliga leaders Werder Bremen scored twice in added time for a 3-2 away win at second division SpVgg Greuther Fuerth in a Cup quarter-final on Tuesday.

The northerners were trailing 2-1 and down to 10 men when French playmaker Johan Micoud kept their hopes alive by scoring from close range in the first minute of stoppage time. Croatian striker Ivan Klasnic exploited a defensive blunder seconds later to hit the winner.

Werder made a promising start, Canada midfielder Paul Stalteri putting them in front with a powerful effort from 20 metres on 18 minutes, but then showed little initiative.

French defender Valerien Ismael put Fuerth back in the game when he headed the ball into his own net in the 73rd minute.

Striker Marcus Feinbier gave Fuerth the lead with a volley from close range

three minutes later.

Werder then lost Turkey defender Umit Davala for a second bookable offence with seven minutes left but gave their all in the closing stages to turn the match around.

"I just can't believe it," said Werder coach Thomas Schaaf. "We really should have lost that game. We were not aggressive enough. We can and we must play much better than we did tonight."

"There was definitely some luck involved but that's football." Bundesliga strugglers Borussia Moenchengladbach, who have lifted the trophy three times, needed penalties to knock out second division MSV Duisburg.—MNA/Reuters

Middlesbrough edge through to League Cup final

LONDON, 4 Feb— An own goal by Arsenal's new Spanish signing Jose Antonio Reyes helped Middlesbrough through to the League Cup final with a tense 2-1 victory in their semi-final, second leg match on Tuesday.

The victory at the Riverside gave 'Boro, who have never won a major trophy, a 3-1 aggregate win and they will play Bolton Wanderers in the final at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on February 29.

Premier league leaders Arsenal fielded a weakened team and had defender Martin Keown sent off just before halftime for a professional foul.

Dutchman Boudewijn Zenden gave Middlesbrough the lead after 69 minutes. Brazilian Edu equalized for Arsenal with a header but Reyes' own goal secured Middlesbrough's long-suffering fans their ticket to Cardiff.

Middlesbrough, who lost in the League Cup final in 1997 and 1998, have waited 128 years for a piece of silverware.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger left out Thierry Henry, Dennis Bergkamp, Robert Pires and Freddie Ljungberg, although captain Patrick Vieira returned to stiffen the midfield.

However, Middlesbrough dominated the first half. Italian striker Massimo Maccarone fired one chance wastefully wide and was

then denied by a fine reaction save from Arsenal's reserve goalkeeper Graham Stack.

On the stroke of halftime Arsenal did their cause no good when Keown clumsily pulled down the Italian and earned a straight red card, the 54th Arsenal dismissal in Wenger's seven-and-a-half year reign.

Reyes vainly claimed a penalty straight after halftime when he went down under a challenge from 'Boro keeper Mark Schwarzer.

Schwarzer then blocked a Kolo Toure shot on the line but Arsenal went behind when Gaizka Mendietia touched a deft through ball for Zenden who dinked the ball over Stack.

The visitors, whose last League Cup triumph was in 1993, hit back quickly, with Edu netting after Vieira's header rebounded off the post eight minutes later.

However, 'Boro killed the Londoners off five minutes from the end when Reyes tried to tackle Stuart Parnaby but succeeded only in diverting the ball into his own net for an unfortunate first goal for his new club.

MNA/Reuters

Zaragoza snap up former Barcelona striker Dani

MADRID, 4 Feb— Real Zaragoza have signed former Barcelona and Spanish international striker Dani, the club announced on Monday.

Dani rescinded his contract with Barca last week, after hardly figuring in the first team for three-and-a-half years.

The 29-year-old played for Zaragoza from 1995 to 1997 before making his name with 12 league goals for Real Mallorca in the 1998-99 season.

He won the first of five Spanish caps in November 1998 and secured a 15.5 million US dollars move to Barcelona at the end of the season.

He responded with 11 goals in 27 League appearances in his first season at the Nou Camp but was then virtually ignored by successive coaches, playing just 23 League games from 2000-01 before leaving the club by mutual consent last week.

Zaragoza are third from bottom in the Primera Liga after a 1-0 defeat away to fellow relegation candidates Murcia.

MNA/Reuters

Soccer legend Best banned over drink-drive charge

LONDON, 4 Feb— Soccer legend George Best was fined and banned from driving for 20 months on Monday after pleading guilty to a drink-driving charge.

The former Manchester United great was found to be two-and-a-half times over the legal alcohol limit when he was arrested in the early hours of last Friday in Merton, southwest London.

Best, 57, who underwent a liver transplant in July 2002 after years of alcohol abuse, had rowed with his son in a restaurant and had been on his way to a health farm for treatment when he was stopped, his lawyer told Wimbledon magistrates' court.

"Alcoholism is disease. He has struggled with it and at times he has had it under control," Best's lawyer Pippa McAusey said. "Unfortunately he has slumped back... and he has lost the support of his wife."

In addition to the driving ban, which could be reduced if Best agrees to attend a rehabilitation course, he was fined 1,500 pounds.

MNA/Reuters

Wales lose bid to remove Russia from Euro 2004

LONDON, 4 Feb— Wales have failed in their bid to have Russia removed from the finals of Euro 2004 because of Yegor Titov's failed drug test, European soccer's governing body UEFA said on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old Spartak Moscow captain tested positive for the banned substance Broomantane after Russia drew 0-0 with Wales in the first leg of their Euro 2004 playoff in Moscow in November.

Russia won the second leg 1-0 a week later in Cardiff to qualify for the tournament in Portugal, but the Football Association of Wales (FAW) complained they should have been awarded a 3-0 win because Titov, who was an unused substitute in the first leg, should not have been eligible to play.

Titov has since been

banned by UEFA for one year, although his club has appealed on behalf of the midfielder.

"In reviewing the case the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body made reference to the Welsh FA's failure to provide evidence that the player was under the influence of a prohibited substance in the second leg," UEFA said in a statement.

"In any case, any punishment for a doping offence applied to the individual player and not to the whole team."

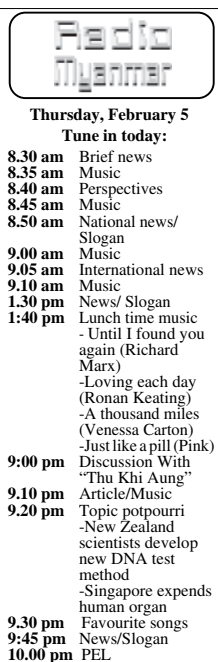
The FAW said they would sit down with their legal and medical advisors to examine grounds for appealing the decision before UEFA's deadline of midnight on Friday.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal midfielder Freddie Ljungberg (L) stretches to push the ball past Manchester City goalkeeper David James. Ljungberg could be out for three weeks with a rib injury he sustained in Arsenal's 2-1 victory over Manchester City.—INTERNET

“Untimely rainfall warning”
(Issued at 10:00hrs M.S.T on 4th February, 2004)
Today, isolated rains are likely in Mon, Kayin States, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions within next (48) hrs commencing noon today.



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

PM receives Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to the Netherlands

YANGON, 4 Feb—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to the Netherlands Mr Herman Johan Stevens at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall this evening.

Present on the occasion together with the Prime Minister were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.—MNA

Buddha Pujaniya Festival held

YANGON, 4 Feb —Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay attended the 19th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Maha Wizaya Pagoda and visited the Htamane-making Contest held at the southern archway of the pagoda at 4 pm today.

Present on the occasion were military region commanders and their wives, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council members and their wives, District Peace and Development Council chairmen and their wives, invited guests, members of religious associations and contestants.

Chairman of the committee for building the pagoda Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Phone Kyaw formally opened the festival and the contest.

The commander and his wife and party viewed competing of 38 groups at the contest. At night, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and officials presented prizes to winners at the contest. The Maha Wizaya Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival continues till 6 February. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Herman John Stevens. — MNA

Course on dental, oral health opens

YANGON, 4 Feb— A township-level multiplier course on primary dental and oral health care service for rural people jointly organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Dental and Oral Section of Health Department was opened at hall of Kayan Township USDA Office yesterday.

CEC member of the

USDA Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein spoke on the occasion.

He presented dental and oral aids to Director-General of Health Department Dr Wan Maung.

Assistant Director of Dental and Oral Section Dr Kyaw Nyunt explained about the course.

Fifty trainees are attending the course. — MNA

Ministry of Labour holds second and third four-monthly coord meeting

YANGON, 4 Feb—The second and third four-monthly coordination meeting of departments and committees of the Ministry of Labour continued for the second day at Main Medical Warehouse of Social Security Board in Ahlon Township this morning.

Present were Minister for Labour U Tin Winn,

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, the directors-general, medical superintendents of Workers' Hospital and officials.

Officials of the departments under the ministry reported on work done, cultivation of vegetables and livestock breeding. Directors-General U Tin Win and U Soe Nyunt took part in the discussions.

Deputy Director of the Office of Central Trade Disputes Committee U Han Nyunt discussed work done.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein reviewed the report of States and Divisions and laid down future tasks.

Minister U Tin Winn assigned duties for 2004 to heads of departments.

The meeting ended with the concluding remark by the minister. — MNA

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards announced

YANGON, 4 Feb — Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library introduced 'Library Book Awards' in 2001. The award-winning books are chosen from the books published in the previous year. The list of books chosen for 'Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards' for the year 2002 were announced yesterday. The award-winning books are 'Ngwe-hnin-mhon-mhon-hte-ka-pan-jon' (Buckwheat in silver mist) written by Ni Min Swe, 'Sa-tat-pho Win-ngwe-kaung-pho Ah-thet-she-pho' (Education, good income and longer life) written by Aung Si Hein, and 'Upade-wundan Ta-oo Ei Bawa Khayee' (The life of a law officer) written by U Han Nyunt (Law). The prizes will be given to winners in Pakokku on 22 February. — MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects No 21 well of Nyaungdon oil and gas field. — ENERGY

Minister inspects Nyaungdon oil and gas field

YANGON, 4 Feb—Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected Nyaungdon oil and gas field in Nyaungdon region, Ayeyawady Division, this afternoon.

Chief Engineer (Drilling) U Ye Khaung reported on running of Nyaungdon well No 21. Managing Director U San Lwin gave a supplementary report. The minister gave instructions

on drilling new oil wells in Maubin, Pantanaw and Nyaungdon (middle) that are geographically contiguous with Nyaungdon oil field, extended production of oil and natural gas and timely laying of 14-inch Nyaungdon-Ywama natural gas pipeline, and attended to the needs.

Next, the minister presented cash awards to the

staff, and inspected gas well No 21, which produces 6.974 million cubic feet of natural gas and 72 barrels of condensate a day.

Now, the 16 wells in the field produce around 83 million cubic feet of natural gas and 1,184 barrels of condensate a day. The products are piped to the factories of Yangon.

MNA



No 21 well of Nyaungdon oil and gas field. — ENERGY