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Sunday, 8 February, 2004

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



Symbol of unity

Throughout history, the Union people were able to set up the fine historical traditions of living together with Union Spirit on the same land and drinking water from the same source, with eggs and nest intact, and warding off in unity all the dangers befalling the nation. These fine traditions have firmly existed as a symbol of unity of national races of the entire Union of Myanmar for many centuries.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 53rd Anniversary Union Day.)

Government to cooperate with private sector and industrial zones in building an industrialized nation

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets departmental officials in Monywa, Sagaing Division

YANGON, 7 Feb—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party met with departmental officials at the Town Hall of Monywa on 4 February morning.

Also present on the occasion were Sagaing Division level departmental officials, the chairmen of Monywa District and Township Peace and Development Councils and members, district and township level officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, entrepreneurs, members of Ward Peace and Development Council, townselders and trainee nurses.

At the meeting, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West

Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on area and population of Sagaing Division, land utilization, reclamation of virgin and fallow land, cultivation of ten major crops and production rate, self-sufficiency in rice and edible oil, education, health, transport, development of border regions, water supply for agriculture, power supply, development of mining and industrial sectors, GDP and per capital income and work being carried out for rural development.

Next, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech. He said that Sagaing Division constitutes about 9.4 per cent of the national economy and is abundant in natural resources such as forest, mineral and hydel power. Therefore, the division is economically important for the State. If the natural resources in the division are used effectively they will contribute much toward development of the national economy.

In building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation community peace and prevalence
(See page 10)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gives instructions to industrialists at Monywa Industrial Zone.—MNA

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



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 8 February, 2004

Hydel power projects—key to national development

Electricity is essential in building a modern and developed nation. Efforts are being made to generate more than 2,000 megawatts of electricity during the present third five-year short-term plan designed to fulfil the electricity need of the State.

The Ministry of Electric Power is conducting feasibility study in order to implement hydel power projects at Chindwin basin.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected Shwesayay hydro-power project that will be implemented on Chindwin River near Shwesayay Village at the border of Kani and Budalin Townships, Sagaing Division, on 3 February.

In his instructions given to officials Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the implementation of Htamanthi, Homalin, Mawlaik and Shwesayay hydel power projects which utilize the waters of Chindwin river to produce electricity will begin soon, and that the sooner Shwesayay hydel power project is completed, the quicker it will serve the interest of the country and the people. He also urged the officials concerned to carry out preliminary engineering tasks while conducting detailed surveys needed for Shwesayay hydel power project.

Shwesayay hydro-power project will be able to generate over 600 megawatts of electricity.

Moreover, it will supply water all the year round to the 25 per cent of about two million acres of cultivable land.

In Sagaing Division, there are 21 sites where hydro-electric power projects can be implemented, and about 2,400 megawatts of electricity can be generated.

Of the 21 projects, Zee Creek hydro-electric power project in Kalay Township that can generate 1.26 megawatts of electricity, Lahe hydro-electric power project in Lahe Township that can generate 0.05 megawatt and Thaphanseik hydro-electric power project in Kyunhla Township that can generate 30 megawatts have been implemented.

Among Htamanthi, Homalin, Mawlaik and Shwesayay projects, Htamanthi hydro-electric power project is the one which can generate over 1,200 megawatts of electricity according to the survey. The magnitude of work and vast amount of investment are needed to implement the project.

With the aim of preventing floods of Chindwin River in the rainy season, ensuring the smoothness of water way and fulfilling the electricity needs of the State, systematic measures are being taken to implement hydro-electric power projects along the river.

In the interests of the State and the people, officials concerned are urged to strive for completion of the hydel power projects as soon as possible.

57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

Efficient use of 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.

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of 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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနဲ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တန်နွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနဲ့ ဖြစ်သည်။

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ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလအတွက် (၈-၂-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့၊
(၂၉-၂-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့

Sanitation tasks inspected in Yangon municipal areas

YANGON, 7 Feb — For ensuring the beauty and proper drainage of Yangon City municipal areas, Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, staff of Yangon City Development Committee, members of social organizations and public today carried out sanitation tasks in their respective districts, townships and wards. Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin encouraged the participants and gave necessary instructions to officials.

First, the commander and the mayor arrived at the junction of No 4 Highway and Hlawga-Wataya road in Shwepyitha Township at 6.30 am and dredging of Sangyaunglay Creek. They next went to U Ponnya Road in Hlinethaya Township and unblocking of ditches digging new ones along the road between Magway Street and Padetha Street. The commander and the mayor also viewed unblocking of ditches and carrying out of sanitation works along Insein Road in Hline Township and in the surrounding areas of Pyithu Hluttaw building on Alon Road in Dagon Township. They then inspected the upgrading of Baganlon Island by YCDC. Officials reported on the upgrading tasks. The com-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects water tap installed by Water and Sanitation Department of YCDC for fire fighting purpose.—YANGON COMMAND

mander and the mayor gave necessary instructions.

The commander and the mayor proceeded to Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township and inspected disposing of garbage and unblocking of ditches along the road between Bogyoke Aung San Street and Anawrahta Street.

During their inspections, the commander and mayor gave instructions to officials on systematic measures to be taken for ensuring the beauty and proper drainage of Yangon City and installing of box culverts at crossings of roads and carrying out sanitation tasks in co-operation with social association members and public in districts, townships and wards. — MNA

Commander opens 31st Buddha Pujaniya of Koedatkyi Buddha Image

YANGON, 7 Feb— The 31st Buddha Pujaniya of 99 years old Atuladipati Maha Munithakya Koedatkyi Buddha image was opened at the pagoda this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and member of the pagoda board of trustees U Saw Lwin opened the Buddha Pujaniya.

Then, the commander offered flowers, water, lights

and incense sticks to the image.

At the prayer hall, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñinda-bhivamsa administered the Five Precepts. Next, the commander and officials donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Later, members of the Sangha recited religious verses. Also present on the occasion were No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, Yangon Division Police Force Commander Police Col Aung Daing and officials. — MNA



ASEAN Radio Quiz was held on 3 February morning at the MRTV here. Photo shows Ma Si Si Maw (Kayan Township) who stood first, Ma Le Le Win (Bahan Township) second and Maung Moe Kyaw Oo (Hline Township) who won consolation prize.—(H)

"ISS" crew swapped, officials hint at fallout

Moscow, 7 Feb—Space officials have swapped the next two-man crew headed for the *International Space Station* (ISS), and a Russian space agency spokesman hinted on Thursday the dropped pair may not have quite seen eye to eye.

Two new astronauts will make up the *Expedition Nine* crew, the second change in its line-up. They are due to blast off on April 19 from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan to take over from two astronauts stationed on the ISS since last October. A space agency spokesman in Moscow said Russian Gennady Padalka and NASA astronaut Michael Fincke would make the trip, replacing Russian Valery Tokarev and American Leroy Chiao.

"It's not that the crew was unprofessional or ill, but on certain considerations it was not ready," the spokesman said. "The crew members should understand each other's words and opinions...they should get on like good friends."

Teams of astronauts spend months training together and getting to know each other before embarking on a space mission. They even develop their language skills, conversing using a strange mixture of English and Russian.

Chiao was drafted in

last month after NASA astronaut William McArthur fell ill.

ISS crew members have only each other for company during the six months they spend aboard the space station, although they are able to chat to friends and family via satellite telephone. The new pair will head to the station in a Russian *Soyuz* craft with Dutchman Andre Kuipers from the European Space Agency. He will spend eight days on the station conducting experiments and return to Earth with the current ISS crew — Michael Foale and Alexander Kaleri.

Russia has been the only country able to launch manned and cargo missions to the 16-nation station for the past year since the *Columbia* shuttle disaster, which killed seven astronauts and grounded the entire US shuttle fleet.

Cash-strapped Russia received a financial boost after signing a deal late on Wednesday with the European Space Agency to provide it with *Soyuz* rockets

to launch from the Kourou base in French Guiana on the northeastern coast of South America. The Russian space agency spokesman said the first *Soyuz* launch was planned for 2006. "It is good for the Europeans and Russians," he said. "For Russia it means new orders and the chance to get into orbit from the Equator, and for the Europeans it means getting a carrier." —MNA/Reuters



Shwesayay hydro-electric power project being implemented near Chindwin River in Budalin Township. (News reported) — MNA



Shwesayay hydro-electric power project being implemented with the use of heavy machinery near Chindwin River in Budalin Township. (News reported) — MNA



Aerial view of Shwesayay hydro-electric power project being implemented near Chindwin River in Budalin Township. (News reported) — MNA

Sri Lanka's oldest woman dies at 116

COLOMBO, 7 Feb — Sri Lanka's oldest living woman who broke her father's record of 110 years, died on Thursday at a village in southern Galle District at the age of 116, the official *Daily News* said on Friday.

The women named OT Engonona died after a brief illness in her hut and her funeral will take place on Friday evening at her village.

Engonona, born in 1888, had been a vegetarian throughout her life.

At the age of 18, she married one of her cousins by way of a love affair, a rare experience for a woman

at the time when women were seldom seen in public.

Engonona received primary school education but left school at the age of 10 after a row with her teacher where she claimed she was wrongly punished.

She then engaged herself in the traditional family vocation, rope mak-

ing.

She has two married sons who are living outside the village. Her three daughters are unmarried and they had looked after her.

Her husband died at the age of 61.

Her eldest daughter is 79.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal, Bhutan sign air deal for more flights

KATHMANDU, 7 Feb—Nepal and Bhutan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that allows the two countries to increase the frequency of flights from the existing two to seven times a week, the Nepali Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation said Friday.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding, Nepal's national airlines, the Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation, can fly to other destinations from Bhutan, while Bhutan's national flag carrier, the Druk Air, can

fly from Nepal's capital Kathmandu to Mumbai, Chennai and Gaya of India. The two countries decided to eliminate passenger limitation and passenger and cargo royalties on routes beyond Kathmandu, the ministry said in a Press release. The two sides also agreed on adding a safety clause to the prevailing Air Service Agreement of 1990 between the two countries. The final revised text of the agreement will be signed tentatively in March in Kathmandu.

MNA/Xinhua

Lead soldier wounded defusing roadside bomb in Iraq

DEADWOOD, 7 Feb—A soldier from Lead suffered injuries to his left hand and took shrapnel in his leg when a detonator on a bomb he was defusing exploded in Iraq this week, the soldier's father said Friday.

"If he had not noticed it and acted quickly, I understand as many as 20 other soldiers could have been killed," Bill Burleson, who lives in Boulder Canyon, said of his son, Sgt. E-5 Brian Burleson, 25, of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne.

Brian Burleson was to be airlifted from a Baghdad Army hospital to Germany.

His father said the full extent of the injuries is yet to be determined, but early reports indicate his son lost all of the fingers on his left hand and took shrapnel in his left leg.

Bill Burleson said his son called him at 3 am Thursday and said, "Dad, I had an accident." He had spotted a roadside bomb and saved his platoon while traveling with his convoy in Iraq earlier Thursday, his father said.

"I'm proud and grateful," Bill Burleson said. "Most of the tears today are happiness that he's alive. If they can do the necessary medical work in Germany, he'll stay there for a bit, but if not they cannot, he will be transported to Walter Reed Army Medical

Center in Washington, DC."

Sgt Burleson was travelling with his platoon in a convoy with two Army trucks and four Humvees. When he saw the detonator cord and the bomb, he yelled a warning to his fellow platoon members, Bill Burleson said.

As the rest of his unit retreated, he worked to defuse the bomb, but the detonator exploded in his hand.

Bill Burleson said he prays every night that his son will come home safe, "and he's coming home safe, not all of him, but most of him."

Sgt Burleson has been in Iraq since about April 2003 and was due to come home for a short leave within weeks.

Bill Burleson said it's a small price to pay, adding that the first South Dakotan to die in Iraq, Hans Gukeisen of Lead, was one of his best friends. Gukeisen was killed in Iraq on May 9, 2003, while participating in a medical evacuation.

Internet

Nepal to get membership of regional eco cooperation group

KATHMANDU, 7 Feb—Nepal will become a full member of the Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) on Saturday, the Nepali Foreign Ministry said Friday.

"Nepal will participate in the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the economic cooperation group as a full-fledged member, following the decision of its member countries to welcome Nepal as member from this year," the ministry said in a statement. Ambassador-at-large Bhekh Bahadur Thapa is leading the Nepali delegation to the BIMST-EC ministerial meeting scheduled to be held on February 7-8 in Phuket, Thailand.

The membership of the BIMST-EC is

important for Nepal since its member countries are going to declare the BIMST-EC region as free trade area, the statement added.

Established in 1997, the BIMST-EC groups five countries located around the Bay of Bengal. The current areas of cooperation in the regional group are technology, trade and investment, transport and communication, energy, tourism and fisheries.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan, Thailand to hold first FTA talks

TOKYO, 7 Feb—Japan and Thailand will hold their first negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) in Bangkok on February 16-17, Japanese Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

Japan will be represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Ichiro Fujisaki and senior officials from other ministries including the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries.

If the bilateral free trade pact is sealed, Japan will be able to boost exports of electric products and general machinery to Thailand.

At the same time, Tokyo will be forced to further

open its agricultural markets as Bangkok aims to expand exports of farm products, particularly rice, which is a politically sensitive product in Japan.

MNA/Xinhua



A sea otter floats in Kachemak Bay, Alaska, on 1 July, 2003. The Interior Department said on 5 Feb, 2004, that the survival of sea otters in southwest Alaska is threatened and proposed adding them to the government's endangered species list. If the proposal is adopted, it would lead to a recovery plan requiring conservation efforts for the northern sea otter.—INTERNET

ဝက်မှုရင်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



White paint thrown by protesters remains on the gates of Downing Street in London, on 4 Feb, 2004. Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair was heckled by members of the public during a parliamentary debate on Wednesday as he failed to quell the furore over Iraq's missing weapons of mass destruction.—INTERNET

Two killed after Iraq checkpoint attack

SAMARRA, 7 Feb—Two Iraqi men have been killed and two teenagers have been wounded after US soldiers returned fire following an attack on a checkpoint in the northern town of Samarra, witnesses and medics said.

An owner of a shop near the checkpoint, Safaa Abud Abbas, said a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the US checkpoint by two people in a car, but missed the soldiers. The Americans retaliated by returning fire.

Medical sources at Samarra hospital told AFP that two men, aged 25 and 62 had been shot dead, and that two teenagers, aged 13 and 14, were wounded.

A US military spokesman could not immediately confirm the deaths, but said they were being investigated.

In Tikrit, which like Samarra lies within an insurgency-dogged area, American

forces detained six Iraqis, including two senior members of a network of Saddam Hussein loyalists in an overnight raid in the ousted leader's hometown.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Russell said some of the detainees were involved in financing, organising and sometimes participating in anti-occupation attacks, including on aircraft.

Meanwhile, in northern Iraq, Kurdish security forces have arrested a suspected member of the Islamist group Ansar al-Islam as he tried to flee Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, a political official said Friday.—Internet

China's oil giant to slash output

HARBIN, 7 Feb—The Daqing Oilfield in north-east China's Heilongjiang Province has decided to slash its production by two million tons this year.

The decision was made in accordance with a plan for adjustment worked out by the China National Petroleum and Gas Group Company, said an official with the Heilongjiang Provincial Development and Reform Commission. The official added that he

feared that the cut would have a negative impact on the province's economic growth.

Daqing contributes about one-third of Heilongjiang's GDP, as well as two-thirds of the province's revenue, said the official.

According to him, Heilongjiang will see a drop of three billion yuan (some 362 million US dollars) in industrial output value because of the out-

put cut at Daqing, plus a loss of 15 billion yuan in profits.

Because of a shortage of renewable resources and a shrinkage of exploitable oil reserves, Daqing saw a drop of 1.74 million tons of oil, and only produced 48.4 million tons of crude last year, putting an end to 27 years of stabilizing its output at a minimum of 50 million tons annually.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan, ASEAN to meet on WMD export controls

TOKYO, 7 Feb—Japan and members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold working-level talks on export controls to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa said Friday.

Japan and the 10 ASEAN countries plan to discuss ways to prevent WMD proliferation

in Asia at a series of meetings of experts, with the first set for Manila on Monday, Nakagawa told a news conference.

Senior officials from his ministry, the Foreign Ministry and the Defence Agency are expected to take part in the talks, which will be held in all participating countries by the end of this month, Nakagawa said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq threat was limited, troops told

BAGHDAD, 7 Feb — Australian troops fighting in Iraq were told in an official briefing days before entering the country that Saddam Hussein did not have the capability to launch weapons of mass destruction against its neighbours.

Roger Hill, Australia's most experienced weapons inspector, yesterday told *The Age* that Iraq had possessed the remnants of weapons of mass destruction but its ability to use them on the battlefield was "almost zero".

"There is no question Iraq possessed materials, documents and possibly products," Mr Hill said. "But it did not have the ability to conduct attacks on its near or regional neighbours," he said. "I told our troops that. I also told people in the other coalition forces. But I was a lone voice."

In March last year, shortly before the war, Mr Howard told Parliament: "We are determined to join other countries to deprive Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction, its chemical and biological weapons, which even in minute quantities are capable of causing death and destruction on a mammoth scale."

Mr Hill said Australia should have had a closer look at the intelligence information it had received before committing troops to the US-led invasion.

Asked if the Australian Government was aware at the time of his assessment of Iraq's capabilities, Mr Hill said: "If they had asked me, I would have told them."

Mr Hill, who is widely acknowledged as Australia's top expert on Saddam's weapons programs, said that during the eight years he spent travelling to Iraq as a senior UN weapons inspector he was asked only once to

brief officials in Canberra about the threat posed by Saddam.

The Australian Defence Force sent him to the Middle East to advise the 100-strong squadron of Perth-based SAS soldiers who conducted covert operations inside Iraq during the first weeks of the war. Mr Hill, a career army officer, had served in the SAS and led the last UN inspection team that went to Iraq in November 1998.

But none of Canberra's intelligence agencies asked for his assessment of the Iraq threat before the Government made its decision to send the troops.

Prime Minister John Howard yesterday left open the question of whether Australia would follow the US and Britain and have its own independent inquiry into the intelligence used to determine whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Mr Hill was not asked to testify before a seven-member parliamentary committee that was set up last year to look into Australia's intelligence services. That committee's report is due to be released later this month.

Mr Hill said most of Iraq's stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons were destroyed or hidden before the war. But he said that Saddam did not have the missile systems to deliver them anyway.

Internet



As a US military vehicle passes, Iraqis demonstrate in Khaldiya, west of Baghdad in Iraq's Sunni Triangle on 6 Feb, 2004, to demand that a dusk-to-dawn curfew be lifted and Iraqis detained by US forces be released. The curfew was imposed late last month after a roadside bomb killed three American soldiers.—INTERNET

China, India on track to meet UN poverty reduction target

MANILA, 7 Feb—A United Nations official has said China and India are on track to meet UN poverty reduction targets.

With an annual economic growth of more than 6 per cent, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand seem poised to hit most of UN "millennium development goals" set for the year 2015, particularly regarding poverty levels, the Philippine Star daily on-line news Friday quoted Kim Hak-su, executive secretary for UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as saying.

Among the characteristics of the countries expected to hit the goals were "good long-term planning and vision", as well as "good incentive measures for foreign investment", Kim said, adding that these countries also had many "pro-poor policies in the social area", aimed at helping the disadvantaged.

But despite the unprecedented economic growth in Asia since 1990, some countries in the region were being left behind, Kim added.

Kim said Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, South Korea, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and most Pacific island nations were unlikely to hit even one of the UN eight development goals by the 2015 deadline.

Other countries like the Philippines "will meet some goals but not others", said Kim, citing the high educational levels but also the high levels of poverty in the Philippines.

However, not all of the poorest countries were being left behind, Kim stated, adding that "Mongolia is poor but they are coming up very well".

Kim also warned that attaining higher develop-

ment might lead to new problems, including greater environmental problems due to more industrial activity and fuel being burned, and as an economy grows, attention might shift the levels of inequality within a country.

The "millennium development goals" include cutting the number of people living in extreme poverty by half, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality sharply, improving maternal health and curbing AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), malaria and other major diseases.

Among other goals are ensuring environmental sustainability and helping forge partnerships for development.—MNA/Xinhua

Agreement on greenhouse gas emission signed in NZ

WELLINGTON, 7 Feb — The New Zealand Government and the agricultural sector groups have signed an agreement on research into agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, Science Minister Pete Hodgson said here Thursday.

The agreement follows last year's scrapping of the controversial research levy which the government announced but then decided against.

Hodgson said in a statement that the government would bear the cost under the Kyoto Protocol of the agricultural sector's non carbon dioxide emissions and would also maintain at least its current level of investment in agricultural greenhouse gas abatement research.

MNA/Xinhua

Interview with Iraq weapons expert Kelly to be broadcast on 13 Feb

LONDON, 7 Feb — The final interview given by British government weapons expert David Kelly, who committed suicide after giving unauthorised information on the Iraq war to the BBC, will be shown on television next week.

The documentary, broadcast by British terrestrial channel Five, is called *Germ Warfare: Doctor Kelly's Last Interview*, and is expected to examine the career of one of the government's most senior specialists on weapons of mass destruction. It is scheduled to be broadcast on February 13.

"In the feeding frenzy surrounding the release of the Hutton report, Dr David Kelly's immense contribution to this country's national security has been overlooked — this film puts the record straight," the documentary's producer Dan Korn said. The interview took place just over one month before Kelly took his own life on July 17 last year, Five said.

Kelly killed himself after he was identified as the source of a report by the BBC's defence correspondent Andrew Gilligan, which alleged that the government had exaggerated the threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair challenged the allegations, which were subsequently investigated by senior judge Brian Hutton.—Internet

Global warming bigger threat than terrorism

OTTAWA, 7 Feb — Global warming poses a greater long-term threat to humanity than terrorism because it could force hundreds of millions from their homes and trigger an economic catastrophe, Canadian Environment Minister David Anderson said.

"Current preoccupation is with terrorism, but in the long term climate change will outweigh terrorism as an issue for the international community," he told *Reuters* in an interview late on Wednesday.

"Terrorism will come and go, it has in the past...and it's very important. But climate change is going to make some very fundamental changes to human existence on the planet."

Anderson said Canada would need to cut its emissions of greenhouse gases by 60 per cent of 1990 levels by 2050. Canada has ratified the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which calls for a 6 per cent cut from 1990 levels by 2012.

"The British have decided... that a 60-per-cent reduction (in greenhouse gas emissions) by 2050 is necessary and we will probably have to be in a similar range," he said.

In 2001, those emissions were 18.5 per cent above 1990 levels and energy producers say the costs of fulfilling Kyoto will be prohibitive. Anderson said the consequences of doing nothing would be disastrous — he said the wheat-growing prairies of Canada and the Great Plains of the United States would eventually no longer produce enough food to support the population if nothing were done to fight global warming.—MNA/Reuters



Tracing its origins to the dawn of time when gods grappled for sovereignty over the Japanese isles, the sport of sumo has an iron grip on national mythology. File photo shows a sumo referee trying to make a baby cry during a baby crying contest at Koyasu shrine in Hachioji on the outskirts of Tokyo. The baby that cries the loudest will be awarded as the winner of the event which is held in many towns all over Japan.—INTERNET

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

US soldiers killed in Iraq

Each week in Iraq, an average of three to six Americans are dying and another 40 wounded by a foe that has become more lethal and sophisticated since April, 2003.

US soldiers inspect destroyed vehicles after a massive suicide car bomb blew up at the main gate to the US-led coalition headquarters in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, on Sunday, 18 Jan, 2004.



Debris lies scattered on the ground at the entrance to a US military barracks after an attack in Talafar, Iraq on 9 December, 2003.



US-led coalition forces try to resuscitate a soldier, left, as another has a head wound treated, right, after an attack on a Humvee on the main road about 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Baghdad, on 17 October, 2003.



Two US Army Black Hawk helicopters are pictured near the crash site on 9 January, 2004 of the Black Hawk which was shot down on 8 January. The helicopter came down during a routine mission near Falluja, killing nine US soldiers. — INTERNET



US paramedic soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division carry an injured soldier for treatment at their base in Tikrit, 180 kilometres (110 miles) north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division carry a wounded soldier to the casualty evacuation station, in Tikrit, Iraq, on 16 December, 2003.

US, British and other troops killed in Iraq up to 5 February 2004

Country	Combat	Non-combat	Total
US	369	160	529
Britain	20	37	57
Other nations	35	6	41
Total	424	203	627

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



Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Sown acreage (all-year round)	468000	670000
Oil palm (acre)	-	110000
Rubber (acre)	-	104000
Dam	14	134
Diversion weir	-	13
Livestock breeding		
Annual mea and/fish output (yearly)	-	500000
Pearl industry (mommie)	7300	72000
Transport		
Road (mile)	363	634
Bridge	1	6
Jetty	10	12
Communication		
Auto-exchange	6	18
Radio telephone	-	50
Microwave station	1	2
Ground satellite station	-	2
Private telephone	463	3951
Public telephone booth	4	24
Electric power		
Hydropower plant	2	6
Diesel-fired power plant	24	34



The 3,612 feet long Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.



Dawei University in Dawei.



Aerial view of developing Kawthoung.



The 200-bed Myeik General Hospital in Myeik.



Laynya-Mandaing Bridge in Bokpyin Township.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Information		
Myanma Alin/Kyemon sub-printing house (Myeik)	-	Being built
TV retransmission station	-	10
Information & Public Relations Department	-	10
Library	-	10
Education		
University	-	2
College	1	5
High school	23	33
Middle school	47	57
Primary school	894	1010
Health		
Hospital	9	10
Station hospital	8	13
Traditional hospital	-	1
Traditional clinic	2	7

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



Unity is strength

Myanmar is a union where national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have lived unitedly through thick and thin for years countable by the thousand.

There are over 100 national races living in Myanmar. As they are of same stock, their lineage and ancestry, ideology, mind and culture are basically the same. So, the spirit, 'No one shall divide us, we shall remain ever united,' has still rooted in our mind.

In addition, instigations of the others are overcome by family spirit, i.e. Union Spirit, and the national reconsolidation which is the national heritage can be established firmly among national brethren.

Head of State Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, in his speech at the 56th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade on 27 March, 2001, included the attitude that should be adopted by national brethren.

Senior General Than Shwe said: "all the nationals had settled down and lived together in our country even before the pre-historic period. It is a state where all the nationals, after moving to places of better conditions, lived together in all regions throughout the country in unity and amity. That is why all our nationals living in every part in every region within the country must avoid sectarianism

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:



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

Development of border areas and national races

and act with due regard for others. It is essential to nurture Union Spirit, which is to cherish and value the one and only motherland unitedly with an enduring family spirit to take part together in the development of the State and to collectively defend

and local people, to eliminating misunderstanding and disunity, to striving for the region and local people with no suspicions and to building national reconsolidation. This is known to all. The State has exerted efforts for development of border ar-

gional subcommittees giving priority to development of border areas and national races.

In addition, to systematically supervise various tasks, the government set up the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races with notification No 54/92 dated 24-9-1992.

Moreover, to be able to carry out development tasks for border areas and national races, as well as urban and rural development tasks, the original ministry was re-constituted as the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

Border areas development tasks are being carried out in 18 regions of seven states and two divisions with an estimated area of 74,905 sq

miles where over 5.06 million people live.

Based on the regional stability, the Work Committee has implemented development projects for national brethren in different border areas. Progress of the projects are most encouraging.

The projects include road and transportation, education, health, energy, agriculture, forestry, livestock breeding, communication, mining, trade, cooperatives, building housings, public relations, border areas drugs elimination, promoting and propagation of religion, women's vocational training school, border areas national youths development training school and other projects in which UN and international organizations take part.

The cooperative efforts of local organizations are most satisfactory.

Armed groups, after realizing the goodwill and projects implemented by the government, have returned to the legal fold. All of them are actively cooperating with the government in the tasks for development of their own regions.

(See page 9)

Hla Tun (Twantay)

the country. When solving problems among us, conflicts and confrontation will only worsen matters rather than bring about solutions. Hence we are practising the principle of harmony as a base."

In accord with this attitude, the government has placed special emphasis on strengthening of national reconsolidation with a view to having development of the region

eas and national races since May 1989.

The Border Areas and National Races Development Central Committee with Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as chairman, and the Work Committee with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt as chairman have been established.

Under the Work Committee were 18 subcommittees and 11 re-



The Government is making concerted efforts for the emergence of more hospitals equipped with modern facilities and special-ists. In the process, the new hospitals have been built and old ones renovated or upgraded. The photo shows Shan State General Hospital (200-bed) in Kengtung, Shan State (East). — MNA



The main aim of the border area development programme is development of national races in border areas. The photo shows Laukkai Drug Elimination Museum, a symbol of efforts to fight against narcotic drugs.

(from page 8)

A total of 17 armed groups have entered the legal fold so far.

They are;

tors in accordance with the objectives of Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disin-

was no stability in the region, development tasks could not be carried out. The tasks that were carried out bore no

Sr.	Name of special organization	Date
1.	Shan State (North) Special Region-1	31-3-89
2.	Shan State (North) Special Region-2	9-5-89
3.	Shan State (North) Special Region-3	24-9-89
4.	Shan State (East) Special Region-4	30-6-89
5.	Shan State (North) Special Region-5	11-1-91
6.	Shan State (South) Special Region-6	18-2-91
7.	Shan State (North) Special Region-7	21-4-91
8.	Kachin State Special Region-1	15-12-89
9.	Kachin State Special Region-2	24-2-94
10.	Kayah State Special Region-1	27-2-92
11.	Kayah State Special Region-2	9-5-94
12.	Kayah State Special Region-3	26-7-94
13.	Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization	9-10-94
14.	Kayini National Progressive Party	21-3-95
15.	New Mon State Party	29-6-95
16.	Shan State Army	5-1-96
17.	BCP (Rakhine State)	6-4-97

The government, upholding the our three main national causes — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty — has been concentrating on development tasks for border areas and national races.

This is why the government has spent a huge amount of funds on border areas and national races development project, the very noble and correct one, since the start of the project on May 25, 1989. Up to December 31, 2003, K 50,245.75 million.

The main objectives of implementing the border areas and national races development projects are:

1. to develop economic, social and transportation sec-

tegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty,

2. to cherish and preserve culture, literature and customs of the national races,
3. to further strengthen friendship and amity among national peoples,
4. to totally eliminate poppy-growing by establishing business enterprises, and
5. to maintain border area security, to ensure the rule of law and tranquility.

As border areas are situated in far-flung areas where transportation is difficult, it lagged behind in development for 40 years after regaining the independence. As there

fruits. It was in vein.

The present situation is not like this. Because there is regional stability, development tasks can be carried out successfully. The more stable the regions is, the more it has developed. By the same token, the more the region has developed, the more stable it is.

In implementing border areas development projects, total elimination of drugs which is one of the main objectives is being carried out successfully. Poppy-growing and opium-production which is the evil legacy of imperialists was a lucrative business for the national people.

The colonialists were very despicable and cunning. They plotted our people to be ruined and to be dull and inactive setting our people adrift

in the sea of troubles.

After regaining the independence, the successive governments have striven for elimination of drugs, regarding it as the national duty. The endeavours gained more momentum in the time of the present government and becomes effective.

With the cooperation of local people, drugs elimination tasks have achieved success. On April 22, 1997, Mongla of Shan State (North) Special Region-4 officially declared to the world that it became a drug-free zone. The Drugs Elimination Museum was opened in Mongla on a grand scale that day.

Similarly, the Museum for Elimination of Drugs was successfully opened in Special Region-1, Laukkai region, on December 27, 2000. It is the resolve of national brethren to continue striving for elimination of drugs.

Nowadays, local people are conducting poppy-substitute agriculture and livestock breeding tasks on a wider scale. Success has been achieved to some extent, thanks to the assistance of the government and active participation of local people.

This is why the 15-year drugs elimination programme from 1999 to 2014 was drawn and has been implemented phase by phase. Tasks have been implemented in 51 townships. At present, the

Poem

The Union Day Flag

- * When day dawned
The crimson victory flag flatters
Elated, my heart missed a beat.
- * Though we were mired in slavery
We did not allow it, wrested back freedom
Though the royal accessories were reduced to firewood
Those embers burst into flames and frightened the intruder
For regaining freedom, blood and life
Were sacrificed in repulsion, we did not give in
The flag is witness to it all.
- * And brethren, blood brothers
Put in equal share of help, hands held
It resulted in independence hard won.
Assembled together to pluck victory blooms
Surely, it was a call to unite
The flag is the directive.
- * O, citizens all, beware
The old cat, with tail short
Eat the flesh and devour the flag, as saying goes
The mad colonialist who tried to close in on us
Succulent by taste, got used to eating
It still yearns, savours
Throughout own nation, it tries to divide
Watch out to discern, be knowing
Be on the ready
Noble Roadway, seven of theme
Have been laid down, to traverse
With good intention and vow
Let's move forward to the flag.
Let's bow our head in salutation.
- * O, in a dawn of a new day
The crimson flag flatters in the breeze
Titillating, my heart misses a beat.

Kun Ye Thwe (Aye Tha Ya) (Trs)
(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)

government is relying on itself. Indeed, the scourge of drugs poses danger to all human beings. So it is a global concern.

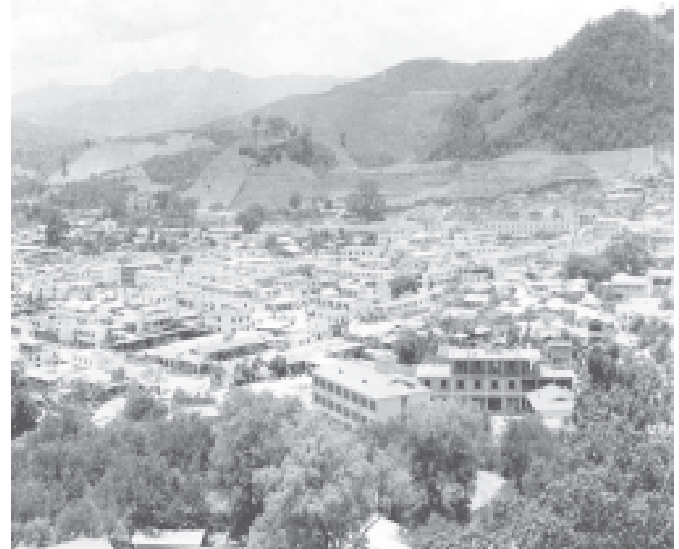
To successfully implement the tasks, international community needs to render assistance. Only when the world nations render effective assistance, will the objective to eliminate drugs be realised in a short time.

In conclusion,

Myanmar's border areas and national races development projects become more successful year after year.

The fruits of success can be witnessed. More success will be achieved thanks to the active participation of local people with patriotism, Union Spirit that is the noble national reconsolidation spirit.

Translation: KKK



The Government has been striving for development of the border regions which lagged behind in progress for various reasons in the past. The photo shows an aerial view of Panhsan (Pankam) in Shan State (North).

Government to cooperate ...

(from page 1)

of law and order is imperative. In addition, a sound economic condition that can generate the income for the people is required. At the same time, a basic knowledge capable of categorically differentiating right and wrong and good and bad is needed. To fulfil the requirements, public cooperation is of paramount importance.

In striving for development of the national economy, efforts are to be made for building an industrialized nation, while engaging in development of agricultural and industrial sectors.

As water supply for agricultural purpose has been created double and triple cropping was introduced. In this context, machinery will have to be used to save cost and time.

Modern cultivation

the project.

Next, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut explained that Chindwin river contributes much towards development of Sagaing Division, adding that hydel power projects are being launched to meet the demand of power supply of the State and to ensure development of Sagaing Division, relying on water from Chindwin river.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye spoke. He said that the Government is making all-out efforts for boosting the agricultural production to fulfil the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people. Other requirements in the nation are power supply and edible oil. To meet these requirements, natural resources in the nation are being tapped not only on self-reliance but also on

table development in all regions in the Union and it is implementing education, health and human resource development projects after designating 24 development regions, he said.

Border development projects are being undertaken for regions that lagged behind in development for various reasons. Now towns in border areas have developed like those of cities in the plain, he added.

He said the five rural development tasks are being implemented for development of rural areas where 70 per cent of the population of the country live.

The essence of implementation of such three major projects for the progress of entire Union is for the Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sov-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada of Maha Bawdi Tahtaung Monastery.—MNA

with goodwill, he said.

Assuming that the regions where they are assigned to as their own regions, efforts are to be made for progress with the Union Spirit and national solidarity spirit in cooperation with local people, he said.

He stressed the importance of correct and complete data of departments and regions for effectiveness.

He said the seven-point future programme of the State was laid down for building of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation and he called for cooperation for success of the programme.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted those present.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to Monywa Industrial Zone where they met members of

greater momentum, conducting on-job efficiency courses for workers and industrialists and study tours in other zones and factories.

Chairman of Monywa Industrial Zone Management Committee U Myat Zaw reported on industries in the zone and its achievement.

In his discussions, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said Myanmar is an agricultural country and endeavours are to be made to become an industrialized nation, transforming manual farming into mechanized farming.

In doing so, the State is to cooperate with private sector and industrial zones. The industrial zones have developed due to the assistance of the State and cooperation of the industrialists. Being an agricultural country, he said, the zones are

oment is a requirement for development of the zone. Therefore, concerted efforts are to be made for producing more skilled workers.

He said now the zones are gaining momentum and he stressed the importance of investment in industrial development undertakings, avoiding spending money on unnecessary matters. He urged the industrialists to pay serious attention to development of the tasks as the country needs a lot of successful and prosperous industrialists.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted the industrialists.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected threshers, tractors, milling machines and various kinds of machines used in threshing.

They also inspected Chindwin Star motor vehi-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects booths of Monywa Industrial Zone Exhibition.—MNA

methods are to be applied to save cost while machinery is being used in ploughing, harvesting and threshing.

Transplanting contests are to be held as they were held in the past and contests on the use of farming equipment needs to be held for enabling farmers to realize the saving of cost and time, thereby contributing to enhancing the agricultural production.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on efforts made for development of the national economy by laying the short-term plan since 1992-1993, the ratio of Sagaing Division in the national economy and efforts to be made for development of the division.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin spoke of the need for continued cultivation of the ten major crops since they are thriving in the division. He added that efforts are to be made for successful cultivation of such kitchen crops as chilli, potatoes and onions in the division and the government will provide assistance for

mutually beneficial in cooperation with foreign nations.

There are many projects that can generate hydel power in the division, he said and added that he inspected Shwesaye Hydel Power Project that can generate over 600 megawatt in Budalin Township, Monywa District and left instructions on implementing the project.

Htamanthi Hydel Power Project which is to be implemented for development of Chindwin Valley will be able to generate over 1,200 megawatt and arrangements are being made for implementing the project.

Paunglaung Hydel Power Project that can generate 280 megawatt, Monchaung Hydel Power Project that can generate 75 megawatt and Tikyit coal fired power plant under implementation will soon be completed and Yeywa Hydel Power Project in Kyaukse Township and Shweli Hydel Power Project in Namkham Township are under implementation.

He said the government is building a peaceful modern developed nation with the objective of equi-

reignty.

He said over 100 national races have been living in amity in various parts of the country since time immemorial.

He said there are over 5.7 million people in Sagaing Division. Over 50 national races such as Bamar, Shan, Chin, Naga, Kadu, Kanan and Lushine are living there in unity. So Sagaing Division is like a small union.

Like Sagaing Division, national races are living in amity in other States and Divisions.

He said it is important to implement the tasks based on the Union Spirit and national solidarity spirit in building the Union of Myanmar formed with 14 states and divisions to be modern developed one.

All states and divisions must be developed for progress of national races and the country. In order to develop states and divisions, it is necessary to make progress in district, township and rural areas. Therefore, officials at different levels are to make field trips to the grassroots levels and carry out tasks for regional development



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially meets with departmental personnel and local authorities at Monywa Town Hall.—MNA

Monywa Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee, Chairman of Industrial Zone Management Committee and members and industrialists.

Monywa Industrial Zone in-charge Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported on establishment of the zone in 1992, allotment of plots to the industrialists, construction of roads and supply of power in the zone, assembling of motor vehicles and arrangements for assembling of trucks and buses.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on assistance provided for development the zone with

to produce enough quality farm equipment to save cost and time in agricultural tasks in place of manpower.

He said labour saving cultivation methods are to be used widely.

Human resource devel-

cles, 10-ton truck, propellers, pumps and lawn mowers.

They inspected finished wood products, electrical appliances, textiles, foodstuffs and traditional medicines. —MNA

Minister inspects immigration control at international airport

YANGON, 7 Feb.—Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Maung Aung, Director General U Maung Htay and officials, arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening and inspected the

immigration control where the staff of the Immigration and National Registration Department were monitoring e-passports of passengers and extending counters for speedy arrivals and departures of passengers. Then, the minister gave necessary instructions to officials. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays homage to remains of Konlon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays homage to remains of Konlon Sayadaw

YANGON, 7 Feb.—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by air on 6 February afternoon and arrived at Heho Airport, Shan State, at 12.50 pm.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Mya Win of Kalaw Station and military and civilian officials.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by the commander, proceeded to Konlon Pariyatti Monastery in Pindaya Township, Shan State, where they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Zaw Win of Bahtoo Station, departmental personnel and national races.

Next, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to the remains of State Ovadaçariya Pindaya Township Galontaung Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha

Saddhammajotika Konlon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya who passed away at 12.15 am on 30 January 2004.

Then, the Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to Mandalay Maha Dabayintaik Kanbawza Htutmyat Yadana Monastery Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Medhavi and members of the Sangha. The Sayadaws gave advice to hold the final rites.

The Prime Minister supplicated on Konlon sayadaw's endeavours for religious affairs and donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Next, a ceremony was held to donate cash for holding the final rites. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko accepted K 214,940,583 donated by wellwishers including K 500,000 each by families of military intelligence; Eastern Command; Shan State Peace and Development Council; and Ministry of Religious Affairs; K 157 million by Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Dr Daw Khin Khin Seint; K 10,500,000 by Daw Phyu Phyu Win; K 10 million by U Sai Myo Win,

chairman of Myanmar Arman Automobile Assembling Industry of Shwepyitha; K 6 million by Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U San Nyein-Daw Thein Win; K 2.3 million by U Moe Tun-Daw Amy Thet of Mandalay; K 2 million by Dr U Nyein Swe-Dr Daw May Kyi of Mawlamyine; K 1.15 million by people from Mongshu Township; K 1 million by Shan State (South) Special Region-6 Chairman U Aung Hkam Hti and U Nay Win Tun; K 1 million each by U Aung Ko Win-Daw Nan Than Htwe; the managing director and family of Aden Construction Co Ltd; and Daw Htay Htay Myint, Daw San San Win of Dawei; K 751,300 by regiments and units under Eastern Command; K 656,111 by Bahtoo Station; K 500,000 by Ngwe Hsin Jewellery Co Ltd Chairman U Soe Myint; K 500,000 by Kokant Literary and Culture Group; and Associate Professor Daw May Kyi Win of Yangon Institute of Education.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected preparations for building Sankyung Beikman of the remains of the Sayadaw.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe offer Shwekyar Thingan for Yokson Pagoda to Theindaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandadhika.—MNA

Saddhammajotika Theindaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandadhika and members of the Sangha. Also present were Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and local authorities, Shan State

and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe donated Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw, tiers of the Htidad, Shwekyar Thingan and provisions to Theindaung Sayadaw.

Similarly, the ministers and Pa-O national race leaders offered donations to the Sayadaws.

Later, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandadhika delivered a sermon and General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party shared merits gained.

Afterwards, General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, the Secre-

and Hngetmyat-nadaw atop the pagoda.

At the auspicious time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt himself hoisted Seinbudaw atop Yokson Pagoda. Then, he sprinkled scented water on Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw. The Prime Minister also offered Shwekyar Thingan to the pagoda.

Afterwards, members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda. Next, the Prime Minister and party performed the rituals of golden and silvery showers to mark successful

Quality products can be...

(from page 16)
where Managing Director of Eden Group Co Ltd U Chit Khaing reported on conditions of the land for the facility, organizational set-up, and preparations for construction of buildings. At the briefing hall, the managing director continued his report on salient points on the project and design of the three-storey main building of facility. Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister viewed the scale model of the main building and left necessary instructions.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Sao San Htun General Hospital in Taunggyi where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Aye Kyi Sein, doctors and nurses.

At the hall, Medical Superintendent Dr Aye Kyi

Sein reported on the history of the hospital, the location and area, lay-out plan and set up of the hospital buildings and medical treatment matters. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint gave a supplementary report.

Medical Superintendent Dr Win Myint of Women's and Children's Specialist Hospital also reported matters related to his hospital. The General gave instructions on Women's and Children's Specialist Hospital of Taunggyi to be upgraded into the 200-bed one and extension of buildings at the hospital.

The Prime Minister inspected the dental and oral special care unit, the diagnostic unit and the operation theatre of Sao San Htun General Hospital.

On arrival at Women's and Children's Specialist Hospital of Taunggyi, Medical Superintendent Dr Win Myint and staff welcomed

the Prime Minister and party.

The Prime Minister inspected the compound of the hospital for construction of extended buildings to be able to upgrade the hospital into the 200-bed one and chose the site for buildings. Next, he saw over the child patient ward and the health knowledge exhibition hall.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to Panglong Yeiktha in Taunggyi.

This morning, the Prime Minister and party arrived at historic Mwedaw Ketku Pagoda in Kyauktalon, Taunggyi Township, where they were welcomed by Pa-O national race leaders and local people.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister attended the ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop the Yokson Pagoda, which is pagoda number F 448 of Mwedaw Ketku Pagoda. The ceremony was graced by the presence of State Ovadaçariya Abhidhaja Agga Maha



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed by Pa-O national race leaders at Mwedaw Ketku Pagoda in Taunggyi.—MNA

(South) Special Region-6 national race leader U Aung Hkam Hti and national race leaders, religious and social organizations and local people.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandadhika administered the Nine Precepts. Then, members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe,

tary-2's wife Daw Khin Khin Win and party, Pa-O national race leader U Aung Hkam Hti and party conveyed Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and tiers of the Htidad around the pagoda.

Next, Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and tiers of the Htidad were conveyed atop the pagoda by the floated carriage. Then, lay persons hoisted tiers of the Htidad

completion of the ceremony. They then offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws who attended the Htidad hoisting ceremony.

The Prime Minister and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party paid homage to Asoka Hsutaungpyay Pagoda.

The Prime Minister and party went back to Taunggyi in the afternoon.

MNA

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Chinese Vice-Premier meets FAO, WHO China representatives

BELING, 7 Feb — Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu met with Gamal Ahmed, China representative of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and World Health Organization (WHO) China representative Henk Bekedam here Friday.

Hui briefed them on the current situation of China's work on the prevention and treatment of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu) outbreak, and measures that the country has taken against the disease.

Hui said China attaches great importance to the prevention and treatment work as regards bird flu, and has formulated prevention guidelines and a series of policies to effectively prevent and control the spread of the disease.

Hui spoke highly of the effective cooperation between China and the FAO and the WHO, and expressed appreciation to the two international organizations, which have provided understanding and support to China's efforts to overcome the bird flu crisis. China will issue accurate, correct and

timely publicity on the disease situation, Hui pledged, stressing that China would establish transparent and effective communication channels with relevant international organizations, and concerned countries and regions to build communication and cooperation in the aspect of bird flu prevention.

The representatives of the two international organizations commented positively on China's attitude and policies as regards the epidemic, and expressed their understanding about the current adverse impact the disease has brought on the Chinese people.

The FAO and the WHO will join hands with China to fight the epidemic, the representatives of the two international organizations vowed. — MNA/Xinhua



Flamenco's dancers perform during Sara Baras' Mariana Pineda show in Santander, northern Spain on 6 Feb, 2004. The show will be touring Spain during the next few months. — INTERNET

BIMST-EC countries to enhance cooperation

PHUKET (Thailand), 7 Feb — Senior officials from South and Southeast Asian countries on Friday met in southern Thailand to explore ways for further economic cooperation in various fields and try to reach a free trade agreement.

The key issue discussed is the framework agreement of free trade in the BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation) region, the Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sihassak Phuangketkeow told reporters at the end of the one-day meeting, held on the resort island of Phuket, some 900 kilometres south of Bangkok.

The framework agreement, aimed to fully explore development opportunities in the region, was expected to be signed at the upcoming ministerial meeting to be held here on Sunday, said the spokesman.

He added that whether the framework would be signed as scheduled largely

depended on related discussions at the BIMST-EC trade/economic ministerial meeting to be held on Saturday.

The BIMST-EC countries decided to enhance cooperation in promoting and marketing tourism in the region, said Tej Bunnag, the permanent secretary of Thai Foreign Affairs Ministry, while showing leaflets, CDs and posters featuring the region's common culture and religious tourism resources.

The senior official meeting also proposed to facilitate business visits in the region through issuing multiple re-entry long-term visas within the areas to certified business individuals.

MNA/Xinhua

Three carmakers prop up Beijing's auto expansion in 2003

BELING, 7 Feb — Beijing's auto industry saw its fastest expansion in the country in 2003, with Beijing Hyundai, Beijing Jeep and Beijing Foton, the three biggest local carmakers, becoming the pillars propping up its rapid growth.

According to Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings Corp (BAIHC), China's fifth largest auto group, auto sales revenue more than doubled from 2002 to 30.82 billion yuan (3.7 billion dollars) in the city last year, up 162.1 per cent.

A total of 348,000 motor vehicles were produced and 336,000 sold in the capital last year, reversing the loss-making trend of the industry in the past few years.

Beijing Hyundai, Beijing Jeep and Beijing Foton, said Cheng Lianyan, director of Beijing's industry promotion bureau, were driving the city's auto development.

Beijing Hyundai, the local auto giant involving BAIHC and the biggest automaker Hyundai Motors of South Korea, sold 52,000 vehicles last year, exceeding that of China's well-established carmaker FAW Car Company Limited.

It expects to more than double its output next year to produce 130,000 vehicles, including 60,000 Hyundai Sonata sedans, which were introduced at the end of 2002, and 70,000 of the smaller Elantra sedans launched on December 23, 2003.

Beijing Jeep, China's leading off-road automotive-making venture between BAIHC and German-US Daimler-Chrysler AG, reported sales revenue of 3.4 billion yuan (410 million dollars) last year, up 167.3 per cent over the same 2002 period due to growing demand for its sports utility vehicles (SUVs). — MNA/Xinhua

Mercury study shows permanent damage to children

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb — Children whose mothers eat seafood high in mercury while pregnant can suffer irreparable brain damage, researchers reported on Friday.

The report comes the same week as the US Environmental Protection Agency doubled its estimate of how many newborns had unsafe levels of mercury in their blood. The study, done by an international group led by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health, also showed that children exposed to mercury in the womb may suffer permanent damage to their heart function.

"We found that both prenatal and postnatal mercury exposure affects brain functions and that they seem to affect different targets in the brain," Philippe Grandjean, who led the study, said in a statement. "The fact that the current exposure has an additional effect, despite the low mercury concentrations is worrisome, especially for communities where seafood

constitutes an important part of the diet," Grandjean added.

Grandjean and colleagues studied more than 1,000 mothers and children living in Denmark's Faroe Islands. Residents there eat large amounts of fish, much of which is contaminated with mercury. They measured mercury in the cord blood taken from the children at birth and then in hair samples taken at ages 7 and 14.

Most of the mothers were suffering from mercury contamination, with their own hair levels at childbirth on average above 1 microgram per gram, the limit recommended by the EPA and the independent, non-government National Research Council.

Writing in the *Journal of Pediatrics*, Grandjean and colleagues in Denmark and

Japan said they put electrodes on the heads of the children to measure electrical signals in the brain. They found delays in brain signalling, and the higher the mother and child's mercury load at birth, the more distinct the irregularities.

They also found these neurological changes led to poorer system control of heart function. The children with the most mercury in their blood were less capable of maintaining the normal variability of the heart rate necessary to secure proper oxygen supply to the body, Grandjean's team found. Just this week an EPA researcher published a report doubling the estimates of how many US infants have unsafe levels of mercury in their blood.

MNA/Reuters

Indian Govt urged to hurry up with integrated food law

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb — Blaming the Indian Government for multiplicity of laws and regulations on food safety standards, a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on pesticide residues in soft drinks has asked the government to quickly finalize the already drafted Modern Integrated Food Law, the *Press Trust of India* reported here.

In its report, the JPC found a multiplicity of laws and regulations dealing with food safety standards since as

many as eight ministries deal with food laws.

The committee said it was deeply concerned about the fact that very often these bodies work independent of each other and there was hardly any coordination among them.

"Such a situation has obviously resulted in loose administration and enforcement of the various laws with the result that the consumer is the ultimate sufferer," it said.

While asking the government to hurry up with the Modern Integrated Food Law, the JPC also noted that the proposed bill provides for establishment of an independent Food Safety and Standards Authority of India "which shall be responsible for ensuring availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption by fostering the use of science in the food industry".

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors are dwarfed by a huge snow sculpture of New York Yankees' slugger Hideki Matsui sitting in a New York scenery including the Miss Liberty at the Sapporo Snow Festival in Sapporo, northern Japan, on 5 Feb, 2004. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Venus pulls out of Pan Pacific Open with injury

TOKYO, 7 Feb— Top seed Venus Williams suffered a fresh injury blow on Friday when she was forced to pull out of her quarterfinal at the Pan Pacific Open with a leg problem.

The former world number one was playing only her second tournament after being sidelined for six months with an abdominal injury.

"I'm having a problem with my leg and really can't play today," a tearful Venus told the crowd in Tokyo. "I've done everything I can do at this point. I really wish things could be different but they can't, so I'm just going to deal with the circumstances."

MNA/Reuters

Lewis faces one more fight in court

LONDON, 7 Feb— On the day he announced his retirement from boxing heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis was told by a top judge that he faces one more bout, against promoter Don King in London's High Court.

Mr Justice Eady backed a decision by a senior High Court official to allow King to launch a libel claim against Lewis, his promotion company Lion Promotions LLC and his New York attorney Judd Burstein over comments made by Burstein and published on two boxing websites.

MNA/Reuters

AC Milan Brazilian soccer star Kaka, left, and Lazio midfielder Giuliano Giannichedda jump for the ball during their Italian Cup, first leg, semifinal soccer match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, Italy, on 5 Feb, 2004.

INTERNET



Leeds keeper wants loan-back deal to join Spurs

LEEDS (England), 7 Feb— Leeds United goalkeeper Paul Robinson said on Friday he would only have agreed to join Tottenham Hotspur if he had been loaned straight back to help in his

club's relegation fight. Robinson, who has four England caps, was set to move to London for a fee in excess of 2.0 million pounds (3.67 million US dollars) but the deal fell through on Mon-

day, the transfer deadline day.

"I insisted that I wanted to come back on loan until the end of the season," Robinson told the Yorkshire Evening Post. "I stipulated right from the beginning that I wanted to come right back here and help Leeds out of the situation they are in, no matter what."

"I've been here since I was 14 and didn't feel it right to turn my back and say 'Get on with it, I'm out of it'."

Leeds are more than 80 million pounds in debt and chief executive Trevor Birch needs five million pounds to keep the bottom-of-the-league club afloat until the beginning of next season.

"It's not that bad an investment if we start winning a few games so hopefully we can turn things round," added Robinson, who along with his teammates agreed to a wage deferral of over 20 per cent last Thursday.

Leeds, who are bottom of the Premier League three points adrift of Wolverhampton Wanderers, play Aston Villa on Saturday and caretaker manager Eddie Gray has warned his players that they must start performing if the club are to avoid relegation.

"It's up to them now," Gray told a news conference at the club's training ground on Friday.—MNA/Reuters

Argentina, Brazilian sides enjoy Libertadores success

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Feb— Rosario Central upset 2002 Libertadores champions Olimpia 2-0 in Asuncion and Santos beat Bolivia's Jorge Wilstermann 3-2 at altitude on a good night for Argentine and Brazilian clubs in the competition on Thursday.

Brazil's Sao Caetano, who lost the 2002 final to Olimpia, also made a positive start to their group one campaign with a 4-2 victory over The Strongest of Bolivia despite being a man short for the last half hour after Marcinho was sent off.

Playmaker Alex struck a brilliant winner with a 35-metre free kick for Santos, last year's runners-up, in their Group Seven match in Cochabamba where Pele's former club overcame the 2,600-metre altitude that usually favours Bolivian sides.

Basilio scored twice in 10 minutes in early breakaways to put Santos two up before Wilstermann's Brazilian striker Tulio pulled one back with a header in the 34th.

Colombian Vladimir Marin equalized for Wilstermann in the 75th before Alex struck his winner five minutes from time.

In Asuncion, striker Gonzalo Bellosio, who had a spell with Racing Strasbourg in France in the late 1990s, put Rosario Central ahead just after the hour to stun triple cham-

pions Olimpia in Group Nine.

The Argentines were marshalled in defence by former Derby County centre-back Horacio Carbonari with the midfield anchored by ex-Newcastle United Chilean Clarence Acuna. The Paraguayans conceded another as German Herrera scored 12 minutes from time. Sao Caetano took a 2-0 halftime lead against The Strongest through Somalia and Gilberto before Marcinho, one of their best players, made it three in the 53rd, a minute after substitute Francisco Ferreira had pulled one back for The Strongest.

Marcinho was then brought down by Marcelo Carballo and Anderson Lima converted the 57th-minute penalty. However, when Marcinho went down again in the box three minutes later and he was shown the red card for diving, his second bookable offence.

The Strongest pulled another goal back in the 71st through striker Limberg Mendez but failed to narrow the gap further.

MNA/Reuters

Delighted Houllier ponders new Henchoz deal

LIVERPOOL (England), 7 Feb— Gerard Houllier says Liverpool will consider giving Stephane Henchoz a new contract after the Swiss defender declared he wanted to finish his career at Anfield.

"I am pleased he wants to stay and in due time we will look at that," Houllier told reporters on Friday.

Henchoz, who joined Liverpool from Blackburn for 3.5 million pounds in June 1999, told the club's website: "I don't want another move so I would like to stay here, where I am happy."

Houllier has outlined Henchoz' importance to the team by claiming the club would currently be in the Champions League if he had not been injured for the final three months of last season.

Liverpool missed out when they beaten by Chelsea on the final day of the season.

"It is no coincidence that Stephane missed a large part of last season and we finished

three points short of the Champions League," Houllier said. "This season he was also injured when playing for his country but he has just come back to the team recently. He is getting stronger and stronger and is now getting back to his best."

Henchoz will partner Sami Hyypia in defence when Liverpool travel to Bolton on Saturday, with Houllier warning his side not to underestimate Sam Allardyce's side.

"They are a good side with plenty of experience," he added. "They have a lot of players from abroad, but they have been here for a couple of years and have settled."

Liverpool go into the game in fifth place despite having taken just two points from three games. —MNA/Reuters

Irish investors study United response to concerns

DUBLIN, 7 Feb— Manchester United's two major shareholders John Magnier and J.P. McManus were studying a response on Thursday to 99 questions they had posed to the board about corporate governance at the club.

The Irish racing tycoons, who own 25 per cent of United's shares through their investment vehicle Cubic Expression, submitted a 12-page letter on January 16 seeking details of player transfers, fee payments and regulatory compliance.

A source close to Cubic told Reuters the board had responded late on Wednesday with a seven-page letter plus a six-page attachment.

"We have received the letter and we are giving it due consideration," the source said, giving no further details. United's response to the Irishmen's concerns will be critical in determining the next chapter in a fraught saga that has put huge pressure on one of the world's most famous clubs.

If the reply is deemed inadequate, Magnier and McManus are likely to act-

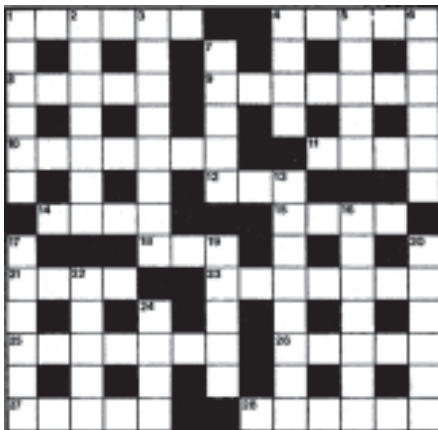
vate one of their previously stated options — to force an emergency shareholder meeting, seek representation on the board or complain directly to Britain's financial regulatory authorities.

Such an escalation would be unwelcome to the United

board which is already deeply uncomfortable about a high-profile legal battle between manager Alex Ferguson and bloodstock billionaire Magnier over disputed rights to racehorse Rock of Gibraltar.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 English river
- 4 Grab
- 8 Christopher—
- 9 Plunder
- 10 Not deep
- 11 Scholastic season
- 12 Snooze
- 14 Encounter
- 15 Scarce
- 18 Health centre
- 21 Profit
- 23 Camp without tent
- 25 Green jewel
- 26 Sheeplike
- 27 Shiny fabric
- 28 On the way up

DOWN

- 1 Tension
- 2 Quiver
- 3 Small curls
- 4 Despatch
- 5 Annoyed
- 6 Arctic aborigine
- 7 Five-shilling piece
- 13 Prior
- 16 Custom
- 17 Way out
- 19 Reside
- 20 A manner of speaking
- 22 Unskilful
- 24 Principal



Mexico's soccer player Sergio Ponce, front, fights for the ball with Costa Rica's Junior Diaz during their Pre-Olympic soccer match celebrated at the Jalisco Stadium on 6 Feb, 2004, in Guadalajara City, Mexico.—INTERNET



Aerial view of Mwedaw Ketku pagodas in Kyauktalongyi, Taunggyi Township. (News on page 16)—MNA

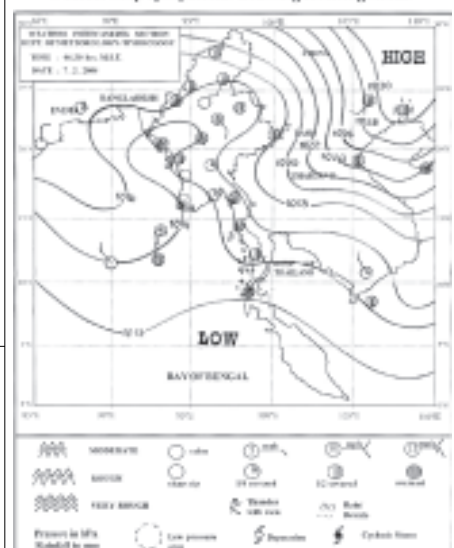


Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe convey Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatmadaw around Yokson Pagoda. (News on page 16)—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sprinkles scented water on Seinbudaw atop Yokson Pagoda in Taunggyi. (News on page 16)—MNA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 7 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Chin and Mon States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Maximum temperature on 6-2-2004 was 34.5°C. Minimum temperature on 7-2-2004 was 14.5°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-2-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 6-2-2004 was 9.2 hours approximately. Rainfall on 7-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. **Bay inference:** Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 8-2-2004:** Isolated rains are likely in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 60%. **State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of isolated rain are likely in Southern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-2-2004:** Partly cloudy to cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-2-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain, Degree of certainty is 40%.

"Earthquake Report" (10:30 hours M.S.T today)

An earthquake of strong intensity 7.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about 3,000 miles South-east of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (09)hrs (20)min (27)sec M.S.T on 7th February 2004.

Myanmar delegation arrives back from Indonesia

YANGON, 7 Feb — After attending the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism in Bali, Indonesia, Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win arrived back here by air this afternoon. The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Indonesian Embassy to Myanmar.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win met Dr Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, on 4 February and Dr Ichiro Aisawa, Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs. During the meetings they exchanged views on issues of mutual interests.

Alternate leader of the delegation Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and members Police Brig-Gen Winn Myaing from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Director U Denzil Abel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also arrived back together with the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Myanmar youth enter final in BIMST-EC Cup Soccer

YANGON, 7 Feb—The First U-18 BIMST-EC Cup 2004 continued in Phuket, Thailand, at 3.30 pm local time today. Myanmar youth team beat Bangladeshi youth 3-0 in the first semifinal match.

Kyaw Kyaw Soe opened the first gold for the Myanmar youth team at 15th minute of second-half; Tun Min Oo scored another one at 21st minute and Zaw Htet Aung the third gold at 27th minute. In the second semifinal match, Indian youth team beat host Thai youth 3-0.

On 8 February, Myanmar youth team will play against Indian youth team in the final match.—MNA

Rural roads opened to hail Union Day

YANGON, 7 Feb—Hailing 57th Anniversary Union Day, the opening ceremony of Tonkham-Mantmaw rural gravel road was held in conjunction with the ceremony to launch the rural water supply programme in Teinlon Village of Muse Township on 2 February. Chairman of Muse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Win and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Shwe of Shan State (North) Development Affairs Committee formally opened the road which is 4,000 feet long and 12 feet wide and launched the water supply programme.

In Namkham Township, Namkham-Manlon gravel road was put into service on 2 February hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day. District Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Shwe formally opened the one mile and seven furlongs long and 12 feet wide gravel road.

Similarly, a ceremony to put back into service repaved Yadana road was held in Pyapon Township on 6 February. Officials formally opened the road.—MNA

Union Day delegates arrive

YANGON, 7 Feb—The delegates to the 57th Anniversary Union Day comprising national race cultural troupes and Union Solidarity and Development Association members from States and Divisions continued to arrive here today. The national race cultural troupes and USDA members from Kachin State and Mandalay Division arrived here this morning by train. The national race cultural troupes and USDA members from Shan State (South) and Shan State (North) arrived here this afternoon by train. Likewise, the national race cultural troupes and USDA members from Magway Division arrived at the Transit Centre this morning and those from Ayeyawady Division arrived at the same venue this afternoon by car. Similarly, those from Chin State arrived here by air this morning.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party pay homage to Alaungdaw Kassapa in Kani Township, Sagaing Division.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San pay homage to Alaungdaw Kassapa

YANGON, 7 Feb— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San arrived in Kani Township, Sagaing Division, on 4 February morning and paid homage to Alaungdaw Kassapa.

Accompanied by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command

Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and departmental heads, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San flew to Alaungdaw Kassapa in Kani Township at 11.30 am.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party paid homage to Alaungdaw Kassapa image and offered gold foils to it.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented cash donations to the board of trustees. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party visited the cave of Alaungdaw Kassapa.

At the hall of the board of trustees, they paid homage to Patron of the trusteeship board of Alaungdaw Kassapa

Phowintaung Popa Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumana of Yinmabin Township and two patron Sayadaws. They then donated eight requisites to the Sayadaws.

Patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandiçca administered the Five Precepts, followed by sharing of merits.

In the evening, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party went to Khatakantaung Village in Monywa Township by helicopter.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Maha Bawditaung Monastery in the village. They then paid obeisance and offered provisions to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the monastery Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada.— MNA

Quality products can be manufactured in quantity if industrial zones cooperate each other

Prime Minister inspects development projects in Taunggyi, Shan State

YANGON, 7 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party paid reverence to the remains of Presiding Nayaka of Galontaung Monastery in Pindaya, Shan State, Kunlon Sayadaw and next arrived at Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi yesterday afternoon.

The Prime Minister held a meeting with members of the industrial supervisory committee of the industrial zone and industrialists. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, who is in charge of the industrial zone, reported on location and area of the industrial zone, plots, allotment of land to the entrepreneurs, construction of roads and electricity supply for development of the industrial zone, production of foodstuff, accommodations and personal goods, raw materials, general services, test assembling of Shan Star jeeps, double cabs, saloons, four-door jeeps, Kanbawza super jeeps, pick-ups, above 10-ton trucks and 40-passenger buses, production of power tillers, paddy threshers, oil milling machines and combined harvesters, automobile spare parts, bore nuts, iron sieves, brick, corn threshers and small generators, providing of engines and accessories by the State, sales of machines and spare parts by the Ministry of Industry-2, rendering of communication facilities

and requirements.

Next, Deputy Director of Shan State Settlement and Land Records Department U Tint Hsan reported on arrangements for allotment of more plots with the use of charts.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister delivered a speech. In his speech, he said that it needs to produce more agricultural machinery and farm implements which contribute much towards boosting agricultural production of Myanmar, an agro-based nation. Efforts are to be employed to build up an industrialized nation while transforming traditional farming to mechanized farming, he noted.

In this process, tasks are to be carried out to achieve success by combining mechanized farming and industries. The Government has established industrial zones and has been rendering necessary assistance for upgrading the industrial zones for development of the State's industrial sector, he said.

While manufacturing foodstuff, consumer products, furniture, machines, paper and sugar and so on, the industrialists are to produce more small quality turbines and farm implements in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, he said.

Endeavours are to be



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects fertilizers produced from Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi on 6-2-2004.— MNA

made to boost production of bus and truck needed for the transport sector while taking innovative measures for enhancing the quality of automobiles. Parts of vehicles are produced separately and thus quality products can be manufactured in quantity on condition that factories or industrial zones cooperate each other, he pointed out.

Now, Hlinethaya Industrial Zone has reached the position of manufacturing bodies and frames of automobiles, buses and trucks making use of modern machines. So, responsible persons are to strive for boost-

ing production of vehicles through cooperation, he said.

Ways and means are to be sought for further production of import-substitute items in order to minimize imports of industrial raw materials. The State has acknowledged innovative measures of the industrialists with the use of what they have, he added. With the strong economy of the State, the Government would provide more and more assistance for further development of the industrial zones, he pledged.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on those in

charge of respective industrial zones and industrialists, to ensure cumulative development of the zones seeking better ways and means through constant cooperation.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party viewed fertilizers, finished plastic wares, sugar, paddy threshers, power tillers, paddy harvesters, corn threshers, parts of oil mills, other machines and various models of vehicles at the hall of the industrial zone.

They proceeded to Government Technological College (Ayethaya) Project, (See page 11)

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