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Efforts being made to safeguard national solidarity and ensure non-disintegration of the Union

The government has exerted efforts patiently and resolutely to get the national race groups return to the legal fold. Success has been achieved considerably, and national reconsolidation has been successfully built up.

As national reconsolidation has been achieved and peace and tranquillity prevails throughout the nation, development tasks concerning betterment of transport, water supply, economy, health and education have been undertaken in rural areas and remote border areas which lagged behind in development. In this way, efforts have been made to bridge the gap of development between rural and urban areas, to maintain and safeguard national solidarity and to ensure non-disintegration of the Union.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 55th Anniversary Union Day)



Peace, tranquillity and development prevail in almost every part of the country due to national solidarity

Prime Minister attends opening of main building of Hpa-an University held in honour of 57th Anniversary Union Day



YANGON, 9 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the ministers, the deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by Tatmadaw aircraft for Kayin State this morning.

On arrival at Hpa-an at 8.30 am, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were welcomed there by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman and South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Kayin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Khin Kyu, local authorities, departmental officials, and members of social organizations.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Hpa-an University, where the opening ceremony of the main university building constructed by the Ministry of Education in Hpa-an of Kayin State in order to develop human resources, was held in honour of the 57th Anniversary Union Day. Myanmar Education Committee Chair-

man Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address on the occasion.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, the deputy ministers, local authorities, responsible personnel, departmental heads, members of social organizations, the pro-rector of the university, faculty members, students of Kayin, Mon, PaO and Shan national races, band troupes, pom pom troupes, and the local people.

The ceremony started with the opening of Adipati Road at the archway at the top of the road at the university.

On the occasion, Director of Kayin State Development Affairs Committee U Thet Hnin Oo reported on matters in respect of the extension of Adipati Road.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Education U Than Aung, and Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun formally opened the road.

(See page 10)

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt plants a tree to mark the success of the opening ceremony of Hpa-an University main building. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party and faculties and students pose for photo in front of the Hpa-an University. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 10 February, 2004

Towards national development through mechanized farming

The State Peace and Development Council is working day and night for the nation to become peaceful, modern and developed. Realizing that the industrial development is the sine qua non for modernizing the nation, the SPDC Government has organized the scattered private industries into 19 industrial zones and sub-industrial zones.

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 on 3 February visited the Kalay Industrial Zone and the Monywa Industrial Zone in Sagaing Division. In his meeting with members of the Monywa Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee, chairman of the Industrial Zone Management Committee and industrialists, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that, as ours was an agricultural country, it was necessary to reduce the cost of cultivation and for the industrial zones to produce agricultural machinery and equipment of standard quality in large quantity to facilitate the agricultural work.

The Kalay Industrial Zone is producing small generators, farm machinery and minibuses on an experimental scale. The Monywa Industrial Zone is also producing various vehicles including 10-ton trucks, electrical goods, textiles, foodstuffs and traditional medicines besides farm machinery.

To raise the momentum of the development of industrial zones, respective courses are being conducted so as to enhance the skills of industrialists and industrial workers and arrangements are often made so that they can go on a study tour of other industrial zones, mills and factories. As human resource development is also important for the development of industrial zones, it is necessary to turn out more and more skilled technicians and workers.

Now, the industrial zones across the nation are developing due to the assistance of the Government and the cooperation among themselves. Therefore, we would like to call upon all those concerned to make concerted efforts to modernize the nation while trying to change the traditional farming to the mechanized one.

ISD tennis 13-19 Feb

YANGON, 9 Feb — The 41st Inter-State/Division tennis championships will be held at Theinbyu Tennis Plaza from 13 to 19 February under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports and sponsorship of Myanmar Tennis Federation.

Tennis players from states and divisions may take part in the matches. — MNA

Computer courses at MICT Park

YANGON, 9 Feb — Myanmar Computer Federation and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) jointly opened Network Systems Engineers Courses (MYNW) and Instructor

Training on Fundamental IT Course (MYFEIT-2) at MICT Park here this morning.

Fifty-one trainees are attending the MYNW and 11 are attending the MYFEIT-2. — MNA

Hlawga Park to be kept open on Union Day

YANGON, 9 Feb — Hlawga Park of the Forest Department will be kept open to the general public on Union Day, 12 February 2004, from 8 am to 5 pm to enable them to relax with peace of mind. — MNA

Union Day, 12 February 2004, from 8 am to 5 pm to enable them to relax with peace of mind. — MNA

57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

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

Appointment of Ambassador of Hellenic Republic agreed on

YANGON, 10 Feb — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Miltiadis Hiskakis as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic to the Union of Myanmar in succession to HE Mr Nicholas Zafiroopoulos.

Mr Miltiadis Hiskakis was born in 1956 in Athens. He graduated from the University of Athens with a degree in Law.

He joined the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978 and served in various capacities in the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the diplomatic missions in Plodviv, Naples and New Delhi.

Mr Miltiadis Hiskakis is concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok. He is married with two daughters.

MNA

People's Desire

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



Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra presents the trophy to Myanmar Team (news on page 16).

MNA



President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains organizational set-up of the Federation. — MNA

Organizational set-up of MWAFF clarified in Taunggyi

YANGON, 9 Feb — President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Khin Khin Win and officials of MWAFF arrived in Taunggyi on 6 February.

President of MWAFF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party met members of Shan State (South) Organization for Women's Affairs at the town hall in Taunggyi.

They explained organizational set-up of MWAFF to them. Present were Daw Win Nu, wife of Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command, members of Shan State Peace and Development Council, members of supporting group and working groups, district and township organizations for women's affairs and local authorities.

At the meeting, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe said she came to Taunggyi to explain about

organizational set-up and functions. She said there are limits for Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs to carry the matters of the entire women widely and effectively. Being a non-governmental social organization, the MWAFF is a useful one for both the State and the entire mass of women.

She said the federation has laid down the seven lofty aims for development of women's life. Women are to submit their membership applications out of their own volition without being.

She urged the entire women to try to become gentle, polite and patriotic ones after realizing the noble aims of the federation in accord with the motto, "Let's make efforts for development of women's life."

Joint Secretary of the federation Daw Khin Hta May, Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win and health supporting group Daw Moe Moe

Khaing and other officials explained about the respective duties and functions.

Wellwishers Nila Yoma Co Ltd presented K 2.5 million, Pa-O national leader of Shan State special region-6 Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Aung Kham Hti and Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Nay Win Tun and wife Daw

Aye Aye Myint K 1 million, Shwekyabyan Ma Shwe Wa K 1 million, Nawarat Shwezarmani Co Ltd K 1 million, Thudhamma Theingi Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Daw Oke K 500,000 and Shan State (South) Organization for Women's Affairs K 500,000 for the federation to President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

MNA

MWAFF meets with Shan State (South) Organization for Women's Affairs

YANGON, 9 Feb — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party met with members of Shan State (South) Organization for Women's Affairs and supporting committees at the guest house of Eastern Command in Taunggyi yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the MWAFF explained matters related to the organizational set-up and future work programmes. Later, MWAFF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and officials replied to queries raised by members of Shan State (South) Organization for Women's Affairs.

MNA

Teza comes out

YANGON, 9 Feb — The Myawady Printing House has published the February issue of the Teza journal today. The journal includes cartoons, poems, quiz, children's corner and stories. — MNA

Kerry accuses Bush of changing Iraq war rationale

RICHMOND, Virginia, 9 Feb— Democratic front-runner John Kerry won the endorsement of Virginia's governor on Sunday and resumed his attack on President Bush, who he accused of trying to revise the rationale he used to wage war on Iraq.

At a news conference, Kerry challenged Bush's assertion during a morning talk show that the United States went to war with Saddam Hussein because it knew he had the ability to make weapons of mass destruction.

"This is a far cry from what the President and his administration told the American people through 2002," Kerry said. "Back then President Bush repeatedly told the American people that Saddam Hussein has got chemical weapons."

"They told us they could deploy these weapons within 45 minutes to injure our troops," the four-term senator from Massachusetts added. "It was on that basis that he sent Americans' sons and daughters off to war."

Kerry, who volunteered and was decorated for his duty in the Vietnam war, met with Governor Mark Warner over breakfast at the governor's mansion, where they watched the President's interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The Virginia governor later endorsed Kerry for President, a move that will give him a boost in the primary election for the Democratic presidential nomination on Tuesday.

Warner described Kerry as a candidate who has a "record of fiscal responsibility."

"As someone who inherited quite a budget mess here in Richmond, I know he will be inheriting a similar budget mess when he takes the White House - but his record going back to the 1980s when he broke with some in our party to support Gramm-Rudman (the 1985 balanced budget law) makes him the right man to bring back fiscal sanity to our nation's capital."

"He also critically understands the need for us in this economy to create more jobs here in America," Warner added.

Internet



US Army Sgt John Rhodes of the Charlie Company, 16 Infantry, 1st Armoured Division, from Houston, Texas, frisks an Iraqi commuter at a mobile checkpoint set up along a Baghdad street on Wednesday, 4 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Chinese oil imports exceed in 2003

BEIJING, 9 Feb— China imported 91.12 million tons of crude oil and 28.24 million tons of refined oil in 2003, up 31.3 per cent and 38.8 per cent year-on-year respectively, the Customs said Sunday.

China spent a total of 16.5 billion US dollars for the imports, increasing by half from a year earlier, according to the General Administration of Customs.

Trade experts attributed the sharp rise to China's soaring economy, which grew by 9.1 per cent last year and prompted demand for energy resources.

The rising consumption of motor vehicles and housing also contributed to the growing demand for oil products. China had 96.5 million motor vehicles on road by 2003, when 2.07 million cars were produced and 2.04 million were sold. Car production is projected to top 2.8 million this year, a jump of 40 per cent year-on-year. — MNA/Reuters

UN team meets Iraq Council, seeks poll solution

BAGHDAD, 9 Feb— A UN team that will judge if Iraq can hold elections before a US handover of power on June 30 met Iraq's US-backed Governing Council Sunday, vowing to help Iraq bury the "ordeal" of its past and become sovereign.

The United Nations team is under pressure to find a solution that will satisfy both Washington — which says it is impossible to hold polls so soon — and Iraq's majority Shi'ites who say the country must be allowed to choose its leaders directly.

In a boost for Washington, the first members of a Japanese force the United States has persuaded come to Iraq entered the country from Kuwait, in Japan's most controversial military deployment since World War II.

President Bush, under fire for failing to find the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction he originally gave as grounds for going to war in Iraq, Sunday defended his decision.

Hoping to halt a poll ratings slide before November's presidential election, Bush told NBC's "Meet the Press" that even if Saddam Hussein did not have such weapons he had acquired dangerous know-how.

Former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix criticized the way Western leaders had used intelligence to justify the war. Britain's Tony Blair is also facing criticism at home.

"The intention was to dramatize it (the intelligence) just as the vendors of some merchandise are trying to exaggerate the importance of what they have," Blix, who had wanted more time to search for Iraq's weapons before the US-led invasion, told the BBC. —Internet

Sudanese President leaves for Oman

KHARTOUM, 9 Feb— Sudanese President Omar Hassan el Bashir left here early Saturday for Oman on a state visit. During his visit, Bashir will hold talks with Omani Sultan Qabus bin Said on bilateral relations and means of boosting them in all sectors, in addition to current conditions in the region and issues of common concern, Sudanese official sources said.

The sources said, "Bashir's visit aimed at co-ordinating positions and efforts between the Sudanese President and Arab leaders on latest developments on the Sudanese arena and the Kenyan-brokered peace talks."

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed as Iraq guerillas attack convoys

BAGHDAD, 9 Feb— Guerillas attacked US Army convoys in three areas, killing one soldier and wounding three others Sunday, witnesses and the US command said.

Elsewhere, a UN team met with Iraqi leaders Sunday to discuss the chances of holding early legislative elections, and its leader pledged to do "everything possible" to help the country regain its sovereignty.

Meanwhile, a bomb planted inside a police station killed three policemen and injured 11 others on Saturday, officials said.

Also, Prince Charles made a surprise visit to

British troops in the southern city of Basra on Sunday amid tight security, the first member of the royal family to visit the country since the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

Charles wearing desert camouflage combats, sturdy boots and a black beret met more than 200 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment and thanked them for their work in Iraq.

Internet

Democrats criticize Bush budget priorities

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb— Democrats criticized President George W Bush's 2.4-trillion-US-dollars budget plan on Saturday, saying it calls for more tax cuts while slashing programmes that could help revitalize the nation's cities.

In the weekly Democratic radio address, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said Bush's budget for next fiscal year was disconnected from reality.

"While the President's plan to gut vital programmes, punish the middle class and saddle our children with a staggering debt is reckless, perhaps more alarming is the flawed economic premise upon which it is based," Kilpatrick said.

He said making Bush's tax cuts permanent would not beef up economic growth and create more jobs.

"The reality is that if America's cities do not prosper, our nation will not prosper," he said. "This country's economy is driven by its 320 metropolitan areas which generate 85 per cent of our nation's economic output."

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers from the Multi-National Brigade North detain an Iraqi during a patrol in the town of Mosul, some 390 km north of the capital Baghdad on 6 February, 2004. —INTERNET

Washington conceals US casualties in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—The Bush administration is deliberately concealing from the American people the number and condition of US military personnel who have been wounded in Iraq. The efforts by those few politicians and media figures who have pursued the issue make this clear.

Estimates on the number of US soldiers, sailors and Marines medically evacuated from Iraq by the end of 2003 because of battlefield wounds, illness or other reasons range from 11,000 to 22,000, a staggering figure by any standard. Thousands of these young men and women have been physically or psychologically damaged for life, in turn affecting the lives of tens of thousands of family members and others. And the war in Iraq is less than one year old.

A recent piece by Daniel Zwerdling on National Public Radio (January 7) highlighted some of the difficulties in establishing the truth about US casualties. Zwerdling began by noting that few Americans seemed aware of the large number of US wounded in Iraq.

Zwerdling set about finding the actual number by contacting the appropriate government and military offices. A spokesman for Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld told him to call US Central Command in Tampa, Florida.

A spokesman there informed him that only Rumsfeld's office had such information. A spokesman for the Army provided with him the number of its personnel wounded seriously enough to be evacuated out of Iraq by the end of 2003—8,848—but he had no figures on Marines, Navy Seals or other forces. The United States Medical Command told Zwerdling they were still searching for the numbers.

In December, Mississippi Democratic congressman Gene Taylor raised the possibility that the Pentagon was deliberately undercounting combat casualties when he brought to light the case of five members of the Mississippi National Guard who were wounded in a booby-trap bomb explosion, but whose injuries were listed as "noncombat" by the military. The truth emerged only because Taylor happened to speak to the most seriously injured of the five at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington. Taylor indicated that he would send a memo to the other members of Congress "and ask if anyone has had a similar incident." By the end of November, Roger Roy in the Orlando Sentinel could place the number of those "killed, wounded, injured or...ill enough to require evacuation from Iraq" at approximately 10,000. Roy noted that such figures were hard to track, "leading critics to accuse the military of underreporting casualty numbers."

Mark Benjamin of *United Press International* (UPI) has been one of the more assiduous in pursuing an accurate total of the number medically evacuated from Iraq. On December 19, Benjamin reported that in response to a request from UPI the Pentagon had provided a figure of nearly 11,000 US wounded and medical evacuations—2,273 wounded and 8,581 medical evacuations.—*Internet*

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Bomb at police station kills three in Iraq

SUWAYRAH, 9 Feb—A bomb inside a police station exploded soon after the morning roll call, killing three police officers and injuring 11 others, officials said Sunday.

The explosion occurred about 9 am Saturday in this town 30 miles south of Baghdad, according to police Lt Odai Salman Abed.

It was unclear who planted the bomb, which left a large hole in the floor of the station and caused extensive damage inside.

Insurgents have carried out frequent attacks on police stations since the Iraqi police force was reconstituted last year. More than 300 policemen have been killed, according to US military commanders.

Internet

Macaques reappear in Chinese capital

BEIJING, 9 Feb—Macaques, a species of monkey native to Beijing which disappeared for more than three decades, have reappeared in the suburban mountain areas of this Chinese capital city.

The Beijing Municipal Forestry Bureau said on Friday that three macaques were found before the Spring Festival, which fell on January 22, when frolicking in Yaoqiaoyu Village at the foot of Wuling Mountains in Miyun County, about 65 kilometres from downtown Beijing.

They were later confirmed to be the wild animals under state protection, the bureau said.

Experts said that macaques were easily seen in the areas of Wuling Mountains in northeastern Beijing in the 1950s and 60s, but they disappeared in the city in the 1970s.

MNA/Xinhua

2nd American jailed for obscene gesture in Brazil

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 9 Feb—The second American in a month was arrested while entering Brazil for making an obscene gesture while being photographed by an immigration official, police said on Saturday.

Federal police in Foz do Iguacu on Brazil's border with Argentina and Paraguay said retired US banker Douglas Allan Skolnick, 56, was jailed overnight for flipping his middle finger in a photo now required to be taken of all US tourists entering Brazil.

Brazil began fingerprinting and photographing Americans entering the country in January after the US Government imposed a similar process on foreigners, except for those from 27 mostly European countries.

"Mr Skolnick went before the judge this morning and opted to take the public prosecutor's offer that he pay a 50,000-real fine (17,000-US-dollar) to avoid prosecution," said officer Marcos Koren of the Foz do Iguacu federal police.—*MNA/Reuters*

Turkey launches initiatives to treat injured Iraqis

ANKARA, 9 Feb—Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said here Friday that Turkey had launched initiatives to treat the Iraqis who were injured in attacks in Irbil in northern Iraq last Sunday.

Upon his return from Belgium, Gul told reporters that a plane carrying seven people who were seriously injured in the attacks was about to land at Ankara Esenboga Airport.

Turkey started to launch the initiatives following the attacks on offices of Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in Irbil last Sunday, said Gul.

He pointed out that the Turkish Health Ministry had also taken necessary steps in a bid to treat the injured.

Two suicide bombers blew themselves up at PUK and KDP offices in Irbil, killing at least 109 people and injuring some 200 on February 1.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqi police survey the damage at their police station on Sunday, 8 Feb, 2004 where a bomb exploded the day before, killing three policemen and injuring 11 others, in Suwayrah town, 30 miles (50 kilometres) south of Baghdad. — INTERNET

Ivanov says Afghan drug trade threatens Russia

MUNICH (Germany), 9 Feb—NATO forces in Afghanistan are turning a blind eye to a flourishing drug trade that threatens the security of Russia and its neighbours, Russia's Defence Minister said on Saturday.

Sergei Ivanov told an international security conference in Munich that Afghanistan currently produces nine times as many drugs as it did under Islamist Taleban rule, ended by US-led forces in late 2001.

"It is understandable that by allowing drug peddling in Afghanistan, the (NATO) alliance ensures loyalty of faction leaders on the ground and of some Afghan leaders," Ivanov said.

"Nevertheless, the drug flow from Afghanistan is posing a serious threat to the national security of all of the Central Asian CIS states and Russia. It results from the absence of a truly international approach toward stabilization in Afghanistan."

He proposed that Russia, its allies in Central Asia and the NATO alliance set up a joint effort to crack down on Afghan production and export of drugs ranging from hashish to poppies used for heroin.

"Following the operation in Afghanistan, this state once again has turned into a

major source of drug trafficking, which crosses the CIS and Russia on to Western Europe," the Russian minister said.

Germany has a large number of troops in the Afghan peacekeeping force, but German Defence Minister Peter Struck told the conference his country's Parliament had forbidden its troops to become involved in any fighting against the drug trade there. He said it was a job for Afghan police.

Colour photographs of "blooming poppies" sent round the world might be something that "we have to live with for some time to come," he said.

US warships have in recent months intercepted a number of small dhow sailing vessels in the Gulf and Indian Ocean filled with bags of hashish. But Ivanov said the efforts fell short of promises by NATO and Washington to curb Afghanistan's drug trade.

MNA/Reuters



A US soldier (L) and an interpreter (R) check a car during a patrol in Tikrit, northern Iraq recently.—INTERNET

Blix says Bush, Blair insincere salesmen on Iraq

LONDON, 9 Feb—Hans Blix, who pleaded for more time to search Iraq for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons before a US-led invasion in March, said the West had a right to expect more from their leaders.

"The intention was to dramatize it (the intelligence) just as the vendors of some merchandise are trying to exaggerate the importance of what they have," Blix told BBC television.

Nearly 10 months after the war none of the biological or chemical weapons cited by President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair as the reason for a pre-emptive attack on Iraq have been found.

"From politicians, our leaders in the Western world, I think we expect more than that, a bit more sincerity," Blix said.

Last month former chief weapons inspector David Kay, who was tasked with finding such weapons in Iraq after the war ended, said those who asserted Iraq had weapons of mass destruction "were almost all wrong."

Blix's comments will fan the flames of a debate over whether Bush and Blair misled their peoples by arguing that war was needed to counter a growing threat to international peace from an Iraqi regime armed with weapons of mass destruction.

Internet



A South Korean man attends an anti-war and anti-US protest near the parliament in Seoul on 9 February, 2004. Thousands of protesters are expected to gather near the parliament to oppose plans to ratify the bills on the dispatch of troops to Iraq.—INTERNET

Guatemala on alert for possible rotavirus outbreak

MEXICO CITY, 9 Feb—The spread of the rotavirus has challenged the medical capacity of the country, Guatemalan Health Minister Marco Tulio Sosa said on Saturday.

"The increase in the cases of rotavirus and diarrhoea forces us to maintain the epidemic alert declared Tuesday in the public and private hospitals," the minister was quoted as saying by reports reaching here from Guatemala City.

The rotavirus, infecting mostly children, has killed 23 kids, most of them under 5 years old, and at least 26,000 people in the first five weeks of this year showed symptoms of the disease, Sosa said.

The epidemic began to appear in five departments of Guatemala — Escuintla, Suchitpequez, Sacatepequez and Huehuetenango. Now, it has spread to other four departments of Peten, Alta Verapaz, Jalapa and San Marco.

The alert, consisting of assistance and prevention programmes, has somewhat contained the disease and prevented it from further spreading, the minister added. — MNA/Xinhua

Poll shows 51% of British voters want Blair to resign

LONDON, 9 Feb — Fifty-one per cent of British voters want Prime Minister Tony Blair to resign and 54 per cent believe he lied to the nation over the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, according to a poll published by the Independent newspaper's Saturday edition.

The NOP poll, conducted this week, also shows the Tories are ahead of Labour in popularity with the Conservatives on 36 per cent, Labour on 35 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 24 per cent.

When asked what they thought of the statement: "It is now time for Tony Blair to resign and hand over to someone else," 51 per cent said they agreed or strongly agreed while 35 per cent disagreed or strongly disagreed. When asked "Given what you know now, do you think Tony Blair lied to the nation over the threat posed by Iraq?" 54 per cent responded "yes" and 31 per cent said "no" with the rest undecided.

The poll concludes a ter-

rible week for Blair in which the Tory leader Michael Howard called for his resignation over his admission that he did not know the exact nature of Saddam's weapons threat before the war against Iraq.

Blair told the lawmakers on Wednesday he had not known the claim that Iraq had chemical weapons ready to fire within 45 minutes referred to battlefield rather than long-range munitions.

The government's dossier, issued in September 2002, stated that "intelligence indicates that the Iraqi military are able to deploy chemical or biological weapons within 45 minutes of an order to do so".

MNA/Xinhua

US Marines charged with rape in Australia

CANBERRA, 9 Feb—Three US Marines have been charged with the rape of two Australian women in the tropical northern city of Darwin, Northern Territory police said on Sunday.

The sisters, aged 23 and

26, said they had gone to an apartment in the Darwin city centre with two of the servicemen just after midnight on Friday, where they met a third Marine, Northern Territory police said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters



The 57th Anniversary Union Day commemorative postcard.

British lawyer calls for Gulf War syndrome review

LONDON, 9 Feb—A senior British lawyer has demanded a public review of the issues surrounding Gulf War syndrome, the BBC reported Saturday.

In a letter to Lord Morris of Manchester, who has campaigned for Gulf War veterans, lawyer Stephen Irwin said: "There is no doubt that many of them are ill. It is accepted by experts worldwide that the veterans suffer ill health which is associated with their active service in the Gulf".

Gulf War syndrome is a condition popularized after the war against Iraq in 1991. Many of the 5,500 British

troops who served in the Gulf, together with US soldiers, have experienced a range of symptoms including muscle weakness, neurological symptoms, headaches, depression, fatigue, short-term memory loss and difficulty in concentrating, joint and muscle pain, sleep disturbances, skin rashes and shortness of breath.

There were also reports in the US of the same syn-

drome among Gulf War veterans.

"Science has not explained the mechanism or mechanisms of their illness, much less that their suffering has resulted from fault," Irwin said in the letter. "Nevertheless, we firmly believe that for very many veterans, their suffering is genuine and has a significant impact on their daily lives and the lives of their families."

MNA/Xinhua

Suspected Dutch soldier will not return to Iraq

BRUSSELS, 9 Feb — The Dutch soldier who is suspected of having shot dead an Iraqi civilian at the end of last year will not return to Iraq, Radio Netherlands reported Friday.

Dutch Defence Minister Henk Kamp Friday said in a local television programme that the man would "report for work" at the barracks in Doorn on Monday.

The 43-year-old sergeant-major "will remain available for further investigation by the authorities", Kamp was quoted as saying. The soldier was to be sent back to Iraq as soon as possible, but he apparently objected, according to Radio Netherlands.

It was reported that the soldier allegedly shot the victim during an encounter on

December 27, 2003 between Dutch troops and around 70 Iraqi civilians, who were apparently trying to loot a container in Samawah, southern Iraq. The soldier later flew back to the Netherlands, where he was taken into temporary custody.

The soldier was released a week later after a judge ruled there was insufficient evidence that the soldier had deliberately killed the suspected looter. However, the soldier is still considered as a suspect.

MNA/Xinhua



Protesters march through Munich on 7 Feb, 2004 to demonstrate against the 40th annual European Conference on Security Policy.—INTERNET

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

US and allies deaths resulting from car bomb attacks by Iraqi guerillas

Iraqi guerillas repulse the US and allies troops who invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003 using sophisticated weapons. Moreover, the suicide bombers have also blasted the military facilities of US and allies. Up to 5 February 2004 the death toll of US troops reached 529.

Bulgarian soldiers stand guard in front of their bombed out base in Karbala, Iraq, on 28 Dec, 2003. Suicide bombers blasted military bases killing six coalition soldiers.



General view of the site of a suicide car bomb attack outside a police station on the outskirts of Baghdad, on 15 December, 2003.



US Army soldiers secure the area near a destroyed transport truck after an attack west of Baghdad on 16-7-2003. One US soldier was killed and two were wounded.



A US military vehicle burns following an explosion in Fallujah on 8 November, 2003. Guerillas killed two US paratroopers and wounded another when a homemade bomb exploded beside their vehicle in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad.



US soldiers pass a vehicle that was destroyed in a car bomb blast outside a police station in village of Khalidiyah, some 35 miles west of Baghdad, on 14 December, 2003. A car bomb ripped through a police station in western Iraq.

US and allies deaths resulting from car bomb attacks by Iraqi guerillas

Date	Location	Death toll
2-9-2003	Baghdad	1
9-10-2003	Baghdad	8
12-10-2003	Baghdad	7
20-11-2003	Kirkuk	4
22-11-2003	Baquba	9
22-11-2003	Latifiyah	1
22-11-2003	Khan Bani	9
27-11-2003	Baghdad	5
27-11-2003	Baghdad	8
27-11-2003	Baghdad	12
27-11-2003	Baghdad	15
8-12-2003	Baghdad	1
12-12-2003	Baghdad	1
28-12-2003	Karbalar	6
28-12-2003	Baghdad	2
24-1-2004	Fallujah	2
25-1-2004	Khadia	3
27-1-2004	Baghdad	6
2-2-2004	Mosul	3
Total		103

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Development images of Magway Division in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



Bwatgyi
Dam in
Aunglan
Township,
Magway
Division.



The 8989 feet long
Ayeyawady Bridge
(Magway) links
Magway and Minbu.



Magway Airport
building.

Ngamin Dam in
Taungdwingyi
Township, Magway
Division, benefits
4,000 acres of
farmland.



Magway Institute of Medicine.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Irrigated area (acre)	180000	240000
Paddy sown acreage	300000	600000
Irrigation facility	6	31
Water pumping station	-	3
Transport		
Tarred road (mile)	553	965
Gravel road (mile)	119	161
Earth road (mile)	207	236
Bridge (above 100 feet)	23	42
Bridge (under 100 feet)	326	417
Airport	1	4
Industrial zone	-	2
Electric power		
Diesel or gas-fired power plant	-	38
Communication		
Post office	133	148
Telegraph office	30	34
Auto-exchange	15	68
Auto telephone	2225	14681
Ground satellite station	-	1
Microwave station	-	27

Development Sector	1988	2004
Information		
Myanma Alin/Kyemon sub-printing house (Magway)	-	1
TV retransmission station	1	3
Information & Public Relations Department	-	28
Library	1	33
Education		
High school	53	70
Middle school	148	184
Primary school	3185	3611
University	-	4
College	3	7
Institute	1	3
Health		
Hospital	24	26
Station hospital	29	37
Rural health care centre	114	119
Rural health care centre (branch)	588	608
Teaching hospital	-	1



Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



Unity is strength

National races have lived in the Union of Myanmar for thousands of years in unity and amity sharing weal and woe and keeping eggs and nest intact. When Myanmar was under servitude of the British colonialists, the aliens practised divide-and-rule policy to prolong their colonization of the country. That evil legacy sowed the seeds of misunderstanding, hatred and discord among the national brethren. Besides, Myanmar's independence was accompanied by multicoloured internal armed insurgency.

Having to give the first priority to restoration of peace and stability in the nation where there was poor transportation, successive governments could not concentrate their efforts on development of border areas and national races.

In its drive to practise the national policies, the

present Government has made endeavours with might and main so as to translate the national objective, national reconsolidation, into reality. After fully realizing the genuine goodwill of the Government and trusting in the national policies, the armed groups had returned to the legal fold. Now they have been striving for development of their regions hand in hand with the Government. In this way, starting from 1989, projects are being implemented with added momentum for development of border areas and national races in the regions that lagged behind in development for over 40 years.

The main objectives of implementing these projects are:

(a) to promote economic, social and transport sectors for national races in border areas in line with the objectives of Non-dis-

integration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty,

(b) to cherish and preserve culture, literature, customs of the national races,

(c) to further cement amicable friendship and relations among the national brethren,

(d) to totally eliminate poppy cultivation and narcotic drugs production by establishing business enterprises, and

(e) to ensure security and prevalence of law and order and peace and stability.

The Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was established on 25 May 1989 with five members which was chaired by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. On 4 February 2003, the committee was reconstituted with 16 members.

At the meeting of the Central Committee for Development of Border

Areas and National Races held on 21 April 1995, Chairman of the Central Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services gave guidance on the six objectives. These are as follows:

(a) to construct roads serviceable for all seasons in strategic regions,

(b) to take measures to ensure regional rice sufficiency, to grow such cash crops as sugarcane, corn and beans and pulses on a commercial scale and to establish markets in the regions for the produce,

(c) to render necessary assistance to plant suitable perennial crops on a commercial scale,

(d) to upgrade primary schools and to open new primary schools

(e) to take preventive measures against the diseases that usually breakout

in border areas as well as to take treatment and preventive measures in parallel, and

(f) to expand the scope of mass media coverage.

On 31 May 1989, the Work Committee for Development of Border Ar-

reas and National Races was formed with 17 members which was chaired by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. And on 4 February 2003, the Work Committee was upgraded with 53 members.

In order to accomplish the plans in conformity with the policies laid down by the Central Committee and the Work Committee, 13 subcommittees were formed on 31 May 1989. On 3 October 1994, the Work Committee was expanded with 18 subcommittees.

On 13-6-98, 11 regional work committees and district and township level work committees were formed in order to give close supervision to development of border areas and national races.

Border areas development tasks were carried out after opening of the office of the work committee for development of border areas and national races in 1989. To implement the tasks widely and effectively the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races was constituted on 24-9-92. On

30-1-94 expanded the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was established.

A 13-year master plan was drawn— The first short-term three-year plan from 1993-94 to 1995-96, the first medium-term five-year plan from 1996-97 to 2000-2001 fiscal year and the second medium-term five-year plan from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006. The 30-year plan is to be implemented.

Border development areas include Kachin special region-1, Kachin special region-2, Kokang region, Wa region, north-east of Kachin State, Palaung, PaO, Kayah, Mawhpa, east of Kengtung, Mon, Kayin, Taninthayi, Rakhine, Chin, Kabaw Valley and Naga regions.

The areas of 18 regions in seven states and two divisions are 83,415.34 square miles (approx). Over 5.3 million people live in 68 project townships. Over 46 per cent of the national races live in these regions.

Better and smooth communication from one region to another brings about friendship among the national people and contributes towards the national solidarity and flourishing of the Union Spirit. For development of social and economic structures, roads and bridges were built with greater momentum. Up to 30-10-2003

(See page 9)

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:



Developing Laukkai in Border area.

National duties for development of national races

Myint Soe (Na Ta La)



Panglong Government Computer College.



Tanai Bridge spanning the Tanai River on Tanai-Nanyun Road in Kachin State is 942 feet long and 12 feet wide and can withstand 30-ton loads.

(from page 8)

2,793.3 miles of earth roads, 1,640.7 miles of gravel roads, 306.2 miles of tar roads, 42 big bridges, 659 small bridges and 16 suspension bridges have been built. A total of 2,971.5 miles of roads, was maintained.

In order to narrow the development gap between one region and another, to develop human resources which is vital for regional development and to uplift the education of youths in border areas 627 primary schools, 61 middle schools and 62 high schools had been built up to 30-10-2002.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State short-term three Rs summer courses were opened. Altogether 31,879 persons became literates from 1996 to 2002. There were no health care services for 40 years in those regions. Hospitals and dispensaries have now been opened or upgraded for disease control and treatment. Up to 30-10-2003, 52 hospitals, 82 dispensaries, 28 rural health care centres and 41 rural health care branches have been opened.

In accord with the strategic objectives laid down, dams were built, cultivable lands reclaimed and cultivation methods disseminated for food sufficiency in the region, successful cultivation of economically important

crops and cultivation of perennial crops.

Until 30-10-2003 31 agricultural offices, 115 agricultural centres, 40 dams, four canals and 11 tractor stations were opened. Seventeen dams were surveyed.

For eradication of cultivation of narcotic drugs and poppy-substitute cultivation and success of livestock breeding 19 livestock breeding farms and 41 veterinary offices were opened. Seventy three cows and 38 donkey and sheep were distributed up to 30-10-2003. Four forest reserves, seven nurseries and 12 saw mills were built up to 30-10-2003.

So far, 47 post offices, 80 telephone exchanges and 35 telegraph offices have been opened for development of mass communications.

The energy sector is important for establishment of industries based on agriculture and natural resources. Eight hydro-electric power stations were built and 251 generators supplied electric power to 186 towns and villages.

In order to realize the national development and national policies public relations activities were carried out beginning 1994. Up to 30-10-2003, altogether 97 TV retransmission stations were constructed in border areas. Efforts are being made for development of industries and creation of job opportunities in the mineral sector in border areas. Transport, trade, housing, management and finance, auditing, home affairs, social welfare and cooperatives sub-committees are making endeav-

ours for progress in accord with their objectives.

In implementing the development projects of border areas and national races K 50,245.75 million were spent from 1989-1990 to 2003-2004 fiscal year. In fact, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the objective of national reconsolidation was implemented successfully.

Grudge and suspicions had been removed based on loving kindness goodwill and compassion.

Employing the already-achieved peace and stability and fruitful results, continued efforts are to be made for flourishing of the national solidarity spirit and Union spirit. It is an essential national duty bestowed by history.

(Translation MS+NY)

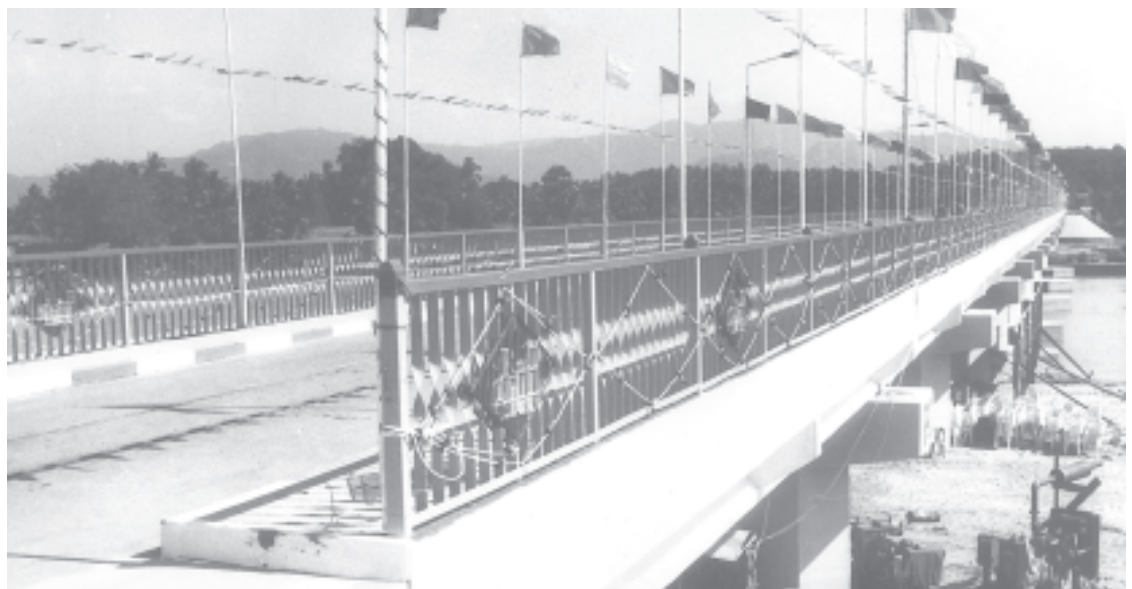
Poem

Myanmar's Pride

- * Myanmar means those who love their own Land, honour it, love it even at risk of life Dare to do it, with steadfast tenacity Won't let the flag down even if hull alone is left Fight the enemy with awakened strength With so much patriotism.
- * Myanmar means steadfast and truthful Not acting uncivil ways nor insult others If without incitement Someone else taunts and challenges Word for word, sword for sword Will truly use strength, will avenge With the spirit of love for the Land.
- * O, know ye all, know ye We own our land, it belongs to us We rest in the shade of our nation We don't hanker for others' property or intrude If anyone intrude, we'll expel transgressor Well repulse it If ever Myanmar map meets emergency Thousand of blood will get together in unison The Shwebo stallion's hoofs will be heard loud Will dismount and assume life From history, it'll come back into existence Will appear before Myanmar instantly Being unafraid in the past, it'll be recalled Will come anew, from our very bosom Patriotic hero, Myanmar's pride The oil painting within our hearts The slashing of swords will still be anew.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)



Ye River-crossing bridge which was opened on 26-11-2003.

Prime Minister attends...

(from page 16)

The ceremony was opened with the three time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwe Pankhine to the Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw.

This was followed by the Htadaw hoisting ceremony.

First, the Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party and wellwishers flanked by regal procession troupe conveyed round Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwe Pankhine clock-wise.

Under the programme, the Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party conveyed Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwe Pankhine onto the scaffolding of the pagoda. At the auspicious time, the Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party hoisted Seinbudaw, Hngetmya-

tnadaw and Shwe Pankhine atop the pagoda and sprinkled the Shwehtidaw with scented water.

Next, the ceremony to share merits gained for hoisting the Shwehtidaw followed at the Mingala pandal.

The Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw invested the congregation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party with the Five Precepts.

Next, members of the Sangha recited the *parittas*.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Next, Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

The merit-sharing ceremony ended with the three time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tittatu*.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the scale-model of the Government Computer College (Hpa-an). — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visits a book fair at Hpa-an University. — MNA

Peace, tranquillity and...

(from page 1)

Students from the university unveiled the archway of Hpa-an University. Next, Maung Nay Lin Aung, a second year maths major student, and Naw Mi Mi Htwe, a second year chemistry major student formally opened the university main building.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party later posed for a group photo together with faculty members of the university and students in front of the main building.

To mark the successful opening of the main building, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party planted Gangaw, Tayokte, Padauk, Khayay, mahogany, Thitseint, Ngushwewa, and Thabyegyvi trees in the compound of the main building.

After unveiling the bronze plaque of the main building, the prime minister and party, sprinkled scented water on it.

Later, the opening of the university main building was held at the hall of the main building. In his speech, Prime

Minister General Khin Nyunt said that being able to open the main building and lecture rooms of Hpa-an University as a gesture of hailing the Union Day was something Kayin State as well as the whole Union should be proud of.

It would not be wrong to say that Hpa-an University was an educational institution of international standard because of its modern lecture rooms and advanced teaching aids.

Moreover, there was going to be a technological college and a government computer college in Hpa-an and so the future of students in Kayin State was assured.

Students, children of the national brethren living in Kayin State, would now be able to pursue higher education in peace and happiness at the university and thus they would surely become intellectuals and intelligentsia who could raise the momentum of development of Kayin State as well

as that of the whole Union.

Now was the time when the Government, enlisting the strength of its national forces, was carrying out the nation-building endeavours so that the Union of Myanmar would become modern and developed and be able to catch up with other nations in the world.

At the same time the Government was making constant efforts for peace and stability, national unity, science and technological development and human resource development by taking systematic measures. National development, secure national economic life

and higher living standard of the national people would be realized only if the national forces were sharp and strong.

Therefore, the Government, since its assumption of the State duties, had been making constant efforts to end the armed conflicts and to achieve lasting and overwhelming peace and stability.

With peace and stability now prevailing all over the Union, the Government was able to implement the development plan for border areas and national races, the plan for 24 special regions and the five rural development tasks with added momentum for the harmonious development of various regions of the Union and for the higher

living standard of the national people.

According to these development plans, roads and bridges, dams, electrical power stations, airports and other development infrastructures were being systematically built for raising the educational and health standard of the national people.

With the development of health, educational, social and economic infrastructures, various regions of the Union would become equally developed, the living standard of the national people equally higher and the national unity and morality stronger.

Now efforts were being made to bring peace to Kayin State and that these efforts

would bear the fruits the entire national people longed for.

As most of Kayin State had become peaceful and stable after 1988, more development measures for it could be carried out with added momentum. As a result, the people living in Kayin State were now able to enjoy the fruits of development.

For the development of transport infrastructure, five major bridges in Kayin State and two major bridges in Mon State were built. Moreover, it was now easy to travel from Hpa-an to Mawlamyine and Myawady to Mawlamyine through Kawkaireik and Hpa-an. Improvement of transport (see page 15)



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein inspects Union Day Exhibition. — MNA

Deputy Minister inspects Union Day exhibitions and shops

YANGON, 9 Feb—Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein together with Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing and officials inspected the 57th Anniversary Union Day exhibi-

tions at the sports ground of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon East District, where the 57th Anniversary Union Day's flag will stop over for the night.

First, the deputy minister viewed the exhibitions and shops of the industrial zones of Yangon East District.

Next, the deputy minis-

ter inspected the exhibitions and shops of the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Cooperatives, the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Agriculture Service, the Ministry of Industry-1 and the Ministry of Industry-2 and social organizations of Yangon East District and left there in the afternoon.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and local residents in Hlaingbwe. — MNA

Peace will prevail in Kayin State in near future

Prime Minister inspects development tasks in Hlaingbwe

YANGON, 9 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party attended the hoisting of Htadaw atop the Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Hpa-an, Kayin State, this morning.

Accompanied by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the Prime Minister arrived at Hlaingbwe in the afternoon, where they were welcomed by local authorities, officials, members of social organizations and local people.

Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Hlaingbwe Township People's Hospital and inspected X-ray room, dental and oral cavity room for outpatients and wards. The Prime Minister upgraded

the facility to a 50-bed one and viewed the conditions for construction of a new building in the compound and gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

The Prime Minister and entourage visited Hlaingbwe Myoma Monastery in the town and presented offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddha and members of the Sangha.

Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected printed media (reading corner), electronic media (language lab), computer aided instruction, computer application & e-Mail room, domestic science room, and agricultural and painting gallery of Hlaingbwe Basic Education High School and attended

to needs for construction of a new building.

At Aung San Hall of the town, the Prime Minister held a meeting with local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and local residents. On the occasion, Township Chairman U Aung San Tha reported on location, area and population of the township, sown acreage, cultivation and output of monsoon and summer paddy, growing beans and pulses, edible oil crops, pepper, sugarcane and rubber, regional rice sufficiency, livestock breeding, education, health, and construction of roads and bridges.

Regarding the report, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements, saying that the purpose of the inspection tour is to fulfil the requirements for upgrading of Hlaingbwe Township,

north of Hpa-an, as well as for promotion of education, health, social, economic and transport sectors of the local people. In the morning, they made an inspection tour of Township hospital and school and attended to the needs for upgrading of the hospital and construction of a building in the hospital compound as well as for construction of a two-storey building of the BEHS, he said.

Then, he fulfilled the requirements of township's education, health, social, transport and economic sectors, he noted. The needs were also fulfilled for the region's transport sector, which plays a key role in regional development. So, Kawkaik-Hlaingbwe-Hpa-an Road serviceable for all seasons will emerge soon, he said.

In the past, according to the region's peace and stability situations, effective measures could not be taken for development of Hlaingbwe Township situated in the edge of Kayin State. However, with peace and stability of the region, necessary assistance can be provided for regional development, he remarked.

The Prime Minister expressed his belief that the Government has been striving for ensuring peace and tranquillity in Kayin State, and thus peace would prevail in the region. In the process, the service personnel concerned are to take

all necessary preparatory measures in order to translate the goal into reality, he urged.

He called on those in charge of respective townships and departmental officials to render assistance for agriculture and livestock breeding sectors and other business enterprises which contribute towards promotion of economic standard of local people.

And they are also to constantly fulfil such requirements as water supply, providing pedigrees and dissemination of agricultural methods, he stressed.

All possible ways and means are to be sought for attending to the needs and difficulties are to be reported to superior bodies. Similarly, necessary assistance is to be rendered for economic improvement of other township rural areas, he added.

The Government has been implementing projects for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation including border areas and rural regions, he disclosed.

Only when rural regions develop, so will townships and districts then states and divisions, and respective departmental officials are therefore to effectively and thoroughly implement the projects in the sectors concerned to make progress while the five rural development tasks are being carried out for upgrading of

rural regions.

In conclusion, the General urged township level departmental officials to make concerted efforts as well as to be equipped with goodwill in upgrading the respective regions to elevate the living standard of local people while the Government has been striving for all-round development of all parts of the Union including far-flung and rural areas. After the meeting, the Prime Minister presented a TV set, a video cassette player and six computer sets to the multimedia teaching centre of Hlaingbwe BEHS through the township education officer.

Next, the General and party arrived back at Hpa-an. At briefing hall of Government Computer College in Hpa-an Township, Rector Dr Paik Tin reported on courses conducted in the college, strength of the students and staff, and giving lectures with the use of teaching and learning aids. Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co U Kyaw Win reported on construction of the three-storey main building made up of lecture rooms, assembly hall, administrative office, the office of the principal, school library and computer room. The General gave instructions on construction tasks.

The General and party arrived back here via Hpa-an in the evening.

MNA

Myanmar wins bronze in Asia Karatedo Championship

YANGON, 9 Feb — Myint Zaw Oo of Myanmar won bronze in individual khata event of Asia Karatedo Championship being held in Chinese Taipei. Gold medal of the event went to by Japan, and silver to the host country. —MNA

Minister inspects Nyaungdon oil and gas field

YANGON, 9 Feb — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi together with officials this afternoon inspected Nyaungdon oil and gas field in Nyaungdon region, Ayeyawady Division.

At the briefing hall, officials reported to the minister on achievement in drilling the new well No 19.

Next, the minister attended to the needs and made arrangements for exploring other new wells in the region. The minister inspected the new well No 19 which produce 5.136 million cubic feet of natural gas and 96 barrels of condensate daily.

MNA



Nyaungdon oil and gas field in Nyaungdon region, Ayeyawady Division — ENERGY

Minister U Win Aung arrives back from Thailand

YANGON, 9 Feb — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung arrived back here by air this evening after attending the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) held in Phuket, Bangkok on 8 February 2004.

The Minister was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Ministers for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Khin

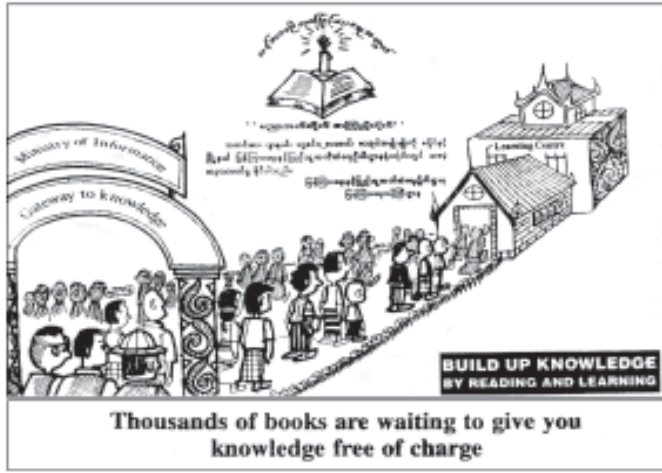
Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, H.E Mr. Suphot Uthirakaosal, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Union of Myanmar, and the officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Director General U Win Mra of the International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Director General U Soe Myint, Energy Planning Department, Ministry of Energy, Advisor U Maung Maung

Yi and Advisor U Aung Than of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Daw Malar Than Htaik, Head of Branch (1), Economic Division, International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs also arrived back here with the Minister.

The 6th Ministerial Meeting of BIMST-EC accepted the Kingdoms of Bhutan and Nepal as new members.

MNA



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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JATIWANGI PB-400 VOY NO (389)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JATIWANGI PB-400 Voy No (389) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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DON'T SMOKE

Chilean poultry producers ready to boost exports to Asia

SANTIAGO, 9 Feb — Chilean poultry companies are ready to increase chicken exports to Asian markets as a possible increasing demand is felt, the local daily, *Diario Financiero* said on Friday.

The United Nations indicated Thursday that the disease was not under control and had the risk of spreading to other countries, even outside the Asian region.

This situation might favour Chile because it is free of the disease, and has health licences to export to Japan and Hong Kong, which are partially supplied by the Chilean poultry companies, Ariztia and Agrosuper.

Ariztia sends 50 tons of chickens to Japan and about 80 tons of byproducts to Hong Kong a month, and can enlarge its shipments to 300 tons over two months, said its general manager, Ismael Correa.

MNA/Xinhua

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India
10 February 2004

Over 30,000 Canadians refused entry into US

OTTAWA, 9 Feb — More than 30,600 Canadian residents were refused entry into the United States last year due to tough new anti-terrorism rules, the local media reported Friday.

Some 10,000 Canadians trying to sneak across the border illegally were arrested in 2003, sources with US Customs and Border Protection were quoted as saying.

The sources said more than 56,000 others from Canada withdrew applications to enter the United States after learning of the tighter guidelines. More Canadian residents are being scrutinized while crossing the border since the United States increased the number of agents to 1,000 from 660. Still, the number of actions taken is relatively small compared to the 54.9 million inspections conducted by agents last year, the sources said.

The tough US border measures include fingerprinting and photographing of citizens of certain countries as they enter and exit the United States. The United States has also created flying squads to set up checkpoints in remote areas of the border which are also patrolled with helicopters and boats.—MNA/Xinhua

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JUNIOR LEADER



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The New Light of Myanmar

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Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

UN shipping arm to act on stowaway species

LONDON, 9 Feb — The global shipping industry is set to adopt tough new laws to halt the spread of aquatic organisms, blamed for wreaking havoc on fragile ecosystems, through the transfer of ballast water, the world's top maritime body said on Friday.

The United Nations' International Maritime Organization (IMO) said it will finalize the stringent laws at a meeting in London from February 9-13 to prevent the potentially devastating effects of invasive species that are plaguing habitats, and causing vast economic damage.

"Ships... can transfer pathogens and other micro-organisms and invasive species which have the capacity to distort and destroy the very delicate balance which exists in the ecosystem of the region where the ballast water is offloaded," IMO Secretary-General Efthymios Mitropoulos said in a statement. Ballast water is carried by ships to provide balance and stability. The laws, which have been 10 years in the making, will regulate when, where and at what depths ships will be able to flush and replenish their ballast tanks.

Scientists estimate that about 10 billion tons of ballast water is transferred annually from one habitat to another each year.

MNA/Reuters

Spain to give state aid to shipbuilding

MADRID, 9 Feb — The Spanish Government on Friday approved a financial package worth up to 715 million euros to help make the country's shipbuilding sector more competitive.

The package includes a 300-million-euro credit line for building ships, 215 million euros in direct aid to research and development programmes in the sector, and a further 200 million

euros in loans, also for R&D purposes.

"Spanish shipbuilding is going through a difficult phase, largely due to unfair competition from some Asian countries," the government said in a statement.

The government wanted to help the sector enhance its competitiveness in international markets, the statement added.

MNA/Reuters

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Cubans, Idahoans agree on Hemingway research

HAVANA, 9 Feb— Cuba, where Ernest Hemingway lived for two decades, and a foundation in the US state in which he died agreed on Saturday to swap information contained in books and documents the American writer left behind.

The co-president of the Hemingway House Foundation in Idaho, Martin Peterson, struck the deal with Cuban officials at Finca Vigia, the estate on the outskirts of Havana where Hemingway lived from 1940 to 1960.

The Nobel Prize-winning novelist committed suicide in 1961 at his Ketchum, Idaho, home. Peterson gave the Cuban officials a black-and-white photograph of Hemingway on a hunting trip in Idaho during which he shot two antelope. Their stuffed heads hang in the sitting room at Finca Vigia.

Two Idaho Republicans, US Senator Larry Craig and Representative CL "Butch" Otter, signed a memorandum of understanding on Saturday under which Cuba's Communist government committed itself to buying at least 10 million US dollars in farm products, including 5,000 tons of potatoes and 10,000 tons of beans.

Craig, who last year co-sponsored a measure to end travel restrictions on Ameri-

cans wanting to visit Cuba, said it was time to start a fresh relationship with Havana.

Hemingway was drawn to Cuba by the fishing and he lived one third of his life on the island. His favourite bars in Havana are tourist attractions today.

In recent years, increasing numbers of Americans have travelled to Cuba — many defying the US travel ban — and visited the property where Hemingway wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*, the story of a futile struggle between a fisherman and a giant marlin that won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1953.

Overcoming four decades of hostility with the United States, Cuban President Fidel Castro's Government last year opened Hemingway's house and a basement full of documents to American scholars and a US-funded restoration project.

Decaying documents were set to be microfilmed and copies stored at the John F Kennedy Library in Boston.—MNA/Reuters

US boosts trade ties with Kuwait, Yemen

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb— The United States took a step on Friday toward possible free-trade deals with Middle Eastern oil suppliers Kuwait and Yemen, US trade officials said.

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick signed a pair of Trade and Investment Framework Agreements with top trade officials from the Gulf countries.

Last year, President George W Bush proposed a regional free-trade agreement with Middle East countries by 2013.

Zoellick said the agreements with Yemen and Kuwait were a step toward that goal.

"It is the first stage of a free-trade agreement," Kuwaiti Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Al-Tawil told reporters a few hours before the signing ceremony.

The initiatives create forums for the United States to work with the two nations on economic reforms and legislation to expand trade and investment flows.

Of the two, Kuwait is the larger US trading partner. Two-way trade with both countries is relatively modest.

The United States exported one billion US dollars worth of goods to Kuwait in

2002, including iron and steel, chemicals, drilling and oil field equipment, aircraft and food products. The United States imported two billion US dollars' in goods from the OPEC member in the same year, most of which was oil.

US goods exports to Yemen in 2002 totalled 366 million US dollars, including aircraft, oil field and drilling equipment, electrical appliances, wheat and dairy products. US imports from Yemen in 2002 totalled 246 million US dollars, including crude oil and coffee.

The United States is in the final stages of negotiating a free-trade pact with Morocco and recently began a similar set of talks with Bahrain.

It is also negotiating a bilateral agreement with Saudi Arabia that Riyadh hopes will pave the way for its entry into the World Trade Organization by the end of this year.

MNA/Reuters

Oil prices ease tracking gasoline selloff

NEW YORK, 9 Feb— World oil prices fell on Friday, tracking a 4-per-cent slide in US gasoline futures triggered by expectations that recent high prices could prompt an increase in imports, dealers said.

US light crude traded 71 cents lower at 32.37 US dollars a barrel, extending losses earlier in the week after a government report showed a surge in domestic stockpiles. London crude slipped 51 cents to 28.76 US dollars a barrel.

Prices extended their decline after sellers began to flood the gasoline market on expectations of a pickup in imports. NYMEX gasoline dropped 4.48 cents to 96.10 cents a gallon.

"The arb for gasoline is wide open and ships are being booked," said Nauman Barakat, senior vice-president at Refco.

"Arb" is short for arbitrage, which signifies a difference between prices in

different markets.

Gasoline has been riding high in recent weeks due to heavy fund interest and concerns over domestic refinery operations — giving foreign exporters room to make a profit on US-bound shipments, players said.

Dealers are also closely eyeing signals from producer cartel OPEC, which will meet in Algiers February 10 to discuss its output policy.

OPEC President Purnomo Yusegiantoro said on Friday the cartel was seeking a gradual drop in the oil price and would examine forecasts for the second quarter before making a decision on production next week.

MNA/Reuters

Hong Kong to hold ICAC 30th Anniversary Open Day

HONG KONG, 9 Feb— To enhance the public's understanding of the work of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the commission will be opened to the public on February 15 and 22.

ICAC regional officer Helen Lee said at the media preview programme on Saturday that the Open Day is a prelude of the series of ICAC 30th Anniversary activities, which aims to reinforce public's awareness of prevention of corruption as well as the transparency of the commission's operation.

Lee expressed her hope that the Open Day can help maintain public's confidence and support toward the commission's work.

According to Lee, this is the fourth time the ICAC opens to public. They received very warm response of the public, and they found that people are most interested in the firearms, interview rooms and ID parade rooms.

As introduced by the ICAC staff, several areas of the commission will be opened to the public, which include the ICAC Exhibition Hall, Identification Parade Room, Video Interview Rooms, Report Centre and Detention Centre. Besides, people can also have the chance to view firearms used by the commission at close quarters.

The highlight of this year's Open Day will be the display of major ICAC cases which have never been shown publicly in the ICAC Exhibition Hall.

Also, there will be a photo taking corner where people can take free photos with cardboard ICAC officers.

MNA/Xinhua



Singer Beyonce holds the five Grammy awards she won at the 46th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on 8 Feb, 2004. Among the awards she won were Best Contemporary R&B Album 'Dangerously In Love' and Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for 'Dangerously In Love 2'. —INTERNET

Pilot killed as Indian AF "MiG-23" crashes in Rajasthan

NEW DELHI, 9 Feb— An Indian Air Force MiG-23 fighter jet crashed in the western desert state of Rajasthan on Saturday, killing the pilot, an Air Force official said.

"The crash happened at Pokharan in Rajasthan. The MiG-23 was on a routine sortie. Unfortunately, the pilot sustained fatal injuries," Air Force spokesman Mahesh Upasani told Reuters.

He said an inquiry had been ordered into the accident and the cause of the crash was not immediately known. India, which has the world's fourth largest Air Force, has been criticized for its woeful safety record. Defence officials estimate at least 170 MiGs have crashed in the past decade. —MNA/Reuters

Two dead, 42 injured in bus accident in eastern Nepal

KATHMANDU, 9 Feb— At least two people died and 42 others sustained injuries Saturday evening when a passenger bus overturned in eastern Nepal, Radio Nepal reported Sunday.

The Kathmandu-bound night bus overturned at Karjanha Village along the Mahendra Highway in Siraha District, some 200 kilometres southeast of Kathmandu, the state-run radio quoted Rajendra Prasad Shrestha, inspector at a local police station, as saying.

The accident happened when the bus driver suddenly applied brake to avoid a buffalo that was crossing the road, Shrestha said.

A 30-year-old man died on the way to Janakpur Hospital, while another people died in the hospital, he noted, adding that 42 passengers who sustained injuries in the accident have been undergoing treatment at Mirchaiya Health Post. —MNA/Xinhua



Sculptor Beth Schmidt applies aluminum leaf as a base on the face of one of seven gigantic Oscar statues being built at a Los Angeles warehouse on 5 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Vieira wants out-of-favour Anelka back in France squad

PARIS, 9 Feb— Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira hopes his former teammate Nicolas Anelka can return to the France team under Jacques Santini as the champions prepare for Euro 2004 in Portugal.

The 24-year-old Anelka said on Friday he was eager to play for Les Bleus under Santini, who said last year the Manchester City striker was France's "most ineligible player" after he had turned down a call-up in November 2002.

"Before I talk about the man, I judge the player. I think that he is back to his best and that he has the qualities to join the squad," Vieira told *L'Equipe* on Saturday.

"We talked about it on the phone. He said things he regrets.

"Now everything has to be done between the coach and Nico. It would be a pity not to come to an agreement. It would be a waste."

On Friday, French federation president Claude Simonet hinted he would like former Real Madrid forward Anelka back in the squad.

"I think that in life if you don't forgive, you forget," he said.

Professional league president Frederic Thiriez has since echoed Simonet's views.—MNA/Reuters



Borussia Moenchengladbach's Enrico Gaede (L) vies for the ball against Werder Bremen's Krisztian Lisztes (R) during their Bundesliga match in Moenchengladbach.

INTERNET

10-man Werder stretch lead with dramatic win

BERLIN, 9 Feb— Bundesliga leaders Werder Bremen showed their character by fighting their way to a dramatic 2-1 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday despite finishing with 10 men.

Defender and captain Frank Baumann hit the winner in the last minute for the northerners, who stretched their lead over second-placed VfB Stuttgart to seven points.

Czech striker Vaclav Sverkos opened the scoring for Moenchengladbach with a header in the 51st minute and the visitors responded three minutes later with a goal from close range by Croatian striker Ivan Klasnic.

Werder then had defender Mladen Krstajic sent off for a second booking in the 72nd minute but kept racing for-

ward until Baumann gave them victory from inside the area.

"We made life very difficult for ourselves," said Werder coach Thomas Schaaf, whose team have 45 points from 19 games.

"In the first half we played pretty well but in the second half we were clearly under pressure. What pleased me is that the team kept fighting after the sending off and were eventually rewarded."

Stuttgart and champions Bayern Munich, lying third nine points back, will both

be in action on Sunday. Stuttgart visit bottom club Hertha Berlin while Bayern entertain Hanover 96.

Fourth-placed Bayer Leverkusen dropped 10 points off the pace when they conceded their second successive defeat by losing 2-1 at home to Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday.

Borussia Dortmund restored pride with a convincing 4-2 win at VfL Wolfsburg, a week after losing 1-0 to Schalke 04 in a tense Ruhr Valley derby.

MNA/Reuters

Keeper's blunder sends Mali into semis

TUNIS, 9 Feb— A blunder by Guinea goalkeeper Kemoko Camara handed Mali a 2-1 injury-time win in their African Nations Cup quarterfinal on Saturday.

Camara allowed a seemingly harmless shot by midfielder Mahamadou Diarra to slip through his arms and into the net as the Eagles reached their second consecutive Nations Cup semifinal after a match littered with defensive blunders. Camara sat disconsolately in his goal at the end.

Girondins Bordeaux midfielder Pascal Feindouno put Guinea ahead in the 15th minute but Mali's Frederic Kanoute equalized with his fourth goal of the tournament in first half injury-time following a mistake by Schumann Bah.

Guinea missed three good chances in the last 10 minutes and had also wasted a chance

2-0 ahead seconds before Kanoute's equalizer. Mali, though, should have taken the lead in the third minute when Dramane Traore broke clear of a square Guinea defence but shot straight at Camara.

Guinea then went ahead after Mali lost possession on the left. Souleymane Youla collected the ball and fed Aboubacar Titi Camara. The former Olympique Marseille, West Ham and Liverpool striker resisted the temptation to shoot and slipped the ball to Feindouno, who placed his shot under Mahamadou Sidibe.

Guinea nearly doubled their lead in first-half injury time when Camara, who failed to score for the first time in the tournament, set up Youla but the Turkish-based player fired straight at Sidibe from an excellent position.

MNA/Reuters

Marlet keeps Marseille's European hopes alive

PARIS, 9 Feb— A last-minute goal by France international Steve Marlet earned Olympique Marseille a 2-1 victory over strugglers AC Ajaccio in a Ligue 1 game on Saturday.

Marseille stay sixth in the standings with 40 points from 23 games, on the same points as Paris St. Germain and one point adrift of fourth-placed Sochaux, who both play later on Saturday.

AC Ajaccio remain 15th in the table with 23 points, four above the relegation zone.

Egypt's Ahmed Hossam Mido, just back from the African Nations Cup, opened the scoring for Marseille after 11 minutes.

Stephane Trevisan failed to block a free kick from Didier Drogba allowing Mido to push the ball into the empty goal.

The Corsicans hit back in the 73rd minute, when a corner kick was cleared off the line by the defence and Mamadou Seckrifled back the clearance through a packed goalmouth.

Seck, however, was not quick enough when Marlet pressed him in the box before slotting the ball past Trevisan in the last minute.

MNA/Reuters

Blatter sees Brazil staging 2014 World Cup

ASUNCION, 9 Feb— FIFA president Sepp Blatter virtually handed the 2014 World Cup finals to Brazil on Saturday.

"I know you have practically taken a decision as to where (the finals) are going, possibly the country that will celebrate its centenary in 2014," Blatter told a South American Football Confederation (CSF) congress.

"So if that's the case, it will be Brazil," he said at the CSF's headquarters in the Paraguayan capital.

"According to the statistics it's the only country of the 10 (CSF members) whose federation will be 100 years old in 2014."

FIFA is rotating the World Cup finals around the continents, with Asia having held them in Japan and South Korea in 2002, Germany staging them in 2006, several African nations bidding for the 2010 tournament and South America getting them in 2014.

The last time the finals were held in the Americas was in the United States in 1994 when Brazil won their fourth title.

Brazil won a fifth in 2002 to take to nine the number of World Cups won by South American countries. Argentina and Uruguay each have two titles.—MNA/Reuters

Leeds in rescue talks with Ugandan tycoon

LONDON, 9 Feb— Leeds United were in early talks with Ugandan property tycoon Michael Ezra about a bid for the English Premier League's bottom club, the *Sunday Telegraph* reported, citing an executive close to Leeds.

Uganda's *Sunday Vision* newspaper reported that Ezra had proposed a 60-million-pound (110.8-million-US-dollar) bid for the

Yorkshire club, the *Telegraph* said.

Ezra contacted Leeds last week and the club were trying to confirm he had the money for a bid, the *Telegraph* said.

Ezra, a former sprinter, has made a fortune in property and has spent millions of pounds sponsoring Uganda's athletics and Olympic boxing teams, the paper said.

MNA/Reuters

Brazilians on target to keep Real top in Spain

MADRID, 9 Feb— Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos struck to give Real Madrid a 2-1 win at home to Malaga on Saturday and keep the defending champions two points clear of in-form Valencia.

Real were briefly knocked off the top of the table with Valencia's easy 3-0 home win over Atletico Madrid in an early game on Saturday.

The result left Real needing to extend their perfect home league record, a challenge they met with far more trouble than expected.

Malaga, beaten 6-1 by Valencia last weekend, fell behind in the 25th minute when Ronaldo turned in a Michel Salgado cross for his 19th league goal of the season. Roberto Carlos made it 2-0 with a cracking free kick just before the hour mark but Jose Juan Luque got Malaga back into the game with a well timed run and shot 15 minutes from the end.

Real had a few nervous moments but held on for a victory that keeps them top with 52 points from 23 matches.

Real Madrid looked set for an equally convincing win as they took a deserved 2-0 lead.

David Beckham helped set up the opener, his astute pass outright giving Salgado space to provide a simple low cross for Ronaldo.

Beckham missed with three good chances from free

kicks and when the fourth opportunity came Roberto Carlos relieved the England midfielder of the responsibility and scored with a low blast. "We scored our two

goals but then maybe relaxed too much," said Beckham. "They had nothing to lose so they pushed players forward and got the goal."

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos, left, is congratulated by his teammate Ronaldo after his goal against Malaga during a Spanish league soccer match in Madrid, Spain on 7, Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

Peace, tranquillity and...

(from page 10)

would surely contribute a lot to the national unity. The Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) under construction, which will be the longest one in Myanmar, links Kayin and Mon States. Therefore, it would help improve the transport and trade in these two states.

Before 1988, in Kayin State, there were only 17 hospitals but now there are 25. In education sector, the number of primary schools has increased from 1064 to 1144, that of middle schools from 65 to 78 and that of high schools from 20 to 31. In higher education sector, Hpa-an Government Computer College and Hpa-an Government Technological College were opened. Moreover, Hpa-an College was upgraded to a degree college in 1999 and to a university in 2003.

And the Prime Minister urged the teachers to try their best to strengthen the national unity, to ensure peace and stability in the region and to turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia making effective and beneficial use of the favourable conditions for development. Only if the new generations had a clear and right outlook and were highly-educated, would they be able to serve the best interests of the nation and the people and to avoid the danger of external instigations.

The Union of Myanmar, throughout its thousands-year-old history, has lived in unity through thick and thin, always driving the invaders out of the country. Therefore, it is necessary to hold on the fine traditions and to keep

constant vigilance against foreign instigations so that racial conflicts, collapse of the nation and loss of sovereignty can be avoided.

He said peace and tranquillity and development prevailed in almost every part of the country because of national solidarity.

He said the government is trying to restore tradition of unity that existed for thousands of years among the national races. If mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual sincerity and goodwill can be built among the national races removing instigations, peace will be restored in Kayin State like other states and divisions.

He said the Union of Myanmar can build friendship and cooperation with neighbouring countries and those in the regions. India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway Project and cooperation plan to improve economy, trade and production in border areas among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand will soon be implemented. With the implementation of these projects, Kayin State will develop rapidly.

In Kayin State, regional development, progress of economy and better foundations for improvement of education, health and social standard of local people have been made. At a time when there is peace and prosperity and development prospects in Kayin State, all local national races are to build noble traditions practically in harmony after removing all instigations.

He said Hpa-an University has emerged possessing the characteristics of international



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the multi-media classroom of Hlaingbwe BEHS (News page 11). — MNA

Union Flag arrives...

(from page 16)

Pyidaungsu Road. On arrival at the corner of Pyidaungsu and Paleyadana Roads, the relay teams handed the Flag over to Chairman of North Okkalapa Township Peace and Development Council

U Maung Win.

The relay team led by U Maung Win handed the Flag over to the relay teams headed by the Chairman of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Peace and Development Council, the Chair-

man of Dagon Myothit (South) Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Dagon Myothit (East) Township Peace and Development Council and others who conveyed it along Paleyadana Road. Next, the relay teams handed the Flag over to Secretary of Yangon

East District USDA U Tin Aung.

The relay team led by U Tin Aung conveyed the Flag to the grand stand of the sports ground and handed it over to Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein who took and planted it in a silver bowl on the dais. — MNA

universities. Faculty members and students are to try to learn more in order to produce highly-qualified human resources by Hpa-an University for development of already-achieved better foundations in the Kayin State. He urged them to become those who will serve the interest of the nation.

In conclusion, he urged the students of the university to become intellectuals and intelligentsia who can bring about development of the State including Kayin State under the shelter of the university, work together for enabling Myanmar to stand tall among the nations of the world as an independent and

sovereign State, to try to restore peace, development and foundations for national solidarity and to participate in implementation of the tasks of the seven-point future programme of the State.

Minister for Education U Than Aung said there were only 32 universities and colleges in 1988 and now there are 154 universities, colleges and degree colleges.

He spoke at length on increasing number of students and faculty members and courses. He said the main building of the university was constructed under the guidance of the Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

Next, second year maths

student Ma Ju Moh San spoke words of thanks.

A video depicting the development of Kayin State was shown to the Prime Minister and the guests.

The Prime Minister accepted K 30 million donated by Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd U Htay Myint for the education fund of the university, K 3 million by the Kayin State Peace and Development Council and 15 entrepreneurs, K 2 million by Myawady District Peace and Development Council, K 1 million by Kawkaik District Peace and Development Council, K 500,000 by Myaingyingu Sayadaw U Sujana, K 500,000 by Chairman of Mya

Htay Kywe Lin Co Ltd U Kyaw Than and K 500,000 by Taunggalay Sayadaw U Pañnasami.

The Prime Minister presented K 37.5 million donated by wellwishers to Protector U Saw Han Shein.

Pro-rector U Saw Han Shein and Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd U Htay Myint presented commemorative pennants to the Prime Minister and the guests.

The Prime Minister and party observed book show on academic fields and IT equipment of private companies.

The Prime Minister and the guests, teachers and students posed for photos in front of the main building. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, officials and victorious U-18 footballers pose for a photo. (News page 16) — MNA

Foreign golfers arrive in Yangon for Myanmar Open Golf Tournament



YANGON, 9 Feb — In a bid to have access to the international golf techniques and turn out Myanmar golf legends at all times, Myanmar Open Golf Tournament 2004, jointly organized by MPGA and Asian Tour and

sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, will be held on a grand scale at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon here from 12 to 15 February.

Over 100 world-known golfers from Australia, Chinese, Chisnese (Taipei), Canada, Ecuador, England, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea,

Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, and the United States of America arrived here by air in the morning and evening to join the tournament.

More foreign golfers will arrive tomorrow.

MNA

Customs Department opens management course for officers

YANGON, 9 Feb — The management course No 9 for officers, conducted by the Customs Department was opened at the training school of the department here this afternoon, with an addressed delivered by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Director-General of the Customs De-

partment Col Khin Maung Lin, directors-general of departments under the ministry, managing directors, and officials.

In his speech, the minister said the course was opened with the aim of making officers of the management field know the economic policy of the State and the economic goals being implemented at present. He later urged the trainee

officers to further sharpen their skills so as to serve the interest of the State more dutifully.

Next, the minister and party went to the Internal Revenue Department on Pansodan Street. A work coordination meeting on the functions of the department was then held at the meeting hall of the department.

MNA

PBANRDA Ministry opens communicative English course

YANGON, 9 Feb — Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, addressed the opening ceremony of 'English for International Communication

Course No 1/2004' at the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) in Hline Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were directors-general of the departments under the min-

istry, deputy directors-general, directors, the principal of the college, faculty members, and trainees.

A total of 30 trainees are attending the course, which will last for 10 weeks.

MNA

Seminar on fish-culture held

YANGON, 9 Feb — The Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries organized a seminar on fingerlings hatchery technique at the meeting hall of the department in Ahlon Township on 7 January.

Fisheries Department Director-General U Than Tun delivered an opening address on the occasion, followed by Deputy Director-General U Hla Win's explanation about the purpose of holding the seminar.

More than 150 interested persons from departments concerned and private fish breeding camps attended the seminar and took part in discussions. Research papers were also read out at the seminar. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents the Seinbudaw to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana. — MNA

Prime Minister attends ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop Kaungmudaw Pagoda in Hpa-an

YANGON, 9 Feb—A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop Kaungmudaw Pagoda in the compound of glorious Sitha Manaung Pagoda in Hpa-an, Kayin State, was held at the pagoda at 11.30 pm today, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya

Abhidaja Maharatta Guru Mabaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indriya and Myaing Gingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chairman of Kayin State Peace and De-

velopment Council, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, members of Kayin State, District and Township Peace and

Development Councils, departmental officials, social organizations and religious organizations, wellwishers and local people.

(See page 10)

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

BIMSTEC champ Myanmar youth team receives hearty welcome

YANGON, 9 Feb — Selected Myanmar youth football team, which secured championship title in the first U-18 BIMSTEC Cup 2004, arrived back here by air this evening.

The victorious Myanmar youth team was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Patron of the Myanmar Football Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of Kambawza Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win, officials of the ministry, leading patrons of the

Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, members of the executive committee of the MFF, athletes from sports federation, and relatives of the victorious youth footballers. The triumphant Myanmar youth football team was given a grand welcome by holding banners reading 'Warm Welcome to BIMSTEC Cup championship Myanmar youth football team'.

Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, U Aung Ko Win and officials later posed for a group photo together with the winning Myanmar youth team. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint welcomes back BIMSTEC Cup winners at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Union Flag relaying ceremony in progress in Dagon Myothit (South) in Yangon Division. — MNA

Union Flag arrives Dagon Myothit (South)

YANGON, 9 Feb—The Union Flag, which stopped over for the night in a silver bowl on the dais in Thiha Dipa Sports Ground in Thanlyin, was conveyed by Union Boat and the relay teams this morning to Dagon Myothit (South) where Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein took and planted it in a silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground there at 8.30 am to stop over for the night.

First, the Union Flag was saluted to the accompaniment of the band troupe of Ayeyawady Navel Region Command. Next, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyi took out the Union Flag from the silver bowl on the dais in Thiha Dipa Sports Ground and conveyed it to

Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein who took and planted it in a silver bowl on Union Boat.

Next, the Flag was conveyed to the welcoming archway at the junction of Dagon Myothit (South/North).

Along the route through Dawbon, Thingangyun, Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships, the Flag was accorded a rousing welcome by local authorities, USDA members, MWVO members, MPF members, MMCWA members, MWAF members, Red Cross Brigade members, Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, students, nurses, service personnel and the people.

At the entrance archway of Dagon Myothit (South), Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein

took out the Flag from the silver bowl on the Union Boat at 7.30 am and handed it over to the flag relay teams led by member-1 of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council U Mya Aung. The latter conveyed the Flag along Pyidaungsu Road in the Township and handed it over to the relay team led by Chairman of South Okkalapa Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Swe.

The Flag was conveyed by the relay teams headed by the Chairman of Yankin Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Thingangyun Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Dawbon Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Tamwe Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Pazundaung Town-

ship Peace and Development Council, Botahtaung Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Mingala Taungnyunt Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Dagon Myothit (North) Peace and Development Council and others along

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