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State Peace and Development Council Chairman

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Brunei Darussalam

YANGON, 23 Feb — On the occasion of the 20th National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

Annual presentation of outstanding awards and scholarship to brilliant students of new generation is effective fulfilment for development of human resources

Prize-presentation ceremony for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship and Pakokku Library Book Award for 2003 held

YANGON, 22 Feb—The prize-presentation ceremony for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship and Pakokku Library Book Award for 2003 was held at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku, Pakokku District, Magway Division, at 10.30 am today with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of

Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, Col Sein Win of Pakkoku Station and senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental offi-

cials, members of the District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary Director (News) of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) and CEC members, the rector and principals of Pakkoku University, Education College, Computer College and the Government Technological College and faculty members, members of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Fund Supervisory Committee, Chairman of Literary Award Scrutinization Committee U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and members, members of Scholarship Scrutinization Committee, Literary Award donor U Ohn Pe, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, members of the Township Writ-

ers and Journalists Association, teachers, students, scholarship winning students and their families and guests.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said that Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award and Scholarship, which were born of the goodwill of U Ohn Pe for development of the national literature and towards the State and the people, are presented yearly and the award presentation ceremony being held today is the 11th time.

The constant emergence of outstanding new generation youths who deserve U Ohn Pe Scholarships and fine literature that deserves Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards up to 11th anniversary reflects development of the national literature with added momentum and results of the national education promotion programme which are the objectives of Pakokku U Ohn Pe and the entire national people, he stressed.

The emergence of na-

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses prize presentation ceremony of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship and Pakokku Library Book Award. — MNA



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PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 23 February, 2004

For speedy realization of agreements between Myanmar and Thailand

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, was successfully held in Bagan Archaeological Zone on 12 November 2003.

At the meeting, Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy was approved.

Economic Cooperation Strategy covers trade and investment, cooperation in agriculture and industrial sectors, transport and communication, promoting tourism industry and human resource development.

The meeting has also agreed to promote economic cooperation among the four countries and between the two countries concerned. At the meeting, Myanmar has agreed to extend bilateral economic cooperation with Thailand.

The second work coordination meeting of Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee was held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar on 20 February, attended by Chairman of the committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

On the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that matters relating to relocation of manufacturing industries of Thailand, transport facilitation between the two countries, further development of border areas and raising of the standard of living, and industrial and infrastructure development were agreed at the meeting and thus, speedy realization of the agreement was required.

On 19 February, a Thai delegation led by Minister for Industry arrived in Yangon, and discussed matters on relocation of manufacturing industries, trade and economic development, tourism promotion, industrial and energy sectors, construction of deep-sea port in Dawei, and speedy implementation of Dawei-Kanchanaburi road.

Respective ministries are urged to actively participate in efforts for speedy realization of agreements that will benefit both Myanmar and Thailand.

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point policy programme
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia strategy
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'

Wellwishers invited for tubewells

YANGON, 22 Feb — The Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tubewells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in states and divisions where there is a shortage of water.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tubewell costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tubewell costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tubewell costs K 500,000. Those wishing to donate cash for the tubewell sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Department as well as officials of Divisional Development Affairs Committees of Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay. — MNA

CORRIGENDUM

Please add to read "writer Yuwaddy Khin Sein Hlaing, writer Daw Saw Mon Hnyin, writer Daw Dagon Khin Khin Lay's niece Daw Tin Tin Ma, theatrical artiste U Ye Sein and writer Yuwaddy Shwewa Sein spoke words of appreciation" in the news on Centennial of Daw Dagon Khin Khin Lay which appeared on this page yesterday. MNA

Organizational set-up, functions of MWAFF explained

YANGON, 22 Feb — Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe and party left Mawlamyine on 20 February morning and arrived in Hpa-an, Kayin State at 8.30 am.

They met with wife of the commander Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the commander of No 22 LID Daw Nan Sanda San, members of the supporting group of Kayin State Organization for Women's Affairs and members of the panel of

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

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Brunei Darussalam

YANGON, 23 Feb — On the occasion of the 20th National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

Welding skill contest held

YANGON, 22 Feb — With a view to contributing towards the industrial development of the country, the welding skill contest was held under the sponsorship of YSL and TKW Co Ltd at car parking yard of industrial zone (3) of Dagon Myothit (South) from 1 to 5 pm yesterday. Over 300 persons took part in the contest. The first prize winner was presented K 150,000; the second prize winner K 75,000 and the third prize winner K 50,000. (H)



MWAF Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe explains about organizational set-up of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation in Mawlamyine, Mon State, on 19-2-2004.

(News reported) — MNA



MWAF Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe accepts cash donations made by wellwishers from Kayin State for the MWAF. — MNA

patrons and district and township members at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an.

At the meeting, Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe gave a speech. She said that personnel of the federation went on field trips to states and divisions to explain functions of the federation. During their tour of Hpa-an, they would clarify organizational set-up and functions of the federation to members of the organizations for women's affairs formed in Kayin State. As there are 50.3 per cent of women out of the country's population, there are limits to effectively carry out women's affairs in the entire nation. On 20 December 2003, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was formed as a

non-governmental organization. The federation has laid down and is implementing the seven lofty aims for promoting the women's role. Entire women of the country are to be organized to submit membership applications on their own accord and it should not be compulsory. Realizing lofty aims of the federation for development of the women's life, participants in the meeting are to the tasks of the federation in accord with the motto 'Let's make efforts for development of women's life'.

Then, the member of Secretariat and leaders of working group explained functions of their working groups. Next, Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe

accepted K 4.2 million from wellwishers of Kayin State and spoke words of thanks.

Next, they met with CEC member of Kayin State Organization for Women's Affairs at the Yeiktha at No 22 LID. Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe made a speech, saying that they had explained tasks to be carried out and they believed that future tasks will be implemented clearly.

The administrator of the Kayin State Organization for Women's Affairs reported on undertakings of Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs. Then, the vice-president and officials answered the queries.

MNA

UK graduate killed in Iraq explosion

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb—2nd Lt Jeffery Graham was killed Thursday in Iraq as he was turning to warn platoon members that he had spotted a bomb on a guardrail, his family said after receiving information from the army.

The Army gave 2nd Lt Jeffrey Graham a chance to stay home from Iraq, but he wanted to serve his country — a decision that cost him his life.

Graham, a May 2003 graduate of the University of Kentucky and a former leader of UK's Pershing Rifles drill team, was killed Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded near Khaldiya, according to his family in Frankfort.

"He never expressed any regret at being there or anything. He repeated over and over that he was there doing what he was meant to be doing," said his grandmother, Jackie Shroat. "In every e-mail he sent,

Jeffrey said, 'Please remember my platoon in your prayers.'"

Graham, 24, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 34th Armour in the Fort Riley, Kan-based 1st Infantry Division, went to Iraq in November, even though his younger brother had committed suicide in June, said Carol Graham, the soldier's mother. The military gave Graham the choice of staying closer to home, but he wanted to go, she said. According to information the family received from the Army, Graham was leading a patrol on foot when he spotted a bomb strapped to a guardrail and turned to warn others in his platoon, Carol Graham said.—*Internet*



An Iraqi shows part of a 9mm handgun found at the scene where three vehicles used by US civil affairs officers were attacked on the highway near the village of Haswa, south of Baghdad. — INTERNET

Troop suicides in Iraq raise questions, family doubts in US

LUFKIN (Texas), 21 Feb—Two-year-old Jada Suell tumbled out of the car and ran ahead of everyone — her grandmother, her mother, her cousins, and her 4-year-old sister, Jakayla — toward the grave of Joseph Dewayne Suell.

"Dada," said the little girl. In the Sunday afternoon quiet of Cedar Grove cemetery, her toddler voice reverberated like a shout.

Suell was deployed to Iraq in April 2003 as an Army petroleum supply specialist out of Fort Sill, Okla. Less than two months later, he was dead. A report provided to the family at their request says that the 24-year-old died of a drug overdose on Father's Day, one of 22 suicides reported among troops in Iraq last year.

According to William Winkenwerder Jr, assistant secretary of defence for health affairs, who discussed the suicides in a briefing last month, that represents a rate of more than 13.5 per 100,000 troops, about 20 percent higher than the recent Army average of 10.5 to 11. The Pentagon plans to release the findings of a team sent to Iraq last fall to investigate the mental health of the troops, including cases of suicide.

The number Winken-

werder cited does not include cases under investigation, so the actual number may be higher. It also excludes the suicides by soldiers who have returned to the United States. For instance, two soldiers undergoing mental health treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington reportedly committed suicide there, in July 2003 and last month. In its weekly report on the treatment of returning battlefield soldiers, the hospital never mentioned the deaths.

An official at Walter Reed said the deaths are "suspected" suicides and are being investigated by the Army's criminal division.

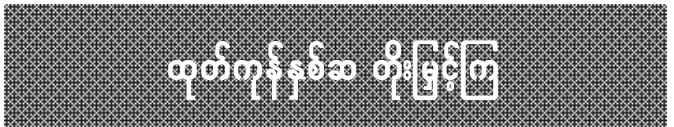
Stephen L Robinson, who visits the hospital regularly and is executive director of the National Gulf War Resource Centre, a non-profit advocacy group for veterans and soldiers, said there was no public record of the deaths. "They just covered it up," he said.

The military's emphasis on honour, valor, and cour-

age makes suicide perhaps one of its last taboos. The Pentagon does not publicly identify a soldier's death as a suicide but may classify it as a "nonhostile gunshot wound," or death from "nonhostile injuries," which can also include accidents such as negligent discharge of a weapon. In comparison, the Pentagon will release a description of the cause of death — enemy fire, a land mine, a car crash — for a soldier killed in action or as a result of an accident.

The *Washington Post* contacted more than a dozen families of soldiers whose causes of death were listed as noncombat-related. Some said that although the military had not provided further details, information from soldiers in the field indicated that the deaths were from "friendly fire" or an accidental weapons discharge. For others awaiting the results of an investigation, the possibility of suicide was too painful to bear.

Internet



US withheld Iraq arms details

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb—The Central Intelligence Agency has acknowledged that it did not provide the United Nations with information about 21 of the 105 sites in Iraq singled out by US intelligence before the war as the most highly suspected of housing illicit weapons.

The acknowledgment, in a Jan 20 letter to Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., contradicts public statements before the war by top Bush administration officials.

Both George Tenet, the director of central intelligence, and Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser, said the United States had briefed UN inspectors on all of the sites identified as "high value and moderate value" in the weapons hunt.

The contradiction is significant because congressional opponents of the war were arguing a year ago that the UN inspectors should be given more time to complete their search before the United States and its allies began the invasion. The White House, bolstered by Tenet, insisted that it was fully cooperating with the inspectors, and at daily briefings the White House issued assurances that the administration was providing the inspectors with the best information possible.

In a telephone interview on Friday, Levin

said he now believed that Tenet had misled Congress, which he described as "totally unacceptable".

Senior administration officials said Friday night that Rice had relied on information provided by intelligence agencies when she assured Levin, in a letter on 6 March, 2003, that "United Nations inspectors have been briefed on every high or medium priority weapons of mass destruction, missile and UAV-related site the US intelligence community has identified." Tenet said much the same thing in testimony on 12 Feb, 2003.

UAV's are unarmed aerial vehicles, commonly called drones.

Asked about the contradiction between the CIA's current account and Rice's letter, the spokesman for the national security council, Sean McCormack, said, "Dr Rice provided a good-faith answer to Senator Levin based on the best information that was made available to her."—*Internet*

Edwards blasts Bush, vows to cut lobbyists' power

ST PAUL (Minnesota), 22 Feb—Democratic presidential hopeful John Edwards on Saturday skewered President George W. Bush for taking money from companies with lucrative contracts in Iraq and vowed to bleed the power of Washington lobbyists.

The North Carolina senator, who is running a distant second in polls to front-runner John Kerry, is portraying himself as a Washington outsider as he campaigns in a strategic selection of some of the 10 states that will hold potentially decisive votes on March 2 for the Democratic nominee to challenge Bush.

After a series of recent campaign stops focused on job losses in hard hit manufacturing areas, Edwards told an overflow crowd of about 1,000 in Minnesota that special interests must be reined in if working and middle-class families are to be heard.

Let me tell you what we ought to do with these Washington lobbyists: we ought to cut 'em off at the knees," said Edwards, who refuses campaign contributions from lobbyists.

He vowed to stop politicians from taking lobbyists' money, keep government officials from becoming lobbyists and prevent lobbyists from walking into top government jobs. He said he would bar contractors' contributions before or after a bid.

At an earlier rally in Long Island, New York, he blasted "war profiteering" by companies like Halliburton, the oil services

firm formerly headed by Vice-President Dick Cheney, which won several large contracts last year to rebuild Iraq amid allegations of cronyism.

"If you make a list on a piece of paper of the companies who have gotten contracts in Iraq and then list beside them who they made political contributions to, take a wild guess who's the biggest recipient: George W. Bush," Edwards said.

An Edwards campaign staffer cited an April 2003 report by the Center for Responsive Politics that found Bush had received 31,000 US dollars during his 2000 election campaign from six companies that later asked to bid for Iraq contracts.

The money included contributions from individuals associated with those companies.

"Instead of offering forward-looking ideas to address the two main challenges facing our country, Senator Edwards is launching negative attacks," responded Scott Stanzel, spokesman for the Bush-Cheney '04 campaign.

A mill worker's son who became a wealthy trial lawyer, Edwards stresses trade reform and job protection in his stump speeches and promises to overcome divisions of race and economic opportunity.

MNA/Reuters



NASA's Mars Spirit rover is shown in front of a 3 inch (7 cm) deep trench created when it dragged its left front wheel back and forth on 20 Feb, 2004. Scientists and engineers will soon begin up-close inspection of the soil in this trench.

INTERNET

Queens soldier killed in Iraq

NEW YORK, 22 Feb—A 20-year-old soldier from Queens was one of two Americans killed Thursday in a roadside bombing west of Baghdad, the Defence Department said Saturday.

The soldier was identified by the Defence Department as Specialist Roger G Ling, of the Douglaston section of Queens. Ling and 2nd Lt. Jeffrey C Graham, 24, of Elizabethtown, Ky., were killed when the bomb went off near Khaldiya, about 50 miles west of Baghdad. One US soldier was wounded and one Iraqi killed.

Ling and Graham were both assigned to

Company C, 1st Battalion, 34th Armour Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team based at Fort Riley, Kan.

According to the Fort Riley Web site, Ling was an armour crewman. He joined the Army in November 2001 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since May 2002. Ling was deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Internet

Anthrax jab side-effects withheld

SYDNEY, 22 Feb—Australia has admitted it vaccinated its Iraq-bound troops against anthrax without disclosing the side-effects on soldiers sent to Afghanistan.

The government has confirmed that most of the 1,500 troops deployed to fight the Taleban in 2001 became ill.

But officials have defended the decision not to tell soldiers heading for Iraq in 2003, saying they did not want to cause anxiety.

They also say they thought such problems were unlikely to be repeated.

The side-effects suffered by three in four of the troops sent to Afghanistan were revealed when confidential defence documents were released to *The Australian* newspaper under freedom-of-information rules.

The soldiers experienced symptoms including swelling, severe pain and 'flu-like' illness after receiving their jabs.

The vaccination programme was suspended for several weeks, but resumed after an investigation, although the cause of the

side-effects was never discovered.

Senior military doctors have said other factors—such as the temperature in Afghanistan and high physical workloads—could have contributed.

In 2003, troops set to join the invasion of Iraq were not told of the problems.

At the time, Defence Minister Robert Hill insisted qualms about the shots, which were compulsory, were unfounded, and was vaccinated himself to demonstrate his confidence. Nevertheless, some Australian servicemen and women were unconvinced. About 40 were sent home from the Gulf for refusing the jabs, though they have not faced disciplinary procedures.

However, no unusual rates of adverse reactions were reported from the Gulf here," he said. —Internet

Ancient general's tomb uncovered in north China

TAIYUAN, 22 Feb—Archaeologists in the northern China Province of Shanxi have located the tomb of a general who lived more than 400 years ago.

A group of construction workers recently unearthed a stone tablet in a downtown area of Jincheng City, where they were building a cold store for a local wholesaler of fruits. They reported the finding to the local cultural heritage department, with the intuition it could be valuable.

The tablet was believed by experts to be a gravestone, and its inscription suggested it belonged to Shen Qigong, a general of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), who died sometime during the reign of Emperor Wan Li, between 1573 and 1620. The general was 69 years old when he died, his epitaph said. The local public security authority has closed off the site to protect it from intruders while archaeologists have opened the tomb with hopes to excavate the cultural heritage in it. —MNA/Xinhua

Statue heads at World Heritage Site in S-W China stolen

CHONGQING, 22 Feb—

Two statues of the Dazu rock carvings, a World Heritage Site in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, were beheaded by robbers, local cultural heritage authorities and police revealed.

The two statue heads were found stolen on February 11, police authorities said. The latter one was a clay statue carved in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) as a replacement to its predecessor which was damaged. —MNA/Xinhua

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US Military Police check a burned out vehicle that was riddled with bullets and torched in Baghdad recently. Tension remained high in western Iraq one day after guerillas launched twin raids on Iraqi security bases, sparking blistering battles that left 27 dead and dozens wounded. — INTERNET

Tactical Response Group police quit to work in Iraq

SYDNEY, 22 Feb—The crack police Tactical Response Group has been hit by the sudden resignation of officers to work in Iraq.

The officers were recruited on lucrative security contracts in the war-torn country.

The losses have made a severe dent in the highly trained unit of about 40 officers.

Three resigned last Friday, another five are about to hand in their papers, and it is understood others are discussing their options with senior officers.

Officers from the state protection unit are also said to be considering 12-month contracts worth up to \$300,000.

It is also understood that several soldiers from the Perth-based Special Air Service regiment have left or are set to resign to take up similar deals.

The officers will be involved in the dangerous work of protecting business premises as Iraq struggles to rebuild its economy.

They will also act as bodyguards for wealthy businessmen.

Most of the recruiting has been carried out "word-of-mouth" among the tight-knit security world but a UK-based agency, working for a US consortium, is behind the campaign.

A police service spokesman refused to confirm the number of resignations but

claimed it would not affect the TRG's operational ability. "We have a reserve list of officers that can step in," he said.

"This sort of thing happens. People move on from these areas. They only have a certain life span and there is a natural turnover."

His main concern was not that the officers were leaving.

"I am concerned about their safety in the job they're going into," he said.

He said that the WA service specialist units were not the only specialist officers that had been targeted.

Similar units in other states had also been hit by resignations. "Anyone who is in these areas is being approached," he said.

"They are all likely candidates."

But Police Union president Mike Dean said the development had the potential to reduce the TRG's capability.

A Defence spokesman said he could not comment on the resignations.

"There is no obligation on their part to tell us what they are doing after leaving," he said.

"Even if they did we could not release details because of privacy and security obligations." —Internet

Official archives of war-ridden dynasty excavated in central China

CHANGSHA, 22 Feb—Chinese scientists have unearthed some 1,000 bamboo and wooden slips of the Western Jin Dynasty (265-316) in Chenzhou City of central China's Hunan Province, which they hope will shed more light on the war-ridden ancient dynasty.

"Our studies on the south China politics and culture of that time will get a significant boost by the latest find as these bamboo and wood slips are the sole official archives China has found so far," said Qin Xiaojun, who led an archaeological team to continue the excavation. Qin said the slips were dug out of a bustling construction site in the city and some of them recorded accurately the distance between Chenzhou and Luoyang, capital of the Western Jin Dynasty. They also bear the words "Tai'an" and "Yongkang", two titles of the reign by the dynasty's Emperor Jinhui. Though the papermaking technique spread throughout China in the Second Century AD, bamboo slips and wooden

slats were still powerful competitors for paper in recording royal decrees and statutes in the country.

Few historical documents about the Western Jin Dynasty were handed down from ancient China since frequent chaos and wars led to the dynasty's quick termination 52 years after its establishment. Before this new archaeological discovery, China had only 10 original bamboo and wood slips of the dynasty. The city unearthed large amounts of bamboo and wooden slips of the Eastern Han Dynasty (24-220) last year, indicating Chenzhou was once a political and cultural centre of ancient China, according to archaeological experts.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers run out of their Bradley fighting vehicle at the start of a foot patrol through the streets of Tikrit north of Baghdad.—INTERNET

Altoona-area soldier seriously wounded in Iraq

ALTOONA, 22 Feb—A Blair County soldier was seriously wounded in Iraq when a grenade exploded while he was on patrol duty, his mother said.

Army Spc Brandon Adams, of Logan Township, was with three other soldiers when they entered a house in Fallujah on Monday and the grenade exploded.

Carol Adams said Army officials told the family that two soldiers suffered only minor injuries, while her son and another soldier were se-

riously hurt.

Adams suffered a severe head injury, as well as wounds to his right arm, right leg and pelvis.

Adams is a member of the 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, NY. He has been taken to the University of Manheim Hospital in Germany where he was

expected to have surgery, his mother said Friday. He'll then be transferred to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC.

Adams entered the army in August 2000 after graduating from Altoona Area High School. He left for Iraq on Sept 23.

Internet

Death of Britain adviser ruled suicide

LONDON, 22 Feb—The death of a British weapons inspector was ruled a suicide by a judge who investigated the political storm over intelligence on Iraqi weapons.

But some skeptics are questioning that verdict, arguing that it's unlikely government scientist David Kelly bled to death from a self-inflicted cut to his wrist.

The critics rebuff accusations that they're conspiracy theorists, and few offer any thoughts on how Kelly might have died if not by his own hand. Senior judge Lord Hutton concluded in his January report on Kelly's death that the scientist killed himself, distressed that he'd been thrust into the crossfire of a battle between the government and the British Broadcasting Corp. over allegations that officials exaggerated evidence on Iraqi weapons to justify war.

Kelly's body was found in July, leaning against a tree in the woods near his Oxfordshire home, his left wrist slashed and a nearly empty pack of painkillers nearby.

The scientist had been publicly identified days before as the source of a BBC report that quoted him anonymously as accusing the government of "sexing up" evidence in a September 2002 dossier on Iraqi weapons.

Hutton heard testimony from the doctor who performed Kelly's autopsy, a toxicologist who tested his blood, police who investigated the death and an Oxford University

suicide expert, among others.

Hutton agreed with pathologist Dr Nicholas Hunt's conclusion that Kelly died primarily of heavy bleeding, with a painkiller overdose and mild hardening of the arteries around his heart as secondary causes that hastened the death and made it more likely. Kelly's ulnar artery, the smaller of two blood vessels in the wrist, was completely cut, the pathologist said.

"It's absolutely unbelievable to me ... that a person could die just by cutting that artery," said Dr Andrew Rouse, whose letters on the subject, co-signed by six other medical experts, have appeared in *The Guardian* newspaper and on the *British Medical Journal's* Web site. "The established wisdom is that it's practically impossible to bleed to death" from a wrist artery, he said.

Rouse, an epidemiologist who works in purchasing for the National Health Service in Birmingham, central England, said the artery would automatically constrict and the blood would clot before someone could lose enough to die.

He cited government statistics showing that only a handful of men in Kelly's age group die by self-inflicted slashing injuries each year. —Internet

French population grows to 61.7 million in 2003

PARIS, 22 Feb — The French population, metropolitan and overseas departments and territories included, has grown to 61.7 million by January 1, 2004,

making France the second most populous in Europe, French state statistics bureau INSEE announced Friday.

The French population in 2003, slightly up from 61.4

million in 2002, represents 16 per cent of the 15-nation European Union and 13 per cent of the bloc population when it takes in 10 eastern nations as new members in May this year, said INSEE.

France has the second largest population in Europe, second only to Germany (82.5 million) and ahead of Britain (59.5 million), said the bureau.

MNA/Xinhua



Two Iraqi women cry in front of their destroyed house, close to the scene of a suicide attack in the town of Hilla, around 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, on 18 February, 2004. Suicide car bombers killed at least 11 Iraqis and wounded 58 foreign troops in twin attacks on the military base in Hilla. —INTERNET

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An Iraqi teenager looks through the shattered window of a civilian SUV, following a small arms fire ambush near the village of Al-Haswa, some 22 km (14 miles) south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on 21 February, 2004. Four US soldiers were wounded and their Iraqi translator was killed on Saturday when gunmen ambushed their convoy south of Baghdad, the US army said. —INTERNET

Britain may face lawsuits over Iraqi deaths

LONDON, 22 Feb—Britain's Ministry of Defence could face a string of lawsuits following the deaths of at least 18 Iraqi civilians said to have been killed by British soldiers, the *Guardian* said on Saturday.

The newspaper said the cases had not been previously reported and were related to incidents in which Iraqis had died when they were fired on by mistake or were innocent bystanders.

Phil Shiner, whose law firm is acting on these cases, said the 18 Iraqis were the "tip of the iceberg".

"All have lost relatives and loved ones in circumstances where it is crystal clear the British Armed Forces are to blame, often because they've shot people by mistake," he told the paper.

"The government must act immediately to set up an independent inquiry to establish the precise cause of these deaths."

A ministry spokeswoman said she could

not comment on potential lawsuits but said they would be investigated if received.

The *Guardian* said the ministry, while refusing to accept liability, had offered and paid some compensation to some of the families but lawyers had deemed the sum derisory and were preparing to sue the ministry in civil courts in Britain.

Ten days ago, the Defence Ministry said it was investigating a number of separate incidents involving British soldiers who allegedly mistreated Iraqi prisoners of war.

The announcement followed a newspaper report which said one Iraqi prisoner of war had been beaten to death by a British soldier.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam's exports to rise in first quarter

HANOI, 22 Feb— Vietnam is forecast to reap export turnovers of five billion US dollars in the first quarter of this year, a year-on-year increase of 8 per cent.

In the period, turnovers of seafood, coffee and rubber are expected to reach 535 million US dollars, up 38 per

cent; 165 million US dollars, up 26.9 per cent; and 100 million US dollars, up 17.6 per cent, respectively.

But, some agricultural product exports, including rice, fruits, vegetables, peanuts and pepper, are forecast to decrease. Vietnam is expected to ship about 620,000

tons of rice worth 118 million US dollars in the first three months of this year, down 33 per cent in volume and 27 per cent in value.

The country made export turnovers of 1.65 billion US dollars in January 2004, a year-on-year rise of 2.2 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia's new missile system ensures national security

MOSCOW, 22 Feb—Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said Friday that the new missile system tested in the latest military manoeuvre is capable of ensuring Russia's long-term national security.

The minister claimed that the new system is technically advanced in comparison with the current world level and will help to protect global security in the long term, *Interfax* news agency reported.

Ivanov did not elaborate on the missile system, but a senior Russian military official said at a Press conference on Wednesday that Russia had successfully

test-fired a prototype of a new weapon that can penetrate any prospective missile defences.

Colonel-General Yuri Baluyevsky, the First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, revealed that the hypersonic vehicle could manoeuvre while in orbit to dodge missile defence systems.

Russia's strategic forces officially kicked off the mas-

sive military drill on 10 February and the active stage of the exercise wound up on Wednesday.

Ivanov said the military exercise, which has not completely finished, has reached its goal, adding that Russia will see to it that its national security is guaranteed.

The war game that involves all branches of the Russian military forces is described as the largest of its

kind over the past two decades.

Experts said the manoeuvre reflects the resurrection of Russia's military forces amid the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the changing world situation.

It shows to the world that Russia is not only a big military country but also a huge nuclear power.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier highlights scientific development concept

BEIJING, 22 Feb—The formation of the new scientific development concept is a major achievement the Communist Party of China (CPC) has made in its efforts to emancipate ideological work, seek truth from facts, keep pace with the changes of the time, and realize ideological innovation, said Premier Wen Jiabao here Saturday.

He called for firmly advocating and seriously implementing the scientific development concept, to push forward the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in a more fruitful way.

Wen, who is a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, made the remarks Saturday at the conclusion of a high-level training course held at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

In his speech, Wen urged leading officials at all levels to guide their work in accordance with the scientific development concept, which has been developed on the basis of relevant theories of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin, heads of China's first, second and third generation leaderships, respectively.

According to the Premier, the scientific development concept focuses on integrating humanism with overall, coordinated and sustainable economic and social development, while pushing forward the reform and development drive to coordinate development in both urban and rural areas and in different regions, achieve harmonious development between man and nature, coordinate domestic development and open up to the outside world.

He called for adherence to the principle of humanism, saying that humanism is the nature and kernel of the scientific development concept. Vice-President Zeng Qinghong attended the ceremony, which was presided over by Vice-Premier Huang Ju. Both Zeng and Huang are members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau.—MNA/Xinhua

EU reaches agreement on "polluters-pay" law

BRUSSELS, 22 Feb — The EU governments and the European Parliament reached Friday agreement on a draft directive establishing an EU environmental liability regime after the last sticking point, the issue of financial guarantees, was resolved.

The European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the European Union (EU), welcomed the agreement which, as stated by EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom, was 15 years in the making.

"The idea that the polluter must pay is a cornerstone of EU environmental policy,

and with the new directive, we are, for the first time, putting the 'polluter pays principle' into practice in a comprehensive manner," she said in a statement.

"The new directive should be a strong incentive to prevent environmental damage from happening at all," the Commissioner added.

The directive targets several specific sectors: industries that generate large amounts of heavy metal waste, chemical manufacturers, waste disposal and incinerator operators.

MNA/Reuters

Five indicted in Alaska bear-poaching schemes

ANCHORAGE (Alaska), 22 Feb — Five Anchorage men were indicted recently charged with killing a total of 14 Alaska black bears to harvest their gall bladders for illegal trade in Asia, said Tim Burgess, US attorney for Alaska.

In addition to the grand jury indictments, federal authorities are investigating the case of 50 more black bears found killed in suspicious circumstances, Burgess said at a news conference.

The poaching occurred in unrelated cases in Alaska's Prince William Sound region and on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula,

popular recreation areas that are accessible to residents of Anchorage and surrounding communities. Black bear gall bladders, reputed in traditional Asian lore to have special medicinal powers, can sell for up to 4,000 US dollars apiece, federal officials said.

These are the first major cases in Alaska of bears being poached for their

gall bladders, though such activities have occurred in the lower 48 states, officials said.

"The sad news today is that we must announce the existence of systematic and targeted commercial poaching operations in Alaska, where previously nothing of this magnitude had been identified.

MNA/Reuters



Keiko, the killer whale who was the star of the film "Free Willy," sticks his tongue out after arriving at his new home in Norway's Taknes Bay in this 7 Nov, 2002 file photo.

Keiko died in Norway in December, 2003 but on 20 Feb, 2004 the Oregon Coast Aquarium where he once lived responded to hundreds of e-mails, letters and phone calls by giving those who knew him here a chance for closure.—INTERNET

မြန်မာ့အသံ၊ ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၂၃ ရက်နေ့

Thailand, Vietnam launch friendship village

BANGKOK, 22 Feb—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his Vietnamese counterpart Phan Van Khai on Saturday morning witnessed the opening of a friendship village in northeastern Thailand.

The Thai-Vietnamese Friendship Village in the province of Nakhon Phanom, some 740 kilometres north-east of Bangkok, was home to the late Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh in the 1920s when he was on a seven-year exile.

Currently, 129 Vietnamese households still live in the village and Thaksin promised to give them Thai nationalities at the opening ceremony.

"This village reflects the Vietnamese people's closeness and deep-connection

with Thailand over the past 50 years," the Thai Prime Minister was quoted by the state-run Thai News Agency as saying.

He noted that the Thai Government had realized and appreciated the historical significance of the community and joined forces with the Vietnamese Government to develop the village into a new historic tourist site.

"The Thai-Vietnamese Friendship Village is also a significant symbol of bilateral cooperation between the Thai and Vietnamese people

on the sustainable basis," he said.

The two governments are holding a joint Cabinet meeting from Friday to Sunday in Vietnam.

During the meeting, first of its kind, officials from the two countries discussed bilateral cooperation in three separate fields as politics and security, economy, and social-cultural development. Both sides recognized the necessity to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the interests of peace and stability in the region.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis look over the remains of a civilian car which was attacked near Haswa, 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of Baghdad on 21 Feb, 2004. Guerrillas fired on a US military convoy killing an Iraqi translator and wounding four American soldiers, the US command in Baghdad said. No other details were available.—INTERNET

Over 4 million Nepali kids receive polio vaccination

KATHMANDU, 22 Feb—Polio drops are being administered to 4.25 million children below the age of five across Nepal Saturday under the second phase of the eighth National Immunization Day, the Health Ministry said.

Some 5,000 local district health workers and volunteers have been mobilized at 39,328 immunization centres across the country to give polio drops to the kids, the ministry said in a Press release. The immunization day has been observed in Nepal for the last eight years as part of the campaign of eradicating poliomyelitis from the world called on by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The first phase programme of the eighth National Immunization Day was held on January 3 this year. Nepal is on the thresh-

old of being declared a polio-free country as no single polio case has been reported in the country in the last four years, thanks to the immunization efforts over the last eight years, the Press release added.

According to WHO provision, a country can be declared polio-free if no case is recorded for three consecutive years. However, Nepal has not declared itself as a polio-free country, because polio is still prevalent in neighbouring India, and there is a possibility of polio victims moving into Nepal.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladeshi youth team to go on Mt Qomolangma expedition in May

DHAKA, 22 Feb—A four-member team consists of Bangladeshi youngsters will be selected for Mount Qomolangma expedition in May, reported the Daily Star on Saturday.

Fifteen teams of the country have already been selected in the primary stage through a competition, and they left the capital Dhaka for northeastern hilly area Srimongal on

Friday for final competition.

The winning team will be selected on 23 February on the basis of different tests like walking, running, riding push-bike and trekking.

Only three out of 44 boys and a girl will get the golden chance to go to the Base Camp 1 of the Mount Qomolangma on the second or third week of May.—MNA/Xinhua

For emergence of a modern developed nation

Aung Moe San

The present duty of the national races born in the Union of Myanmar bestowed by history is to build a consolidated modern developed Union. That was why on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Union Day the seven-point future programme of the State was laid down. The Union Day is a significant day. Myanmar national leaders (national race delegates) in Panglong signed the document on 12 February 1947 during the independence struggle for perpetuation of the Union, national solidarity and independence. During the colonial rule, the nationals of the Union lived in weal and woe and fought against the colonialists together for independence. After regaining the independence, national races of the Union hand in hand with the Tatmadaw prevented the nation from breaking up.

At the end of the Third Anglo-Myanmar War, Myanmar was enslaved. From that time on, fighting for independence of some national race leaders of the Union was stated in the history of national races' anti-colonialist struggle as follows:

Kayah and Shan nationals led by Saw Laphaw and Htut Lu fought back against the colonialists in Kayah hills. In Kachin hills, Kachin nationals led by Phonkan Duwa, Sama Duwa, Gara Duwa, Thama Duwa and Sadon Duwa, Bamar-Kachin nationals led by Bo Po Saw and Bo Hti and Shan-Bamar-Kachin nationals led by U Kham Hlaing, Saw Yan Paing and U Aung Myat fought against the British and so did Chin nationals led by Shwegyobu Mintha and Kyunbek and Shan-Bamar nationals led by U Ket and U Pya in Chin Hills and Chindwin River regions. Shan nationals led by Princes Myinsaing and Linpin, Kengtung and Yaksauk Sawbwas and Wa nationals led by Saw Maha and Naw Kham Oo fought against the colonialists in Shan State and Wa regions respectively.

Among the national revolutionary fighters, a few words about Saw Laphaw, Wuntho Sawbwa, Kyunbek and Kai Htwa will be presented.

Gandarawady Sawbwa Saw Laphaw fought against the British colonialists with his headquarters in Sawlon. Beginning 1886, everyone who surrendered to the British was attacked and crushed. Wuntho Sawbwa U Aung Myat was honest and quiet but had strong and sharp mind. His friends said that he would react against those who hurled unfounded accusations at him. In 1891 a British stronghold was attacked. Although the British authorities took hold of all properties of Wuntho Sawbwa U Aung Myat, he fought them bravely without surrendering. Finally, he went to Santa in Yunnan Province.

Kyunbek of Falam in Chin State was a leader of Tarshan Chin nationals. The Chin nationals usually chose wise and brave men as their leaders. In accord with this tradition, he was chosen as a leader. In fighting against a British force in Chin Hills, three Chin patriots were killed and one was wounded seriously. But Chin nationals defeated the British force. Kai Htwa was well-known as a hunter and brilliant fighter. He participated in anti-British fighting. His speeches and songs encouraged anti-colonialist revolutionaries. He fought against the British for three years.

Similarly, national races from the plain and hilly regions attacked the British brilliantly for independence from one generation to another.

In connection with patriotism of the nationals of the

Union, Myanmar Independence Declaration stated as follows:

We, Shan, Kayah, Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar and Rakhine nationals born in the same land have existed as united and independent people in this noble land since time immemorial. Our independence has been shining as bright as the sun throughout the Tagaung, Tharyay Khittaya, Bagan, Myinsaing, Sagaing, Pinya, Innwa, Konbaung and Mandalay periods.

Therefore, the national brethren fought against the intruders until the independence was regained. In this way, the national races altogether defended and safeguarded the Union. Among the governments that came to power after Myanmar regained the independence, the present Tatmadaw Government places unprecedented emphasis on the tasks for development of national races and border areas constantly upholding three national policies — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. It is because, these border areas lagged behind in development in the past due to the internal armed insurgency.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the purpose of establishment of the central committee and the work committee for development of border areas and national races is to bridge the development gap among parts of the nation including border areas and to promote the economic, education, health and social sectors of local people in border areas.

The Tatmadaw Government formed the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races with five members on 25 May 1989, which was chaired by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. On 4 February 2003, the committee was reconstituted with 16 members. And the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was formed on 31 May 1989, which was chaired by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council (now Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt). Besides, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was established on 30 January 1994 so as to effectively carry out the development tasks. Consequently, a total of 17 armed groups returned to the legal fold, and they are joining hands with the Government and the people. It indicates the historic achievement of national reconsolidation that the previous governments could not accomplish.

The Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department has been implementing border areas development projects in Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kokang region, Wa region, Shan region, Kachin North-East region, Palaung region, Pa-O region, Kayah region, Mawpha region, eastern Kengtung region, Mon region, Kayin region, Taninthayi region, Rakhine region, Chin region, and Kabaw Valley region and Naga region in Sagaing Division.

The estimated area of 18 regions of seven States and two Divisions where border areas development tasks are being carried out is about 83,415.34 square miles. So, border areas and the regions where national races live have developed significantly, and peace has been restored in these places. Thus, remarkable success has been achieved in implementing all-round development projects

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

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

and anti-narcotic drug projects. Members of diplomatic corps, representatives of the United Nations and international observers have witnessed the development of these regions. Moreover, the Tatmadaw Government is implementing the five rural development tasks to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas.

Therefore, the entire people are to join hands and to make combined efforts in implementing the State's seven-step future programmes for building up a modern developed Union in conformity with the social science — in a human society, progress of economic productive forces which are called infrastructure go together with that of politics, administration, law, education, culture, democracy and human rights which are called superstructure.

(Translation: NY + MS)

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 22-2-2004



Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing delivers an address at second and third four-monthly meeting of the Myanmar Police Force on 20-2-2004. (News reported) — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party together with Pakokku U Ohn Pe pose for a group photo. — MNA

Annual presentation of outstanding ...

(from page 1)

In addition, efforts are being made to safeguard the national prestige and integrity and sovereignty, braving a series of dissension, pressure, sanctions, obstacles and interferences for enabling the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with those of the world ensuring as a united, independent and sovereign one and for development of own nation and people to the most possible degree, he noted.

At such a time, only when the tasks for boosting the nationalism and strong national outlook can be carried out, relying on the national might while preserving the national literature will the national immunity that is required most today emerge.

The government, valuing the might of national literature and enhancing the national interests, has been making efforts for the emergence of a national literature building capable of boosting the national integrity and establishing the national immunity.



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan hands over 300 books donated by IPRD and 295 books donated by PPE to Pakokku U Ohn Pe. MNA

The encouragement of the government, the constant compilation and writing of the literati out of goodwill, the increase in the interest of literature by the literary enthusiasts and the encouragement of men of letters like U Ohn Pe help make Myanmar literature developed, he disclosed.

Like a colourful garden with various kinds of flowers, the Myanmar literary world today is full of literary works created by doyen literati and new generation writers serving the national interests. Their works are of classic and modern. The entire people can take pride that these works are full of serious national outlook and steadfast national stand. And they are of high standard. While Myanmar literature is flourishing, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards emerge in addition to National Literary Awards, Sarpay Beikman Manuscripts Awards, National Motto Awards and others. Encouragements such as Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards contribute much towards promotion of Myanmar literature.

He said national literary award and life-long literary award of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Award are for literati who devote themselves to their literary career and constantly serve the national interest through literature. These awards reveal good traditions of the literature for young literati of the new generation, he said.

Annual presentation of outstanding awards and scholarship to brilliant students of the new generation is the effective fulfilment for development of human resources on literature, he said.

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award is useful not only to literati but also to literary enthusiasts, indeed.

He said one can see the fact that big nations with superior wealth and technology are trying to wield the influence of western-type culture and customs and lifestyle

on youths in developing countries like Myanmar by making use of rapid development of science and technology and globalization through effective media channels.

He said they are intentionally making plans to make the new generation youths admire western customs, thoughts, character and social norms and to deviate from national outlooks spending a large amount of money and applying modern powerful media weapon. Therefore, the youths must rely on the effective power of national literature for understanding and cherishing high national culture, gentle national characters and national requirements.

He said it is the fact that national culture, national literature and national arts must be a guiding post for the citizens including new generations youths to consolidate patriotism and national spirit. The entire people are to build better foundations of patriotism in the heart of the people and for consolidation of traditions of national solidarity and better foundations of the Union Spirit with the strength of national literature and arts, he added.

He said literary strength is always to support national strength for keeping abreast of the nations of the world, for prosperity of the nation and its people, for standing tall in the world community as an independent and sovereign state with high national prestige and for safeguarding the national interest.

He spoke at length on leading and organizing the citizens for spiritual development such as development of human resource of international standard, uplift of their qualifications and increase of correct knowledge.

He said now is the time to make endeavours for emergence of a modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic state based on cultural heritage inherited from forefathers without harming national intrinsic value, national norms and national characters. The seven-step road map has also been laid down and is being implemented to build up the nation into a modern and developed one. Therefore, literati are urged to participate in endeavouring for reaching the national goal through the strength of Myanmar literature which possesses a great historical tradition, he said. For the new generations to come, all the literati are urged to nurture the national literature, which has been preserved throughout history, to be more flourishing, he stressed.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the literati to strive for consolidating national strength which will build and safeguard the modern and developed nation while preserving and uplifting the national character, culture and traditions and social value; and to actively participate in implementing the seven-point policy programme which will create a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-long Literary Award to Writer Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Hnyin). On behalf of Saymagyi Daw Yin Yin, Secretary of Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee Editor-in-Chief of Sarpay Beikman U Maung Hlaing (Maung Swe Nge) accepted the award.

Afterwards, first, second and third prizes were presented to Kaung Nyunt Wai (Yezagyo), Maung Pyi Hlaing (Thandwe), and Shwe Hinthia (Mandalay University) in the collected poem genre; and first, second and third prizes to Patheingyi Aung Than Oo, Shi and Thwe Hta Nyo (Thehtkala) in the novel genre.

Next, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted K five million for outstanding students donated by wellwisher Pakokku U Ohn Pe for the third time.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented first, second and third prizes to Thein Zaw (Shwell Oo), Kyaw Phone Myint (Chemistry) and Ko Zaw Htay (Culture) in the collected short story genre; and first, second and third



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-long Literary Award for Writer Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Hnyin) to Editor-in-Chief of Sarpay Beikman U Maung Hlaing (Maung Swe Nge). — MNA

prizes to Ni Nyein (Anyra University), Htan Hlaing and Shin Htwe Yin (Anthropology) in the treatise genre.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented first, second and third prizes to Min Shin Aung (Twantay), U Hsaung (Forestry) and Shwenaga Tin Win in the research genre. The minister also presented first, second and third prizes for outstanding in Myanmarsar to Ma May Thu Kyaw of No 2 Basic Education High School, Insein, Yangon Division, Maung Kyaw Ze Latt of No 1 BEHS, Monywa, Sagaing Division and Maung Hein Kyaw Moe of No 2 BEHS, Dedaye, Ayeyawady Division.

Minister for Education U Than Aung presented outstanding awards in Myanmarsar to Ma Aye Mya Sanda, Ma Phyu Phyu Sin and Ma Zin Nyein Htet of Dagon University, Ma Tin Phyo Thwe of Yadanabon University; scholarship awards to Ma Naw Thulay Phawwai of first year music, Univeristy of Culture (Yangon) and Ma Thet Mar Soe of first year Drama of University of Culture (Mandalay).

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung presented first, second and third prizes for outstanding in English to Maung Saw Htut of No 2 BEHS, Kamayut Township, Yangon Division, Maung Kyi Tha Aung of Yangon Institute of Education Practising School and Maung Tin Tun Aung of Yangon Institute of Education Practising School; first, second and third prizes for outstanding in mathematics to Ma Khine Thet Hsu of BEHS-2, Kamayut, Ma Thu Tho Chu of BEHS-16, Mandalay and Ma Ei Mon Win of BEHS-3, South Okkalapa. Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min presented first prizes for outstanding in chemistry to Ma Khine Thet Hsu of BEHS-2, Kamayut Township, outstanding in physics to Ma Zun Mo Hsu of BEHS-16, Mandalay, outstanding in geography to Ma Yi Wai Htet of Yangon Division, outstanding in biology to Ma Khine Thet Hsu of BEHS-2 Kamayut, outstanding in history to Ma May Kha Lar of BEHS, Kokogyun Township, Yangon Division, outstanding in economics to Ma Theingi Soe of BEHS-3, Mingaladon Township, and outstanding in optional Myanmarsar to Maung Tun Lin of BEHS-1, Lewu Township, Mandalay Division.

Next, wellwisher Pakokku U Ohn Pe explained the purpose of presenting literary awards.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented 595 books— 300 books donated by Information and Public Relations Department and 295 books by Printing and Publishing Enterprise—for Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library to Pakokku U Ohn Pe. Pakokku U Ohn Pe presented Pakokku Library Book Awards to Saya Aung Si Hein, Saya Ni Min Swe and Saya U Han Nyunt (Law).

On behalf of award winners, Chairman of Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) read out the words of thanks of Writer Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Hnyin). After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, deputy ministers posed for documentary photos together with Pakokku Library Book Award winners, literary award winners, scholarship award winners and outstanding students. The awards presented to the winners were K 100,000 for first prize; K 75,000 for second, K 50,000 for the third and K 200,000 for life long literary award.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects...

(from page 16)

In addition to implementing the border area development projects for improvement of the far-flung areas of the border regions, the Government designated special regions for equitable development of the regions in the entire nation. Five rural development tasks — development of education and health and availability of drinking water, development of transportation and rural development tasks — are being implemented for improvement of the rural regions in addition to the border areas.

As management machinery at the Central, State/Division, District and Township levels have been formed systematically, officials are to drive the machinery of management correctly and smoothly. To

was held at the compound of the school, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Sagu Taik Aungmyingalar Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñinda and members of the Sangha, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Magway Division Chairman, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, local authorities and local people.

A ceremony to erect the post for construction of Kyatpyae Village BEMS (Branch) was held. The Prime Minister and party sprinkled scented water on the post. Next, with the funds of Pakokku Township development Affairs Com-

mentary photo together with teachers, members of the school board of trustees and wellwishers. They then inspected the domestic science room and audio lab. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to Sagu Taik Aungmyingalar Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñinda and Sayadaws of other nearby monasteries and presented offertories. Next, Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt upgraded the Kyatpyae Village BEMS (Branch) into BEMS and presented a TV, a video recorder and a set of computer to Headmistress Daw Kyu Kyu. Minister U Than Aung spoke words of thanks. The Prime Minister and party then had a photo taken together with teachers.



Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of pagoda No 860 and No 861 in progress in Bagan-Nyaung U. — MNA

rural health care services. They reported on provisions of health care services, educative measures being taken for prevention of common diseases and medical treatments and supply of pure drinking water. Next, the Prime Minister upgraded the 16-bed hos-

PDC, departmental officials and members of social organizations. Township PDC Chairman U Ye Hla and officials reported on matters related to education, health, transport, tasks being carried out for local self-sufficiency of food and supply of drinking water. The

there would emerge development prospects, he added.

The Prime Minister said the State was undertaking the water supply tasks for the region where water is scarce.

He then urged them to make efforts for development of their regions and



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt poses for documentary photo together with members of the Sangha, teachers and students at the opening of Ayechanphyo building of Kyatpyae BEMS (Branch) in Pakokku. — MNA

achieve success in implementing the projects laid down by the State, administrative bodies at different levels are to conscientiously discharge duties with perseverance and goodwill for development of the region as well as uplift of living standard of the local people.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to Kyatpyae Village in Pakokku Township.

Next, the ceremony to open Ayechanphyo school building of BEMS (Branch) of Kyatpyae Village and to donate the plot of the school, to erect the post for construction of the school and to launch the tube-well

mittee, a tube-well opening ceremony was held in Kyatpyae Village. Deputy Minister for Progress of Boarder Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun and Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Zaw Min formally opened the ceremony.

With contributions of K 10.5 million including K 5.5 million by the State and K 5 million by the public, a new school building (270'x30') named Ayechanphyo was opened. The ceremony was opened by Minister for Education U Than Aung and Col Zaw Min. The Prime Minister and party posed for a docu-

The Prime Minister and party went to Seikphyu in Pakokku District where they were welcomed by local authorities, departmental staff and members of social organizations. National Health Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Seikphyu People's Hospital. They were welcomed there by Medical Superintendent Dr Kan Hlaing, doctors and nurses. The Prime Minister then viewed round the wards, medical store and operation theatre. At the hall of the hospital the Prime Minister met with the head of township health department and health care staff and inquired about

pital into 25-bed one and gave necessary instructions.

The Prime Minister and party went to Seikphyu BEHS where they were welcomed by members of school board of trustees, the schoolhead, teachers and students. The Prime Minister then viewed round the visual room, learning centre, computer skills room, language lab, computer aided instruction room, study room and gallery.

The Prime Minister met with members of Township

Prime Minister upgraded one BEHS (Branch) and one BEMS (Branch) into BEHS and BEMS respectively. He then gave necessary instructions, saying that he and his entourage were there to fulfil the needs for the development of Pakokku District, and required assistance had been given, he said. As Anawrahta Bridge across the River Ayeyawady had been constructed in Seikphyu Township, transport was smoother, and

socio-economy making full use of good prospects at hand. Committees for respective sectors had been formed, and so officials concerned were to actively participate in the task for speedy development of their regions, he noted. Later, the Prime Minister presented a TV, a VCR and a set of computer for Seikphyu BEHS to the schoolhead. The Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the evening via Bagan-Nyaung U Airport. — MNA

MFCC holds annual general meeting

YANGON, Feb 22—The 15th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club was held at Kandawgyi Palace here at 5 pm today with an address by MFCC Patron U Hla Htway.

MFCC President U Sao Kai Hpa presented the annual report while Secretary U Nyunt Tin presented the financial statement for approval.

Next, the new executives for 2004-2005 were

elected. U Hla Htway (Nihon Keizai Shimbun) was elected as patron of MFCC, U Sao Kai Hpa (Mainichi) as president, U Khin Maung Myint (NHK) as vice-president, U Nyunt Tin (Fuji TV) as secretary, U Aung Hla Tun (Reuters) as joint-secretary, U Tin Maung Aye (Asahi) as treasurer and U Min Zaw (Tokyo Shimbun) as auditor. Afterwards, Chief Correspondent of Xinhua News Agency Mr Duan Ting

Chang who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar and his successor Mr Zhang Yenfei were honoured.

After the meeting, a dinner was hosted. Present on the occasion were Brig-Gen Thein Swe of the Office of Chief of Military Intelligence, Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein, Col Tin Oo, Col Hla Min and senior military officers, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win and officials. —MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets Mr Lao Haocai, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIFU) at the dinner. — MNA

Made in India Show concludes

YANGON, 22 Feb — Made in India Show continued for the last day today at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here from 9 am to 5 pm. It was packed with departmental officials, businessmen and the public. At the show, 100 booths of 71 Indian companies put on display and sold iron and steel wares, electrical goods, industrial machinery, medicines, medical equipment, farm implements, sewing machines, different types of bicycles, personal goods, clothes and cosmetics. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents cash awards for victorious youth soccer team. (News reported). — MNA

ပျားရည်နှင့် အစွမ်းသတ္တိ

- * ပျားရည်သည် အင်အားဖြည့်တင်းပေးရာတွင် အသန့်စင်ဆုံး အာဟာရတစ်မျိုး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် သတ္တုဓာတ်၊ အင်ဇိုင်း နှင့် အာဟာရဓာတ် အများအပြားပါဝင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်သည် သစ်သီး၊ သကြားဓာတ် အဓိကပါဝင်သော သကြားဓာတ်ပေါင်း တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ဘက်တီးရီးယား၊ ဖိုနပ်စ်၊ သန့်စင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ပရိုဘီယိုတစ်စ် ရှိသဖြင့် အနာအငါးများ အနာကျက်မြန်စေပြီး လျင်မြန်စွာ ပျောက်ကင်းစေပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်စားသုံးပြီး မိနစ်ပိုင်းအတွင်း စွမ်းအားတိုးတက်လာစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာခြင်းနှင့် စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ဖြည့်ဝခြင်းကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရဖြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များ ကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တော်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရယ်မှကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့တောင်ခြင်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကိုသုံးစွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greets members of the victorious youth soccer team at the dinner on 21 February. (News reported) — MNA

USDA Secretary General meets Vice-Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

YANGON, 22 Feb — Secretary General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Minister for Coopeartives Maj-Gen Htay Oo met Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Mr Luo Haocai and party at the USDA Headquarters at 3.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were USDA CEC members Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and officials. During their meeting, they cordially discussed friendship and cooperation between the youths of the two countries.

MNA

Entries invited for Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo contest

YANGON, 22 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Photo Contests Organizing Committee today announced that it will conduct a colour photo contest.

The two titles for the contests are "Developing and Pleasant Myanmar" and "Preserve Cultural Heritage". The contestants may send four 10" x 12" print photos for each contest. Those who have won first to third prizes in the previous contests will be categorized into a separate group.

If an entry wins a prize, its negative is to be submitted. Data and captions are to be written on a separate sheet. If there is a model, his or her permission is required. An entry is not to have been published before in any publications and it must not be a prize-winning work at home or abroad. Digital camera photos are not allowed.

First to third prizes will be presented in Yangon on 27 March 2004, and consolation prizes at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative ceremonies to be held at respective commands.

The entries are to be sent to U Tun Min, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department, No 22-24, Pansodan Street, by 29 February. — MNA

Entries invited for colour photo competition

YANGON, 22 Feb—With a view to ensuring development of Myanmar Tourism, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism has already announced that it will hold the colour photo competition under the title of scenic Myanmar.

The size of entry photo must be from 12x12 inch to 12 x18 inch. The entry must be own creation and must not be prize winning work in any other competition.

There is no limitation for the number of the entry photo which is to be taken locally. Name, NRC No, address, brief biography and full caption of the entry are to be provided in a separate sheet of paper which is to be attached to the back of the entry. Handsome prizes will be given alongside consolidation prizes.

Entries are to be sent to Secretary of the Committee for Organizing the Colour Photo Competition U Kaung Htut (Deputy Director) of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, No 77/91, Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon, not later than 27 February 2004. — MNA

PRC delegation tours downtown Yangon

YANGON, 22 Feb—A Chinese delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIFU) of the People's Republic of China Mr Luo Haocai, accompanied by Ambassador of the PRC Embassy Mr Li Jinjun and officials, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

First, the visiting delegation members paid homage to the pagoda clock-wise and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees briefed them the history of the pagoda and religious edifices.

Next, the visiting delegation paid homage to the Jade Buddha image kept at Ponnyakuthala Bahukara prayer hall and Mr Luo Haocai signed in the visitors' book and made cash donations at Rakhine prayer hall.

Afterwards, the visiting delegation viewed the bell donated by King Thayawady and had a documentary photo taken.

At 9.30 am, the visiting delegation proceeded to Yangon-Thanyin Bridge where they were welcomed by Managing Director of Myanmar Railways U Min Swe and officials.

Next, U Min Swe explained about Yangon-Thanyin Bridge to the guests who had a group photo taken there.

After that, the visiting delegation arrived at Union national race village near the bridge where they were welcomed by officials and Union national races.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Director-General U Win Aung of Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races explained the salient points of the village.

While viewing round the village, the guests were entertained with dances of the national races.—MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents outstanding awards to the winners at the third four-monthly meeting of Myanmar Police Force on 21 February. (News reported). —MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains MWAf functions

YANGON, 22 Feb — President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party left Yangon for Myeik on 20 February.

On 21 February morning, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party met with Daw Nu Nu Swe, wife of the Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command, members of the panel of patrons of the Taninthayi Division Organization for Women's Affairs, CEC members and officials totalling about 480.

At the meeting, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave a speech, saying that they arrived there to clarify organizational setup of the federation and

functions. The federation was formed with the seven lofty aims including uplift of women's role, protection of the women's rights, development of social, education, health and economic affairs of women and securing of women's life. The federation, being a social organization, is expected to widely and effectively carry out the tasks. She said she believed those who were selected to discharge duties of working groups in Taninthayi Division can make efforts for carrying out development tasks of women in the division. Members of the women's affairs are to focus on all-round development of the State, the people and the entire women. It is necessary to avoid tarnishing the

image of the federation and to actively and unitedly perform tasks of the federation in accord with the motto 'Let's make efforts for development of women's life'.

Then, officials explained their respective sectors in the working groups. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted K 8 million donated by wellwishers. President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Leader of International Relations Working Group Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. At 4 pm, they met with members of Divisional Organization for Women's Affairs and supporting groups at the Yeiktha of Coastal Region Command Headquarters. At the meeting, officials answered the queries. — MNA



MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepts cash donations for the MWAF. MNA

MMCWA President inspects operation of cleft lips and cleft palate patients in Myeik

YANGON, 22 Feb — President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Patron of Taninthayi Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Nu Nu Swe and members and officials of MMCWA arrived at General Hospital in Myeik on 20 February.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and members, the medical superintendent and doctors and nurses.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party inspected operation of cleft lip and cleft palate patients and provided cash assistance to each patient.

A ceremony to present cash to cleft lip and cleft palate patients in Taninthayi Division was held at the hospital.

Present were President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, officials of MMCWA, Patron of Taninthayi Division MCWA wife of the commander Daw Nu Nu Swe, departmental officials and wellwishers.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke on the occasion. Wellwishers presented cash for the patients. Professor Dr Khin Maung Lwin of Department of Plastic, Maxillo-facial and Oral Surgery accepted K 1,177,102 and Chairman of Taninthayi Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Dr Swe Win K 198,000.

Thirteen wellwishers presented K 4.1 million for the patients to Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe. Next, Dr Swe Win spoke words of thanks. Treatment will be given to 107 cleft lip and cleft palate patients at the Myeik General Hospital. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects summer paddy plantations near Hngetthaik village in Htantabin Township. — MNA

Development tasks inspected in Htantabin

YANGON, 22 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected agricultural and regional development tasks in Htantabin Township this afternoon.

Accompanied by No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, authorities and departmental officials, the commander inspected thriving of 1,000 acres of summer paddy

high-yield special zone with the use of natural fertilizer near Hngetthaik Village, Htantabin Township.

Next, the commander saw over cultivation of summer paddy in the area of Kyunngu river water pumping project and irrigation tasks. On arrival at Lamudan river water pumping project in Bawlekyun region opposite side of Kukkowa River in Htantabin Township, the commander inspected cultivation of summer paddy

and heard reports on paddy cultivation and maintenance of the canals.

The commander and party proceeded to Kyunngu river water pumping project and looked into pumping of water into summer paddy fields from Kukkowa River. They then went to the construction site of Development Market in Htantabin and inspected progress of works. The commander gave instructions on construction tasks meeting the set standard. — MNA

Import-substitute Domestic Industrial Products Exhibition to be extended till 24 February

YANGON, 22 Feb — The Import-substitute Domestic Industrial Products Exhibition & Seminar sponsored by the Cottage Industries Department of the

Ministry of Cooperatives continued in the compound of the department on Thudhamma Road in North Okkalapa Township here today. Altogether 54 exhibi-

tion booths of industrial cooperatives and private industrialists are crowded with visitors. The exhibition will be extended till 24 February. — MNA

Tax-free markets in Yangon City inspected

YANGON, 22 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected sales at tax-free markets in Yangon City this morning.

The commander went to Pantaya Tax-free Market on Pantaya Road, Dagon Township, Hanthawady Tax-free Market at the corner of Hanthawady and Kyundaw Roads in Kamayut Township, Konmyinthar

Tax-free Market and Nawade Tax-free Market in Mayangon Township, Yankin Tax-free Market near the Ministry of Industry-2 and Tamway Tax-free Market on Kyaikkasan Road in Tamway Township. The commander inspected the sales at the markets. After his inspection tour, the commander gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the tax-free market in Dagon Township, Yangon West District on 22-2-2004. — MNA

New medicine for TB introduced

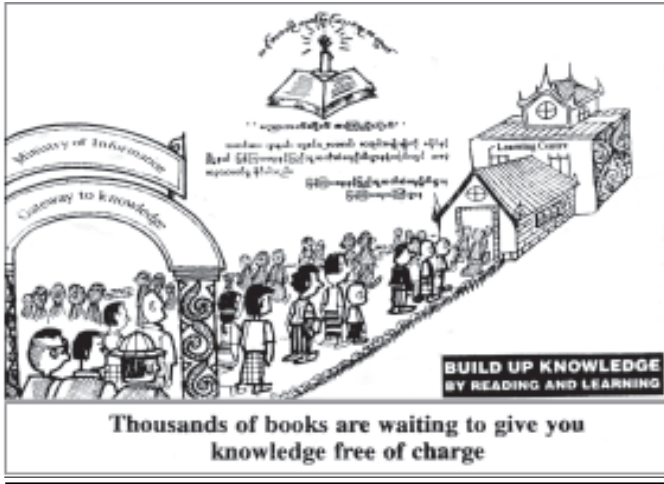
YANGON, 22 Feb — Lupin Lab Ltd (India) introduced the new medicine FDC (Fixed Dose Combination) AkuriT-4 to the consumers and held the seminar on Novel Approach to Management of Tuberculosis at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel in Dagon Township this morning.

Chest Physician Dr Yadana Kyaw of Thingangyun General Hospital presented the paper on A brief talk on FDC and Assistant Director Dr Phyu Noe of Health Department on Novel Approach to Application of DOTS.

Officials of Lupin Lab Ltd (India) explained latest WHO guideline for TB treatment and introduction of AkuriT-4 and answered the queries. Mega Products Ltd will distribute AkuriT-4 to consumers in Myanmar. — MNA



Health Department Assistant Director Dr Phyu Noe presents paper on Novel Approach to Application of DOTS.



ADVERTISEMENTS

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ၊ ၁၇ ရက်
ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် လမ်းခင်းကတ္တရာ တန်(၁၀၀၀)ကို ပူးတွဲပြန်ပေး၊ 3-Ply Poly bag ဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ကော်မတီ၏သို့လောင်းရုံများအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ပြတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၄.၃.၂၀၀၄ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံ တစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၅၀၀/- (ကျပ်ငါးရာတိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဌာနတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ် ၂၀၂၅၃၄၊ ၂၄၈၁၁ လိုင်းခွဲ (၂၃၅) တို့သို့ ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

Zimbabwe, China sign agreement to strengthen trade relations

HARARE, 22 Feb — Zimbabwe and China here on Friday signed an Economic and Technical Agreement that will see the two countries strengthen their trade relations.

Chinese Assistant Commerce Minister Fu Ziying signed on behalf of the Chinese Government while Finance and Economic Development Minister Chris Kuruneru signed for the Zimbabwean Government.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Kuruneru said Zimbabwe and China planned a joint project to improve tobacco production by the southern African country from 80,000 tons to 800,000 tons annually.

"We have the land and manpower and you (China) have the resources. It's not a one-way street. We expect to mutually benefit," Kuruneru said.

He also said Zimbabwe had minerals like gold and platinum but needed investors.

Fu said that the government of China would see the agreement as an expression of continued ties with Zimbabwe.

"We really hope for your country's prosperous development. We hope that our friendship can be strengthened," said Fu.

The Chinese delegation led by Fu arrived in Zimbabwe on Thursday and winds up a three-day visit to Zimbabwe on Saturday with a

visit to the joint-venture Sino-Zimbabwe cement plant in the Midlands city of Gweru.

China also has investment in Zimbabwe's steel production and ties are being fostered in mining and tourism.

Meanwhile, the Chinese trade delegation met President Robert Mugabe at State House and discussed Zimbabwe's intention to improve ties with the Asian economic powerhouse.

Kuruneru told journalists after the meeting that Zimbabwe wanted to expand areas of cooperation with China and improve the country's foreign currency position.

He said the two countries wanted to strengthen cooperation in the agricultural sector, particularly in tobacco production.

Fu described the meeting with President Mugabe as "good". "It went on quite well. It's apparent that his excellency has been very good," Fu said.

According to the Finance Ministry, China has so far committed more than 200 million US dollars to projects in Zimbabwe, according to the Finance Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

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M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for World Design & Trade Co., Ltd.,
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 23 February 2004

Tianjin to resume subway operation in 2006

TIANJIN, 22 Feb — Subway operation will be resumed in Tianjin, the largest port city in north China, in 2006, said an executive with Tianjin Subways Corporation.

According to the executive, the No1 subway now being constructed is built on the basis of a 7.4-kilometre-long metro section which was suspended from operation in March 2002.

Building of civil works for the subway is expected to be finished by August this year and the subway will be ready for service by late 2005. —MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

China to train college students for rural areas

BEIJING, 22 Feb — China will start training college students specifically for its rural areas through distance education from this July among 100 trial counties, a top education official said here Friday.

The Training One College Student for One Village Project, initiated by the Ministry of Education (MOE), aims at providing professional and skilled managers for the countryside, said Wu Qidi, Deputy Minister of the MOE.

"It is hard for rural students to pass college entrance examinations, while those who have been admitted by colleges mostly do not want to return to the countryside after graduation," Wu said.

In China, it is considered to be an honourable thing for a rural student to enter a college after passing a national examination, and to work in a city without going back to the countryside after graduation.

The project will provide vocational education at college level for rural areas by utilizing the educational resources and software of the country's agricultural colleges and other related colleges through the distance education system of the China Central Radio and TV University (CCRTVU) and

local distance education institutions across the country.

IT technology application, management, practical skills like planting, breeding and cultivating, processing and selling of agricultural goods, and relevant laws and regulations will be included in the courses.

Each year, a student with a high-school-level education, especially ex-service-men, village and township leaders, and model farmers, will be selected from each village where the programme is being tried out, said Wu.

The CCRTVU and local distance education institutions, having input 20 million yuan (about 2.4 million US dollars) into 100 counties in western China, plan to enrol a total of 200,000 students over the next five years for this project, Wu said.

China has 900 million rural people, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of its total population, so the central government has to spare no efforts to promote the development of its rural areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany, S Korea to open consulates in Sichuan Province

CHENGDU, 22 Feb — Germany and South Korea are expected to open consulates in Chengdu, capital of south-west China's Sichuan Province, in the near future.

Sources from the Foreign Affairs Office of the Sichuan Provincial Government said the governments of Germany and China recently signed a treaty on building a consulate in Chengdu. The Embassy of South Korea in China and China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also decided to set up a consulate in Chengdu after exchanging correspondence early this year.

Vice-director of the Foreign Affairs Office Cui Zhiwei said setting up the

two consulates in Chengdu, one of metropolises in south-west China, will not only strengthen the opening-up image of Sichuan Province, but also help to consolidate the important roles of Sichuan Province and its capital city of Chengdu in the west part of China.

It will also produce a great impact on opening more consulates by other countries in the city, he said. The United States opened a consulate in Chengdu in 1984. —MNA/Xinhua

China plans to turn its bonded zones into free trade areas

BEIJING, 22 Feb — China plans to turn its 15 bonded zones into free trade areas, and the Waigaoqiao bonded zone in Shanghai will be the pilot, Cheng Siwei, an economist and vice-chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, China's top legislature, said here on Friday.

The bonded zones, set up in the 1990s and mainly located in eastern China's coastal cities such as Shenzhen and Qingdao, have a nearly similar function to free ports or free trade areas. Foreign goods can be stocked in the region without import duty if not sold to the domestic market.

The zones will be adjusted to the demands of China's accession to the World Trade Organization, Cheng said.

The Shanghai Waigaoqiao bonded zone should be transformed as a pilot to integrate logistics, trade and intermediary services, Cheng said when meeting with Brad Anderson, vice-chairman and CEO of the US-based Best Buy Co, Inc. —MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 23 February 2004

Tianjin to resume subway operation in 2006

TIANJIN, 22 Feb — Subway operation will be resumed in Tianjin, the largest port city in north China, in 2006, said an executive with Tianjin Subways Corporation.

According to the executive, the No1 subway now being constructed is built on the basis of a 7.4-kilometre-long metro section which was suspended from operation in March 2002.

Building of civil works for the subway is expected to be finished by August this year and the subway will be ready for service by late 2005. —MNA/Xinhua

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GE opens first water treatment factory in China

SHANGHAI, 22 Feb — GE's first China-based water treatment factory went on-stream Thursday in Wuxi City, in eastern China's Jiangsu Province.

GE Betz Water & Process Chemicals (Wuxi) Co, Ltd, a solely-funded company with an investment of 10.5 million US dollars, will supply specialty chemicals for water treatment for both China and other Asian countries, according to Steven J. Schneider, chief executive officer of GE China.

The newly established company, covering an area of 30,000 square metres, has an annual output of 30,000 tons of reagent used for water and waste-water treatment, including water purification and fluid filtration.

MNA/Xinhua

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China to build population information network

SHANGHAI, 22 Feb — China aims to build an information network by 2006 that pools information about its citizens from various sectors, ranging from police to family planning, taxation and educational departments.

"The project is about sharing information about the population gleaned by the public security, labour and social insurance, taxation and other departments," said a government official attending the Working Conference on Sharing Basic Information on the Population now being held here. "There's a need for different sectors to share information. For instance, banks need information from other sources to verify the credit standing of certain people, and individuals need access to police records to ascertain the authenticity of ID cards," said the official.

The project is jointly sponsored by the

State Council Informatization Office, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the State Administration of Taxation (SAT) and China's standardization authority.

The official said the project would first be carried out on a trial basis in Shanghai, Hunan Province and Yangzhou City in Jiangsu Province from March 1 this year. The network will first include population information from the police and then add information from family planning, statistics, civil affairs, social security, taxation and education departments.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia, Japan back delayed space shuttle launch

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — Russia and Japan, two key partners in the *International Space Station*, understand the need to delay the US space shuttles' return to flight until next year, a top NASA official said on Friday.

"They're not going to push us or rush us in that regard... They are comfortable with where we're going," said Michael Kostelnik, the No. 2 official in NASA's shuttle and space station programme. He pointed out one key reason why: "There is no other vehicle to complete assembly" of the space station.

The three-ship shuttle fleet has been grounded since the fatal mid-air disintegration of shuttle *Columbia* on February 1, 2003. Since then, NASA officials have proposed various launch windows for a return to flight, each one later than the last.

On Thursday, NASA announced an expected launch window of March 6, 2005 to April 18, 2005 — about six months later than the previous launch window — meant to give NASA time to test its external fuel tank and develop a camera boom to let shuttle crews examine the outside of the craft while in flight. — MNA/Reuters

Dengue hits 19 provinces in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Feb — The dengue fever outbreak has spread to 19 of Indonesia's 32 provinces, with the death toll from the outbreak approaching 200.

According to the secretary-general of the Directorate-General of Communicable Diseases, Syafii Ahmad, the government had recorded 10,140 dengue cases with 195 deaths, mostly in Central Java, East Java and Jakarta.

Syafii said that despite the escalation of the outbreak, the government had no plans to declare it an epidemic.

"The law requires us to maintain the level of the outbreak as an extraordinary occurrence or national catastrophe because the death toll this year is still around double

last year's figure. It is not that easy to change the status," Syafii was quoted on Saturday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

An epidemic can be declared only if the casualty rate surges to 10 times higher than the previous year, Syafii said.

Syafii said the Health Ministry had obtained 150 billion rupiah (17 million US dollars) in emergency funds to fight the outbreak. Because a national catastrophe has been declared, poor dengue patients are entitled to treatment at no charge. — MNA/Xinhua

3 arrested over drugs in Australia

CANBERRA, 22 Feb — Australian police have arrested three men and seized 33.9 kilogrammes of ecstasy, Australian Justice and Customs Minister Chris Ellison announced Friday.

The police began the investigation when the Customs officers at Port Botany of Sydney identified the drugs made up of 135,600 tablets hidden in a consignment of wine from Greece, said Ellison. The drugs were estimated at a street value of 5.1 million US dollars, he said. This followed a total of 42.5 kilogrammes of ecstasy seized in Melbourne in mid-January and February by police and Customs officers.

MNA/Xinhua

Argentine jet makes safe emergency landing

BUENOS AIRES, 22 Feb — An Argentine Austral Airlines jet landed safely at Ezeiza International Airport Friday after being declared in a state of emergency when it lost a wheel on takeoff, an Air Force spokesman said.

He said that the plane bound for the Iguazu Falls in the north, with 155 passengers and 16 crew on board, took off from the domestic hub Aeroparque de Buenos Aires at 1:15 local time (1615 GMT). The left tyre, which came off the front end of the jet, dropped just seconds after the flight got under way, and destroyed the fence of the airport. After finding the ordeal, the jet's pilot reported it immediately to the ground control tower, and decided to fly to Ezeiza International Airport 30 kilometres away. To burn fuel, the plane circled in the air for about an hour. The right tyre came off in the landing.

MNA/Xinhua

Wang Qishan elected as mayor of Beijing

BEIJING, 22 Feb — Wang Qishan was elected on Saturday morning as mayor of Beijing at the second session of the 12th Beijing Municipal People's Congress that opened on Monday.

Wang was made acting mayor of Beijing on April 22 last year in accordance with a decision made by the Standing Committee of the 12th Beijing Municipal People's Congress.

According to Chinese laws, the Standing Committee of the People's Congress at the local level is authorized to appoint local officials up to the position of deputy heads. Only the annual plenary session of the

People's Congress is entitled to elect head of the local government.

Wang, born in July 1948, was a native of Tianzhen in Shanxi Province, north China. He joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1983.

In 1997, Wang became a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, and was elected vice-governor of Guangdong

Province in 1998.

Wang was made acting mayor of Beijing and deputy secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee in April 2003.

Wang is chairman of the organizing committee for the Beijing Olympic Games slated for 2008.

He is an alternate member of 15th CPC Central Committee and member of 16th CPC Central Committee. — MNA/Xinhua

Cities told to refrain from expensive image-building projects

BEIJING, 22 Feb — Four central government departments have issued a joint circular ordering a halt to the building of broad thoroughfares and large-size squares.

All cities must suspend the building of urban roads with a width of 80 metres or more and squares covering two hectares or more, according to the circular.

Official examinations will be made to see if new projects are compatible with the state law and the general plans of the cities.

Meanwhile, the cities involved shall check if their road or square projects are compatible with the circular in terms of their size, and if there are any problems concerning relocation of affected residents and units, delay of payment or illegal funding.

MNA/Xinhua



Angus Osborne climbs over a snowbank after making his way from the store in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, on 21 Feb, 2004. Many people in the province had to venture out on foot as roads remained blocked by the 99 centimeters of snow which fell on Thursday and Friday. — INTERNET

Asia-Pacific forestry experts to meet in Fiji

WELLINGTON, 22 Feb — The 20th Asia-Pacific Forestry Conference (APFC) will be held in Fiji in April this year, said a government Press release reaching here from Fiji Saturday.

The meeting will be jointly hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Fiji's Ministry of Fisheries and Forests on April 19-23.

Samisoni Naisua, secretary for the Organizing Committee and the Media Liaison officer at the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, said that the event will bring together the forestry experts from 29-member countries who will make recommen-

dations for the continued protection and sustainable use of our forests.

"There will also be about 100-150 international forestry officials from the region attending this conference," Naisua said.

The APFC, created in 1949, is a forum for advising and taking action on key forestry issues pertinent to the Asia-Pacific Region, which is experiencing rapid changes that are

characterized by diversity.

Naisua said that participants will also review and coordinate the implementation of the policies at the regional level as well as exchange information on suitable practices and technical problems.

The APFC has been held on a biennial basis, and the last meeting was held in Mongolia in 2002. Fiji last hosted the conference in 1981.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

FIFA says financial credibility restored by 2003 profit

ZURICH, 22 Feb— FIFA made a profit of 141 million Swiss francs (113 million US dollars) in 2003 on revenue of 712 million to restore its financial credibility, world soccer's governing body said on Friday. In a statement FIFA said it could lay claim to equity totalling 94 million and cash funds of 341 million at end-2003.

The collapse of FIFA's marketing partner ISL in 2001 and Germany's Kirch media empire in 2002 hit FIFA's finances hard. In May 2002 it estimated it would lose 134 million in the 1999-2002 period. In April last year, it reported a surplus of 115 million for the four years which culminated in the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan.

The 2003 financial statement was the first to be drawn up in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and has been reviewed by external auditors, FIFA said.

FIFA made its financial affairs more transparent following allegations of mismanagement which arose in the campaign for the May 2002 presidential election. — MNA/Reuters



Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero stretches to return a ball during his quarterfinal match against Raemon Sluiter of the Netherlands at the ABN AMRO world tennis tournament at Ahoy stadium in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on 20 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

Vogts to battle on as Scotland coach

GLASGOW, 22 Feb— Scotland manager Berti Vogts says he will not bow to pressure and resign in the face of severe criticism following Wednesday's 4-0 friendly defeat in Wales.

Wales enjoyed their biggest victory over their British rivals at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, with striker Robert Earnshaw scoring a hat-trick against a shambolic visiting defence. Vogts apologized to Scotland's fans on Friday but the former Germany coach also reiterated his commitment to oversee the country's 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign.

"I would like to apologize to the Tartan Army, who came to Cardiff in such numbers and created a superb atmosphere in the stadium," Vogts said in a statement on the Scottish Football Association's web site.

"They deserve much better and the overall performance was not acceptable.

"My target is still qualification for the World Cup in Germany in 2006 and I am more determined than ever to take Scotland there.

"The Wales match was the first of six or seven friendlies before the World Cup qualifiers begin in September, and the team should be judged on its competitive record.

MNA/Reuters

Answer for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

A	A	I	C	L	E	T	T	S
B	E	D	E	V	I	L	S	X
H	D	O	U	S	P	U	R	T
O	V	E	R	R	A	T	E	O
R	D	Y	C	I	S	S	U	E
F	C	W	H	O	U	R		
U	R	B	A	N	E	L	A	R
I	R	D	I	D	E	D		
A	Z	U	R	E	M	S	U	B
Z	Y	O	P	U	L	E	N	C
S	L	A	I	N	U	A	I	N
E	N	A	G	I	T	A	T	E
A	D	A	G	E	N	E	Y	S

United fans launch "not for sale" campaign

MANCHESTER(England), 22 Feb— Manchester United fans have launched a "Not for Sale" campaign in an attempt to ward off a takeover of the English champions.

"We are saying to all predators out there that the customers don't want you in charge, no matter who you are," Oliver Houston of Shareholders United told a news conference on Friday.

Irish tycoons John Magnier and JP McManus have raised their United stake to 28.9 per cent and American businessman Malcolm Glazer has a 16.3-per-cent shareholding. City analysts say it is likely Glazer will consider a formal bid.

"There are 70,000 supporters at Old Trafford and 53 million around the world telling you to get lost. That's what we will be doing if you try and get your mitts (hands) on our club," Houston said.

Shareholders United and the Independent Manchester United Supporters Association (IMUSA) have joined forces with a number of other supporters' groups to promote the "Not for Sale" campaign.

It will be formally launched at Saturday's Premier League game against Leeds United.

Fans fear a new owner would not have the team's best interests at heart and would try to increase profitability via higher ticket and memorabilia prices.

The coalition is urging supporters to buy shares or pledge ones they already

hold to Shareholders United, and not to sell up in the face of a takeover bid.

"Investment shareholders are just that," said Jules Spencer of IMUSA. "They will seek a return on their investment and try to make a substantial profit."

"That money will come out of the pockets of supporters, as simple as that."

The coalition said there are about 37,000 individual shareholders in United, who own approximately 17 per cent of the club's shares.

The campaign wants to get all those shares under the Shareholders United umbrella to help resist a takeover. "Hopefully that will deter anyone from making a bid in the first place," said Houston. "And if they can't get all of the shares, they might not want any of them."

MNA/Reuters

Beckenbauer calls for sanctions against Lehmann

BERLIN, 22 Feb— Franz Beckenbauer has stepped into the ring in Germany's battle of the goalkeepers to call for sanctions against Jens Lehmann, who claimed he should replace Oliver Kahn as the national side's first choice.

Arnsal's Lehmann has stirred controversy in the soccer-mad country not only by saying he was the best and should be picked but also by criticizing Kahn's lifestyle.

"Lehmann's statements are cheeky, uncooperative and in bad taste," said Beckenbauer, the president of Kahn's club Bayern Munich. "(Germany coach) Rudi Voeller has to consider this carefully and act accordingly," the World Cup-winning captain and coach wrote in a column in Friday's mass-circulation daily.

Beckenbauer was the Germany coach when he had to face a similar situation at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico. Harald (Toni) Schumacher was then Germany's number one and reserve Uli Stein, out of frustration, verbally attacked Beckenbauer, who dropped him from the team and sent him home. Voeller said on Thursday that he would travel to London over the next couple of weeks to talk to Lehmann but would not be drawn on whether he might take sanctions.

MNA/Reuters



US soccer players Mia Hamm (L) and Abby Wambach practice during a training session in El Coyo de Alajuela, on 20 Feb, 2004. The US women's soccer team is in Costa Rica to prepare for the pre-Olympic qualifying tournament, to be held from 25 February to 5 March.—INTERNET

Ferguson believes pressure mounting on unbeaten Arsenal

MANCHESTER (England), 22 Feb— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes Arsenal's unbeaten Premier League record may work against them in the championship race run-in.

"The incentive they've got now is being undefeated so they'll all be charged up to make sure they don't lose a game," he said at a news conference on Friday.

"That's a big thing to carry, that. It's a big burden to carry. With that five-point lead over us, we hope that they now start dropping points." Arsenal had a similar advantage last season before stuttering and allowing United to win the league for the eighth time in 11 years.

Arsenal, who have won 18 and drawn seven of their 25 league matches and have 13 fixtures to complete, visit third-placed Chelsea on Saturday. Arsenal have 61 points to United's 56 and Chelsea's 55.

United midfielder Paul Scholes also believes it will be hard for Arsene Wenger's side to become the first team to go through a Premier League season without losing.

He stressed the need for the champions, who host relegation-threatened Leeds on Saturday and are trying to avoid a third league defeat in five matches, to improve their form should Arsenal falter.— MNA/Reuters

Adebayor hat-trick helps leaders Monaco sink Montpellier

PARIS, 22 Feb— A hat-trick from second-choice striker Manuel Adebayor helped French Ligue 1 leaders Monaco wrap up a 4-0 victory over lowly Montpellier and stretch their lead at the top to seven points on Friday.

Monaco now have 54 points from 25 games ahead of Olympique Lyon on 47 points with Paris St. Germain a further point back, both from 24 games. On Saturday, champions Lyon host Le Mans while PSG entertain another struggling team En Avant Guingamp.

Monaco, beaten for the first time at home by Lille last week, had to wait until the second half to break the deadlock but Adebayor opened the floodgates in the 47th minute.

Spaniard Fernando Morientes made it 2-0 a minute later before Adebayor grabbed his hat-trick and sank Montpellier with two more goals after 57 and 71 minutes.

Montpellier, who have the worst defence in Ligue 1 and changed their coach just a week ago after a 6-1 thrashing by PSG, finished without goalkeeper Rudy Riou after he was sent off for a foul on Croatian Dado Prso six minutes from time.—MNA/Reuters

Spartak withdraw appeal against Titov doping ban

NYON (Switzerland), 22 Feb — Spartak Moscow have withdrawn their appeal against a one-year ban imposed on Russian international Yegor Titov for a doping offence, UEFA said on Friday.

European soccer's ruling body last month banned Titov from all competitive matches for 12 months after he tested positive for the banned stimulant bromontan.

The 27-year-old midfielder was tested after the goalless Euro 2004 qualifying playoff first leg against Wales in Moscow on November 15.

Russia won the second leg in Cardiff 1-0 a week later to qualify for this year's tournament in Portugal.

Wales have appealed to UEFA against the ruling body's decision not to award them Russia's place at the finals as a result of Titov's failed drug test. The player was also fined 6,400 euros (8,102 US dollars), while Spartak received a 12,800-euro (16,200-US-dollar) fine.—MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3



23-2-2004 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission

	(9:00 - 10:00)
9:00	Signature Tune Greeting
9:02	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06	Sri-Kestra Museum (Pyi Cultural Site)
9:10	Headline News
9:12	Baungte: My village
9:15	National News
9:20	Tour In Myanmar "Taunggyi, Inlay"
9:25	Dawei Water Fetching Dance
9:28	The beautiful green ice
9:30	National News
9:35	Myanmar Traditional Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
9:40	Song "Towards Man- dalay Golden City"
9:45	National News
9:50	Photo Exhibitions of Shwedagon Pagoda
9:58	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

23-2-2004 (Monday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36 Sri-Kestra Museum
(Pyi Cultural Site)
15:40 National News
15:42 Baungte: My village
15:45 National News
15:50 Tour In Myanmar
"Taunggyi, Inlay"
15:55 Dawei Water Fetching
Dance
15:58 The beautiful green ice
16:00 National News
16:05 Myanmar Traditional
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
16:10 Song "Towards Man-
dalay Golden City"
16:15 National News
16:20 Photo Exhibitions of
Shwedagon Pagoda
16:25 Song of Myanmar

Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

16:30 National News

16:35 Central Agricultural
Research Institute

16:40 Parabaik Writings

16:45 National News

16:50 Spirlulina Products

16:55 Dancing Duo

16:57 A Day in the Life of
the Pa O Family

17:00 National News

17:05 Traditional Weaving
Art

17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Magnificent
Darka Bridge"

17:15 National News

17:20 Myanma Rubber

17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

19:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
19:32	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36	Shwe Myintzu Pagoda
	Festival
19:40	Headline News
19:42	Plaster Toys
19:45	National News
19:50	Reminiscence in the
	Glow of Sunset
19:55	Khame Traditional
	Cultural Dance
20:00	National News
20:05	Weaving Industry of
	Pakokku
20:10	Myanmar Modern
	Song "Wonderful
	Country"
20:12	Tour In Myanmar
	"Pathein"
20:15	National News
20:20	A Wonderful Trip to
	Ngwe Hsaung
20:25	Myanmar Modern
	Song "You From Next
	Door"
20:30	National News
20:35	Lobsters Trading
20:40	Myanmar As Told By
	History
20:45	National News
20:50	SA-LE Monastery
	Decorated with
	Handicrafts
20:55	The Stage Male Dance
21:00	National News
21:05	Misty Land in Central
	Myanmar
21:10	Songs on Screen

“Past Merit”
21:15 National News
 21:20 Safari In Style
 21:25 Song of Myanmar
 Beauty & Scenic
 Sights “Myanma
 Panorama & Myanma
 Sentiment”
 21:35 Sri-Kestra Museum
 (Pyi Cultural Site)
21:40 Headline News
 21:42 Baungte: My village
21:45 National News
 21:50 Tour In Myanmar
 “Taunggyi, Inlay”
 21:55 Dawei Water Fetching
 Dance
 21:58 The beautiful green ice
22:00 National News
 22:05 Myanmar Traditional
 Food “Pone Ye Gyi”
 22:10 Song “Towards Man-
 dalay Golden City”
22:15 National News
 22:20 Photo Exhibitions of
 Shwedagon Pagoda
 22:25 Song on Screen
 “Horse Cart”
22:30 National News
 22:35 Central Agricultural
 Research Institute
 22:40 Parabaik Writings
22:45 National News
 22:50 Spirulina Products
 22:55 Dancing Duo
 22:57 A Day in the Life of
 the Pa O Family
23:00 National News
 23:05 Traditional Weaving
 Art
 23:10 Myanmar Modern
 Song “Magnificent
 Darka Bridge”
23:15 National News
 23:20 Myanma Rubber
 23:25 Song of Myanmar
 Beauty & Scenic
 Sights “Come and See
 Myanmar”

**23-2-2004 (Monday) &
24-2-2004 (Tuesday)**
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)
23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 Sri-Kestra Museum
(Pyi Cultural Site)
23:40 Headline News
23:42 Baungte: My village
23:45 National News
23:50 Tour In Myanmar
"Taunggyi, Inlay"
23:55 Dawei Water Fetching
Dance

23:58	The beautiful green ice
24:00	National News
00:05	Myanmar Traditional Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
00:10	Song "Towards Mandalay Golden City"
00:15	National News
00:20	Photo Exhibitions of Shwedagon Pagoda
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
00:30	National News
00:35	Central Agricultural Research Institute
00:40	Parabaik Writings
00:45	National News
00:50	Spirulina Products
00:55	Dancing Duo
00:57	A Day in the Life of the Pa O Family
01:00	National News
01:05	Traditional Weaving Art
01:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Magnificent Darka Bridge"
01:15	National News
01:20	Myanma Rubber
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

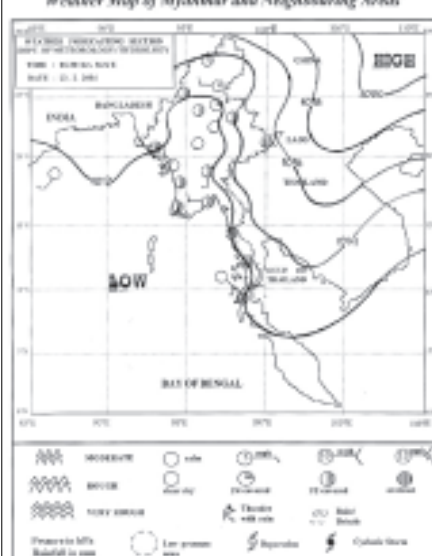
24-2-2004 (Tuesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)

03:30	(03:30-07:30) Signature Greeting
03:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36	Shwe Myintzu Pagoda Festival
03:40	Headline News
03:42	Plaster Toys
03:45	National News
03:50	Reminiscence in the Glow of Sunset
03:55	Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
04:00	National News
04:05	Weaving Industry of Pakokku
04:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Wonderful Country"
04:12	Tour In Myanmar "Pathein"
04:15	National News
04:20	A Wonderful Trip to Ngwe Hsaung
04:25	Myanmar Modern Song "You From Next Door"
04:30	National News
04:35	Lobsters Trading

04:40	Myanmar As Told By History
04:45	National News
04:50	SA-LE Monastery Decorated with Handicrafts
04:55	The Stage Male Dance
05:00	National News
05:05	Misty Land in Central Myanmar
05:10	Songs on Screen "Past Merit"
05:15	National News
05:20	Safari In Style
05:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
05:35	Sri-Kestra Museum (Pyi Cultural Site)
05:40	Headline News
05:42	Baungte: My village
05:45	National News
05:50	Tour In Myanmar "Taunggyi, Inlay"
05:55	Dawei Water Fetching Dance
05:58	The beautiful green ice
06:00	National News

06:05	Myanmar Traditional Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
06:10	Song "Towards Mandalay Golden City"
06:15	National News
06:20	Photo Exhibitions of Shwedagon Pagoda
06:25	Song on Screen "Horse Cart"
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06:55	Dancing Duo
06:57	A Day in the Life of the Pa O Family
07:00	National News
07:05	Traditional Weaving Art
07:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Magnificent Darka Bridge"
07:15	National News
07:20	Myanmar Rubber
07:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Wierzbny, Man of Means and Nelsbawing, from



WEATHER

Sunday, 22 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine States, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin State, Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 21-2-2004 was 34.0°C (93°F). Minimum temperature on 22-2-2004 was 16.2°C (61°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-2-2004 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 21-2-2004 was (9.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 22-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northwest at (14:30) hours MST on 21-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23-2-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, weather will be cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather will be cloudy in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-2-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-2 -2004:** Generally fair.

Earthquake report
(Issued at 14:30 hours M.S.T on Today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (6.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1300) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (13)hrs (20)min (25)sec M.S.T on 22nd February 2004.

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Monday, February 23

View today:

7:00 am

1. ကော့ကုတ်ခရိုင်တွင်းအစုအဝေး
ဘုရားကြီးပိုင်ဆိုင်ထားသော
နာမည်အဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်အစုပေါင်း
ပေးသောအခမ်းအနား အသံအသွယ်
ဟောပြောနေကြောင်း တိတိကျကျ
သတင်းပို့သောအခမ်းအနား
အသံအသွယ် ပြောကြားထား
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
5. ရုပ်သေးကြီးပွင့်ပွင့်
- 8:00 am
6. Song of national races
- 8:10 am
7. Cute little dancers

8:20 am
8. ရခိုင်တံတား
8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. Let's Go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading
4:45 pm
4. Musical Programme
5:00 pm
5. အမေသင်္ဂဟဗျူဟာပညာရေး
ရုပ်ရှင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ
တတ်ယူနစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု)
(သတ္တဗေဒ)
5:15 pm
6. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းစား ဂီတဗား
5:20 pm
7. Musical programme
5:35 pm
8. Dance variety
5:50 pm
9. အိန်းဒါ-ရေစောင်းတံခွန်
6:00 pm
10. Musical Programme (The

Radio Myanmar Modern
(Music Troupe)

6:10 pm
11. Song and dance of
national races

6:20 pm
12. Discovery

6:30 pm
13. Evening news

7:00 pm
14. Weather report

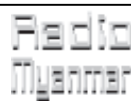
7:05 pm
15. Milo Success in soccer

7:10 pm
16. Industrial Achievement

7:25 pm
17. Musical Programme

7:35 pm
18. (၅၅)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်ဖက်စာစု
အထိမ်းအမှတ် ပန်ချီ၊ ပန်ယမြို့
ပြည်ကြွတ်ပြင်ပြင်အနုစု
(အခြေခံပညာအဆင့်)

8:00 pm
19. News
20. International news
21. Weather report
22. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းကွဲ
“အနုစုအနုစု” (အပိုင်း-၁)
23. The next day's
programme



Monday, February 23
Tune in today:

8.30 am	Brief news
8.35 am	Music
8.40 am	Perspectives
8.45 am	Music
8.50 am	National news/ Slogan
9.00 am	Music
9.05 am	International news
9.10 am	Music
1.30 pm	News/Slogan
1.40 pm	Lunch Time Music - Everyday is like Sunday (Pretender) - Love is love (Culture Club)
9.00 pm	Spotlight on the star "Crystal Galle"
9:15 pm	Article
9.25 pm	Drugs Elimination - Myanmar's all out antinarcoctic drive- Mg Soe Hmat
9.35 pm	Golden Land's Melody "Kanthayar"
9.45 pm	News/Slogan
22:00 pm	PEI

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects development tasks in Pakokku District, Seikphyu

YANGON, 22 Feb— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, this morning, left here by air and arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport, Mandalay Division at 8.30 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Brig-Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpadaung Station, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min and officials.

Next, they went to ancient pagoda No 860 and No 861 in Bagan-NyaungU. At 9 am, the Htidaw hoisting ceremony was held at the two pagodas, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were Aungmye Bawdi Dhamma Yeiktha Presiding Nayaka Alodawpyay Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa and members of the Sangha, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min and officials, K 70 million donors Dr Aung Lwin and wife Daw Thet Sanda of Pyi Phyto Tun International Co Ltd and U Hla Than-Daw Khin Than Yi and local people.

First, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to Alodawpyay Sayadaw. Next, the Prime Minister and party conveyed Seinbudaws of the two pagodas atop the pagodas by the carriage of Tatmadaw (Air) Myalayyin Htidaw Hoisting Team.

At the auspicious time, General Khin Nyunt and party hoisted Seinbudaw atop the pagoda No 861. They then sprinkled scented water on it. Similarly, the Prime Minister and party hoisted Seinbudaw atop the pagoda No 860. The General then performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark success of the ceremony.

On arrival in Pakokku, Magway Division, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, No 101 LID Commander Col Sein Win and officials.

This morning, the Prime Minister and party attended

the ceremony to present prizes to winners in the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship and Pakokku Library Book Award in Pakokku. Next, they proceeded to the construction site of the main building of Pakokku University where they were welcomed by Director-General Dr Thein Myint of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), Pro-Rector U Soe Myint and faculty members.

At the briefing hall, Col Zaw Min reported on location and area of the main building and arrangements for construction tasks. Aden Group Co Ltd Managing Director U Chit Khaing reported on geographical conditions of the construction site, architectural design of the university, arrangements for construction works and rooms of the main building. Minister for Education U Than Aung gave a supplementary report. Then, the Prime Minister attended to their needs. After leaving instructions, the Prime Minister inspected the place for construction of the main building.

At Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku, the Prime Minister met with district and township authorities, departmental officials and social organizations. First, Chairman of Pakokku District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Htay Oo reported on the location and area of the district, population, land resource, rainfall, water availability, river water pumping tasks, cultivation of the nine crops, target and cultivation of paddy, maize, pulses and beans, edible oil crops and cottons, kitchen crops, local food sufficiency, supply of water for cultivation area and progress of livestock breeding, education and health sectors.

Next, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements of local food sufficiency and health and upgrading of Affiliated Basic Education Middle Schools. Afterwards, the Prime Minister delivered an address. He said it is necessary to extend cultivation of paddy, cotton, pulses and beans and edible oil crops for meeting their target according to the reports on progress of Pakokku District presented by the officials. As the plan has been laid down for local food sufficiency in 2005-2006, efforts are to be made for overcoming difficulties in fulfilling food sufficiency



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hoists Seinbudaw atop pagoda No 861 in Bagan-NyaungU.— MNA

in the region. In addition, arrangements are to be made for meeting the target of boosting per-acre yield of 10 kinds of crops— paddy, sesame, groundnut, sunflower, maize, green gram, matpe, pigeon pea, long staple cotton and sugarcane. In this regard, departments concerned are required to provide assistance to the local farmers.

As Pakokku has scanty rainfall and is in the dry region, local authorities are to ensure supply of water for cultivation. As the Head of State has given guidance on development of Pakokku region and Pakokku to become the city of the western bank of Ayeyawady River, requirements are being fulfilled. River water pumping projects, underground water tapping projects and dam projects are being implemented for availability of water so as to develop Pakokku region and upgrade the living standard of the local people. It can be said that natural resources were exploited with the use of human capability.

As regards the education sector, arrangements are being made for opening and upgrading basic education schools wherever necessary in Pakokku region. Similarly, Pakokku Degree College have been upgraded into the university level to enable the students to pursue higher education, and this morning, he made arrangements for construction of the main building of the university. Furthermore, Government Technological College and Government Computer College have been opened.

In the health sector, Pakokku Hospital has been upgraded into the 200-bed specialist hospital. In addition, the Pakokku Textile Factory and the Dyeing Factory are being built for job opportunities for local people. Likewise, railroads and motor roads have been built for better transport.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views local people fetching water at the tube-well in Kyatpyae Village, Pakokku Township.— MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosts dinner in honour of Vice-Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

YANGON, 22 Feb — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Thein Sein received visiting Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIU) Mr Luo Haocai and party, at Zayyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthatha at 2.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun.

At 7 pm, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hosted a dinner in honour of Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)

and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIU) Mr Luo Haocai and party at Karaweik Palace. Also present at the dinner were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Secretary General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Minister

for Coopeartives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and heads of department, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and responsible officials.

MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets Mr Luo Haocai, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIU).— MNA