Attasammapanidhi ca, to establish oneself rightfully; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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Tuesday, 24 February, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe receives Vice-Chairman of CPPCC Mr Luo Haocai

YANGON, 23 Feb— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received visiting Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIFU) Mr Luo Haocai at the Pyithu Hluttaw this morning.

Also present at the call were Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Assaociation for International Understanding (CAIFU) Mr Luo Haocai was accompanied by Vice-President of the Political Affairs Committee of CPPCC and CAIFU Mr Li Beihai and Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun.



MNA Senior General Than Shwe greets Vice-Chairman of CPPCC and Vice-President of CAIFU Mr Luo Haocai. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe poses for documentary photo together with Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIFU) Mr Luo Haocai and party.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Pharmaceutical Factory Project (PyinOoLwin), Anisakhan Airport

YANGON, 23 Feb-Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Mvint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commanderin-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commanderin-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of

Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Mai-Gen Mvint Hlaing, senior militaVice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Pharmaceutical Factory Project (PyinOoLwin), Anisakhan Airportry officers of the Ministry of Defence, commander the of PyinOoLwin Station the Rector of Defence Services Academy and senior military officers of PyinOoLwin Station and officials of the State Peace and Development

Council Office, arrived at Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township on 21 February morning.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and officials. At the meeting hall, Vice-Senior General Maung Ave and party heard a report presented by Minister Dr Kyaw Myint on establishment of Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) to widely carry out research work on common diseases stricken in Upper Myanmar and health problems. Next, Acting Director-General of MRD (Upper Myanmar) Dr Thein Tun

reported to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on location of MRD (Upper Myanmar), aims of establishment of the department, strength of staff, organizational set-up and appointment of staff, progress in construction of buildings for the department, research work being carried out at the department and cultivation of herbal plants.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions on the salient points in conducting the research work in Upper Myanmar.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the scale model of MRD

(Upper Myanmar) and greeted service personnel there. After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected bio-medical library, electronic library and reading room.

Collection of herbal plants, research work on malaria, TB, diabetes, hyperand tension dengue haemorrhagic fever and reproductive health and sociomedic research work are being carried out at the department. At the briefing hall of Pharmaceutical Factory Project (PyinOoLwin), Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on location and area of the project, aims of the project and arrangements being made for purchasing the machinery for the factory to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party. (See page 16)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 24 February, 2004

Towards speedy implementation of Myanmar-China Economic Cooperation Agreements

In accordance with its independent and active foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar is cooperating with all the nations in the world, especially those in the southeast Asian region, in every field. Moreover, being a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), it is trying to promote social, cultural and economic development of the region in cooperation with the other members of the association as well as her other neighbours.

The Union of Myanmar has signed agreements on bilateral economic cooperation with her neighbours. During the State visits by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe to the Republic of China and by Chinese leaders Mr Jiang Zemin and Mr Hu Jintao to the Union of Myanmar, agreements on economic cooperation were inked.

The Sino-Myanmar relations have been flourishing satisfactorily and the People's Republic of China has rendered assistance to work for the development of the Union of Myanmar. As the Republic of China has taken measures to promote economy and trade with the Union of Myanmar, the trade volume between the two nations increased by 30 per cent in 2002.

Now the committees for speedy implementation of bilateral agreements have been formed. The meeting of the Leading Committee for Implementation of Myanmar-China Economic Agreements was held in Yangon on 21 February and Chairman of the Leading Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address on the occasion. The Prime Minister said in his address that ministries concerned were to report on the work being done and measures to be undertaken. Some agreements have been successfully implemented and it is necessary to systematically carry out the others.

Therefore, we would like to call upon all the ministries concerned to work in concert for the speedy implementation of Myanmar-China Economic Cooperation Agreements in the interests of both nations.



The congregation laying the cornerstone to build Zabuaye Pagoda after the Sayadaws consecreated the ancient Buddha images on Pantapwint Hill, Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division. MNA

People's Desire

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views

Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation

Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State

Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Pharmaceutical Factory Project in PyinOoLwin. (News on Page 1) — MNA

Poem For Mother to live long

'Tho Mother gave birth to over a hundred Still going strong In our Myanmar Motherland Rain or shine 'Tho the hot winds whirl Incessantly With inexhaustible goodwill To keep brethren well-fed We are striving. This Mother To give as long as the world lasts. Many years For her to keep existing We keep thinking and working Brethren all with one mind Let's strive. **Byan Hlwar (Trs)**



Minister for Information meets Israeli Ambassador

YANGON, 23 Feb— Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met Ambassador of Israel Mr Yaacov Avrahamy at his office this morning. Present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen

Aung Thein, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises and the head of office. Matters relating to information were discussed.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Ambassador of Israel Mr Yaacov Avrahamy. — MNA

YCDC opens course

YANGON, 23 Feb — Yangon City Development Committee opened staff management course No 23 at YCDC gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here today, addressed by Chairman of YCDC Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

Sixty-one trainees from Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Ministry of Electric Power and YCDC are attending the four-week course. — *MNA*



Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin addresses opening of staff management course No 23. — YCDC

Oil pipeline attacked in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Feb— An oil pipeline was sabotaged in southern Iraq while deadly violence flared in the north, as the war-torn country awaited the release Monday of the UN's findings on the best way forward.

A series of explosions were heard in the vicinity of Baghdad airport late Sunday but the cause was not immediately known, said a US airforce spokeswoman at the facility used as a military base.

As the debate over Iraq's future rages amid fears of a civil war, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned on his way to the Gulf.

In the first attack of its kind in the south since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime last spring, an oil pipeline was targeted near Karbala, 110 kilometres (70 miles) from Baghdad, an official Iraqi source said. "An explosion damaged the pipeline and we don't know who the saboteurs are," said local Karbala official Hamid Salah al-Shebib.

The blast on the Kirkuk-Baghdad-Basra pipeline set off a fire around the site of the attack, and thick black smoke could be seen billowing from kilometres (miles) around.

Saboteurs have frequently targeted oil pipelines in oil-rich northern Iraq, where a gunbattle on Saturday night left one Iraqi dead and another seriously wounded when they attacked the home of a police chief, a police officer said.—*Internet*

Iraqi Ali Kassem lies in a hospital bed in Baghdad after a roadside bomb exploded near his car, apparently intended to strike against a US military convoy which passed by moments earlier on 21 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

US Court to decide Bush's powers in Padilla case

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb— The US Supreme Court said on Friday it would decide whether President George W Bush has the power to order an American citizen seized on US soil held as an enemy combatant, another case arising from Washington's war on terror.

Expanding its review of the government's actions, the high court agreed to decide the case of Jose Padilla, who has been held since May 2002 as a suspect in an alleged al-Qaeda plot to detonate a radioactive "dirty bomb" in the United States.

His case involved fundamental constitutional questions about Bush's powers as commander in chief. It has pitted the government's national security arguments adopted after the September 11, 2001, attacks against concerns that civil liberties have been violated.

Padilla, a former Chicago gang member and convert to Islam, has been held in a military prison in Charleston, South Carolina, without any charges brought against him and without access to his lawyers.

The Pentagon said on February 11 it would allow him access to a lawyer, "subject to appropriate security restrictions." Padilla's lawyers said a meeting has yet to be arranged.

As part of its broad assertion of presidential authority, the Bush Administration has sought to sharply limit the role of federal judges to review the government's decisions in the designation and treatment of enemy combatants.

The Justice Department appealed to the

top court after a US appeals court in New York ordered Padilla's release because Bush overstepped his authority. That ruling has been stayed, pending the appeal.

The high court already has agreed to decide a similar enemy combatant case involving Yaser Esam Hamdi, an Americanborn citizen and suspected Taleban soldier who was captured in November 2001 in Afghanistan.

By hearing both cases, the court could decide at the same time the rights of US citizens who have been captured abroad, like Hamdi, and those seized in this country, like Padilla. Both Hamdi and Padilla challenged the constitutionality of their open-ended detentions and being held incommunicado. A US appeals court in Virginia upheld Hamdi's detention.

In another case related to Washington's terror war, the Supreme Court will decide whether foreigners captured abroad can go to American courts to challenge their incarceration at the US military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

About 650 foreign nationals, also designated enemy combatants, are being held at the base as suspected al-Qaeda members or Taleban fighters.

MNA/Reuters

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

Report says seven UK veterans of Iraq war "have committed suicide"

LONDON, 23 Feb— Seven British soldiers have died after apparently committing suicide since major military campaign against Iraq was over and 119 have been evacuated from the Gulf because of severe psychiatric problems, the British Telegraph newspaper quoted the Ministry of Defence as disclosing on Sunday.

Among the seven fatalities was Stephen Osborn, a chief petty officer who served as a weapons engineer on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship Diligence, the paper said. He shot himself in June last year, seven weeks after returning from active service.

Inquests on five of the six other service personnel who have died since returning from Iraq have yet to be held, the paper added. According to the paper, the 119 soldiers who have been evacuated from Iraq because of psychiatric problems were receiving treatment at several centres. The high death toll, which the paper said was revealed in a parliamentary answer, has prompted claims from British lawmakers that the government was failing in its duty of care towards those who fought in the US-led Iraq war.

Britain, the staunchest US ally on Iraq, sent about 45,000 troops to the Gulf to join the Iraq war. There are still about 9,000 troops positioning in Iraq, most of them in the area of southern Iraqi city of Basra.

To date, 59 British servicemen have been killed on service in the Gulf since the Iraq war broke out on March 20 last year. Internet

Central Asian countries to strengthen security cooperation

ALMA-ATA, 23 Feb— Members of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization agreed Friday that deepening regional security cooperation is a priority for the organization.

Foreign ministers of Kazakstan, Uzbekstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan attended the one-day ministerial meeting and discussed the urgency and importance of security cooperation in Central Asia.

tremist religious organizations and drug smuggling. The Central Asian Coop-

eration Organization will work together with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Commonwealth of Independent States' Collec-

potential threats from extremist religious organizacurity, the ministers said.

> The Central Asian Cooperation Organization was formed by the four countries in December 2002. It is a successor to the Central Asian Economic Union which was founded in 1993. *MNA/Xinhua*

The ministers indicated Independent States' Collecthat Central Asia is facing tive Security Pact Organiza-

"Spirit" rover explores Mars trench

PASADENA, 23 Feb — *Spirit* rover manoeuvred its arm within a Mars trench on Saturday to search for signs of water, NASA scientists said.

The rover took pictures on the wall and floor of the trench with a microscopic imager on its arm and placed the Moessbauer spectrometer in position to read the mineral composition of the soil on the trench floor, said *Spirit* Mission Manager Jim Erickson.

Spirit dug the 3-inch-deep trench on Friday by running a front wheel back and forth over a stretch of ground in a depression.

It would further investigate the trench with its alpha particle X-ray spectrometer

The rover took pictures on the wall and or of the trench with a microscopic imager its arm and placed the Moessbauer 445 feet away.

On the other side of Mars, *Opportunity* rover has brought itself 13 inches closer to a rock called "El Capitan" on Saturday, which would allow its arm to be better poised for the use of the rock abrasion tool over the next four or five days.

It was the first time for *Opportunity* to use its rock abrasion tool.

MNA/Xinhua



This image, taken by the microscopic imager, an instrument located on the Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity's instrument deployment device, or "arm", reveals shinly, spherical objects embedded within the trench wall at Meridianic Planum, Mars in this image released by NASA on 19 Feb, 2004. The area in this image measures approximately 3 centimetres (1.2inches) across.—INTERNET

Refusing to go to Iraq, US soldier seeks refugee status

OTTAWA, 23 Feb-US Army private Jeremy Hinzman fought in Afghanistan and considers himself a patriot. But when his unit was ordered to Iraq, he refused to go and embarked on a radical journey that could make legal history. Private first class Hinzman left the 504th parachute infantry regiment, taking his wife and

son to Canada. Officially, he is AWOL | lawful thing to stay in Canada." (absent without leave), and, instead of fighting guerillas, he is battling the US military in the Canadian courts

Earlier this month, Pte Hinzman, 25, filed legal papers to become the first US soldier objecting to the Iraq war to be granted refugee status in Canada. His case is expected to be a test of new Canadian immigration laws and the country's traditional role of accepting guerillas from the US military.

An estimated 250 Americans every year seek refugee status in Canada, the vast majority making mental health claims, said Jeffrey House, a Toronto criminal defence lawyer who represents Pte Hinzman.

"This is the first time a soldier from the Iraq war is seeking protection. He does not want to fight in Iraq and he will do any

If he returns to the US, Pte Hinzman could

be prosecuted as a deserter, said Sergeant Pam Smith, a spokesperson for the 82nd Airborne. "We don't have time to go and track down people who go AWOL," she told Associated Press. "We're fighting a war."

On the telephone from Toronto, Pte Hinzman said: "I signed up to defend my country, not carry out acts of aggression.'

He hopes other troops will refuse to serve in Iraq and come to Canada. "I think I am the first, but I encourage others to do the same. I do not want to sound seditious, but there is strength in numbers.3

In late January, the Pentagon cancelled retirement dates for an estimated 40,000 soldiers. This unilateral move postpones soldiers' return to civilian life.-Internet

Chinese President pledges to further ties with **Republic of Congo**

BELJING, 23 Feb — Chinese President Hu Jintao said on Sunday that his country is willing to make joint efforts with the Republic of Congo in further expanding political exchanges and cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

In a message to his Congolese counterpart, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Hu said that over the past 40 years, bilateral ties have witnessed sound and stable development.Both countries have conducted solid and effective cooperation in such fields as politics,

economy, culture and educa- | golese President said the two tion, and extended each other understanding and support in international affairs, Huadded. The Chinese President said China is willing to join hands with the Congolese side to further expand political exchanges and deepen cooperation in all fields, to push for new development in bilateral friendship and cooperation. In his message, the Con-

countries have made tremendous achievements in cementing and expanding their cooperation. The two countries are in agreement on international issues of great importance and this constitutes an impetus and reliable guarantee for the continuous development of their ties

MNA/Xinhua

China to stage int'l seminar on space law, technology

BELJING, 23 Feb — Space law and technology experts from the world's major space powers are scheduled to meet in Beijing from April 25 to 27 to discuss issues concerning international space law and the development and commercial use of space technology, the Chinese Institute of Space Law said Sunday.

Oi Yongliang, executive director of the institute, said experts from the United States, China, France, Germany, Japan, Britain, India and some other countries are expected to discuss such major issues as plans by Asian countries to enact space laws and polices, applications of the global satellite navigation system, and outer space remote sensing and telecommunications.

At the meeting to be staged by the institute in cooperation with the International Institute of Space Law, an expert from the State Department of the United States will brief on American space law legislation, while an official from the European Space Agency will make a report on the Europefunded project of a global satellite navigation system, said Oi.

A group of Chinese space experts will deliver separate reports on the progress of China's space technology and future programmes, China's satellite technology and manned space technology. and the development and application of the country's satellite navigation and positioning system, and commercial space launch services.

MNA/Xinhua



It was dawn when the squad of British soldiers raided the Ibn Al Haitham hotel. Baha Mousa's night shift on the reception desk was coming to an end and his father had just arrived to drive him home. The soldiers ordered Baha, 26, to lie on the black tiled floor of the lobby with six other hotel employees, their hands on their heads-INTERNET

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Iragis look at a Ford Explorer used by US civil affairs officers after it was attacked on the highway near the village of Haswa on 21 Feb, 2004. The attack killed an Iraqi translator and wounded a US soldier.-INTERNET

Ten percent of US casualties evacuated from Iraq have psychiatric conditions

LANDSTUHL (Germany), 23 Feb- As many as 1 of every 10 soldiers from the war on terror evacuated to the Army's biggest hospital in Europe was sent there for mental problems.

Between 8 and 10 percent of nearly 12,000 soldiers from the war on terror, mostly from Iraq, treated at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre in Germany had "psychiatric or behavioural health issues," according to the commander of the hospital, Col. Rhonda Cornum.

That means about 1,000 soldiers were evacuated for mental problems

The hospital has treated 11,754 soldiers from the war on terror, with 9,651 from Iraq and the rest from Afghanistan, according to data released by the hospital.

"We certainly have seen an average, I would say, of 8 to 10 percent of our casualties have some psychiatric or behavioural health issues for which they were evacuated." Cornum told United Press International in an interview at the hospital.

That number excludes soldiers who arrived at Landstuhl for physical injuries who also suffer from mental problems. It also excludes soldiers who do not realize they suffer from mental trauma until they returned to the United States

A veterans' advocate called the data an "alarming" barometer of the psychological toll from the war in Iraq.

"It is an incredible sum and an alarming number," said Wayne Smith, an adviser to the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. Smith said the number reflects only a fraction of the mental toll from Iraq. He said soldiers need better help in Iraq and when they return. "This is a wake-up call," Smith said.

Landstuhl, located just south of Ramstein Air Base, is the largest US hospital outside the United States. It is the main transfer point and treatment centre for soldiers medically evacuated from Iraq, Kuwait or Afghanistan on their way back to the United States.

Soldier arriving from Iraq by plane at Ramstein are taken by bus up a winding road through the wooded hills overlooking the picturesque town of Landstuhl to the sprawling hospital complex.

An average of 35 soldiers each day arrive at Landstuhl - though 160 patients arrived after the bombing of the UN compound in Baghdad — for treatment in eight operating rooms or to stay in the 148-bed facility. The nearly 2,000 medical staff includes an increase of 350 workers to help deal with soldiers from the war. Because Landstuhl is used, in part, to stabilize patients before sending them home, the average stay is just 4 davs.

Cornum would not say how many soldiers from Iraq have required hospitalization in Landstuhl's 22-bed in-patient psychiatric facility. Twelve of those beds were occupied one day last week. Hospital data show that 2,489 of the soldiers who have arrived from Iraq have required some kind of in-patient medical care.-Internet

Dhaka filled with cocktail of toxic gases

DHAKA, 23 Feb- People in the Bangladeshi capital are facing health hazards because of intensified air pollution during the dry season, which began two months ago.

data provided by the department of environment, from December 2003 to February 2004, the air quality index value (AQIV), an indicator of the daily levels of pollution, ranges from 198 to 200, while an AQIV of above 100 is considered unhealthy.

Officials from the department attributed the high levels of air pollution in Dhaka mainly to vehicular emissions

According to the latest | and said the situation was | unlikely to improve till the monsoon. The air in the city now

has high levels of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Most gases are emitted by vehicles, brick kilns and industries

Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, general secretary of the Environment Journalist Forum, told Xinhua Sunday

that they would soon launch a campaign in the capital against plying of old vehicles which are emitting the most waste gas.

He said the campaign would request the government to ban the plying of old vehicles in the city streets and make urban dwellers more conscious about their health hazards due to highly polluted air here





A member of the coalition forces, centre, frisks an Iraqi at the entrance to their base which is under construction in Samawa, 360 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday, 21 Feb, 2004. -Internet



acked trucks were detonated at the base killing at least seven Iraqis and wounding dozens including 58 coalition troops recently.-INTERNET



kilometres (25 miles) south of Baghdad, on Saturday, 21 Feb, 2004. Guerillas fired on a

US military convoy killing an Iraqi translator and wounding four American soldiers, the

US command in Baghdad said.-INTERNET

A US army tank secures a street of Baghdad recently. INTERNET



A US Army convoy drives on a highway south of Kuwait City on Saturday, 21 Feb, 2004 on its way from Iraq under troops rotation programme.-INTERNET



Four US troops wounded, Iraqi killed in ambush

BAGHDAD, 23 Feb- 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.

"Four US soldiers were wounded and their Iraqi translator was killed in a small arms fire ambush 14 miles south of Iskandariya (near Baghdad). Two civilian type SUVs were destroyed in the attack," a

US military spokeswoman said. A guerilla campaign of bombings and shootings has killed 378 American soldiers since the war began in March.

MNA/Reuters

China to blast two people into space in 2005

BEIJING, 23 Feb- China, which last year became the third nation to blast a man into space, plans to send two astronauts up on a five-to-seven-day mission in 2005 and later build a space station, state television reported on Saturday.

Wang Yongqing, chief designer of the nation's secretive manned space programme, told CCTV preparations for the launch of the two-person Shenzhou VI craft were proceeding smoothly.

Last October, solo astronaut Yang Li circled Earth 14 times during a 21-hour trip aboard the Shenzhou V, a name meaning "Divine Ship"

A previous report by the semi-official China News Service had said China wanted to put three people into space aboard the next Shenzhou mission.

"We will continue by launching Shenzhou VII, Shenzhou VIII and so on, carry out spacewalks, make space dockings and set up a space laboratory," Wang told CCTV.

He said astronauts would stay aboard the orbiting lab for short periods, with spacecraft ferrying them back and forth. Eventually China would launch a larger space station with better experimental capabilities he said

Wang's remarks were broadcast just a day after he and another scientist received China's annual State Science and Technology award from President Hu Jintao, along with a cash prize of five million yuan (605,000 US dollars). -MNA/Reuters

Bilingual atlas on natural disasters in China published

BEIJING, 23 Feb— A Chinese-English atlas on natural disasters in China, the first of its kind in the country, has been published by the Science Publishing House here.

The Systematic Atlas of Natural Disasters in China contains 400 maps and 50 charts with information on the formation, general features and regional distribution of major natural disasters which have taken place across the country in the past 500 years

It was compiled by the Centre for Research on Natural Disaster Risks and Beijing Normal University. The centre was jointly established by the university and the Swiss Reinsurance Co in 1999.

"The atlas was completed on the basis of a database on calamities, developed by a key research lab at the Department of Environmental Evolution and Education in Natural Dis-

Insurance attached to asters of Beijing Normal University," said a spokesman for the centre at a function specially organized here Friday to mark the publication of the atlas. The atlas will be a great

help for insurance companies to develop practical policies against natural disaster risks, the spokesman noted

MNA/Xinhua



A destroyed civilian SUV, following a small arms fire ambush near the village of Al-Haswa, some 22 km (14 miles) south from the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 21 February, 2004.-INTERNET

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Guerillas attack police in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Feb-Gun battles have killed two guerillas in northern Iraq where attackers opened fire on Iraqi police in two cities.

Gunmen opened fire vesterday on a police station in Mosul. Officers fired back killing one attacker and injuring another.

Guerillas also opened fire with machine guns on the headquarters of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps in Kirkuk, Security officers returned fire, killing one attacker.

Also yesterday, jailed former dictator

Saddam Hussein got a visit from the Red Cross. He gave two members of the group a letter to his family.

Meantime Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld says the Iraqis are "undeterred by the attacks" and are continuing to sign up for the nation's security services.

The Secretary of Defence is headed to Kuwait to visit US troops.

Internet



US soldiers interrogate detainees during a joint night raid by US troops and Iraqi police in Baquoba, Iraq, on 18 Feb, 2004. INTERNET

Russia says Iraqi elections almost impossible under US

Moscow, 23 Feb — Russia said Saturday that nationwide elections in Iraq would be almost impossible while the Arab country remains occupied by the US-led military coalition.

"Such elections will

require in-depth preparation by all sides and it is very hard to imagine conducting such preparations under conditions of occupation of Iraq," Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency. However, Fedotov

emphasized that "there is

no alternative to nationwide elections in Iraq and they will be held sooner or later'

Fedotov made the statement after the US civil administrator for Iraq, Paul Bremer, said earlier Saturday that it would be impossible to organize elections in Iraq for another year to 15 months, citing the absence of electoral laws and voter rolls as the main obstacles to speedy elections.

Fedotov reiterated Russia's doubts about the validity of the agreement signed between the US Administration in Iraq and the temporary Iraqi authorities on gradual transfer of power to the Iraqi people.

MNA/Xinhua

China tries to fight rats with contraceptive

CHENGDU, 23 Feb- In this capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province, some people were busy preparing a special kind of food for rats Saturday, by mixing peanuts with fluid that looks like egg white.

The fluid is nothing but a kind of contraceptive for rats, said Ye Qinglin, a scientist with the city's disease control centre. Male rats will lose their capability to reproduce within two months after eating the contraceptive, Ye noted.

The rat-use contraceptive has passed official appraisal, and it will be produced in batches this March.

Traditionally, people kill rats with raticides, but the newly-developed contraceptive is aimed at reducing the numbers of the animal, said Zhao Erbi, a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who attended the appraisal.

41st Myanma Gems Emporium soon to be held

Myanmar is rich in land and water resources. Out of the natural resources, Myanma gems and jewellery, jade and pearl are in high demand in the world market.

The Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines has been holding Myanma Gems Emporia since 1964 to sell more Myanma gems and jewellery that are popular in the world and earn more foreign currency, and the emporium has now entered its 41st anniversary in 2004.

Progress has been made in the holding of Myanma Gems Emporia due to integrated and well-coordinated efforts of the Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee under the Ministry of Mines and Myanma Gems Enterprise.

Arrangements are being made to hold the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium from 13 to 21 March.

Foreign citizens who are engaged in the gems mining in accord with rules and regulations of Myanma Gems Law and Myanmar nationals who are engaged in the sale of gems and jewellery in foreign currency in accord with rules and regulations prescribed will be allowed to attend the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium and buy gems and jewellery through competitive bidding.

The national gems entrepreneurs have been allowed to buy gems and jewellery through competitive bidding to enable them to meet with foreign gems merchants for coordinating the gems marketing and study and observe gems and jewellery business abroad, to increase earning from the sale of gems and jewellery through competitive bidding and to carry out the sale of gems and jewellery in accord with the market-oriented economic system.

The Myanma Gems Enterprise is taking systematic measures to be able to sell gems and uncut jade owned by the national entrepreneurs during the time when the gems emporium is not held.

Gems mining was undertaken only by the State in the past. But, it is now being jointly-undertaken by the State and the private gems companies, making the gems enterprise of the State develop more and more.

The Myanma Gems Law was promulgated for development of Myanma gems business. The gems enterprise benefits not only the State but also the gems entrepreneurs

Jade lots with a floor price of euro 10,000 and above and jade lots with a floor price from euro 1000 to 9999 which are categorised according to their quality from jade owned by MGE, joint venture and gems entrepreneurs will be sold at the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium through tender system.

Arrangements have been made to sell a total of 600 jade lots with a floor price of euro 4.00 million at the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium. They are 500 jade lots to be sold through tender system with an estimated value of euro 1.5 million and 100 jade lots to be sold through competitive bidding with an estimated value of euro 2.5 million totalling 600 lots with an estimated value of euro 4.00 million.

Altogether 856 jade lots with a floor price of euro 10.72 million were categorised up to 16-2-2004. Gems

merchants from Lonkhin. Phakant and Mandalav are trying to arrive and put their gems on sale at the gems emporium as they often arrive in group soon before the

= Myint Lwin =

emporium. Over 82 tons of jade produced from seven jointventure companies is being cut and categorised for sale. The amount and weights of jade to be put on sale at the emporium by the companies and private entrepreneurs are expected to be greater since they fetch higher price at the emporium than on the black market abroad.

More attention has been paid to the fixing of the floor price on jade to be on sale at this year's emporium than jade of previous emporia. Jade is expected to sell well at this year's emporium as the floor price has been fixed after reviewing the current jade sale of neighbouring countries and studying international newspapers and publications.

Likewise, altogether 193 gems lots with a floor price of euro 386,410 have already been categorised for sale against the targeted gems lots of 250 with a floor price of over euro 9 million. The number and value of gems is small because gems lots from Mongshu have not arrived yet.

Ten gems lots with a floor price of euro 166,760 to be sold through competitive bidding have already been categorised out of the targeted gems lots of 72 with a floor price of euro 8,795,000. Likewise, 81 gems lots with a floor price of euro 163,620 to be sold by tender system have already been categorised out of the targeted gems lots of 80 with a floor price of euro 150,000.

And 102 gems lots with a floor price of euro 56,030 to be sold at fixed price have already been categorised out of the targeted gems lots of 98 with a floor price of euro 55,000.

Arrangements have been made for sale of various items of 1,148 jewellery valued at euro 863,384. Of them, they are 598 items of jewellery worth euro 200,704 of MGE, 500 items of jewellery worth euro 500,000 of Myanmar VES and 50 items of jewellery worth euro 162,680 of private entrepreneurs.

The sale of pearl at this year's emporium will be the greatest after the 1993 mid year emporium as 25,000 pearls weighing 11,250 momme will be put on sale. Altogether 70 pearl lots with a floor price of euro 400,000 have already been categorised against the targeted pearl lots of 280 with a floor price of euro 1.32 million.

The invitations to the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium have already been sent to 498 companies of 26 countries. The invitations have also been sent to Myanmar embassies and consulates abroad through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be able to invite those interested in the gems emporium. Over 400 foreign gems merchants are expected to attend the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium. It is expected that the nation will earn more foreign currency year by year through Myanma Gems Emporia with development of Myanma gems business.

> (Translation:TS) (Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 23-2-2004)

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'

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

Runaway bus kills five in Dublin

DUBLIN, 23 Feb — A double-decker bus mounted a pavement in central Dublin on Saturday, killing five people and injuring nearly 20 others, seven of them seriously, police said.

The bus, which was not carrying any passengers at the time, apparently went out of control, swerving onto the pavement and ploughing into a queue of people waiting to board another bus, a police spokesman said. The dead were three women and two men.

A public transport spokeswoman said it was the worst accident in the history of Dublin Bus, which runs a fleet of 1,100 vehicles and carries half a million passengers a day.

"We've never ever had anything on this scale bespokeswoman fore,' Grainne Mackin told reporters. "We'll be carrying out a full investigation as soon as we can."

The accident happened beside Dublin's River Liffey, at a bus stop directly in front of the landmark Clarence Hotel, owned by members of Irish rock group U2.

Most of those killed or injured had been waiting at the bus stop, Mackin said, adding that no children had

been hurt. The drivers of both buses were taken to hospital.

Several people were trapped under the bus until emergency crews arrived at the scene

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, who arrived shortly after the accident to speak to fire and ambulance crews, described the scene as "terrible carnage" and "a dreadful sight", and offered his sympathies to the families of the dead and injured.

MNA/Reuters

Fire alert briefly shuts **French Alpine tunnel**

PARIS, 23 Feb -

French authorities briefly

shut an Alpine tunnel on

Saturday when they saw

smoke spewing from un-

der a truck, in a region

where an inferno in the

Mont Blanc tunnel killed

mal," an official at the

roads and traffic author-

ity said, adding that the

Freius tunnel had been

shut for about 90 minutes

due to a fire alert caused

by a problem with the

truck's axle.

"All's back to nor-

39 people in 1999.

France and Italy.

The Mont Blanc disaster in March 1999 was caused by a Belgian-registered Volvo truck full of flour and margarine catching fire.

The blaze was so intense that many of the victims and their cars were burned to near cinders.

In Saturday's alert, there were just four or five cars in the Frejus tunnel at the time, and the truck did not go up in flames, the spokesman The tunnel links said. - MNA/Reuters

Libya extradites people-trafficking Madame to Italy

ROME, 23 Feb — Libya extradited to Italy one of the main traffickers of illegal immigrants from North Africa, Italian authorities said on Saturday.

"Madame Gennet", an Eritrean citizen whose real name is Ganat Tewelde Barhe, was flown into Rome's main Fiumicino Airport, a police statement said. Authorities believe "Madame Gennet" charged immigrants up to 800 US dollars for passage to the Italian islands of Lampedusa - which is closer to North Africa than to mainland Italy - and Sicilv. - MNA/Reuters



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears a report on health matters presented by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint at the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in PvinOoLwin. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung

Aye inspects...

(from page 16) Later, Chief Engineer (Airport) U Tun Paw of Public works reported on survey work for extension of the runway to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave a supplementary report.

Next, Director of Mandalay Division Irrigation Department U Aye Thein reported on creeks flowing near the airport and arrangements

being made to build spillway.

After giving necessary instructions, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the runway of the airport.

The runway is 4,450 feet long and 200 feet wide and it is of granite type. Arrangements are being made for turning the runway into a concrete one to enable the 737-400 jets to touch down. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects factories in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 23 Feb — Member of the Myanmar War Ventrans Organization Central Organizing Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this morning arrived at Naykya Polyethylene Bag Factory of the MWVO (Headquarters) and Green Light Co Ltd in Industrial Zone No 4 in Shwepyitha Township and inspected production of polyethylene bags.

The minister also saw over construction of the main building of the Byanhlwar dry cell factory in the industrial zone and No 1 Brick Factory of the Myanma Ceramics Industries in Danyingon Township, and left necessary instructions. MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects the scale-model of the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in PvinOoLwin. — MNA





Najib Tun Adbul Razak

on 19 February and Minister

The meeting continued

made an opening speech.

MNA | Brig-Gen Thein Aung pre-

Forestry Minister arrives back from Malaysia YANGON, 23 Feb—A | sented report on scientific as- | cussed matters related to es-

Application Systems Engineer Examination Course

YANGON, 23 Feb — Under the arrangement of the Myanmar Computer Federation and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), Application Systems Engineer Examination Course (MYAE) was opened this morning at MICT park in Hline Township. A total of 47 trainees are attending the course.

YANGON, 23 Feb-A Myanmar delegation led by sessment of bio-diversity. Minister for Forestry Brigtechnical cooperation and Gen Thein Aung attended the exchange, sharing the benefit of bio-diversity, impor-7th Ministerial Meeting on tance of bio-diversity in Bio-diversity Conservation socio-economic developheld in Kuala Lumpur, Mament of developing counlaysia. The minister attended tries, extended establishment the meeting held at Pan-Paof natural conservation areas cific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 18 February and in the nation and systematic Malaysian Deputy Prime management of forestry. Minister Dato Sri Mohd

During his stay in Malaysia, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung met with Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand at Pan-Pacific Hotel and discussed matters related to establishment of natural conservation areas along border of the two countries and cooperation for development of wood-based industries.

Minster Brig-Gen Thein Aung on 21 February arrived back at Yangon International Airport where he was welcomed by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thi Naing Thein and officials.—*MNA*



Member of the Myanmar War Ventrans Organization Central Organizing Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung at Naykya Polyethylene Bag Factory of the Myanmar War Ventrans Organization. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears a report presented by Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe during inspection of Anisakhan Airport. MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders of New Mon State Party MNA



Cash donation for Shwephonepwint Pagoda renovation

YANGON, 23 Feb — The 1st cash donation ceremony for the third all-round renovation of Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township will be held soon. Those wishing to

donate cash may dial 290425, 245595, 245615, 245609, 245619, 245624. Among the two renovation tasks, Sattawya prayer hall of the pagoda has been renovated. The renovation

Ambassador of Brunei Pehin Dato Haji Hussin bin Haji Sulaiman and wife welcome Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife at recepetion to mark the National Day of Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

of the Payagyikosu prayer hall, the second task, is be-ing launched. Moreover, the new prayer hall will be built at the southern part of the pagoda. MNA

bers of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation met mem-bers of Kachin State Organization for Women's Affairs in Myitkyina on 14 February.

Present were Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Lay Thet, General Secretary Professor Daw Khin Ave Win. Patron of Kachin State Organization for Women's Af-

YANGON, 23 Feb-Mem-

Vice-President of MWAF explains functions of MWAF fairs wife of the commander Daw Tin Tin Nwe, Secretary of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Myo and members and officials.

Vice-President Daw Khin Lav Thet explained about organizational set-up of the federation and Commissioner U Ye Myint and officials formation of district and township organizations for women's affairs.

On 15 February, Daw Khin Lay Thet and General Secretary Professor Daw Khin Aye

Goodwill delegation visits Drugs Elimination Museum

YANGON, 23 Feb- Members of delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the Chi nese People's Political Con-Conference sultative (CPPCC) and Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAIFU) Mr Luo Haocai, on a goodwill visit here at the invitation of Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li

Jiniun and officials arrived at Drugs Elimination Museum at the corner of Hanthawady Road and Kyundaw Road in Kamayut Township this

morning. Deputy Director of Drugs Elimination Museum Police Col Se Maung and officials explained Myanmar's efforts for elimination of narcotic drugs in successive periods. The guests observed

booths of drugs control un-

ment Factory) of Yangon, Head of Planning Department U Tha Doe presented clothes worth K 1.6 million for Kachin State Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Tin Tin Nwe. Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet and officials accepted K 13.9 million donated by wellwishers for MWAF. MNA

Win explained about func-

On behalf of wellwisher Lt-

Col Khin Latt and Daw Khin

Khin Win (Nilar Win Gar-

tions of the federation.

der Myanmar kings, docu-

mentary photos of Operation Moe Hein Phase-6 of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, documentary photos of Operation Moe Hein launched by the Tatmadaw, scale models of opium refinery camps seized by the Tatmadaw and documentary photos on the ground floor. Vice-Chairman Mr Luo Haocai signed in the visitors' book of the museum.

MNA

MIFFA Chairman leaves for Bangkok

YANGON, 23 Feb-Chairman of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association U Aung Kyaw Min left here by air for Thailand on 23 February to attend GMS Cross-border Transport Agreement (Stage 2) Workshop on Annexs and Protocols sponsored by UNESCAP to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 24 to 27 February 2004





Vice-Chairman CPPCC and Vice-President of CAIFU Mr Luo Haocai and delegation visit Drugs Elimination Museum.--MNA

Tasks of Union Day Management **Committee reviewed**

YANGON, 23 Feb-A meeting to review the tasks of the 57th Anniversary Union Day Observance Management Committee was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw building this afternoon.

Chairman of the Management Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe spoke on the occasion. He said the Union Day was successfully observed according to the plans laid down. Various national races from states and divisions attended the Union Day ceremony in accord with the instructions of Chairman

of the Union Day Observance Central Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, he said.

He went on to say that cultural dances depicting national solidarity spirit and Union Spirit were performed and it was found that the dances reflected the essence of the Union Day. The Union Day is observed every year to forge unity among the national races and consolidate Union Spirit, he stressed.

Next, officials of various sub-committees reported on work done

The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the commander. MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye giving instructions to officials at Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

Myanmar delegation to attend **ASEAN transport meeting**

YANGON, 23 Feb Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung left here by air today for Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to attend the first ASEAN senior transport officials meeting there. The meeting will be held from 24 to 26 February 2004.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International

Airport by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe. The delegation members Director-General of Road Administration Department U Hla Thaung Myint and Su-

perintending Engineer of Public Works U Khin Maung also left on the same flight. The minister next inspected the YIA Extension project. MNA

Minister inspects Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) construction

YANGON, 23 Feb - Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun yesterday afternoon inspected the construction of Myittha Bridge (Kalewa).

At the briefing hall, Senior Engineer U Kyaw Lin and Chief Engineer (Bridge) U Khin Maung Aye reported to the minister on future tasks

Next, the minister said

trade will increase rapidly on completion of it. Moreover, it will link Kalewa, Kale and towns on the Chin hills, he added. He also gave instructions on timely completion of the bridge, work-site safety and minimizing loss and wastage, and fulfilled the needs. - MNA

that as the bridge will be the

main one on Monywa-

Yagyi-Kalewa Road, border



Erection of the main tower of the Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) is near completion. - MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attending to needs of officials at Pharmaceutical Factory Project in PvinOoLwin.-- MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye being welcomed by officials on arrival at Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

Minister inspects quality pearls

YANGON, 23 Feb-A to- | of Myanmar Tasaki Co Ltd | Thiriyadana Hall of the Mintal of 117,124 quality pearls | were put on display at the

Zinc smelting plant inspected YANGON, 23 Feb Sanlaung coal mine. In the

Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein inspected the zinc smelting plant and also the zinc oxide factory of Myanma Ahtut Ahteik Company in Namtu on 20 February. The next day, he observed coal production at

afternoon, he inspected mining of gypsum, the essential requirement in producing cement, in Hsipaw. He also observed the production process of the No 1 Steel Mill in PyinOoLwin. MNA

istry of Mines in Yankin Township here at 1 pm today

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Deputy Minister U Myint Thein inspected the quality pearls and they were conducted round by Managing Director of Myanma Pearls Enterprise U Maung Toe and officials of the company.

Next, the minister gave

instructions on production of more quality pearls and penetration of world pearl market.

The weight of 117,124 quality pearls is 52965.5 momme and those pearls are worth euro 6 million.

The quality pearls will be put on sale at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium which will be held from 13 to 21 March 2004.

Japan calls for active UN engagement in Iraqi reconstruction

Токуо, 23 Feb — Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi met with visiting UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan here on Sunday, calling for active engagement on the part of the United Nations in Iraq's reconstruction.

Annan, who arrived here Saturday for a five-day visit to Japan, told reporters after the meeting that unity in the international community is essential for Iraq's reconstruction.

"Let me stress that international cooperation will be essential as we move ahead and help the Iraqi people regain their sovereignty and build a peaceful, democratic and stable Iraq," Annan said.

For her part, Kawaguchi said at the Press conference that she stressed the importance of the UN engagement on the Iraqi issue while explaining Japan's financial assistance for the rehabilitation of Iraq.

Japan has said it hopes the United Nations will play an active role in the process of handing over power to the Iraqi people.

Annan said he told Kawaguchi details about the results of a recent UN fact-finding mission led by his special envoy to Iraq, Lakhdar Brahimi, on Iraq's political situation The UN chief said a report on the matter will be issued Monday.

Annan also said that it will be difficult to hold direct general elections in Iraq before the proposed June 30 transfer of power to Iraqis by the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority, but that it is necessary to hand over power as scheduled.

According to Japanese Foreign Ministry, Kawaguchi and Annan also discussed a wide range of other issues, including UN reform, Afghanistan's reconstruction, and African development. On UN reform. Kawaguchi told Annan that the UN's functions should be reformed to meet changes in the world.

Annan's visit is his first to Japan since January 2002, when he attended an international donor conference in Tokyo on Afghanistan's reconstruction.

MNA/Xinhua

China to establish national botanical garden

BELING 23 Feb — A world-class national botanical garden will be built in the northwest suburbs of this Chinese capital over the next five years.

The garden, to cover about 467 hectares, will merge two existing and neighbouring botanical gardens at the foot of the Fragrant Hills, a scenic spot in the northwest suburbs of Beijing, namely, the Beijing Botanical Garden (BBG) under the Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAC) and the Beijing Municipal Botanical Garden (BMBG).

resolve outstanding issues.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari

Vajpayee Sunday said the

atmosphere was conducive

atmosphere for holding a dia-

"There is a conducive

Los Angeles, 23 Feb-

Sony Pictures' romantic

comedy "50 First Dates"

continued its reign for the

second week at North

America box office over the

weekend, according to pre-

liminary studio figures re-

Adam Sandler and Drew

Barrymore, is expected to

rake in another 21 million

US dollars this weekend, re-

ported the box office tracker

Exhibitor Relations Co Inc.

twice the earnings of the clos-

est competitor and boosted

the film's estimated North

The take was more than

The comedy, starring

leased Sunday.

for talks.

Three sections will be included in this national botanical garden, namely, an area for scientific research an area for displaying plants bred by botanists in special and scientific ways, and an area for vegetation, nature scenes, and historical and cultural relics.

In fact, according to the blueprint for the national botanical garden, the garden will integrate the entire area of the Fragrant Hills into a whole, for the above three functions of the garden will be respectively shouldered by the BBG, BMBG and Fragrant Hills Park

Chen Zhu, vice-president of the CAC, said that the BBG excels in scientific studies research facilities and rich resources of professionals and plants, while the BMBG is a popular tourist site boasting first-class infrastructures for promoting popular science, as well as fertile land resources. Local newspapers reported that 11 academicians from the CAC and the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) had jointly wrote a letter to the central authorities urging them to restart the construction of a national botanical garden. — MNA/Xinhua

Vajpayee says atmosphere conducive for talks with Pakistan

said the team was going there

to play the game and not to

America gross in two weeks

comedy "Confessions of a

Teenage Drama Queen,"

which targeted at young girls,

debuted in second place with

about 9.2 million dollars,

followed by "Miracle,"

which took in 8 million dol-

lars. Another new comedy,

20th Century Fox's "Wel-

come to Mooseport," took

the fourth place with 7 mil-

lion dollars, while the teen

caper "Eurotrip" released by

Dream Works wrapped up

the Top Five with 6. 6 mil-

MNA/Reuters

lion dollars.

Walt Disney Pictures

to 72.3 million dollars.

port.

"50 First Dates" reigns at N America

box office for second week

fight a war.

"On Pakistan's invitation, the Indian cricketers are going there to play cricket team's tour of Pakistan.

The cricket team would he said. -MNA/PTI

LUCKNOW, 23 Feb logue with Pakistan,' With India and Pakistan Vajpayee who arrived here chalking out the time table on two-day visit to his confor composite dialogue to stituency, his first after the

dissolution of the Lok Sabha. and not for any war,' Vaipavee said in an apparent told reporters at Amusi Airdig at those who oppose the About Indian cricket team's tour of Pakistan, he

tour Pakistan as scheduled.

Boss of Italian Mafia 'Ndrangheta arrested (66,615 US dollars) in bail in

ROME, 23 Feb — Italian police on Sunday arrested Orazio De Stefano, an important boss of Italy's most feared organized crime group the 'Ndrangheta or Calabrian Mafia, in the southern city of Reggio Calabria.

De Stefano, who heads his family's crime clan and is believed to have controlled the 'Ndrangheta activities in the Calabrain capital. was arrested in a de luxe apartment in the city centre. local media reported.

The 45-year-old Mafia boss had been on the run since he paid 100 million lire

"Barbarian Invasions" wins top French movie award

PARIS, 23 Feb — "The Barbarian Invasions", directed by Franco-Canadian Denvs Arcand, won the Cesar award for best movie on Saturday in the French equivalent of the Hollywood Oscars.

The film explores a leftwing professor's reconciliation attempts on his death bed with his stock trader son. Arcand became an international name when he

made "The Decline of the

American Empire". France kept the annual Cesar ceremony very mainstream this year with a lineup of mostly classic contenders for a top award which can go only to French-language works since a controversial decision by the French film academy a decade ago.

A Cesar award for best foreign film went to Clint Eastwood's "Mystic River", and a best movie award reserved for works from the

15-nation European Union was given to "Goodbye Lenin" by Wolfgang Becker.

The French awards took place on the heels of Britain's BAFTA awards, where the top prize went to "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King", which is also among favourites for an Oscar next weekend but did not feature in the Paris line-up

MNA/Reuters

Controversy swirls around British MMR vaccine study

LONDON, 23 Feb - A British MP on Saturday called for an independent inquiry into controversial research linking a triple vaccine for infants to autism after a medical journal said it should never have published the 1998 study.

The Lancet medical journal said it had learned of Schroeder arrives

in Ankara

man Chancellor Gerhard

Schroeder arrived here late

Sunday, the first visit paid

by a German head of gov-

ernment to Turkey since

former Chancellor Helmut

Ankara, Schroeder said Tur-

key had achieved significant

Before his departure to

Kohl's visit in 1993.

ANKARA, 23 Feb-Ger-

a "fatal conflict of interest" with the researcher at the centre of the study, which led parents to reject a combined vaccine for mumps, measles and rubella because of links to autism and bowl disease.

Fears over the single inoculation commonly called MMR - used in Britain since 1988 and in the United States for more than 30 years led to a steep drop in the number of British children being vaccinated and has been blamed for outbreaks of measles in various parts of the country.

Despite reassurances from top doctors many panicked parents demanded to be given the choice between the single dose vaccine and giving their children three separate jabs to protect their children from the three diseases. Richard Horton, the editor of the Lancet, told BBC News it had learned of a "fatal of conflict interest" with researcher Andrew Wakefield.

The journal said Wakefield had not told Lancet editors he was also carrying out a study for the Legal Aid Board on behalf of parents who believed the vaccine had harmed their children.

"In my view, if we had known the conflict of inter-

est Dr Wakefield had in this work. I think that would have strongly affected the peer reviewers about the credibility of this work, and in my judgement it would have been rejected," Horton said.

Wakefield told the BBC on Friday he stood behind his findings.

"They have now been confirmed independently by reputable physicians and pathologists," he said.

But a Liberal Democrat MP on Saturday called for a wider inquiry into the research and why it was published.

"Those involved will not be able to clear their names without there being an independent inquiry because the Lancet can't really investigate itself." Member of Parliament Evan Harris told Sky News.

"We do need a wider inquiry because there's the important issue whether patients have confidence in MMR, which they should, but every time they see a story like this it worries them," he said.

An independent review of research into the MMR vaccine by British doctors published in 2002 found no evidence of it causing autism or bowel disease.

MNA/Reuters

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား မြို့တွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေးထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည် သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက် တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင် ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြကြောင်း ကြားသိရပါသည်။ ယင်းသို့ ယာဉ်စီးခပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိထိ ရောက် ရောက် အရေးယူနိုင်ရေးအတွက် အောက်ပါဖုန်းနံပါတ်များသို့ တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်

"သတိပေးနိူးဆော်ချက်"

- (c)
 - မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း
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ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

progress on the way to becoming a EU member due to reform policies of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Ankara can rely on Germany's support for its membership efforts in the future

Meanwhile, the German Chancellor also reaffirmed that Turkey is under an obligation to fulfil the Copenhagen criteria by the end of this vear

MNA/Xinhua

1988, and was on the gov-

ernment's list of five most-

came just four days after the

capture of the 70-year-old

Ndrangheta chieftain

Giuseppe Morabito, resulted

from a two-year operation

using wiretaps and other

means to penetrate into the

chairperson of the National

Anti-Mafia Commission.

said De Stefano's arrest was

a "severe blow" to the

Ndrangheta. ---MNA/Xinhua

Angela Napoli, deputy

secretive organization.

Sunday's arrest, which

wanted gangsters.



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အစား မန္တ လေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေ အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနရုံး ဟု ဖြည့်စွက် တ်ရှုပါရန်။ China's longest submarine cable to send more power to south end

HAIKOU, 23 Feb - China's longest submarine electricity cable with a high capacity will be laid through the south Qiongzhou Straits, connecting the power system of south China's Hainan Province with China Southern Power Grid.

According to an official with Hainan development and reform department, the 34.7kilometre-long submarine cable will extend from Xuwen County's Jiaowei Town, south China's Guangdong Province, to Qiaotou Town, Hainan's Chengmai County.

Apart from the 900 million yuan (about 109 million US dollars) investment in the cable, another 1.7 billion yuan (about 206 million US dollars) would be invested in the construction of two 500 kilovolts transformer substations

on both sides of the strait, said the official

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Countries with advanced technologies of laying submarine cables like Italy, Norway and Japan have shown interest in the project.

The Hainan power grid is an isolated one, whose installed capacity is merely 2.8 per cent of that of China Southern Power Grid. MNA/Xinhua

Great Barrier Reef to lose most of coral cover by 2050

CANBERRA, 23 Feb Most of the coral cover of the Great Barrier Reef, a world-famous marine park, will die by the middle of the century, warned a study on coral bleaching released Saturday

"Coral cover will decrease to less than 5 per cent study

on most reefs by the middle of the century, under even the most favourable assumptions ... Reefs will not disappear but they will be devoid of coral, and dominated by other less appealing species such as macro algae and cyanobacteria," said the

It could cost Australia's economy 6.3 billion US dollars and more than 12,000 jobs by 2020, predicted the study conducted by Hoegh-Guldberg, the head of Oueensland University's Centre for Marine Studies, and his father Hans, an economist. -- MNA/Xinhua

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New sea route to expand trade growth between China, Europe

TIANJAN, 23 Feb — A Cyprus-flagged ship laden with 2.500 containers left Tianiin Port late Thursday night for Britain via some other Chinese ports and European countries, marking the opening of a new route between China and Europe. Vessels running on the new route, which was opened by the China Shipping Corporation Ltd (CSCL), will start from Tianjin and then stop at Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo, Hong Kong cities and ports in Malaysia, Malta, Belgium, Germany before reaching Britain

MNA/Xinhua

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P.O. Box 109. Ph:248108/723043, (For. Allen & Gledhill Advocates & Solicitors, Singapore.) Dated: 24 February, 2004.

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "BAGO" VOY NO BG 763/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No BG 763/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 24-2-2004 and will be berthing on about 25-2-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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* ကော်ဖီစိုက်ပျိုး ဝင်ငွေတို * ကော်ဖီစိုက်လျှင် အရိပ်ပင် ယှဉ်တွဲစိုက်ပျိုး ဒေသဖွံ့ဖြို့ လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

India, GCC willing to work together to prevent terrorism

MUMBAI, 23 Feb- India and Gulf Cooperation Council countries have shown willingness to work together to curb the menace of terrorism in the region and double the bilateral trade turnover to 24 billion US dollars in next two-three years.

"GCC has declared a war against terror- | had said GCC condemns terrorism in all its ism and would cooperate with international community, including India, for the purpose," GCC chairman and Kuwait Commerce and Industry Minister Abdullah Abdur Rahaman Al Taweel told PTI after the conclusion of two-day India-GCC Industrial Conference here.

Terrorism is against the interest of Arab countries, which have taken stern steps against it, the minister, who is heading the Council as representative of Kuwait, said.

Official sources said the fight against terrorism is top on India's agenda and the country would work with those who share the goal. New Delhi has already signed an extradition treaty with three GCC countries -Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Oman - and is negotiating similar treaties with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar, the sources said

Last week GCC secretary-general Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, after meeting Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani,

Egyptian Army leader meets Chinese military delegation

CAIRO, 23 Feb- Hamdy Weheba, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, met with a Chinese military delegation here on Sunday.

The delegation is led by Qian Shugen, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

During the meeting, Weheba said Egypt believes that the growth of Egyptian-Chinese ties is of great significance and the country is willing to enhance cooperation with China in various areas. He also reiterated Egypt's support for China's reunification.

ensure national security

of Russia's Fatherland

Defender's Day, Putin said

Russia is reinforcing and

upgrading the Armed Forces,

particularly the strategic

forces, to "reliably defend the

country, " the Interfax news

security is a fundamental

condition for people's

peaceful and constructive life

and a key element of domestic

Kremlin to mark the festival.

known as the Army Day in

Soviet times, the President

called on the Army to prepare

itself to confront any threat

"ranging from an act of

At a meeting in the

Putin said lasting national

agency reported.

development.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany wants new UN chemicals agency in Bonn

Europe were saturated.

tion.

BERLIN, 23 Feb — The German Government said on Sunday it was bidding to host a new United Nations agency to police trade in chemicals in Bonn, the capital of former West Germany.

from these pacts. - MNA/PTI

forms and the international community

should take all steps to effectively counter it.

said the trade turnover of 12 billion US

dollars is below potential and "we would

like to double it over next two-three years".

On the shift in the focus to India, Taweel

"We ignored Asia and see natural to

Taweel said the huge Indian economy

The private sector should take a lead to

boost bilateral trade and "governments

should now pull back and work as a regula-

tor", he said. Some GCC countries have

signed free trade agreements with European

countries and the US, he said adding, Indian

companies and business could take benefit

was growing at over 6-7 per cent annually,

making it an attractive investment destina-

said the developed markets like US and

expand in the region including India."

On the growth in bilatral trade, Taweel

The United Nations "Prior Informed Consent" convention that will police trade in hazardous chemicals enters into force on Tuesday and the German Environment Ministry said in a statement that Bonn would be the ideal

location for its secretariat. "Given the significance of the chemicals industry in Germany and the global responsibility that arises out of years of experience in dealing with chemicals, the German Government has decided to compete for the PIC

Putin urges improvement of army's

convention secretariat," it said. The secretariat is being housed temporarily at UN offices in Geneva and Rome. A decision on a permanent location is due in September.

The German Government moved most of its ministries from Bonn to Berlin in 1999 and has since attracted to Bonn a number of UN secretariats, ranging in responsibility from global climate change to protection of European whales, birds and bats.-MNA/Reuters

Eurasian continent," Putin

said. After inspection tours

during Russia's latest large-

scale military exercise, Putin

said, "Combat-capable Army

Few surprises in early SAG awards

Los Angeles, 23 Feb — Tim Robbins won best supporting actor for crime thriller "Mystic River" on Sunday at the Screen Actors Guild Awards and Renee Zellweger won supporting actress in Civil War drama "Cold Mountain," giving both performers a major Oscar boost.

The Screen Actors Guild, or SAG, awards provide strong clues to potential winners of Oscars, the US film industry's top honours which will be handed out next Sunday, as winners here often go on to claim Oscars.

SAG also gives out trophies for television and leading that group was a performance by the highly acclaimed Mervl Streep for cable TV network HBO's "Angels in America," about the AIDS epidemic in New York in the early 1980s.

Onstage, Streep read a poem she clearly wrote for the occasion and eschewed her off-the-cuff speech last month when she won a Golden Globe award for the same role and criticized President George W.

Bush's State of the Union speech for ignoring some national problems.

Also in TV categories. "Sex and the City," which was airing its final episode on HBO on Sunday, won the SAG trophy for best ensemble cast in a TV comedy, and HBO drama "Six Feet Under" earned the award for best cast in a drama for the second consecutive year.

Tony Shalhoub won the SAG trophy for best actor in a TV comedy, and Megan Mullally earned the honour of best actress in a comedy. Keifer Sutherland earned the SAG award for best actor in a TV drama for "24," and Frances Conroy was named best actress in a drama for HBO's "Six Feet Under"

Oscar voters at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences pick a best film, but SAG names only winners in acting categories, with the night's top award going to a best ensemble cast. In that group, Oscar frontrunner "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" goes up against other Oscar hopefuls, "Mystic River" and horse racing tale "Seabiscuit".

The two final nominees in that group are independent films "The Station Agent," about a group of social misfits who form an unlikely bond, and "In America," based on Irish director Jim Sheridan's first year living in New York with his young family.

MNA/Reuters



22-month-old brothers Clarence, left, and Carl Aguirre, conjoined twins, are shown before surgery at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore in New York, on 20 Feb, 2004.-Internet

Sino-Indian cooperation important for Asia's stability, prosperity

BELJING, 23 Feb- Observing that relations between India and China were vital for the stability and prosperity of the two countries, Asia and the world itself, a senior Chinese leader has said that "good momentum" in their ties should be maintained.

Developing Sino-Indian good-neighbourly relations conforms to the fundamental interests of the two peoples, helps promote unity and cooperation among Asian nations, and benefits the stability and prosperity of the region and the world at large, Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here. Tang, who oversees China's foreign policy affairs, also stressed that China and India should maintain the good momentum of their bilateral ties, and realize the consensus reached by the two heads of state according to the declaration on the principles for relations and comprehensive cooperation between China and India.

Tang made these remarks here on Thursday while meeting R L Bhatia, co-chairman of the China-India eminent persons' group (EPG), which concluded its fourth session here on a positive note.

Bhatia former Junior Minister for External Affairs, said the EPG, as authorized by both governments, would continue its due role in promoting friendly cooperation between the two countries.

The fourth session was held in a very cordial atmosphere and both sides exchanged views in a frank manner on a range of issues and reached agreed on ways to further cement the bilateral ties, Bhatia told PTI.

He said the delegation members felt that India-China relations were developing at a faster pace after the historic visit to China by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in June last year.

By exchanging views on cooperation in fields like politics, economy, culture, media, science and technology and putting out suggestions, the two sides promoted bilateral friendship and cooperation, he said.

The Indian delegation also called on Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and exchanged views with him on matters of common interest.

The EPG, which serves as an advisory agency for the two governments, was set up on a consensus reached between then President KR Narayanan and former Chinese President Jiang Zemin in May 2000.

combat capability Moscow 23 Feb terrorism or local conflict to a | responsibilities for global Russian President Vladimir major aggression". However, stability and security Putin on Sunday stressed the throughout the enormous

he promised that Russia "does need to improve the Russian not have and cannot have Army's combat capability to aggressive objectives of imperial ambitions". Speaking on the eve

"Russia's defence potential was and remains a composite part of international security, and historically Russia bears special

China to produce 1.7 billion tons of coal this year

tons of coal this year, a record high, to meet the growing

The figure will be 100 million tons more than the output

According to the forecast by the China Society of Coal Industry, coal consumption in China will continue to grow at a fast pace this year as demand will increase due to the

New coal-fired power generating units with a combined capacity of 260 billion kilowatts will be operational this year, which translates into extra demand for 60 million tons to 70 million tons of coal, while the iron and steel sector will need an additional 30 million tons of coal, and the cement sector will consume an extra 10 million tons of coal.-MNA/Xinhua

and Navy are an crucial factor of national security' MNA/Xinhua

BEIJING, 23 Feb-China is expected to produce 1.7 billion

domestic demand, industry sources said Sunday.

of 1.6 billion tons in 2003, or up 6.25 per cent.

country's strong economic growth.



Ronaldo double leads Real to win over Espanyol

MADRID, 23 Feb- Ronaldo scored twice to help leaders Real Madrid to a 4-2 victory at Espanyol in their Primera Liga match on Saturday.

The win gave Real 56 points from 25 matches and left Valencia. in second place on 51 points, needing a home win against fourthplaced Barcelona later on Saturday.

Ronaldo put Real ahead from the penalty spot in the 26th minute, after Raul had gone done under little or no challenge from Espanyol keeper Erwin Lemmens, but the home side hit back with a penalty of their own from Raul Tamudo five minutes later.

Real regained the lead with an eye-catching goal from Roberto Carlos early in the second half, Raul Bravo headed in a third after 66 minutes and Ronaldo danced past the keeper to score his 21st league goal of the season a few minutes later.

Alberto Lopo took advantage of some lazy Real defending to pull one back six minutes from time.

Deportivo Coruna lost ground on the leaders when they were held to a goalless draw at Atletico Madrid.-MNA/Reuters

Arsenal defeat Chelsea to take grip on title

LONDON, 23 Feb-Arsenal took a firm grip on the Premier League on Saturday with a 2-1 victory over Chelsea that dealt a hammer blow to the big-spending Londoners' title chances.

FA Cup fifth round win on

Sunday and Claudio

Ranieri's side are now nine

points adrift in third, facing a

seemingly insurmountable

task to reward billionaire

owner Roman Abramovich

with a title in his first season

Gudjohnsen, sent off on the

hour for a second booking,

fired Chelsea ahead after just

27 seconds but replies in the

first 21 minutes from Patrick

Vieira and Edu gave Arsenal

unbeaten in 26 league games

since the start of the season,

are now closing in on the

record of 29 held by Leeds

(1973-74) and Liverpool

In an explosive start, Chel-

sea went ahead from their

very first attack, the goal

stemming from Vieira los-

Arsene Wenger's side,

Iceland striker Eidur

at the club.

the points.

(1987-88).

Arsenal's come-from-behind win at Stamford Bridge extended their lead to seven points over Manchester United, who were held to a 1-1 draw at home by relegation-threatened Leeds United in another lunchtime kickoff.

Paul Scholes fired United ahead on 64 minutes but a fine header from Alan Smith three minutes later restored parity. It was Arsenal's second

victory over Chelsea inside

Rangers avenge League Cup defeat by Hibernian

GLASGOW, 23 Feb - Rangers beat Hibernian 3-0 in the Scottish Premier League on Saturday to avenge their recent League Cup semifinal defeat by the Edinburgh side.

The Scottish champions lost on penalties following a 1-1 draw after extra-time two weeks ago but hit back to cut the gap on runaway leaders Celtic, who play bottom club Partick Thistle on Sunday, to 10 points.

Shota Arveladze and Steven Thompson converted penalties early and late in the game, with striker Michael Mols, a substitute like Thompson, grabbing Rangers' second goal midway through the second half.

Arveladze was one of four players to miss in the semifinal shootout against Hibs but made no mistake after being felled by French defender Mathias Doumbe in the opening moments. Mols hammered a second to give the home side breathing space before Thompson, who replaced Arveladze, netted a penalty after Roland Edge fouled Fernando Ricksen. MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy (R) trys to pass Leeds United's Didier Domi. Manchester United slipped seven points behind leaders Arsenal after a tenacious Leeds side rode their luck to hold the reigning champions to a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford on 21 Feb, 2004.-INTERNET

Seedorf strike earns Milan win in derby thriller

MILAN, 23 Feb- Serie A leaders AC Milan fought back from two goals down to beat city rivals Inter 3-2 in a pulsating derby on Saturday, a stunning 85th-minute strike from Clarence Seedorf completing the comeback.

Serbian midfielder Dejan Stankovic put Inter ahead in the 15th minute direct from a corner and, after Brazilian striker Adriano had hit the post, Inter doubled their lead through a deflected 25-metre drive from Cristiano Zanetti.

Milan brought on Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson at the break and, after just 11 minutes, he had pulled one back for the European champions, pouncing after Francesco Toldo had failed to hold on to a Seedorf shot.

A minute later, Milan equalized thanks to an outstanding solo goal from Brazilian Kaka, who picked up possession on the half-way line, raced towards the Inter defence unchallenged and fired home a pinpoint shot from the edge of the area.

The game looked to be heading for a draw until five minutes from time when Seedorf unleashed a spectacular shot from more than 25 metres out that rocketed into the top corner.

The result leaves Milan on 55 points, now eight points clear of second-placed AS Roma, who play Siena at home on Sunday.

Third-placed Juventus, who have 46 points, are away to Bologna.-MNA/Reuters

a week following their 2-1 midfield.

The Cameroonian surged down the left and his cross was flicked on by Adrian Mutu for Gudjohnsen, arriving late, to convert at the far post

Thierry Henry, recovered from a bruised foot, was off the mark with a speculative volley but the leaders were on level terms on 14 minutes.

Dennis Bergkamp was the provider, splitting Chelsea's defence wide open with an incisive pass that Vieira took in his stride to slot home his first league goal of the sea-

A blunder from Chelsea keeper Neil Sullivan then handed Arsenal a second goal after 21 minutes.

Sullivan, deputizing for the injured Carlo Cudicini, misjudged his position in coming for a corner, allowing Edu to pounce and fire ing possession to Geremi in home.— MNA/Reuters

Status-quo unchanged at top of Ligue 1

PARIS, 23 Feb - Monaco had thrown the gauntlet with a 4-0 thrashing of Montpellier on Friday but their leading Ligue 1 rivals Olympique Lyon and Paris St. Germain lifted it with solid 2-0 victories on Saturday.

Lyon outshone lowly Le Mans with goals in each half by Florent Malouda and Sidney Govou to stay within four points of pacesetters Monaco.

Paris St Germain, despite a below-par performance, took their unbeaten run to 13 games with victory over En Avant Guingamp at the Parc des Princes.

Cameroon's Modeste Mbami and Serb Danijel Ljuboja were on target, allowing PSG to stick one point behind defending champions Lyon in third place.

Against Lyon, Le Mans found themselves one man down in the 39th minute after South African Thabang Molefe was sent off for a foul on Peguy Luyindula.

As a result, Lyon never really had doubts about the outcome. Lyon's win may not have been as impressive as Monaco's demolition of Montpellier, thanks to a Manuel Adebayor hat-trick, but it was an improvement after the champions' loss at home to lowly Guingamp two weeks ago.

While AJ Auxerre, beaten at home by Lyon last week, dropped points again by conceding a goalless draw at Bastia, Sochaux earned a precious 2-0 away win at Racing Strasbourg.

Pierre-Alain Frau and Mickael Isabey scored in the first half for Sochaux, now tied with Auxerre on 45 points, four behind PSG .- MNA/Reuters

AC Milan Brazilian defender Cafu, right, and Inter Milan forward Christian Vieri challenge for the ball during their Italian first division soccer match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, Italy, on 21 Feb, 2004.-INTERNET



Real Madrid's players, from left, Roberto Carlos, from Brazil, Borja Fernandez, Zinedine Zidane from France, Ronaldo from Brazil, Santiago Solari from Argentina and Juanfran protect their goal from a free kick during a Spanish League soccer match against Espanyol in Barcelona, Spain, on 21 Feb, 2004. Real Madrid won 2-4.-INTERNET

Bayern close Bundesliga gap before facing Real

BERLIN, 23 Feb — Bayern Munich secured a morale boosting win before facing Real Madrid by battling to a 1-0 home victory over Hamburg SV in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

The champions stayed second in the standings but closed the gap on Werder Bremen to seven points.

Werder, chasing a fourth German title and their first since 1993, were held to a 0-0 draw at Schalke 04.

Argentine defender Martin Demichelis hit the winner with three minutes left in Bayern's last game before the opening leg of their Champions League first knockout round tie at home to Real Madrid on Tuesday.

Bayern were without goalkeeper Oliver Kahn and playmaker Michael Ballack because of a sore back and a heavy cold respectively, but coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was hopeful both will return to face Real.

The home side showed little initiative in a dull game until substitute Demichelis, left unmarked in the box, converted a fine pass from striker Roque Santa Cruz to keep alive Bayern's slim title hopes.

Third-placed VfB Stuttgart, who host Chelsea in the Champions League on Wednesday, prepared in poor fashion, dropping 10 points off the pace with a 1-0 defeat at lowly Kaiserslautern.- MNA/Reuters

Poland notch easy 6-0 win over **Faroe Islands**

SAN FERNANDO (Spain), 23 Feb- Four goals from veteran striker Pawel Kryszalowicz powered an under-strength Poland to a 6-0 victory over the Faroe Islands in a friendly international in Spain on Saturday.

Kryszalowicz opened the scoring in the ninth minute and added three more inside four minutes before halftime. courtesy of good work from Wisla Krakow forward Maciei Zurawski and a series of errors from the Faroe defence.

The Poles scored twice more in a scrappy second half to cruise to a seventh consecutive win, unhindered by the absence of their foreign-based contingent, who returned to their clubs after Wednesday's 2-0 win over Slovenia in San Fernando.

Poland missed out on Euro 2004 qualifying behind Sweden and Latvia, but a rejuvenated young squad have since beaten Italy and Serbia in friendlies and are looking forward to World Cup qualifiers against England, Wales, Austria, Northern Ireland and Azerbaijan starting in September.-MNA/Reuters



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Tuesday, February 24

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7:25 am

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8:00 am

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6.

7. အရေးပြိုင်ပုံ

1. ကျေးစူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်

ဘုရားကြီး၊နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ

နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချပ်၊

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2. To be healthy exercise

4. Nice and sweet song

Songs of vestervears

3. Morning news

5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

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	Greeting	
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	Beauty & Scenic	16:50
	Sights "Mingalabar"	
):06		16:55
2:06	Hsinbyushin Temples,	16:57
	Stone Carving and	10.57
	Monasteries	
):10	Headline News	17:00
):12	New, Modernized	17:05
	Myanmar Food	
):15	National News	17:10
0:20	The Unique Pindaya	
	Shan Paper	
):25	Traditional Lamp	17:15
	Dance	17:20
9:30	National News	
35	Myanmar Profile	17:25
	"Myanmar's answers	
	to Skin-care"	
9:40	Song "A Way for Lov-	
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	National News	Eve
9:50	Panwa with its Tourist	19:30
. 50	Attractions	19.50
9:58	Song of Myanmar	10.22
	Beauty & Scenic	19:32
	Sights "Come and See	
	Myanmar"	10.00
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24	-2-2004 (Tuesday)	
	lar Programmes for	19:40
	wers from Abroad	19:42
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	Beauty & Scenic	20:00
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	Shan Paper	20:35
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	Dance	20:40
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	"Myanmar's answers	20:55
	to Skin-care"	20:57

4:30 pm

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4:50 pm

5:05 pm

5:20 pm

5:30 pm

7.

2. Songs to uphold

National Spirit

4. Musical programme

5. အစားသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ

6. Dance of national races

(ဓာတုဗေဒ)

ယူးချောင်းတံတာ

8. ອອາະອາະລະຕິດກະອາໜິດຕໍ່

ပဏမနစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြအားလုံး)

3. English For Everyday Use

8:20 a	m	5:45 p
20:57	A Day in the Life of	23:32
20:55	Dancing Duo	
20:43	Spirulina Products	23:30
20:40 20:45	National News	EV
20.40	Research Institute Parabaik Writings	Ev
20:35	Central Agricultural	
20:30	National News	
20:25	Song "Hakha"	25.25
20:20	Shwedagon Pagoda	23:25
20:15 20:20	National News Photo Exhibitions of	
20.17	dalay Golden City"	23:20
20:10	Song "Towards Man-	23:15
20.05	Food "Pone Ye Gyi"	
20:00	National News Myanmar Traditional	23:10
19:58 20:00	The beautiful green ice	23:10
10.50	Dance	23:05
19:55	Dawei Water Fetching	23:00
	"Taunggyi, Inlay"	
19:50	Tour In Myanmar	22:55
19:42 19:45	National News	22:55
19:40 19:42	Headline News Baungte: My village	22:50
19:40	(Pyi Cultural Site)	22:45 22:50
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	Sights "Mingalabar"	22:40
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	Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See	22.10
17.23	Beauty & Scenic	22:10
17:25	Myanmar Star Tortoise Song of Myanmar	
17:20	Preservation of Myanmar Star Tortoise	22:05
17:15	National News	22:00
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	The Jewel of the	21:55
17:10	Song "Mawlamyaing	21.50
17:05	The Ancient City of Myanmar (Bagan)	21:45 21:50
17:00	National News	21-47
	Hotel and Spa	21:42
16:57	The Inlay Khaun Dain	21:40
16:55	Wararya Dance	
10:50	Myanma Tapestry Art- ist	21:55
16:45 16:50	National News Myanma Tapestry Art-	21:35
16.45	Teak	
16:40	Finished Products of	
10.00	Orchestra (Bwe Song)	21.23
16:30	National News Myanmar Musical	21:20 21:25
16:30	Sights "Mingalabar"	21:15
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16:20	Panwa with its Tourist	21.05
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21:25	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Myanma
	Panorama & Myanma
	Sentiment"
21:35	Hsinbyushin Temples,
	Stone Carving and
	Monasteries
21:40	Headline News
21:42	New, Modernized
~	Myanmar Food
21:45	National News
21:50	The Unique Pindaya
21.55	Shan Paper
21:55	Traditional Lamp
22.00	Dance
22:00	National News
22:05	Myanmar Profile
	"Myanmar's answers
22.10	to Skin-care"
22:10	Song "A Way for Lov-
22:15	ers" Notional Nour
22:15	National News
22:20	Panwa with its Tourist
22:25	Attractions Songs On Screen
22.23	Songs On Screen "Heh! Little Girl"
22:30	National News
22:30	Myanmar Musical
22.55	Orchestra (Bwe Song)
22:40	Finished Products of
22.40	Teak
22:45	National News
22:50	Myanma Tapestry Art-
22.00	ist
22:55	Wararya Dance
22:57	The Inlay Khaun Dain
	Hotel and Spa
23:00	National News
23:05	The Ancient City of
	Myanmar (Bagan)
23:10	Song "Mawlamyaing
	The Jewel of the
	Crown"
23:15	National News
23:20	Preservation of
	Myanmar Star Tor-
	toise
23:25	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Come and See
	Myanmar"
Eve	ening Transmission
	(23:30-1:30)
23:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
23:32	Song of Myanmar
5:45 p	
	usical programme
5:55 p	m
10. Si	ng and Enjoy
1 < 20	-

14. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြီး ပြည့်အကျိုး

musical oldies

15. The mirror images of the

16. (၅၉)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု

အစီအစဉ် (စစ်နှိ စစ်ရေး စစ်တေး

အကယ်ဒမီ ဦးကိုကိုနှင့် ယဉ်ကျေးမှု

ကဗူာ)(အဝိုင်း–၁) (ဂီတလုလင်

တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသား/သူများ)

အချစ်ဆိုသည်မှာ" (အပိုင်း–၂)

International news

Weather report

နိုင်ငံခြားစာတီလမ်းတွဲ

The next day's

programme

7:30 pm

7:35 pm

8:00 pm

18.

19.

20.

21.

17. News

the Pa O Family

21:00

the Pa O Family		Beauty & Scenic
National News		Sights "Mingalabar"
Traditional Weaving	23:36	Hsinbyushin Temples,
Art		Stone Carving and
Myanmar Modern		Monasteries
Song "Magnificent	23:40	Headline News
Darka Bridge"	23:42	New, Modernized
National News		Myanmar Food
Myanma Rubber	23:45	National News
Song of Myanmar	23:50	The Unique Pindaya
Beauty & Scenic		Shan Paper
Sights "Myanma	23:55	Traditional Lamp
Panorama & Myanma		Dance
Sentiment"	24:00	National News
Hsinbyushin Temples,	00:05	Myanmar Profile
Stone Carving and		"Myanmar's answers
Monasteries		to Skin-care"
Headline News	00:10	Song "A Way for Lov-
New, Modernized		ers"
Myanmar Food	00:15	National News
National News	00:20	Panwa with its Tourist
The Unique Pindaya		Attractions
Shan Paper	00:25	Song of Myanmar
Traditional Lamp		Beauty & Scenic
Dance		Sights "Mingalabar"
National News	00:30	National News
Myanmar Profile	00:35	Myanmar Musical
"Myanmar's answers		Orchestra (Bwe Song)
to Skin-care"	00:40	Finished Products of
Song "A Way for Lov-		Teak
ers"	00:45	National News
National News	00:50	Myanma Tapestry Art-
Panwa with its Tourist		ist
Attractions	00:55	Wararya Dance
Songs On Screen	00:57	The Inlay Khaun Dain
"Heh! Little Girl"		Hotel and Spa
National News	01:00	National News
Myanmar Musical	01:05	The Ancient City of
Orchestra (Bwe Song)		Myanmar (Bagan)
Finished Products of	01:10	Song "Mawlamyaing
Teak		The Jewel of the
National News		Crown"
Myanma Tapestry Art-	01:15	National News
ist	01:20	Preservation of
Wararya Dance		Myanmar Star Tortoise
The Inlay Khaun Dain	01:25	Song of Myanmar
Hotel and Spa		Beauty & Scenic
National News		Sights "Come and See
The Ancient City of		Myanmar"
Myanmar (Bagan)		
Song "Mawlamyaing		2-2004 (Wednesday)
The Jewel of the	Mo	rning Transmission
Crown"		(03:30-07:30)
National News	00.00	
	03:30	Signature Tune
Preservation of		Greeting
Myanmar Star Tor-	03:30 03:32	Greeting Song of Myanmar
Myanmar Star Tor- toise		Greeting Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic
Myanmar Star Tor- toise Song of Myanmar	03:32	Greeting Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
Myanmar Star Tor- toise		Greeting Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic

ourist bar Song) ts of Art-Dain ty of vaing the of rtoise d See ıy) on ar'

ım (Pyi Cultural Site) 03.40 Headline News 03:42 Baungte: My village 03:45 National News 03:50 Tour In Myanmar 'Taunggyi, Inlay 03:55 Dawei Water Fetching

Dance

Tuesday, February 24

Tune in today:

Perspectives

National news

News/Slogan

International news

Lunch time music

- Eye games (Sweet)

-If I sing you a love

song (Bonie Tyler)

English Speaking

Weekly sports reel

Course (7)

Article/Music

Music for your

News/Slogan

listening pleasure

8.30 am Brief news

Music

Music

Slogan

Music

Music

8.35 am

8.40 am

8.45 am

8.50 am

9.00 am

9.05 am

9.10 am

1.30 pm

1.40 pm

9.00 pm

9:15 pm

9.25 pm

9.35 pm

9.45 pm

22:00 pm PEL

	ualay Golden City	00.00	
04:15	National News		"Myanmar's answers
04:20	Photo Exhibitions of		to Skin-care"
	Shwedagon Pagoda	06:10	Song "A Way for Lov-
04:25	Song "Hakha"		ers"
)4:30	National News	06:15	National News
)4:35	Central Agricultural	06:20	Panwa with its Tourist
	Research Institute		Attractions
04:40	Parabaik Writings	06:25	Songs On Screen
)4:45	National News		"Heh! Little Girl"
4:50	Spirulina Products	06:30	National News
)4:55	Dancing Duo	06:35	Myanmar Musical
)4:57	A Day in the Life of		Orchestra (Bwe Song)
	the Pa O Family	06:40	Finished Products of
)5:00			Teak
)5:05	Traditional Weaving	06:45	
0.00	Art	06:50	Myanma Tapestry Art-
5:10	Song "Magnificent		ist
5.10	Darka Bridge"	06:55	Wararya Dance
5:15		06:57	The Inlay Khaun Dain
5:20			Hotel and Spa
5:25	Song of Myanmar	07:00	National News
5.25	Beauty & Scenic	07:05	The Ancient City of
	Sights "Myanma Pano-	07.10	Myanmar (Bagan)
	rama & Myanma Sen-	07:10	Song "Mawlamyaing
	timent"		The Jewel of the
05:35		07.15	Crown"
55.55	Stone Carving and	07:15 07:20	National News Preservation of
	Monasteries	07:20	
05:40		07:25	Myanmar Star Tortoise
05:40		07:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic
55.42	Myanmar Food		Sights "Come and See
05.45	Nyanmar Food National News		Signts "Come and See Myanmar"
15:45	National News		Myanmar



Monday, 23 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in upper Sagaing Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were $(3^{\circ}C)$ to $(4^{\circ}C)$ below normal in Chin, Kayin, Rakhine States, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (4°C) above normal in Mon State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (1°C) in Hakha. Maximum temperature on 22-2-2004 was 36.0°C (97°F).

Minimum temperature on 23-2-2004 was 15.5°C (60°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-2-2004 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 22-2-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-2-2004 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 10 mph from East at (12:30) hours M.S.T on 22-2-2004.

M.S.1 on 22-2-2004. Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 24-2-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Tweightenic Dividient waveleave will be accessful for in its the and Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar area.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-2-2004: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-2 -2004: Fair weather.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 24 February, 2004 15 Beauty & Scenic 03:58 The beautiful green ice National News

Myanmar Traditional

Food "Pone Ye Gvi"

Song "Towards Man-

dalay Golden City"

04:00

04:05

04:10

05:50

05:55

06:00

06:05

The Unique Pindaya

Lamp

Profile

Shan Paper

Traditional

Myanmar

National News

Dance

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears a report on Pharmaceutical Factory Project in PyinOoLwin presented by Minister U Aung Thaung. -— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

inspects...

(from page 1) Next, Managing Director of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries U Myint Oo reported on requirement of water, electric power and energy, tablets, capsules, medical powder and lotion to be produced on completion of the project, sanitation measures and progress of construction tasks.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions to officials.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected already-completed buildings and measures be ing taken for installation of machinery.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Anisakhan Airport where Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported on the brief history of the airport, existing runway and arrangements being made for extension of the runway. (See page 8)

Prime Minister receives EU ambassadors

YANGON, 23 Feb - Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received ambassadors of European Union (EU) led by Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Myanmar Dr Klaus Peter Wild this afternoon at Konmyinttha here.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet .-- MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Vice-Chairman-1 of the New Mon State Party Naing Htaw Mon and Vice-Chairman-2 Naing Raw Sa and party. -— MNA

Prime Minister receives national race leaders of New Mon State Party

YANGON, 23 Feb -Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Vice-Chairman-1 of the New Mon State Party Naing Htaw

Naing Raw Sa and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here at 5 pm today Also present were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen

Ohn Myint, Minister for

Mon and Vice-Chairman-2 | Livestock and Fisheries | Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for the Progress of Border Areas



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives ambassadors of European Union (EU) led by Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Myanmar Dr Klaus Peter Wild. - MNA

and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nvein, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and senior military officers of the Office of Military Intelligence.

At the meeting, the national race leaders said that they support seven-point future programme (road-map) of the State, adding that they will participate in the tasks for successful implementation of the roadmap under the leadership of the government. Next, the national race leaders reported on assistance of the State to be provided for development of education, agriculture, livestock breeding, road and economic enterprises of the region.