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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects entrance of Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate in Kawa Township.— MNA

Bago Division facilitated with dams, reservoirs and sluice gates one after another in addition to regional development projects

Prime Minister attends inauguration of Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate in Kawa Township

YANGON, 28 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, this morning left here by helicopter and arrived in Kawa Township, Bago Division, this morning.

They were welcomed there by Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Commander

Maj-Gen Ko Ko and officials. The opening of the new Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate constructed by the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation took place at the pandal of the facility, with an address by the Prime Minister.

Also present were Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, service personnel and others totalling over 5,000.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that with a view to reclaiming wetlands and low-lying areas between Bago and Sittoung Rivers, the Government has been building sluice gates where necessary. The Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate is the fourth of its kind in the region.

The government built sluice gates one after another. Paddy can be cultivated on the wetlands along the Bago-Sittoung Canal both in monsoon and in summer. Those areas could not be put under crops in the past owing to the floods and sea water. He said he was pleased

to know that valuable farmlands reclaimed are beneficial to local farmers and they contribute towards food sufficiency of the nation.

The agricultural sector plays the main role in ensuring sufficiency of basic needs of the people and strong national economy. And as for respective regions, the agricultural sector, a good basic foundation, plays the main role in ensuring regional food sufficiency, improving regional economy and elevating the living standard of local farmers.

In a bid to lay basic foundations to enable the nation

to stand tall among the world nations, and to raise the national economy independently, the Government places emphasis on promotion of the agricultural sector.

Regarding the State's economic objectives, measures are being taken for bringing about industry-based agriculture as the first step for the emergence of agro-based industrialized nation.

In particular, the Government places emphasis on advanced agricultural methods and high-yield strains of crops for boosting production. Being well aware of the

concept that with the progress of the agricultural sector, the economic sector and development foundations will meet with the targets, the Government gives top priority to the agricultural sector.

Now, the Government has been striving for enabling the nation to catch up with the development of international community and to exist as long as the world does. Measures are being taken systematically for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the Union and improving economic and social life of the entire people.

In the process, the Government has been laying basic foundations such as manufacturing products in agriculture, livestock breeding, meat and fish, mineral and energy sectors, establishing small and medium industries, and trade businesses across the nation. Moreover, it has been constructing roads, bridges and irrigation facilities in the strategic places spending a huge sum of funds.

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Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate in Kawa Township.— MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 29 February, 2004

Strive further for regional and national development

Development of a nation or a region and its stability and peace are interrelated. That is why the Government, in its drive to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation, is placing great emphasis on national solidarity, regional peace and stability and prevalence of law and order.

In an attempt to ensure development of the entire Union, the State Peace and Development Council gives top priority to the tasks for upgrading of border areas that lagged behind in development due to internal armed insurgency.

Consequently, peace and stability has been restored in border areas, and local people have enjoyed fruitful results of regional development based on peace and tranquillity.

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 made an inspection tour of Muse the other day. At the meeting with local authorities, departmental officials and members of social organizations held in Muse, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the Government has been implementing plans and projects for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the Union including Muse. With peace and stability, the projects can be implemented effectively and thoroughly, he noted.

In the past, Muse District encountered lack of peace and stability owing to the armed insurgency. But, now the entire Shan State (North) including the district with peace and stability is marching towards development speedily. Among the border trade centres, Muse can make largest import and export turnovers in the nation.

Entrepreneurs are thus not to give priority to short-term profit but to do border trade businesses most fairly.

Now, thanks to prevalence of peace and stability among the national brethren, tasks for economic and social development can be carried out peacefully without any disturbance across the nation including Muse District.

Therefore, the entire national brethren are urged to contribute more towards national and regional development tasks based on already-achieved concrete solidarity and amicable friendship, while enhancing peace and stability.



Administrative Board Chairman Capt Maung Tin (Retd) delivers an address at the annual general meeting of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged. — MNA

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'



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah inspects the guard of honour at the 20th National Day of Brunei Darussalam at the National Stadium in Bandar Seri Begawan on 23 February. — MNA

Brunei Darussalam celebrates National Day

YANGON, 28 Feb — Brunei Darussalam held its 20th National Day at the National Stadium in Bandar Seri Begawan on 23 February evening.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hj. Saleha.

Hninzigon Home for the Aged holds annual general meeting

YANGON, 28 Feb — The 2003 annual general meeting of Hninzigon Home for the Aged was held at 9.30 am today at the Home with an address delivered by Administrative Board Chairman of the Home Capt Maung Tin (Retd) who presided over the meeting.

The annual report and balance sheet were submitted and new administrative board was elected at the meeting. The meeting then ended with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

MNA

Accompanied by royal relatives, His Majesty and Her Majesty arrived at venue at 8.30 pm. Just after the arrival of His Majesty and Her Majesty, the national anthem was played. His Majesty inspected the Guard of Honour comprising personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Royal Brunei Police Force.

After His Majesty had taken the dais, there was a march past by 87 contingents from government agencies, schools and other bodies accompanied by music and patriotic songs.

A total of 20 parachutists from the Royal Brunei Air Force descended on the stadium to the delight of the thousands of spectators. A 350-member

choir group collectively sang the songs of patriotism.

Next, the 6,000-member troupe presented performances of pom-pom dances, swordsmanship and sports skill demonstrations, in the presence of more than 25,000 spectators. Among the entertainment programmes was the fly-past by several paramotors carrying personnel from Fire Services, drawing a great attention of the audience. During the intervals,

there were fireworks displays over the sky.

In the middle of the programmes, His Majesty read the National Day message.

The motto of this year's National Day was "Patriotism Teras Keteguhan Bangsa" or "Patriotism, the Core of the Nation's Strength".

The celebration of the Brunei Day was held for the first time on a grandest scale, which ended at 11 pm. — MNA

Defence Services Museum to be closed temporarily

YANGON, 28 Feb — The Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, will be temporarily closed for the public beginning 1 March so as to decorate the museum for holding the exhibition to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. The exhibition will be kept open on 26 March 2004. — MNA

Officials leave

YANGON, 28 Feb — Myanmar Industrial Producers Association Executive Committee members Dr Aung Win Maung (Shwe Eya and Grand Master International Co) and U Hla Myint Shwe (United Pacific Co) left here by air this afternoon for Osaka, Japan, to attend the 24th Kankeiren ASEAN management seminar from 1 to 5 March 2004. Officials concerned saw them off at Yangon International Airport.

MNA



Dr Aung Win Maung and U Hla Myint Shwe seen before departure at Yangon International Airport.

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US troops kill two Iraqis

AL-QAEM, 28 Feb—Iraq has been witness to more violence with US occupation soldiers gunning down two Iraqis in the town of al-Qaem.

Aljazeera's correspondent reported that the soldiers opened random fire on civilians returning from a mosque after Friday prayers when their vehicle was hit by an explosive device.

Besides the two deaths, three others were wounded in the firing. Elsewhere in Iraq, two US soldiers were lightly wounded in a bomb

blast in Tikrit on Friday morning. Another was seriously hurt after his convoy came under attack in Khallis, 45km northwest of Baghdad.

Three occupation soldiers were also wounded on Thursday night south of Tikrit when a grenade was fired at their vehicle.

The string of violent inci-

dents came amid an apparent stalemate in the Iraqi Governing Council over drawing up a temporary constitution for the country's transitional government.

Differences remained about the role of women, Islam and numerous points on the details of federalism.

In Kufa, near the holy Shia city of Najaf, radical Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr meanwhile threatened revolt if US-occupation administrator Paul Bremmer continued to oppose making Islam the main basis of the temporary constitution.

"I call on all believers to

remain prepared, to confront the occupation," he said. "I will follow this path even at the risk of being killed or arrested," Sadr said. The country's minority Turks also took to the streets on the day pressing for their rights.

Demanding that their rights be enshrined in the interim constitution, many of them went on a hunger strike outside the main US military headquarters in Baghdad.

"Today a pen and a strike, tomorrow a Kalashnikov to kill those who would deny us our rights," said a banner strung up in front of makeshift camp.—Internet

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Infant mortality tops Iraq health agenda

BAGHDAD, 28 Feb—Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson predicted on Friday a fast turnaround for Iraq's health care system.

Thompson is leading an American delegation in Iraq that includes top US officials in cancer care, infectious diseases and mental health.

"We think that with our expertise and with the wonderful cooperation from the Iraqi medical community, we have a chance to re-establish Iraq as a center of excellence," Thompson said. "We're looking at a very quick time frame."

Health officials will focus first on reducing Iraq's high infant mortality rate, hoping to cut it in half by 2005.

The US delegation toured an American military hospital in Baghdad that is widely regarded as the best equipped facility in the country.

Internet



A US Army Blackhawk helicopter hovers over Iraqi protesters in Al-Mansour district on 27 Feb, 2004 to protest the alleged killing of Sheikh Mahmoud al-Timimi by the US forces at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq on Thursday.

INTERNET

Singapore's economy grew 1.1% in 2003

SINGAPORE, 28 Feb—The Singapore economy expanded by 1.1 per cent in 2003 compared to 2002, which is higher than the government's advance estimate of 0.8 per cent in January this year, said the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) here.

Growth in the fourth quarter of 2003 was 4.9 per cent year-on-year, which is also better than the government's earlier estimate of 3.7 per cent, said the MTI in its Economic Survey of Singapore 2003 published on Thursday.

Dampened by the Iraq War and the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak in the first half last year, all major economic sectors, except wholesale and retail trade and financial services, deteriorated from 2002, it said.

Particularly, construction continued to contract by a significant 11 per cent, it said.

According to the Economic Survey, total employment declined by 17,600 in 2003, less than the 22,900 job losses in the previous year, which was due to the turnaround in the second half of 2003.

The average unemployment rate rose to 4.7 per cent

in 2003 from 4.4 per cent a year ago, it said.

Singapore's external trade expanded by 9.6 per cent in 2003, up sharply from the 1.5-per-cent gain in 2002, said the MTI, citing recovery in the US and Japanese economies and the pickup in global electronics demand.

Despite the challenging economic conditions, manufacturing fixed asset investment commitments reached 7.5 billion Singapore dollars (about 4.4 billion US dollars) in 2003, albeit below the 9.0 billion Singapore dollars (about 5.3 billion US dollars) in 2002, said the MTI. When realized, the commitments would generate 6.4 billion Singapore dollars (about 3.8 billion US dollars) in value-added and create 10,700 jobs, of which 74 per cent would be for skilled workers, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, S Africa to enhance coop in construction field

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Feb—Malaysia and South Africa had agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of construction, Works Minister Samy Vellu said here.

The cooperation would also involve the private sectors of both countries, Samy Vellu told reporters after receiving a courtesy call from his South African counterpart, Stella Sigcau, at his office here.

South Africa, like Malaysia, gave priority to projects which directly benefited the people, said Samy Vellu.

Malaysia which had vast experience in privatization of key projects could share such expertise with South Africa. Other sub-fields which both countries could cooperate were construction technology, technical expertise, project consultancy and financing, he said.

Meanwhile, Sigcau said her four-day visit to Malaysia was to view the development of Putrajaya, Malaysia's newly-built administrative centre, as South Africa also had plans to build a new government administrative centre—MNA/Xinhua

Richard Butler says he was bugged too

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb—Former United Nations chief weapons inspector Richard Butler has said four countries bugged his conversations as he held negotiations attempting to disarm Iraq.

Responding to former British minister Clare Short's allegation that listening devices had been planted in the offices of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Butler said he was certain he was bugged in his time at the United Nations. "Of course I was, I was well aware of it," he told ABC radio on Friday.

"How did I know? Because those who did it would come to me and show me the recordings that they had made on others to help me do my job disarming Iraq. "They would say 'we're just here to help you' and they would never show me any recordings they had made on me."

Butler, executive chairman of the UN Special Commission to Disarm Iraq from 1997 to 1999, told of diplomats going to great lengths to keep conversations under wraps because they believed the UN headquarters in New York was full of spies.

"If I really wanted to have a sensitive conversation with somebody... I was reduced to having to go either to a noisy cafeteria in the basement of the UN where there

was so much noise around and then whisper, or literally take a walk in Central Park," he said.

Butler said he was bugged by the Americans, British, French and Russians.

"I knew it from other sources, I was utterly confident that I was bugged by at least four permanent members of the Security Council," he said.

"If I really wanted to have a sensitive conversation with somebody... I was reduced to having to go either to a noisy cafeteria in the basement of the UN where there was so much noise around and then whisper, or literally take a walk in Central Park." Ex-UN chief weapons inspector Butler said the allegations of bugging in Annan's office showed international relations could be a dirty game.

"If ordinary people knew how dishonest the game is they would mightily object," he said.

Meanwhile, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that the country's intelligence officials had seen transcripts of mo-

bile phone conversations involving Hans Blix, another former UN chief weapons inspector, that were supplied by either British or US intelligence services.

"Each time he entered Iraq his phone was targeted and recorded and the transcripts were then made available to the United States, Australia, Canada, the UK and also New Zealand," ABC journalist Andrew Fowler said, citing unnamed sources.

Prime Minister John Howard refused to comment, saying it was his policy to neither confirm nor deny intelligence matters. The United Nations has said it would be "disappointed" if Short's allegations about Annan's office being bugged in the lead up to the Iraq war were true.—Internet

Laos boosts coffee production

HANOI, 28 Feb — Laos has planned to increase its coffee production to 22,000 tons this year and 100,000 tons in the next ten years, according to Laos' news agency KPL on Friday.

To end this, the country is expanding its coffee cultivation on over 40,000 hectares in the Boloven highlands, thousands of hectares in Lao central localities and areas that share border with Vietnam.

About 95 per cent of Laos' coffee output are from southern provinces, mainly Champassak, Saravane and Sekong.

Laos has increased its coffee output from 8,576 tons in 1995 to 17,530 tons in 2000, and nearly 20,000 tons in 2003. The country has more than 26,000 hectares of coffee, with annual yield of 600 kilos per hectare.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi technicians test the telephone switches at the Mamoun communication tower in Baghdad, on 26 February, 2004. —INTERNET

Australian Iraq report under fire

BAGHDAD, 28 Feb—A parliamentary report is expected to clear Australian politicians of sexing-up pre-Iraq war intelligence but critics have already labelled it inadequate and demanded a second probe.

Instead of targeting politicians, the report of the bipartisan joint committee on intelligence, to be tabled on Monday, will criticise the quality of the advice spy agencies provided on the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, according to information leaked to the local media.

But the report's authors, reportedly frustrated they could not access raw foreign

intelligence or grill the Australian officials who prepared the pre-war reports, are expected to call for a second inquiry with stronger investigative powers.

The opposition Labor Party has gone further and demanded a royal commission, which has the power to force witnesses to give testimony.

"Irrespective of what is contained in this report, there

is now so much available on the public record which cries out for a royal commission into Australia's intelligence services and this government's handling of intelligence material in the lead-up to the Iraq war," opposition foreign affairs spokesman Kevin Rudd told reporters.

Rudd said a report in the *Age* newspaper quoting Defence Intelligence Organisation Director Frank Lewincamp saying Australian intelligence agencies were pressured to fall into line with US assessments of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction showed serious questions still needed to be answered.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has repeatedly denied the government put pressure on intelligence agencies to bolster the case

for war and said allegations that spy agencies had become politicised amounted to "defamation".

Downer said the government would consider a second inquiry if the report recommended it, but insisted the government had been scrupulous in its use of intelligence in the lead up to war.

He did not believe inquiries by the United States, Britain or Australia into the quality of the intelligence would "reveal anything terribly exciting or surprising".

US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, under pressure from their political opponents and media, have also decided to establish committees to investigate the quality of their pre-war intelligence.

Internet

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Putin says war in Iraq encouraged terror

Moscow, 28 Feb—President Vladimir Putin said Friday the US war in Iraq was a mistake that had encouraged terrorist actions there, adding that Russia would help bolster the UN role in the country.

Russia's criticism of the war in Iraq strained ties with the United States, but Moscow and Washington have sought to move past the rift.

"We believed, and I continue to believe, that the military operation was a mistake, and the subsequent events have confirmed it," Putin said at a meeting with students on a trip to Krasnoyarsk in central Siberia.

"Casualties keep mounting, and terrorists feel increasingly at home there," Putin said, according to the *ITAR-Tass* news agency.

"This is a very dangerous process," Putin said, adding that Saddam Hussein's regime had prevented terrorists from coming to Iraq.

Putin said that the United States has come to realize the importance of the UN role in an Iraqi settlement. "We will work in cooperation with all those who are interested in that," he added.

Internet



Iraqi Turkmen stage a rally in Baghdad calling for guarantees of Turkomen rights in Iraq on 25 Feb, 2004. — INTERNET

Judge drops charge on Stewart

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb—The most serious charge against lifestyle guru Martha Stewart has been dropped. The US federal judge overseeing the trial of the multi-millionaire dismissed on Friday the most serious charge of securities fraud, which carried a maximum 10-year prison term.

The decision was a major victory for Stewart, although she still faces charges of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and making false statements to federal investigators.

Explaining her decision, Judge Miriam Cedarbaum said the evidence provided to substantiate the securities fraud charge was "simply too weak" to prove criminal intent.

The ruling came as the defence and prosecution teams were due to begin their closing summations in the trial, which is expected to go to the jury some time next week.

Stewart is accused of ordering her broker to sell her stock

holdings in biotech firm ImClone after she received an improper tip that federal regulators would not approve ImClone's anti-cancer drug, Erbitux.

The securities fraud charge was always considered the weakest part of the prosecution's case.

It was based on the argument that Stewart's statements of innocence over the ImClone selloff were an attempt to mislead investors and halt the downward spiral in the share price of her own company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. —Internet

China sets up high-level AIDS prevention committee

BEIJING, 28 Feb—China's Cabinet has set up a high-level committee to coordinate the country's efforts to prevent and curb the spread of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), official sources said Thursday.

The organization, known as the AIDS Prevention Committee, was headed by Vice-Premier Wu Yi, and involves 23 departments and institutions of the central government and leading officials of concerned departments of seven provincial governments.

Addressing the first meeting of the committee, Vice-Premier Wu Yi said China should increase its sense of urgency in its efforts to prevent and curb the disease across the country.

AIDS has been on the rise in China, and it will have grave impact on the country's economic and social development and social stability unless it is brought under control before it is too late, said the Vice-Premier, who is in charge of the country's Ministry of Health.

The committee was designed to improve the leadership of the Chinese central government over AIDS prevention and treatment, and coordinate the prevention and treatment in areas hit hard by the disease, said the Vice-Premier.

Wu said the committee will mainly be in charge of formulating major policies, programmes regarding AIDS prevention and control, and help resolve major issues in the fight against the disease, and mobilize departments and institutions of the central government, local governments and the whole society to do a good job in the battle against AIDS.

She said China will continue to implement its policies to offer free anti-virus treatment to AIDS victims if they are farmers and the needy in urban areas, and provide free, anonymous blood tests for people in areas hit by the disease so as to have accurate information of the epidemic situation.

The country will continue to offer free education to orphans whose parents died of AIDS, and the financial costs will be covered by local governments, said the Vice-Premier. — MNA/Xinhua

Ancient general's tomb unearthed in N-W China

XI'AN, 28 Feb—Chinese archaeologists have unearthed the well-preserved tomb of a general of the Western Jin Dynasty (265-317) in northwest China's Shaanxi Province. The tomb, containing the general's remains, is located in Xianyang City, one of the most famous cities in ancient China. It consists of six parts including an inclined tomb passage, front and back chambers and entrance doors.

Objects unearthed included pottery basins, mills and jars and kitchen ranges and water wells made of pottery. The archaeologists have also excavated a complete set of weaponry such as iron knives, bronze cross-

bows and forks and some copper coins.

The most valuable find was a seal engraved with the words "military marquis", which shows that the status of the tomb owner was a general.

As the western and eastern Jin dynasties were short historical periods in ancient China and there was a turbulent situation at that stage, few cultural relics are left over from the period, let alone the tombs of high-ranking military officers.

Consequently, excavation of the tomb is of great value to the study of historical development in the Western Jin Dynasty, said a Chinese archaeologist. — MNA/Xinhua



Burned cars lay outside the Rihamawa police station after a suicide car bomb exploded in the Iraqi northern city of Kirkuk on 27 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Small quakes detected on volcanic island near Tokyo

TOKYO, 28 Feb—Japan's Meteorological Agency said on Friday it had detected several small earthquakes on a volcanic island south of Tokyo, but an official said the quakes were weak and that the chances of an eruption were low.

Six earthquakes measuring one on Japan's seismic intensity scale of seven were detected on Izu Oshima Island 75 miles south of Tokyo between Thursday evening and Friday morning, an agency official said.

Despite the small quakes, which were strong enough to be felt by some of the island's 10,000 residents, volcanic activity remains low, the official said.

"We don't think that the possibility of an eruption has risen yet...our view is that volcanic activity remains quiet," he said, adding that there had been no evacuation of residents and no reports of any damage. The official said the agency had left unchanged the volcanic intensity rating of the island at one on a scale of zero to five, in which five refers to a major volcanic eruption. — MNA/Reuters

Blix says I suspect US bugged me before Iraq war

LONDON, 28 Feb — Former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said he suspected both his United Nations office and his New York home were bugged by the United States in the run-up to the Iraq war.

Blix told the *Guardian* newspaper he expected to be spied on by the Iraqis, but to be bugged by the US he described as "disgusting".

Blix said his worst spy fears were realised when he was shown a set of photographs by a senior member of the Bush administration which could only have been obtained through underhand means.

"It feels like an intrusion into your integrity in a situation when you are actually on the same side," he told the *Guardian*, speaking from his home in Stockholm.

His claims will pour further fat on the fire following claims by a former British cabinet minister that Britain spied on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan during the same period. "If you had something sensitive to talk about you would go out into the restaurant or out into the streets," Blix said.

Blix admitted he had no conclusive evidence that the US had bugged him, but said his suspicions were first raised when he had trouble with his phone connections at his New York home.

"It might have been something trivial or it might have been something installed somewhere. I don't know," he said.

He was more concerned when John Wolf, the US assistant secretary of state for non-proliferation, visited him a fortnight before the war, when debate was raging as to whether Blix should be given more time to unearth weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Blix said he was presented with two pictures of an Iraqi drone and a cluster bomb, photos he believed could only have come from within the UN weapons office.

"He should not have had them. I asked him how he got them and he would not tell me and I said I resented that," Blix told the *Guardian*.

Claims by an intelligence official to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that his phone calls were routinely monitored from Iraq and the transcripts shared between the British, US and Australian intelligence services were unlikely, Blix said.

"I did not use my mobile phone there," he said.

"In any case, we were totally aware that Iraqis would have microphones in the walls," he said.

Blix said he was more convinced by the claims that the US was bugging the UN.

"The suspicions have been directed at the Ameri-

cans for bugging and I think that is more likely in New York in the run-up to the votes in the security council," he said "You are cooperating with the people who sit across the desk one day and if the next they are listening to you, it is an unpleasant feeling."

Asked if it was morally

questionable, he said: "Well, I don't know what morals they have. Questionable, yes." Clare Short, Britain's former international development secretary, alleged Thursday that British intelligence agents had eavesdropped on Annan's conversations and that she had seen the transcripts. — *Internet*



The remains of the car of the suicide bomber that struck the Rahimawa police station is seen at the site of the attack in the Iraqi northern city of Kirkuk on 27 Feb, 2004. — *INTERNET*

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Iraq's Olympic suspension lifted

BAGHDAD, 28 Feb — The International Olympic Committee has lifted the suspension of Iraq, enabling its athletes to compete at the Athens Olympics 2004 under the national flag.

The new Iraqi Olympic Committee was elected last month, and its return was ratified at a meeting in Athens.

The Committee's new chief, Ahmed al-Samarrai, said the body was starting from zero, but it was "the first step".

Some Iraqi athletes have already been identified as possible entries to the Athens games, and various countries, including the United States, Canada, Germany, Japan, France and South Korea have offered training facilities.

Between seven and 27 Iraqi athletes are expected to compete.

"It's a hard job but we will do our best to prepare in the short period before the Games," said Mr Samarrai.

With the re-admission of Iraq the Olympic movement now has 202 national Olympic committees.

Internet

Kerry, Edwards differ on trade, death penalty

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — Democratic presidential hopefuls John Kerry and John Edwards sparred over trade and the death penalty in a debate on Thursday and each said he had the best chance to defeat President George W. Bush in November.

But Edwards, seeking gain ground against front-runner Kerry, made no effort to attack or draw sharp distinctions with the Massachusetts senator on most issues just five days before a crucial 10-state "Super Tuesday" showdown, and the two agreed frequently.

The prime contenders for the nomination to challenge Bush defended their votes to authorize the war in Iraq, and said they opposed gay marriage but believed the issue should be left to the states.

Kerry, who has dominated the Democratic race with wins in 18 of the first 20 contests, said he favoured the death penalty only in cases of terrorism. But asked in the debate at the University of Southern California about a child killer, he said he would "want to strangle that person with my own hands".

Edwards, who favours the death penalty, said it would fit such cases as the murder of James Byrd, a Black man dragged to death behind a truck in Texas.

Kerry took issue with Edwards' contention he would be the strongest candidate in the South and that he attracted the most support among the independent voters whom Democrats will need to win in November.

"There's nothing, nothing in the returns in 18 out of 20 primaries and caucuses so far that documents what John Edwards has just said," Kerry said.

"I won in Tennessee and I won in Virginia," said the four-term US senator. "John has said many times, 'We've got to stop stereotyping the people in the South. The people in the South believe the same things as people in the rest of the country.'"

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

Greenspan criticized for suggesting Social Security cut

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — US Democratic presidential contenders on Wednesday criticized Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan for his suggestions that future Social Security and Medicare benefits be cut in order to rein in soaring budget deficit.

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, the front-runner in the Democratic presidential race, said cutting Social Security would be "the wrong way to cut the deficit."

"If I'm president, we're simply not going to do it," he said during a campaign stop in Ohio, one of the 10 states holding contests Tuesday.

Senator John Edwards of

North Carolina, Kerry's chief rival for the nomination, called an "outrage" Greenspan's proposal to cut Social Security while making President George W. Bush's tax cuts permanent.

In testimony to the House of Representatives Budget Committee Wednesday, Greenspan said that as some 77 million baby boomers, those born after World War II, begin to retire in as early

as 2008, the nation will face major budget strains.

Greenspan warned that raising taxes to meet future benefits for Social Security and Medicare programmes poses a risk to the economy, saying the fiscal gap should be closed primarily "from the outlay side".

He suggested future cuts in Social Security and Medicare to avoid tax increases.

Distancing himself from

Greenspan, Bush said he did not believe current retirees' benefits should be cut, but restated his support for allowing younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in private accounts.

In his budget proposal sent to the Congress early this month, Bush proposed to cut by half within five years the budget deficit which has been soaring and reached a record 521 billion US dollars this year.

Chinese top legislator meets Thai Princess

BELING, 28 Feb — Wu Bangguo, chairman of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, met here Friday with Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Wu extended congratulations to Sirindhorn, who was awarded the honour of "friendship ambassador" Thursday by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

As good neighbours, friends and partners, Wu said, China and Thailand maintained a healthy and stable momentum in developing relations.

The state visit by President Hu Jintao to Thailand last year gave new impetus to bilateral ties, Wu said.

With the spirit of "treating neighbours well and keeping them as partners", Wu said, the Chinese leadership and the Thai side would further develop friendly and

cooperative ties.

Wu valued the contributions made by the royal family in promoting relations with China. He said the NPC would strive to strengthen cooperation with the Thai National Assembly, in a bid to spur comprehensive development of ties.

He also briefed Sirindhorn on China's economic and social situation and preparatory work on the upcoming second session of the 10th NPC.

Sirindhorn said she was very pleased to see great changes in China on her visit.

She hoped to learn more about the country and contribute more to cultivating friendship.

MNA/Xinhua



Miss Universe 2004 Amelia Vega of the Dominican Republic is cheered by children of the Aldeas SOS in Managua, Nicaragua, on Friday, 27 Feb, 2004. Vega is being invited to attend the Miss Nicaragua pageant. — *INTERNET*

Iraqi pipeline attacked north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 28 Feb — An Iraqi oil pipeline running between two refineries was on fire on Friday after coming under attack north of Baghdad, an official said.

"We have dispatched crews to put out the fire and assess the damage," an oil official told Reuters.

Reuters television footage showed a section of the pipeline ripped apart and on fire on the outskirts of Samarra, a Sunni Muslim city around 100 kilometres north of Baghdad.

The pipeline runs from the Dora refinery near Baghdad north to the Baiji plant through al-Jazeera, the Sunni area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers where most attacks against the US-led occupation forces have

come.

Iraqi refineries have been raising output in the last two months in an effort to beat petrol shortages.

Sabotage has focused on the north and targeting Iraq's internal network, running between oil fields, refineries, and storage facilities, and the country's export pipeline to Turkey, which has been shut since the war.

A recent attack on a pipeline near the holy Shiite city of Kerbala raised fears that sabotage was spreading south.

MNA/Reuters



A military convoy rolls through the border crossing between Kuwait and Iraq near the southern town of Safwan on 27 Feb, 2004 under US troops rotation programme.

INTERNET

Sichuan Province has more state-level scenic zones

CHENGDU, 28 Feb — Southwest China's Sichuan Province has had its four scenic zones included on the list of state-level tourism zones.

Located at the juncture between Shaanxi and Sichuan provinces, the Guangwu Mountain-Nuoshui River scenic zone boasts 128 karst caves in an area of 1,000 square kilometres.

With forest coverage of more than 90 per cent, the zone is home to more than 2,300 kinds of plants and over 200 species of animals.

The other three scenic

zones are the Tiantai Mountain, Longmen Mountain and Bailong Lake.

Sichuan boasts not only many world natural and cultural heritage sites, such as the Nature Reserve at Jiuzhaigou, Mt Qingcheng, the Irrigation System at Dujiangyan and Mt Emei and the Giant Buddha at Leshan, but also snow-capped mountains and pastureland, attracting many

tourists from home and abroad each year.

Sichuan is also home to most of the 1,000 giant pandas living in the wild.

Of China's 120 state-level scenic zones, 15 are located in Sichuan.

The province earned 42.08 billion yuan (5.08 billion US dollars) in tourism income last year, a year-on-year rise of 10.7 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

"ISS" astronauts abort spacewalk due to suit problem

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — Mission controllers on Thursday were forced to cut short the spacewalk that left the *International Space Station* empty for the first time after one of the two astronauts' spacesuit was found to be malfunctioning.

US astronaut Michael Foale and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri stepped out of the space station at 4.17 pm EST (2117 GMT). Their spacewalk was scheduled to last about five hours and 45 minutes.

However, after about three hours into the job, Kaleri reported that the cooling system inside his spacesuit was not working right, which prompted the Russian mission controllers to end their tasks early at 8.12 pm EST (0112 GMT) Friday.

"Initial indications are that a sublimator in the cooling system on Flight Engineer

Alexander Kaleri's spacesuit failed," the US space agency NASA said in a statement.

The sublimator is part of a system that removes heat and humidity from a spacesuit.

The mission went smoothly until the problem occurred and NASA said the two astronauts completed about 60 per cent of their scheduled jobs, including the installation of a torso-like device designed to measure the effects of radiation on simulated human tissue.

Among the tasks unaccomplished was the retrieval of a set of retro reflectors from the aft end of the

station's Zvezda Service Module. The retrieval will assist the preparation of navigational data for next year's arrival of a new European automated supply ship.

Mission controllers stressed that the early-ending of Thursday's spacewalk will not affect the future operations of the space station.

The spacewalk was deemed unusual because normally, when two astronauts are conducting spacewalk outside the *International Space Station*, a third person will remain inside to monitor systems or assist in a crisis.

MNA/Xinhua

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Rafsanjani says US policy on Iran doomed to failure

TEHERAN, 28 Feb — Iran's powerful former president said Friday that the United States' efforts in Iran, such as backing opposition forces or sparking new struggles against the Iranian regime, were doomed to failure.

Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is also chairman of the country's Expediency Council that decides on important state affairs, told worshippers in a weekly prayer session that he was pleased over the heavy voter turnout of last Friday's parliamentary elections.

Iran's Interior Ministry has announced that about 50 per cent of the country's 46 million eligible voters casted their ballots in the controversial elections, in which the conservatives won back their majority control over the Majlis, or Parliament.

Rafsanjani described the outcome as a big defeat of Iran's arch-foes like the United States, referring to US President George W. Bush's remarks that he had been disappointed by hearing the results of the elections in Iran.

"The US plan was either to have people they wanted win the elections or for the people not to show up at the polls," he said.

The conservative Iranian official said the parliamentary elections were a great success for the country on the international stage and Iran would keep open its door

to all states for cooperation except the United States and Israel.

The elections were held after some 2,400 reformist candidates were disqualified for running for the polls by the conservative Guardian Council.

Most reformist parties, except President Mohammad Khatami's Association of Militant Clerics, boycotted the elections.

Iran's reformist parties, who have been supporting Khatami's social and political reform plans, failed to retain their control over the Parliament. — MNA/Xinhua

UN Public Service Awards to be presented at Shanghai forum

BELING, 28 Feb — The United Nations Public Service Awards to recognize outstanding achievements and contributions in local government applications will be presented at Shanghai, sources said here Friday.

The awards will be presented by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) at the fourth Annual Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region (CIAPR IV) to be held in China's largest metropolis Shanghai, from May 20 to 22, 2004, said the sources with the organizing committee.

More than 20 international organizations and 50 cities will attend the forum, which would attract about 800 foreign politicians and business leaders and technical professionals worldwide, said Yang Xiong, Vice-Mayor of Shanghai and also the president of the forum. Titled

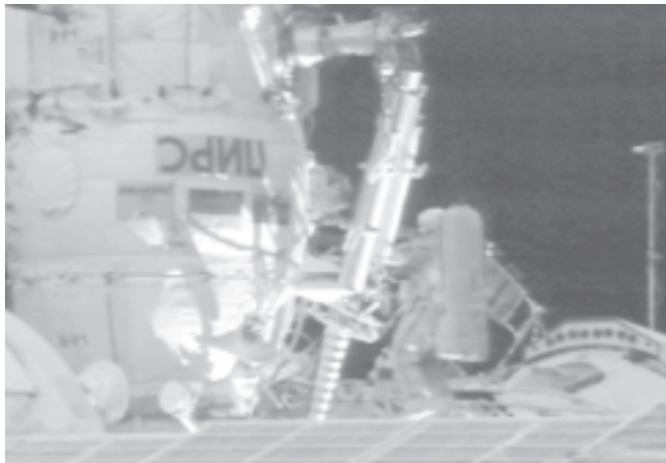
"Information and Communication Technology for Development: City Information", the CIAPR IV will focus on the global trends of information technology for development and its applications, and the information development strategy of China, said Yang. The CIAPR IV will be composed of a plenary session and a number of parallel sessions and workshops concerning the hot topics as well as knotty problems, such as e-government, e-business, development of information industry and technology and its applications, and information policy and cyber laws, according to Yang. — MNA/Xinhua

Cyprus aims to become regional research centre in applied tech

NICOSIA, 28 Feb — The Cyprus Government has decided to make the island a regional research centre in the field of applied technology, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism George Lillikas said Thursday.

Lillikas was speaking during a Press conference on a proposal by the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) on establishing in Cyprus a Research and Technological Institute on the Environment and Public Health and a similar programme to be available at Harvard University in Boston.

"Our accession to the European Union, the role which we want to play as the EU's bridge with the surrounding countries, the scientific human force we maintain and our geographic position create favourable conditions to promote Cyprus in the field of research", Lillikas said. — MNA/Xinhua



Astronaut Michael Kaleri outside the ISS. A duo of Russian and US space walkers left the *International Space Station* unattended for the first time to attach human imitating dolls to the space station's side before cutting the exercise short because of a faulty suit. — INTERNET

The new Myanmar and her pleasant environs

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

Myanmar has many regional and immediate neighbours lying in her environs. Thailand is bordering Shan State, Kayah State, Kayin State and Tanintharyi Division. Laos is bordering eastern Shan State. In the east of Laos are Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei. The ten ASEAN nations including Myanmar are standing with pride in the world as they are trying to promote the ASEAN values, characters and norms. These ASEAN members or the ten neighbouring countries are source of the bright and pleasant environs of Myanmar.

Likewise, Kachin State and Shan State are bordering the People's Republic of China. Since yore, Myanmar and China have been good neighbours living under the spirit of friendship and unity. The PRC and her neighbours — the Republic of Korea and Japan — too are helping beautify the pleasant environs of Myanmar as the ASEAN+3 nations.

India is sharing a common land border with Myanmar at Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division. India as a neighbour and the ASEAN+India is also creating a pleasant environs for Myanmar. There is Bangladesh bordering Rakhine State in the west. India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka along with Myanmar are members of BIMST-EC. The BIMST-EC members also play a role in forming a better environment for Myanmar. Thus, Myanmar is surrounded by the pleasant environs.

"The Union of Myanmar is striving to stand firmly as an independent and sovereign nation and to catch up with other nations in terms of development, while facing and overcoming many difficulties and hardships.

"Despite the existence of disturbances and obstacles, the entire nation is endeavouring for the emergence of sound political, economic and social foundations to heal the wounds and totally end the ugly incidents caused by the evil legacy of the past and to safeguard the nation from facing the evil situation again in the future."

The above are excerpts from the address delivered by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the conclusion ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 4 for university teachers.

Myanmar had to face bitter experiences and sufferings after it fell under colonialist subjugation. Myanmar during the time was like a person who could not see although he had eyes, who could not hear although he had ears, who could not touch although he had hands and who could not walk although he had legs. While endeavouring with might and main after the regaining of independence, Myanmar had to face the evil situation as there were attacks below the belt.

The nation has entered a new era thanks to the Tatmadaw's all-out efforts to build the nation in every sector.

"The Union of Myanmar is firmly building the national strength to effectively safeguard her independence and sovereignty. In the international sector, the nation is joining hands with the world countries in amity for equality, peace, prosperity and progress.

"In accord with the independent and active foreign policy which the nation has been strictly adhering to, Myanmar is cooperating with all the global nations, especially the neighbours, from the constructive point of view. Myanmar's relations with the neighbours and regional countries are further improving."

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

The addresses reflect the objective conditions of Myanmar at present.

ASEAN Vision 2020, laid down in 1997, is for the ASEAN to work together to further develop the human society where sympathy and love flourish, and for the emergence of an association collectively formed with the harmonious efforts of the members living in peace, prosperity and unity, while extending relations with the outside world. In accord with the vision, there emerges the plans to implement the ASEAN Free Trade Area and the ASEAN Investment Area.

Under the ASEAN Free Trade Area, Myanmar will have the opportunity to compete in the ASEAN market, and on the other hand, it will have to allow free

trade on most of the exports from other member nations. Thus, arrangements will have to be made from now on for the Myanmar goods to have the competitive edge in quality as well as in price.

Under the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) the investors from other member nations can enjoy equal rights with the local investors. Thus, it has become important for the production enterprises of Myanmar to be able to compete with the industries of the foreign investors. As there are encouraging signs, the production enterprises and the trade enterprises of Myanmar will make themselves ready for the new situation.

The Bali Concord II was laid down at the Ninth ASEAN Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2003. It is based on three pillars — the security community, the economic community and the social and cultural community for the future of the ASEAN.

The vision of the first pillar (the security community) is to support peace through the extended ASEAN cooperation, and to set up an ASEAN enjoying greater peace and stability through the solving of the problems peacefully between nations in an environment that is free from foreign interference and that respects each other's sovereignty.

The vision of the second pillar (the economic community) is to ensure free flow of goods, services and investments among the member nations, to bring about fair economic development, and to reduce poverty and socio-economic gap by creating the ASEAN into a single market and single production area.

The third pillar (the social and cultural community) hopes to set up a peaceful and prosperous environment through the improvement of the social standards of people from all walks of life, promotion of the education standards, setting up of an infectious diseases free society, extension of relations between academics and artists, and cultural preservation and exchanges.

If the pillars can be erected firmly, the ASEAN will become a family fully enjoying security, economic strength, and social and cultural values. Thus, Myanmar will have to make necessary arrangements from now on. Hence, Myanmar will have to make arrangements to fully implement the development programmes.

The Summit Meeting on Economic Cooperation Strategy between the four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand — was held successfully in Bagan in November 2003. The meeting has envisioned to increase competitiveness and generate growth at the borders of the four nations; to facilitate relocation of agricultural and manufacturing industries to areas with comparative advantage; to create employment opportunities and reduce income disparity among the four countries; and to enhance peace, stability and shared prosperity for all in a sustainable manner.

Under the ASEAN+3 programmes, Myanmar is extending its trade and relations with the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The nation is also extending trade and relations with India under ASEAN+India.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 27-2-2004)



Demonstration on hair treatment and making assorted hair styles by using Lolane hair products was held at the Thameedaw beauty salon on Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, on 27-2-2004 under the joint sponsorship of Grand Wynn Enterprise Ltd and SC Artistry Co Ltd of Thailand. Dr Prasertsak of Thailand explains hair styling at the demonstration. — NLM

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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန် ဖြစ်သည်။
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(၂၈-၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့



DONATION FOR HOME FOR THE AGED:
Wellwishers Dr Zaw Win, wife Dr Nwe Theingi and daughters Ma Yu Thet Nwe and Ma Su Thet Nwe of No 134, Thanlwin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, donated K 400,000 for construction of a room measuring 8 feet by 8 feet at the three-storey new hospital of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Administrative Board member of the Home Col Tin Thein Iwin (Retired) accepts the cash donation. — (H)

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

Donate blood

Bago Division facilitated...

(from page 1)

Besides, steps are being taken to ensure good social foundations of education, health and culture in all parts of the country.

Therefore, Bago Division, a reliable one for the nation, is being facilitated with dams, reservoirs and sluice gates one after another in addition to regional development projects.

Altogether 39 dams and reservoirs including Shwe Hlay sluice gate were constructed in Bago Division out of 157 dams and reservoirs built across the nation from 1988 up to date.

The government has spent nearly K 23,800 million on 39 dams and reservoirs in Bago division out of spending K 68,800 million on 157 dams and reservoirs the length and breadth of the nation. Medium and small scale dams and reservoirs were built in Bago Division since the division is a hilly one with many creeks and rivers and it is difficult to build large scale dams and reservoirs. In so doing, more funds have had to be used.

Shankaing sluice gate benefiting 25,000 acres of farmland in Waw Township, Paingkyon sluice gate benefiting 30,000 acres of farmland in Kawa Township, Tawa sluice gate benefiting 32,000 acres in Thanatpin Township including Shwe Hlay sluice gate to benefit 30,000 acres of farmland have been able to turn over 100,000 acres of wetland near Pagaingta embankment and Bago-Sittoung canal into farmland. As a result, Bago Division has emerged as a granary of the State like Ayeyawady Division.

Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate opened today is in the area where Yangon Division and Bago Division meet and it will benefit the farmland in Kawa Township, Bago Division and Kayan



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally unveils the stone inscription of the Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate in Kawa Township, Bago Division. — MNA



Township, Yangon Division. The sluice gate will also play a crucial role in greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon City.

Under the programme for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon City, arrangements are being made for ensuring water supply to Kayan, Thongwa, Thanlyin and Kyauktan regions with the use of water from Moeyungyi natural lake in Bago Division.

Therefore, the sluice gate opened today will benefit not only farmers in Bago and Yangon Divisions but also the tasks for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon City.

With sluice gates, local farmers will be able to carry out tasks for land preparation in the wetland areas on either side of Bago-Sittoung canal. Shwe Hlay sluice gate will benefit 20,000 acres of farmland in Kawa Township and 15,000 acres of farmland in Kayan Township numbering 35,000 and contribute to farmers in the two townships.

Conditions that are beneficial to farmers are being created and it is a result born out of the goodwill of the government which calls for building a peaceful community with the emergence of economic and social infrastructures for the entire national people.

The farmers, on their part, are to make concerted and

collective efforts for improvement of economic life of rural people and development of agricultural undertakings, realizing the genuine goodwill of the State.

The government with the aim of serving the interests of the farmers is introducing free paddy marketing system, abolishing the system to sell fixed paddy to the government and efforts will have to be made to boost the per acre yield and produce more quality paddy.

Continued efforts are to be made to serve the interests of farmers, distributing modern cultivation techniques, fertiliser and quality paddy strains to farmers, in addition to building irrigation infrastructures such as dams and sluice gates.

The farmers are to strive for the emergence of a stable paddy market, enhancement of their socio-economic life and national development while making efforts for improvement of agricultural undertakings.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on local people to strive for improvement of their socio-economic life with the effective use of irrigation facilities created by the State, to make efforts together with the government for national development and development of national economy, to safeguard the

sluice gate for its durability and to actively take part in successful realisation of the seven-point political programme of the State by doing their bit.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin explained that the Government has been providing assistance to the agricultural infrastructure which is suitable for States and Divisions for long term development of the agricultural sector. More and more sluice gates, dams and river water pumping projects are being implemented with a view to ensuring socio-economic development as well as boosting of agricultural produces. It is estimated that about K 69,000 million have been spent on implementation of dam and floods prevention projects to be able to benefit over 2 million acres of land in the nation. At present, a total of 39 dams and sluice gate projects are contributing toward success of cultivating double and multiple cropping in about 625,000 acres of farmlands in Bago Division.

In lower Myanmar, Bago Division is a region on which agricultural tasks can rely. Fertile land exists in the division for growing not only paddy, pulses and beans, edible oil crops and industrial crops but also the crops which can earn foreign currency. Therefore,

feasibility surveys were conducted at rivers and creeks originated in the middle Yoma (mountain ranges) and then dams, diversion weirs and sluice gates projects were built. In addition, Yenwe, Phyuhaung and Khabaung multi-purpose projects are being implemented for ensuring supply of water for agricultural purpose as well as for generating hydro-electricity.

Next, the commander spoke on the occasion. Then, Secretary of Kawa Township USDA A Uye Naing spoke words of thanks.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented cash prizes for civil and mechanical workers to officials. He then unveiled stone inscriptions of the sluice gate. Afterwards, Commanders Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin formally opened the sluice gate.

Next, General Khin Nyunt and party had documentary photo taken together with workers and local people. The Prime Minister cordially conversed with local people at the ceremony and inspected the sluice gate.

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported to the Prime

Minister that the 30-mile radius Yangon City greening project (eastern part) in the year round is being implemented. In this regard, arrangements are being made for diversion of water from Moeyungyi lake to Bago-Sittoung Canal through Zwebet diversion weir and then the water will be supplied to Ohnhne Creek through Bagan-Nyaungbin sluice gate. Water from Ohnhne Creek will be supplied to Kayan and Thongwa regions through canals along Thanatpin-Thongwa Road.

Then, the minister reported on the plan to supply water to cultivation areas in Kawa and Thanatpin townships in Bago Division and Kayan, Thongwa and Thanlyin in Yangon Division.

The Prime Minister approved the water supply plan. Next, Director-General U Kyaw San Win of ID reported on facts about Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate and benefited areas.

Commanders Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave supplementary reports.

Later, the Prime Minister gave instructions that as Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate can benefit Bago and Yangon Division, durability and maintenance tasks are to be carried out properly. — MNA



The Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate in Kawa Township, Bago Division. — MNA

Plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee concludes

YANGON, 28 Feb— The Tenth 47-member Plenary meeting of the fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held the second-day session at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Present were Vice-chairmen of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, the Secretary Sayadaw, Joint-Secretary Sayadaws, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Religious Affairs Department, Director-General U Sann Lwin of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and officials.

Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhiwamsa presided over the session and Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kundalajoti acted as master of ceremonies. Matters related to Vinicchaya, religious affairs and education were discussed. The Joint-Secretary Sayadaw sought approval of the report on undertakings of the first branch of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee during the period from 17 November 2003 to date. A general round discussions followed. Fourth Plenary meeting of the Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held on 1 March. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects ...

(from page 16)

It is imperative to form administrative machinery at different levels in effectively managing the affairs of a country and the township level officials play a leading role in making the administrative machinery sharp and dynamic, he stressed.

In Myanmar, not only administrative machinery at different levels but also work committees at different levels from central to state, division, district, township and rural regions have been formed and steps are being taken for development of economic, education, health, social and transport sectors of the State, he noted. At present, the high-ranking officials and central level officials have been making strenuous efforts, touring right down to grassroots level. Likewise, only when state, division, district and township level officials are striving, making field trips right down to grassroots level will the national objectives be successfully implemented. Nowadays, some district and township level officials are weak in taking measures and the national objectives will not be fully implemented should departmental officials and local authorities are discharging duties perfunctorily.

The government enlisting the strength of national intellectuals and intelligentsia is now making all-out efforts alongside the people for building a new modern and developed nation, relying on own wealth.

At such a time, service personnel are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for regional development and improvement of the living standard of local people, avoiding the practices of bureaucracy that

made only a perfunctory effort.

The township level officials are responsible for harmonious and equitable development of all villages in their townships and they are to make arrangements that contribute to the people, touring right down to grassroots level, he said.

They are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts with goodwill for the national development as committees comprising the departments concerned have been formed. The departmental officials are to keep in touch with the people to be able to know their requirements and fulfil them. Only then will they be able to carry out tasks for regional development and improvement of socio-economic life of the local people.

The Prime Minister and party arrived at Kawa Township Hospital where they were welcomed by medical Superintendent Dr Ye Myint, doctors and nurses. The Prime Minister and party inspected patient wards, the operation theatre, the medical store and the lab. Next, the Prime Minister permitted to upgrade the 16-bed township hospital into 25-bed one.

In Thanatpin Township, the Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister and party went to Thanatpin Township Hospital and inspected patient wards, the lab, the medical store, the X-ray room, the operation theatre and OPD. Next, the Prime Minister permitted to upgrade the 16-bed township hospital into 25-bed one, and inspected the place for construction of the extended building.

On arrival at Thanatpin Basic Education High School, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed

by members of the School Board of Trustees, Headmistress Daw Than Than, teachers and students.

Then, the General and party inspected computer application & e-mail room, computer aided instruction room, language lab, electronic media (video system) room, visual presenter electronic media (audio system) room and printed media.

At the hall of the school, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of the Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel and social organizations. Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Soe Myint Win reported on location and area of the township, rainfall, net cultivated acres, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, food sufficiency, cultivation of edible oil and pulses and beans, livestock breeding, education, health, implementation of five rural development tasks and requirements.

For development of the region, the Prime Minister managed to upgrade BEMS, BEMS (Branch) and self-reliant BEPS into BEHS, BEMS and BEMS respectively, the 16-bed township hospital into the 25-bed one and to open one Station Hospital and one rural health care unit. Next, the Prime Minister presented TV, VCR and a set of computer for Thanatpin BEHS to the Headmistress.

The Prime Minister delivered a speech on the occasion, saying that the purpose of their tour was to fulfil the requirements for development of Thanatpin Township. He added that he dropped in Kawa and Thanatpin townships to attend to the need for regional development of its environs after attending the inaugu-

ration of the Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate in Kawa Township.

The Tawa Sluice Gate was opened in Thanatpin Township in 2002.

The Bago Kwingyi in Bago is flooded in the rainy season and salty water enters the region in summer, and so the region could not put all the cultivable lands under crops. That is why, the present Government has been taking measures such as digging canals in Bago Kwingyi and construction of sluice gates in strategic places for transforming the low-lying areas to cultivable areas, he said.

Besides, it has constructed a cluster of small dams by damming the small creeks and canals that flow from Bago Yoma mountain range for ensuring irrigation of cultivated areas in all seasons, he noted.

At a time when the number of cultivable acres in Bago Division is growing, efforts are to be made for promotion of the agri-

cultural sector by extending cultivation of crops and using high-yield strains of crops, he urged the officials.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to take charge of responsibilities for Bago Division to become a granary of the nation like the Ayeyawady Division, he pointed out. In the inspection tour, requirements has been fulfilled for dam and sluice gate projects and measures for raising the agricultural sector being undertaken by the ministry and construction of embankments and small dams by the commander, he added.

At a time when the Government is rendering assistance for speeding up implementation of the agricultural tasks, regional development and elevating the living standard of the people, township level departmental officials are to collectively accomplish the aims of the State, he said.

He spoke of the need for township level officials to make trips to rural areas and to fulfil the requirements of the people and they are to report on some matters that they could not carry out to district level.

He said district level officials are to fulfill the requirements. Some that they could not undertake are to be submitted to the state and division levels precisely. Only when officials at different level make integrated and well-coordinated efforts, will progress be made in the nation, he said.

Therefore, officials concerned are to implement the tasks at different levels under the collective leadership and responsibility and strive for improvement of socio-economic life of the regions and their people with diligence and goodwill, he said.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

State, division, district and township level GAD ...

(from page 16)

The committee is making efforts to enable the MPF to be systematic one, to be the one loved by the people and to be a reserve force for the national defence, he said.

He said good administrative bodies much depend on state and division level GAD officials. Important GAD officials need administrative capabilities including efficiency, good character and uprightness.

He spoke of the need for state, division, district and township level officials to become the ones on whom the people rely and to win respect and trust of the people. They are to serve the interest of the people without burdening the latter. He said they need to create better conditions to be able to earn their living in peace under the protection of law. He also said they are to undertake the tasks for prevalence of law and order and uprightness of judicial pillar in coordination with judges, law officers and police officers.

Efforts to develop economy are to be made for national development. The government is making endeavours for food sufficiency and uplift of social standard progress of agriculture, fish and meat sector and industrial sector. Agriculture sector is the base of the State's

economy. Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of economy as well is the first point included in the four economic objectives. In 2002-2003, 44.3 per cent of the national economy including 14.5 per cent of export turnover is agriculture sector.

The Secretary-2 spoke at length on cultivation of ten crops, per acre yield set, cultivation of coffee, tea and pepper, perennial crops such as rubber, oil palm and Thitseint and four methods for success of cultivation.

He said farm workers go to work in factories. As a result, there is scarcity of workers in the farm work and charges have increased. Therefore, manual farming must be transformed into mechanized farming. He also stressed the importance of industrial sector in the development of the country, establishment of 19 industrial zones in major cities, assembling of vehicles, improvement of old items and innovation of new ones and production of affordable farm equipment for farmers.

He said 8.1 per cent of the national economy was contributed by fish and meat sector in 2002-2003. Administrative bodies are to provide assistance for boosting production of fresh water prawn and sea prawn. Breeding of prawn is prudent investment and the

government set the targets to increase from 5,300 acres of fish breeding ponds to 25,000 acres, he added.

He said the government is implementing three major projects—border areas development project, 24 region development project and rural development project and he urged the administrative bodies to take part in the implementation of the projects of the State, to discharge their duties, to work harder, to avoid taking bribe and to supervise their subordinates at the grassroots levels.

Next, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing reported on targets and implementation of GAD, accepting the guidance of the Head of State as work guidelines and cooperation in successful implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State.

Chin State Commissioner U Kyaw San submitted a paper on transformation of administrative systems at successive periods and not to burden the people. Next, Yangon Division Commissioner U Hla Soe reported on implementation of the tasks of GAD in Yangon Division.

In conclusion, the Secretary-2 said the government has made arrangements for welfare of service personnel, to discharge duties assigned, to lay emphasis on agriculture and livestock breeding for welfare of service personnel, to practise thrift.

The meeting continued after the concluding remarks of the Secretary-2.

MNA

Heroin seized in Phakant, Monywa

YANGON, 28 Feb —

A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Myitkyina Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched the house of U Sein Pe in Hsekhin Village, Phakant Township, on 29 January and seized 220 grams of heroin kept in the 11 soap

cases in the bedroom.

Sein Pe, son of U Thein Maung and Win Aung, son of U Than Aung, residing in Hsekhin Village, Haungpa Village-tract, Phakant Township, were filed by Phakant Police Station, under the Sections 15/19(A) and 21 of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit, Monywa Special Anti-Drug Squad, Bureau of Special Investigation and Monywa District Police Force, acting on information, searched Shwe Pyi Tan Ship which will leave Monywa for Kalewa at Shwenadi Jetty in Phayagyi Ward, Monywa, on 9 February and nabbed 0.212 kilo of heroin kept in the 13 soap cases of passenger Maung Sein Shin Khaing.

Monywa Police Station filed Maung Sein Shin Khaing, son of U Shin Zadan of Seikkantha Street, Binhton Ward, Kalay under Sections 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA



Sein Pe and Win Aung seen with seized drugs.— MNA



Sein Shin Khaing seen with seized drugs.— MNA

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 28 Feb — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming. — MNA

Pakistan seizes Afghan drugs after shootout

QUETTA (Pakistan), 28 Feb — Pakistani authorities seized more than 200 kg (440 lb) of opium after a shootout with smugglers near the Afghan border in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, officials said on Friday.

The drugs, valued around 3.8 million US dollars, were smuggled from Afghanistan and were destined for neighbouring Iran, a senior official of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) said.

The gunbattle erupted on Thursday night after smugglers fired on an ANF squad

when it tried to stop their vehicles near the town of Saindak, 400 miles west of Quetta, the provincial capital.

"It was a violent encounter," the ANF official said, requesting anonymity. Three smugglers, including two Afghans and a Pakistani, were arrested, he added.

Two other smugglers, either killed or hurt in the shootout, were carried across the border by colleagues. The official did not know how many smugglers there were.

MNA/Reuters



59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.



Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Yangon Division inter-district women's soccer tournament on 27-2-2004. (News reported) — MNA



Attack on UN staff in Sudan prompts aid suspension

NAIROBI, 28 Feb — The United Nations said on Friday it had suspended aid to around 30,000 people in southern Sudan after a Sudanese militia fired rocket-propelled grenades at eight of its aid workers in the area. No one was hurt in the early morning raid on the workers' camp in western Upper Nile last Friday, but the UN said it would put on hold further assistance planned for the area including a polio immunization campaign due later in the year.

"This direct, deliberate and sustained attack on aid workers is outrageous and intolerable. Attacks on humanitarian workers in conflict situations are war crimes," said Bernt Aasen, the UN deputy humanitarian coordinator for Sudan.

The UN said militia armed with rifles, machineguns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars attacked the site, provoking a counter-attack by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) who control the area. The aid workers had been on a four-day mission to deliver blankets, cooking pots and pans, and soap to about 13,500 people affected by the war.

"Planned follow-up activities in the areas of food security, health, agriculture, livestock and water have been shelved indefinitely across several locations in Western Upper Nile," the UN said in a statement. It said around 30,000 people would be affected by the suspension.—MNA/Reuters

Blair battles to calm Iraq bugging row

LONDON, 28 Feb — Tony Blair battled on Friday to rise above a row sparked by claims of British spying at the United Nations but the furor showed no signs of dying down as former UN officials complained their phones had been tapped.

The British Prime Minister steered clear of the bugging charge levelled by former minister Clare Short but warned critics like her that, unless they buried their differences, they risked ousting his Labour Party from government.

"The threat... is the alliance that has attacked the Labour Party throughout its history: the alliance between some of our own folk who are happy in opposition and the Tory (Conservative) Party who are desperate to get out of it," Blair told a party conference in Scotland.

The fallout from Short's claims proved relentless as former UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali and two former arms inspectors said they believed they had been spied on.

"From the first day I entered my office they told me: beware, your office is bugged, your residence is bugged," Boutros-Ghali told the BBC. "It is a tradition that member states that have the technical capacity to bug will do it without hesitation," he said.

Short, who was in government when London and

Washington were seeking UN backing to attack Iraq, started a diplomatic storm with her claim on Thursday that Britain bugged the offices of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the run-up to the war.

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said Annan would seek a fuller explanation from Britain's UN ambassador of the allegations.

"It's safe to say he would like a fuller explanation," Eckhard told reporters in New York. "I suppose when ambassador (Emyr) Jones Parry returns from London there might be a chance for the two to have an exchange." Short, who resigned after the war, said she had seen transcripts of Annan's conversations and that the spying "was being done for some time."

But Richard Butler, a former chief UN weapons inspector in Iraq, added his voice to the spying row, saying "there was abundant evidence that we were being constantly monitored."

"I had to go to the basement cafe in the UN where there was heaps of noise or I'd go and take a walk in Central Park and keep walking" to avoid eavesdroppers, he told BBC Radio.

His successor Hans Blix also said he believed his phone had been tapped, according to media reports from Australia.

MNA/Reuters

FBI's disciplinary system seriously flawed

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The FBI's disciplinary system for employees has suffered from a widespread perception of unfairness and favouritism and slow and inefficient handling of cases, according to a report released on Friday.

The report by former attorney general Griffin Bell and former top FBI official Lee Colwell found the perception through the FBI of a double standard, with management officials getting off easier than lower-level employees.

The report was requested by FBI Director Robert Mueller in May after congressional criticism of the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) and of a perceived climate of retaliation against those who report misconduct by superiors.

"OPR as an operating entity has lost touch with its original mission and no longer effectively serves the director and the FBI as a whole," according to the 67-page report. The office was created in 1976 to make sure FBI employees conduct themselves with integrity and to investigate allegations of misconduct or criminal violations. "OPR has become an unfortunate lightning rod both outside and within the bureau as a perceived source of unfairness and favouritism that adversely impacts morale at a time in our history when this country depends more than ever on one of the world's finest law enforcement agencies," the report said.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks, the FBI's top priority became protecting the United States from another terror attack. The report was released the same week the FBI said a number of FBI agents were under review by OPR for removing debris and other items as remembrances from the wreckage at the World Trade Center crime scene after the attack. The report said the office's reputation has suffered so much that it has become extremely difficult to attract top people to sensitive positions requiring experience, judgment and discretion.

It said cases moved far too slowly throughout the system, that offenses often were vague and ill-defined and that the system of precedents to determine punishment was seriously flawed and provided little guidance during the process. The report found the office's automation was seriously lacking, contributing to overall inefficiency. The report made 32 major recommendations. Mueller said he intended to adopt most of them. He said in a statement that he will assign an inspector in charge to oversee implementation of each major recommendation "to ensure that we make swift progress toward implementing the improvements suggested by the study."

MNA/Reuters

At least 10 killed in India train, bus collision

KOLKATA (India), 28 Feb — At least ten people were killed and about two dozen injured on Friday when a train and a mini bus collided at an unmanned crossing in India's eastern state of West Bengal, police said.

They said the accident took place at the railway crossing in Kumki Village, some 300 miles north of the state capital Kolkata.

"About 30 members of a marriage party were in the bus when the train hit the bus," said Inspector General of Police Chayan Mukherjee.

The injured, some of them in critical condition, were admitted to local hospitals, he added.

Accidents at unmanned railway crossings are common in India as it has one of the world's largest railway networks with almost 14,000 trains carrying more than 13 million passengers a day.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia's Aceh rebels receive prison terms

JAKARTA, 28 Feb — An Indonesian panel of judges at Medan District court sentenced on Thursday 10 members of the separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) to between two and 10 years in jail for acts of terrorism, *The Jakarta Post* reported Friday.

Of the 10, two were top brass in GAM's Medan Deli area of operations. This was the first trial in Medan to decide the fate of leading GAM personnel, the report said.

In the hearing, which was tightly guarded by dozens of police, the panel of judges sentenced GAM Medan Deli commander Manaf Abdi to 10 years in jail and his deputy M Yahya to six years.

MNA/Xinhua



Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at the work co-ordination meeting of the Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport on 27-2-2004. (News reported) — MNA

China, US sign cooperation agreement on Aviation

BEIJING, 28 Feb — Yang Yuanyuan, Director of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC), and Marion C. Blakey, administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States, held talks and signed an agreement Thursday on bilateral aviation safety cooperation.

The two sides reached consensus on cooperation in flight standards, air traffic control, aircraft certificates, airport management and training.

According to the agreement, the two sides will strengthen cooperation in all areas. They will continue the fruitful cooperation in flight standards and will jointly carry out a project aiming to support China's air traffic control to strengthen its safety, efficiency and compatibility. The two sides will enhance technical exchanges and cooperation on airport safety and management as well as improve training activities. — MNA/Xinhua

Wen Jiabao urges closer trade links with Denmark

BEIJING, 28 Feb — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Thursday that China and Denmark should further expand cooperation in such fields as high technology, environmental protection, farming, animal husbandry and energy technologies.

Wen said during talks with visiting Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen that China and Denmark share great potential in further expanding bilateral trade. The two governments should encourage cooperation between small and medium-sized businesses of the two countries so as to expand trade and cooperation.

After the talks, Wen and Rasmussen attended a ceremony for the signing of five documents between the two countries, including a memorandum on tourist visas and two agreements on shipbuilding.

Noting that enhancing political mutual trust and expanding trade and economic cooperation are the foundation of bilateral relations, Wen said China is ready to increase high-level contacts with Denmark and fully utilize the consulting mechanism between foreign ministries of the two countries to step up coordination and cooperation in international affairs.

Rasmussen said Denmark is willing to further political dialogue, expand trade and economic

cooperation, increase cultural and technological exchanges and step up personnel contacts with China.

Rasmussen reiterated that the Danish Government will stick to the one China policy, saying that the current "referendum" by the Taiwan authorities is of no good to peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits.

Wen and Rasmussen also met with Danish entrepreneurs accompanying Rasmussen to China after the talks.

MNA/Xinhua

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့် ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်စွာကျွေးသုံးခြင်းကြောင့်ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည်းရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည်းခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —

၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremers)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်းမရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗလများကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများ နွှော့ကိုယ်ပေါ် ရုစိရုစိ သွားသလိုခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန့်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိပဲ နားထဲတွင်ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံများကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinoses)၊

၃။ အတက်ကြွီရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits) (ဝက်ရုပြန် ရောဂါ ကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)၊

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)၊

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)၊

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချိုယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက်ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)၊

၈။ မိမိ၏နီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှု ကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆိုကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကိုစွဲလန့်စွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်း အပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေး ဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေးဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျ ကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခမြည့်ဝခြင်းတို့ဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်းလိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကို စားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုများကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တင့်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရုပ်သိမ်းကုသမှုရရှိ ခြင်းထောက်ဖြင့်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်လုံအိမ်သာကိုသုံးစွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အမြဲအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ပျားရည်နှင့် အစွမ်းသတ္တိ

- * ပျားရည်သည် အင်အားပြည့်တတ်ပေးရာတွင် အသန့်စင်ဆုံး အာဟာရတစ်မျိုး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် သတ္တုဓာတ်၊ အင်ဇိုင်းနှင့် အာဟာရဓာတ် အများအပြားပါဝင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်သည် သစ်သီး၊ သကြားဓာတ် အဓိကပါဝင်သော သကြားဓာတ်ပေါင်း တစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ဘက်တီးရီးယား၊ ပိုးမွှား၊ သန့်စင်ပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်တွင် ပဋိဇီဝ စွမ်းရည်သတ္တိပါရှိသဖြင့် အနာဒဏ်ရာများ အနာကျက်ခြင်းစေပြီး လျင်မြန်စွာ ပျောက်ကင်းစေပါသည်။
- * ပျားရည်စားသုံးပြီး မိနစ်ပိုင်းအတွင်း စွမ်းအားတိုးတက်လာစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုတွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတိမှတ်ခေါ်ဝေါ်ရန်နှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ပေးထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီမံများအားလည်း သတိမှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်း တောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီမံများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနည်းတို့ကို တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)

(၂) ကြီးမားကြီးမားနှင့်သတိပေးဌာန (ဖုန်း ၂၀၁၂၈၅/၂၀၁၂၈၄)

(၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံဌာန (ဖုန်း ၅၄၀၉၀၇/၅၄၀၉၀၄)

(ဖုန်း ၅၄၀၉၀၇/၅၄၀၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြပ်မက်မှုဌာန



Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yaacov Avrahamy. (News reported) — MNA

Netherlands hit by snow storms

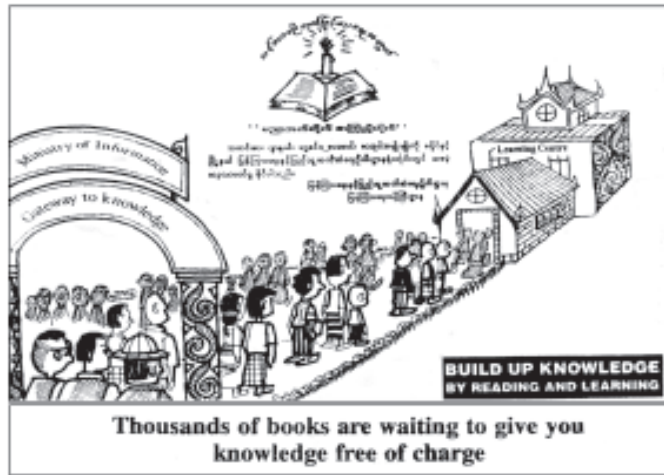
BRUSSELS, 28 Feb — Heavy snowfall and icy conditions have seriously disrupted rail and road traffic in the Netherlands, Radio Netherlands reported

Thursday.

Despite a warning from the national police force for motorists to stay at home if possible, snow, slippery roads and strong winds led to the second worst day of Dutch traffic jams ever on Thursday morning. From midnight onward, dozens of traffic accidents were reported, as well as damage caused by lightning. Snow ploughs were deployed, but hundreds of kilometres of traffic jams developed during the Thursday morning rush hour. Traffic delays started early and by 7.00 am there were 48 traffic jams extending to almost 330 kilometres. The Dutch traffic information centre said at about 8.00 am there were

63 traffic jams with a total length of 860 kilometres. Thursday was thus likely to be recorded as the second worst day in Dutch motor-ing history, trailing the delays of February 8, 1999, when traffic jams extended to a length of 975 kilometres, the local news agency said.

The longest delay on Thursday was on the A2 Den Bosch-Amsterdam motorway where a 57-kilometre traffic jam developed between the Deil and Amstel junctions. The rail network was badly hit by points failures. For several hours there were no trains in or out of Amsterdam. “Services are only now getting back to normal,” said Radio Netherlands. — MNA/Xinhua



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Viral diseases on rise in PNG

CANBERRA, 28 Feb—Viral diseases, including Japanese encephalitis, have been on the rise in Papua New Guinea (PNG), the country's English daily *PNG Post-Courier* reported recently.

The newspaper quoted senior Health Department officer James Wangi as saying that Japanese encephalitis is one of the potentially deadly diseases, which are easily confused with malaria.

"Many people are getting sick of viral conditions but they are treated for malaria. In other words, the health workers are not looking for other viral conditions and this (Japanese encephalitis B) is one of them," he said.

A mission worker suffering from Japanese encephalitis was rushed by plane to Australia last week and is reportedly paralyzed.

Wangi, the acting director for disease control, said Japanese encephalitis was not found in PNG until 1997, killing six at that time. Since then, the disease was reported in many parts of the country.

He said the disease is spread from animals such as pigs and birds to human beings by mosquitoes. When infected, the nervous system of a person's brain may be destroyed and there is no cure for the disease, he said.

There is no supply of the vaccine in PNG because of its high cost, he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

State pension scheme covers over 150m Chinese

CHENGDU, 28 Feb—More than over 150 million Chinese had joined the government-run pension schemes by the end of 2003, up 7 million from 2002, said Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Security Liu Yongfu here at a national meeting on retirement insurance.

In 2003, pensions totalling 263 billion yuan (31.7 billion US dollars) were paid out in China, Liu said, adding 11 million self-employed labourers and people with no fixed jobs had joined the national insurance scheme, up 3 million from 2002. Last year, Chinese paid 358 billion yuan to the national insurance fund, 250 billion of which was collected through private and state-owned enterprises, up 20 per cent year on year, he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

World billionaires' wealth swells thanks to booming stock markets

NEW YORK, 28 Feb—*Forbes* a New York-based, world-known business magazine said Thursday that the super-rich on its annual list of world billionaires finally saw fattened bankrolls due to a reviving global economy and flourishing stock markets. *Forbes* told a news conference that the total net worth of the world billionaires rose by 500 billion US dollars to 1.9 trillion dollars this year.

Warren Buffet posted the largest gains of the year, increasing his net worth by 12.4 billion dollars to 42.9 billion dollars. However, he still ranked after Bill Gates, who grabbed the number one seat for the 10th year in a row, with a net worth of 46.6 billion dollars.

Li Ka-shing, with his net worth of 12.4 billion dollars, was the richest Chinese on the list.

This year's list witnessed altogether 64 newcomers, including *Harry Potter* author JK Rowling with a net worth of one billion dollars. Her *Harry Potter* books have sold 250 million copies, and the movies have netted two billion dollars worldwide.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Ancient mountain stronghold found in S-W China

CHONGQING, 28 Feb—A mountain stronghold of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) was discovered in Yunyang County of Chongqing Municipality, southwest China.

The grand stronghold was built along the Jincheng Mountain, looking like the world famous Great Wall in Beijing, archaeologists said.

There were three beacon towers at the both ends and in the middle of the stronghold, connected by city walls, which were five kilometres long, five to seven metres high and 1.2 metres wide.

Archaeologists said that the stronghold had three gates. Words on a stele near a gate said that it was built in the Ming Dynasty.

Many parts of the stronghold were built on the cliffs of the Jincheng Mountain, using huge stones.

Experts were interested in and would make researches on how people managed to convey the stones onto the 1,400-metre-high mountain.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လှည့်အားပေးပါ

Europol smashes Internet child porn networks

AMSTERDAM, 28 Feb—Coordinated police raids across 10 countries on Thursday smashed a number of Internet child pornography networks and several people were arrested, European Union police agency Europol said.

Police seized computers, laptops, videos and other material containing images of child abuse and an unspecified number of suspects were being investigated.

The Hague-based Europol said in a statement that more than 40 locations were searched in simultaneous raids, with the main focus of the operation led by police in Wiesbaden in the central German state of Hesse.

The other countries involved in what it called operation "Odyssey" were Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Spain, Sweden and Britain, it said.

"Today's operation has exposed a complex and organized hierarchical structure that Internet networks of paedophiles and child molesters are using to protect themselves by hiding their identities and their atrocious activities," Europol said.

Earlier this month, German police detained about 50 suspects in a probe into a suspected child pornography ring that also involved five other European countries.

MNA/Reuters

Shanghai police crack major illegal migration gang

SHANGHAI, 28 Feb—Shanghai police announced Thursday that they had arrested seven members of a gang suspected of organizing illegal migration.

A spokesman for the public security bureau said they also stopped 144 people from illegally entering other countries, and seized 42 passports and a large amount of other materials used in illegal migration, such as forged visas and letters of invitation from abroad.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the home of Chen Yong, leader of the gang, in Baoshan District in May 2003 and found a large number of passports, plus copies of visas for overseas business trips and letters of invitation from abroad for business visa applications.

Chen was detained on 2 November last year. Police say Chen admitted in questioning that since late 2000, he and six others helped people migrate illegally by offering them fake letters of invitation from a rented office located in downtown Shanghai.

The "clients" paid 40,000 yuan (4,819 US dollars) or more for the services, which resulted in at least a dozen people migrating illegally.

Chen confessed that they earned over seven million yuan (843,374 US dollars) from their activities.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Germans offered cash to quite smoking

BERLIN, 28 Feb—The German Health Ministry has promised to offer cash for those who quit smoking in order to encourage smokers to get rid of their addiction.

As part of the "Smoke Free 2004" initiative, smokers who kick their nasty habit for the month of May will be eligible for 10,000 euros (some 12,000 US dollars) in cash and prizes.

The competition is part of an interna-

Over 100 million Chinese covered by medical insurance

BEIJING, 28 Feb—A total of 108.95 million people in China had bought medical insurance by the end of last year, a senior labour and social security official said on Thursday.

Wang Dongjin, Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Security, said this is the first time the number of medical insurance policyholders exceeded 100 million in China, which has a population of 1.3 billion.

China's medical insurance market is growing rapidly as China is restructuring its medical system to encourage the development of the commercial insurance market, and expanding market demand.

The vice-minister said an additional five million people classified as "flexible employees", or self-employed, bought medical insurance in 81 per cent of prefecture-level cities across the country.

A total of 45.73 million employees had bought insurance policies for workshop injuries by the end of last year, up 1.67 million year on year.

The vice-minister said 36.48 million employees have purchased insurance policies for giving birth in 29 provinces by the end of last year, up 1.6 million over the previous year.

MNA/Xinhua

Air China, ANA to start code-sharing cooperation

BEIJING, 28 Feb—Air China and Japan's All Nippon Airways (ANA) signed a code-sharing agreement here Thursday on China-Japan routes operated by both airlines, including cooperation on frequent flyer programmes and airport lounge use.

From 28 March this year, Air China and ANA will commence their code-share cooperation and jointly operate 95 flights per week from Beijing and Shanghai to Tokyo and Osaka.

ANA's 56 weekly flights from Tokyo and Osaka to Beijing and Shanghai will carry the Air China code. Air China's 39 weekly flights on the same routes will operate under Air China's and ANA's flight numbers.

Both airlines will also inaugurate flights from Hangzhou to Tokyo and to Osaka in their summer schedule, bringing the total code-sharing flights to 105 by 21 April.

Air China has already signed individual code-share cooperation agreements with more than 60 international or regional airlines, including Lufthansa, United Airlines, Asiana, Finnair, Austrian Airlines, SAS, Turkish Airlines and Dragon Air.

Air China's president Li Xiaxiang said "The code-share cooperation with ANA is an important step taken towards the strategy of expanding bilateral cooperation and globalized operations."

MNA/Xinhua

tional effort — with similar promotions in numerous other countries — organized by the World Health Organization.

Information on the campaign is available in drug stores, German rail service stations and other locations.

Health Minister Ulla Schmidt said that 34 per cent of German adults are smokers. Official statistics showed that 140,000 people in Germany die of tobacco-related illness every year. —*MNA/Xinhua*

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွင့်လင်းတိုးတက်လာသော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Hu Jintao urges closer ties with Denmark, Europe

BEIJING, 28 Feb — China wishes to push forward its relations with Denmark and Europe on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Friday.

In a meeting with visiting Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Hu said China and Denmark share overwhelming positive conditions for further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Noting that the two countries have no contradiction of interests and share the common will to push forward bilateral ties, Hu said bilateral cooperation in various fields made new progress in recent years.

Hu appreciated the Danish Government's adherence to the one China policy and support for China's reunification, saying the two countries should continue to strengthen exchanges, enhance understanding, expand common ground and deepen cooperation.

Rasmussen said in his current and first visit to China, he was deeply impressed with

the long-standing history, rapid economic growth and bright prospects of development in the world's most populous nation. He said Denmark support the continuous expansion of the strategic partnership between Europe and China so as to help maintain world peace.

Rasmussen said Denmark is ready to step up mutually beneficial cooperation with China in all fields.

Rasmussen arrived in China for a five-day work visit Tuesday. He will leave Beijing for home Saturday. During his visit, he held talks with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, met with Chinese entrepreneurs and witnessed the signing of five cooperative documents between the two countries. Besides Beijing, Rasmussen also visited Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows no internal migration wave after EU enlargement

BRUSSELS, 28 Feb — A study released by the European Commission (EC) Thursday shows that there is no large scale of migration from the acceding countries of the European Union (EU) to the EU-15 after the EU enlargement on May 1, 2004.

The study shows that even under conditions of full freedom of movement, migration from all new EU member states to all current member states would be likely to be about 1 per cent of the working age population of the former over the next five years.

This means that approximately mere 220,000 people from 10 new EU members would try to find job opportunities in the EU-15 every year. The figure is small compared to the EU's total population of 450 million.

The study goes on to show that the typical poten-

tial migrant from the acceding countries is "young, educated to tertiary level, or still studying, and living as a single person with no dependents".

"There is an increasing tendency for them to be female," added the study.

Investigation shows that overall only 2 per cent of unemployed people indicated a firm intention to move, of the people signalling a firm intention to move, 70.4 per cent are single.

"This study confirms the view of the EC that fears of a huge wave of migration from the new member states after

May 1, 2004 will be proven to be unfounded," said European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs Margot Wallstrom.

However, the study also shows that there is the serious risk of a "youth and brain drain" from the acceding countries.

Investigation shows that about 2-3 per cent of the 15-24 age-group in these states indicated a firm intention to move. About one-third of those who indicated a firm intention to move are students and a quarter educated to university level.

MNA/Xinhua

More than 600 still aboard burning Philippine ferry

MANILA, 28 Feb — Some 275 people were rescued from a burning Philippine ferry early on Friday, but 602 passengers and crew were still on board the stricken vessel as rescue ships raced to the mouth of Manila Bay, the Coast Guard said.

A radio station said one person had died and three hurt. The Coast Guard said it was checking the report.

The ferry was travelling from the capital to Bacolod in the central Philippines when a fire broke out in the kitchen, Coast Guard chief Arthur Gosingan told Reuters.

He said a cargo ship, the *Fortune Express*, rescued 200 people near Corregidor Island. A radio station reported another 75 people were rescued by a Navy vessel.

The manifest of the *Super Ferry 14* showed 717 adult passengers, seven infants and 153 crew were on board, more than the total of 717 people initially reported by a Coast Guard spokesman.

"The fire started in the galley," Gosingan said. "The ship tried to return to port in Manila but they could no longer control the fire, so the officers declared 'abandon ship'."

At least four Coast Guard vessels were speeding through the darkness to the scene, he said.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese man checks his mobile phone as he passes an advert promoting mobile phones. Chinese sent some 15.6 billion short messages through their mobile phones during January, a rise of 91 percent over the same period last year. — INTERNET

Bush, Schroeder put bitter war feud behind them

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — US President George W Bush and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder put their bitter feud over the Iraq war behind them on Friday but Schroeder brought up a new problem: the dollar's weakness against the euro.

"We've had differences in the past. But there's nothing wrong with friends having differences and we are both committed to put the differences behind us and move forward," Bush told reporters as he and Schroeder sat side-by-side in the Oval Office. Schroeder said he told Bush of German concerns about the weakness of the dollar versus the euro, which Germany feels is depressing German exports.

The official US position on the dollar — which Schroeder said Bush repeated to him — is that the Administration backs a strong US currency. But a cheaper dollar has helped the United States cope with its current record trade imbalance because it makes US-produced exports cheaper in foreign markets.

Schroeder said Bush told him that while he is interested

in a strong dollar, governments only have a limited ability to influence currencies. "I conveyed that we are obviously concerned about the euro-dollar relationship," he said.

German officials have said they are still not convinced of the reasons for the Iraq war that Schroeder had tried to head off in a fight that pitted Germany, France and Russia against the United States, Britain and Spain.

European opponents to the war feel vindicated by the US failure to find weapons of mass destruction that Bush had cited as the key justification to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

"We talked not about the past. We very much agreed on that. We have to talk about the present and the future now. We both have a great interest in seeing a stable,

democratic Iraq develop," said Schroeder.

Besides Iraq, the two leaders discussed resolving the problem of North Korea's nuclear programme, finding peace in the Middle East and stabilizing Afghanistan.

MNA/Reuters

Two drugs better than one for arthritis patients

LONDON, 28 Feb — Using two drugs is better than one in relieving the pain, swelling and joint destruction of rheumatoid arthritis, doctors said on Friday.

Although single drugs are effective in treating the joint disease that affects 1 per cent of people worldwide, combining them produces better results.

"The combination gives a good effect on joint destruction measured by X-ray. There was not only a halt of progression in the destruction in most patients but also signs of repair," Dr. Lars Klareskog, of the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, said in an interview.

He and his colleagues compared the impact of combination therapy to single drug treatment in a study of 686 arthritis patients who received either the drug etanercept or the standard treatment methotrexate or both together.

Etanercept is sold under the brand name Enbrel by Amgen and Wyeth.

After six months of the treatments, the researchers said the combination therapy relieved symptoms better than either of the drugs alone.

After one year, 35 per cent of patients taking the drug cocktail had a remission in

symptoms, compared to less than 20 per cent in the single drug groups.

The combination therapy was well tolerated and did not produce any more side-effects than the single drug.

"It appears that drugs with different actions are more efficacious when used together. What is interesting in this case is that it occurs without producing additional side effects," said Klareskog, who reported the findings in *The Lancet* medical journal.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic disease in which the body attacks its own healthy joint tissues, causing inflammation and damage. Symptoms include swelling, difficulty moving and pain. It can affect the wrist, elbows, shoulder, knees, hips and ankles and is more common in women than in men.

Klareskog stressed the importance of beginning treatment early with a traditional drug such as methotrexate. If patients do not respond to the treatment, combination therapy should be considered.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesian govt to get huge revenue from gas pipeline project

JAKARTA, 28 Feb — The government is projected to receive around 11 billion US dollars in revenue for 20 years from the massive gas pipeline project linking East Kalimantan with the heavily populated Java Island, according to a feasibility study report.

The government's portion represents 36 per cent of the total 31.1 billion dollars in revenue expected from the gas pipeline project, which

will start operation in 2008, said the report, made by consulting firm PT Pendawa.

"The government would get the bulk of the revenue," WMP Simanjuntak, president of state-owned natural gas distribution company PT Perusahaan Gas Negara (PGN) was quoted Friday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

PGN will start construction of the 1,780-kilometre pipeline in 2005. The pipeline will distribute gas from

producers in East Kalimantan mainly to industrial users in East Java and West Java. According to the study, the gas producers will be charged a toll fee of 89 cents per metric cubic feet (MCF) of gas distributed through the pipeline. The study also said that 27 per cent of the revenue would go to the investors financing the project, while the remaining 37 per cent would be used to pay costs.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Larsson double fires Celtic

GLASGOW, 28 Feb—Celtic begun their quest to reach back-to-back UEFA Cup finals with a comfortable 3-0 home victory over Teplice in a third round first leg match on Thursday.

The unbeaten Scottish Premier League leaders, who lost year's final 3-2 after extra time to Porto, punished the Czech side twice in the opening 12 minutes at Celtic Park through goals by strikers Henrik Larsson and Chris Sutton.

Larsson headed a third in stoppage time to put the Glasgow side on course for the last 16 of the tournament they entered by the back door after being eliminated from the Champions League.

Swede Larsson was a constant threat, prodding the ball through the legs of Tomas Postulka on two minutes before Sutton rounded the goalkeeper to slot the second. Teplice ousted Kaiserslautern and 2002 UEFA Cup winners Feyenoord in previous rounds but spent much of the first period defending, with Jiri Skala's shot that flew narrowly wide their only noteworthy effort.

They were fortunate not to concede a third goal when Postulka saved from Stephen Pearson before Tomas Hunal again denied the Scotland midfielder by clearing off the line. —MNA/Reuters



Valencia players celebrate their third goal against Besiktas during a third round first leg UEFA Cup soccer match in Valencia, Spain, on 26 Feb, 2004, which Valencia won, 3-2. —INTERNET

Ronaldinho gives Barca the edge at Brondby

COPENHAGEN, 28 Feb—A second-half goal from Brazilian Ronaldinho secured Barcelona a 1-0 away win against Brondby in a UEFA Cup third round, first leg match on Thursday.

Ronaldinho was the difference on the two teams and his goal came after his

own superbly struck free kick from 20 metres out thumped against the bar in the 63rd minute. The World Cup winner picked up the rebound on the left and placed the ball into the top corner of the net through the arms of Karim Zaza in the Brondby goal. "Ronaldinho's goal was

fantastic. He made the difference," Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard told a news conference.

"It was an important victory but we haven't won yet. We have to prepare in an optimal way for the second match." The Danish league leaders, coached by former Barcelona great Michael Laudrup, had matched their Catalan opponents manfully after a tentative start but the goal knocked the fight out of them and they face an uphill task in the second leg next week. —MNA/Reuters

Roberto Carlos may be punished for retaliation in Munich

BERLIN, 28 Feb — Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos could face disciplinary action for retaliating against Bayern Munich defender Martin Demichelis moments before the Brazilian scored in their Champions League match on Tuesday, UEFA said. "We've opened a disciplinary case against him and a decision will be announced by about 5 pm on Monday," a spokeswoman for UEFA's disciplinary panel in Nyon, Switzerland said on Thursday.

"There are many possible sanctions available. The most likely would be a suspension for one or several matches." —MNA/Reuters

Liverpool beat Levski 2-0 to ease pressure on Houllier

LIVERPOOL, 28 Feb—Superb second-half strikes from Steven Gerrard and Harry Kewell gave Liverpool a 2-0 victory in their UEFA Cup third round, first leg against Levski Sofia on Thursday.

The victory will come as some relief to manager Gerard Houllier, who won the UEFA Cup with Liverpool in 2001 but has come under increasing pressure since his team were knocked out of the FA Cup by Portsmouth last weekend.

After another 67 minutes of frustration for the Anfield faithful, captain Gerrard opened the scoring with a tremendously struck left foot volley when Kostadin Vidolov's clearing header dropped to him on the edge of the area.

The goal gave Liverpool a shot of confidence and moments later Australian Kewell collected a short corner on the right, side-stepped his way past a defender and curled an exquisite effort past Dimitar Ivankov.

Up until that point Houllier's men had looked incapable of finding a way through a

well disciplined Bulgarian side, although Milan Baros was unfortunate not to win a first half penalty.

The Czech striker also headed wide when presented with a clear sight of the target but it was after the break that Liverpool, and Michael Owen in particular, managed to test Ivankov. But the England striker is not in confident form and three chances in quick succession went begging. Late on Baros again saw a penalty appeal turned down.

Despite the misses, Houllier will have enjoyed the evening — especially the moment five minutes from time when the fans in the Kop stand sang his name and when he stood up to applaud their support, he was cheered around the ground. The second leg takes place in Bulgaria next Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

Last-gasp goal gives Valencia win over Besiktas

VALENCIA (Spain), 28 Feb—A last-gasp strike from Valencia defender David Navarro allowed his side to snatch a 3-2 win over Turkish champions Besiktas in their UEFA Cup third round, first leg at Mestalla on Thursday.

The young centre-back sent his looping header into the top corner after substitute Fabio Aurelio had launched a free kick into the area in the fourth minute of injury time.

"It was a strange game," said Valencia coach Rafa Benitez. "We had to fight back in the first half, almost lost it in the second and then ended up winning it. I'm not sure if we deserved it but you have to make the most of your chances."

Besiktas looked set to earn a valuable away draw after a classy first-half double from Romanian midfielder Daniel Pancu had twice given his side the lead against the run of play.

Pancu's first came in the 17th minute when he cracked home after fellow countryman and former Valencia striker Adrian Ilie picked him out with a superb cross-field pass to complete a lightning counter-attack.

His second came after another quick break, this time he picked up the ball just inside the Valencia half, fended off three defenders and caught keeper Andres Palop off guard with a fine angled shot.

But Valencia were back on level terms within min-

utes on both occasions thanks to well taken goals from midfielders Mohamed Sissoko and Fabian Canobbio.

Sissoko rose high above

the Besiktas defence to head home after a corner and Canobbio drilled in from the left-hand side of the area just before the break.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham hairstyle banned in China's under-17 national squad

NANNING (South China), 28 Feb—David Beckham may be one of the most idolized soccer star in China but his pony-tail hairstyle is strictly prohibited in the training camp of the Chinese under-17 national team here.

His Real Madrid teammate Roberto Carlos' bare head cannot be simulated either under a rule of the Chinese Football Association (CFA).

The rule was announced early this week when the spring training kicked off. The rule said: "Dyed hair, long hair and weird hairstyles are all strictly prohibited in the training camp and all players must cut hair short."

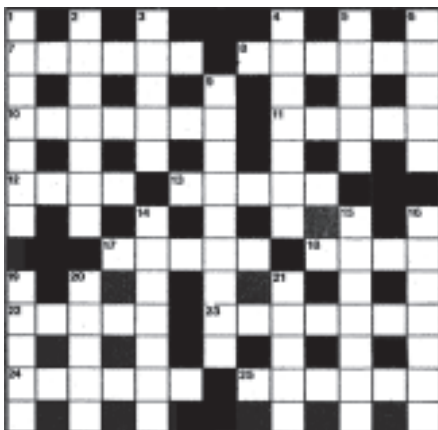
Feng Jianming, director of the CFA youth department, told the players: "You must learn how to behave as a true man before becoming a soccer star."

MNA/Xinhua



World number one and Dubai Duty Free Women's open defending Champion Justine Henin Hardenne of Belgium makes a backhand return to Spain's Conchita Martinez during the quarterfinal of the Dubai Duty Free Women's open tennis at Dubai Tennis Stadium, on 26 Feb, 2004. Henin Hardenne won, 6-1, 6-0. —INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Silly smile
- 8 Upper parts of legs
- 10 Cradle-song
- 11 Scope
- 12 Certain
- 13 Guide
- 17 Dutch earthenware
- 18 Greek letter
- 22 Vagrant
- 23 Humbug
- 24 Pact
- 25 Inn

DOWN

- 1 Futile
- 2 Entreat
- 3 Open to bribery
- 4 Abridge
- 5 Representative
- 6 Remains
- 9 Puzzled
- 14 Notwithstanding
- 15 Traduced
- 16 Laundry
- 19 Condition
- 20 Vacillate
- 21 Recompose

MRTV-3
29-2-2004 (Sunday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 National Kandawgyi
Gardens
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 A Gift to Mark a visit to
Myitkyina (Kachin
-Snack)
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Lumber Buffaloes
- 9:25 A Dance to the Harvest
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:40 Song "Follow me Let's
go"
- 9:42 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

29-2-2004 (Sunday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 National Kandawgyi
Gardens
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 A Gift to Mark a visit to
Myitkyina (Kachin
-Snack)
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Lumber Buffaloes
- 15:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:10 Song "Follow me Let's
go"
- 16:12 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 16:15 National News**

- 16:20 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact
- 16:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Naga Traditional
Handicrafts
- 16:40 Myanmar Profile "Su-
per Market"
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Tour In Myanmar
"Mrauk-U, Ngapali"
- 16:55 Making Myanmar
Marionette
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Ship Building of
Myanmar
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Gaze Upon"
- 17:12 Beach Souvenir Sea
Shell Decorations
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture
- 17:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 19:36 Fantastic Scenic Sun-
sets of Myanmar
- 19:40 National News**
- 19:42 Traditional Rakhine
Wrestling
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
- 19:55 Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 20:10 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Child Art Competition
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Golden Inlay"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Artist Maung Kyaw
Nyunt "Cover Poster
and Creative Painting"

- 20:40 Dry Dockyard in Patter
Island, Taninthayi Di-
vision
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact "Dream Angel"
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Marquetry
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Glory of
Myanmar"
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 The King of Musical
Instrument
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:36 National Kandawgyi
Gardens
- 21:40 National News**
- 21:42 A Gift to Mark a visit to
Myitkyina (Kachin
-Snack)
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Lumber Buffaloes
- 21:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:10 Song "Follow me Let's
go"
- 22:12 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact
- 22:28 Myanmar Modern
Song "Ma Ma Moe"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Naga Traditional
Handicrafts
- 22:40 Myanmar Profile "Su-
per Market"
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Tour In Myanmar
"Mrauk-U, Ngapali"
- 22:55 Making Myanmar
Marionette
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Ship Building of
Myanmar
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Gaze Upon"
- 23:12 Beach Souvenir Sea
Shell Decorations
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 29-2-2004 (Sunday) &
1-3-2004 (Monday) Evening
& Morning Transmission
(23:30-1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 National Kandawgyi
Gardens
- 23:40 National News**
- 23:42 A Gift to Mark a visit to
Myitkyina (Kachin
-Snack)
- 23:45 National News**
- 23:50 Lumber Buffaloes
- 23:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 24:00 National News**
- 00:10 Song "Follow me Let's
go"
- 00:12 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 00:15 National News**
- 00:20 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact
- 00:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 00:30 National News**
- 00:35 Naga Traditional
Handicrafts
- 00:40 Myanmar Profile "Su-
per Market"
- 00:45 National News**
- 00:50 Tour In Myanmar
"Mrauk-U, Ngapali"
- 00:55 Making Myanmar
Marionette
- 01:00 National News**
- 01:05 Ship Building of
Myanmar
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Gaze Upon"
- 01:12 Beach Souvenir Sea
Shell Decorations
- 01:15 National News**
- 01:20 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture
- 01:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

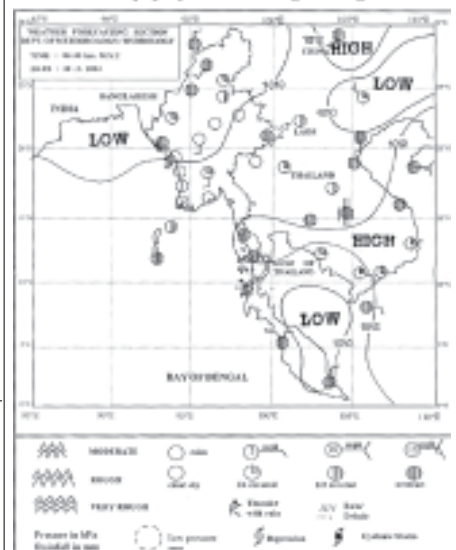
1-3-2004 (Monday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 03:36 Fantastic Scenic Sun-
sets of Myanmar

- 03:40 National News**
- 03:42 Traditional Rakhine
Wrestling
- 03:45 National News**
- 03:50 Usefulness of Nipa
Palm
- 03:55 Myanma-ah-hla-Yat-
taung-Ahka
- 04:00 National News**
- 04:05 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 04:10 Song "Mesmerize
Your Longing Wish"
- 04:15 National News**
- 04:20 Child Art Competition
- 04:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Golden Inlay"
- 04:30 National News**
- 04:35 Artist Maung Kyaw
Nyunt "Cover Poster
and Creative Painting"
- 04:40 Dry Dockyard in Patter
Island, Taninthayi Di-
vision
- 04:45 National News**
- 04:50 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact "Dream Angel"
- 05:00 National News**
- 05:05 Marquetry
- 05:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Glory of
Myanmar"
- 05:15 National News**
- 05:20 The King of Musical
Instrument
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sight "Mingalabar"
- 05:36 National Kandawgyi
Gardens
- 05:40 National News**

- 05:42 A Gift to Mark a visit to
Myitkyina (Kachin
-Snack)
- 05:45 National News**
- 05:50 Lumber Buffaloes
- 05:55 A Dance to the Harvest
- 06:00 National News**
- 06:10 Song "Follow me Let's
go"
- 06:12 The Thrones of
Myanmar Sovereigns
- 06:15 National News**
- 06:20 Myanmar Movie Im-
pact
- 06:28 Myanmar Modern
Song "Ma Ma Moe"
- 06:30 National News**
- 06:35 Naga Traditional
Handicrafts
- 06:40 Myanmar Profile "Su-
per Market"
- 06:45 National News**
- 06:50 Tour In Myanmar
Marionette
- 06:55 Making Myanmar
Marionette
- 07:00 National News**
- 07:05 Ship Building of
Myanmar
- 07:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Gaze Upon"
- 07:12 Beach Souvenir Sea
Shell Decorations
- 07:15 National News**
- 07:20 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER**

Saturday, 28 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Mon and Kayah States, Yangan and Ayeeyarwady Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Northern Shan States and Upper Sagaing Division, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 27-2-2004 was 35.3°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 28-2-2004 was 16.8°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-2-2004 was 72%. Total Sun Shine hours on 27-2-2004 was (9.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-2-2004 was nil at Yangan Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangan. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangan Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangan. Maximum wind speed at Yangan (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southeast at (11:20) hours M.S.T on 27-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29-2-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%)

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Isolated light rain are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangan and neighbouring area for 29-2-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-2-2004: Fair weather.



Sunday, February 29

View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. ယဉ်ကျေးမှု (ရုပ်ရှင်) မြန်မာ့လောက
- 8:10 am**
6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am**
7. ရုပ်ရှင်ပြသမှုတစ်ပိုင်း
လင်းစေးတံတား
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Say it in English
- 11:00 am**
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am**
2. Musical programme

- 11:25 am**
3. ဘာသာရေးသတင်းတစ်ပိုင်း
- 11:40 am**
4. Round-up of the week's
TV International news
- 11:55 am**
5. မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ်တစ်ပိုင်းတွဲ
"ရုက္ခဗိုလ်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 12:20 pm**
6. Milo Success in Soccer
- 12:30 pm**
7. Myanmar Video Feature:
"အချစ်ကလေးတစ်ယောက်နဲ့
စေ့စပ်သွားတဲ့အခါတိုင်း
မြို့မနဲ့အတူတူပဲ" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်စုစု)
- 2:30 pm**
8. မအိဇောဒီးတံတား
- 2:45 on**
9. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English For Everyday Use
- 4:40 pm**
4. Dance of National Races
- 4:55 pm**
5. အစောဆုံးတက္ကသိုလ် ယဉ်ကျေးမှု
ရုပ်ရှင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ
ပထမပိုင်း (သတ္တမပေး)
ရုက္ခဗိုလ်မေတ္တာ (သတ္တမပေး)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm**
7. သာယာချိုမြေ့ (ရုပ်ရှင်) မြန်မာ့လောက
- 5:40 pm**
8. Agricultural Source
Country's Development
- 5:45 pm**
9. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
12. မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ်တစ်ပိုင်းတွဲ
"ရုက္ခဗိုလ်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၁)
- 7:35 pm**
13. Musical Programme
- 7:45 pm**
14. ဘိုင်းဒေါ့လ်တိုင်းတစ်ပိုင်းတွဲ
ရုက္ခဗိုလ်မေတ္တာ
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. Myanmar Video Feature:
"ရုက္ခဗိုလ်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)
မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ်တစ်ပိုင်းတွဲ
ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်စုစု (စုစုစုစု)
21. The next day's
programme



Sunday, February 29

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music
- 8:55 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Story for children "A
friend in need is a
friend indeed"
- 9:00 pm** Weekly news
review
- 9:10 pm** Music
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9:25 pm** Let's Improve
English Though
Songs
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects multimedia classroom at Kawa Basic Education High School in Bago Division. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects development tasks in Kawa, Thanatpin

YANGON, 28 Feb—After attending opening ceremony of Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate held in Kawa Township, Bago Division this morning, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, arrived in Kawa at 10.30 am today.

They were welcomed there by members of the District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, social organizations and local people.

First, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the Kawa Basic Education High School where they were welcomed by members of the School Board of Trustees, Headmaster U Aung Than and teachers and students.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected

computer aided instruction room, electronic media (audio system), language lab, electronic media (video system) and others.

After that, the Prime Minister met with members of the Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and social organizations at Kawa BEHS. The Chairman of Kawa Township Peace and Development Council reported on location and area of Kawa Township, population, weather, rainfall, cultivation of monsoon paddy and yield, cultivation of summer paddy, measures for extended cultivation of summer paddy, cultivation of edible oil crops and pulses and beans, self-sufficiency, health, education and requirements. Next, departmental officials reported on work being carried out in the respective sectors and requirements.

Next, the Prime Minister made arrangements for

construction of Sittaung river crossing Bailey bridge on Kawa-Intagaw road, upgrading of two schools into high schools in the township, upgrading of a 16-bed facility into a 25-bed hospital and opening of one more station hospital and rural health care centres.

Next, the Prime Minister presented TV set, video set and a computer for the school through the headmaster and made arrangements for opening of the multimedia classrooms.

Next, the Prime Minister made a speech. He said that they were there to fulfil the needs for regional development after attending the opening of Shwe Hlay Sluice Gate held in Kawa Township this morning. He added that they were also there to know the prevailing situations for development in townships that are the basic regions and to fulfil the requirements.

(See page 9)



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at the co-ordination meeting of the General Administration Department for 2003. — MNA

State, division, district and township level GAD officials urged to win respect and trust of people

YANGON, 28 Feb—The coordination meeting of General Administration Department for 2003 was held at the Ministry of Home Affairs this afternoon, with an address by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Present were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, the director-general of Myanmar Police Force, directors-general of GAD and Prisons Department, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and guests.

In his address, the Secretary-2 said the Ministry of Home Affairs is carrying out very important tasks of State

security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquillity and community welfare services. GAD under the Ministry of Home Affairs has laid down the tasks of community peace and tranquillity, regional development tasks and community welfare, and State and Division GAD officials are implementing those tasks in cooperation with district and township level officials.

He said the objective of the State is to build a peaceful, modern developed nation and the future objective is also to build a discipline-flourishing modern democratic nation. The seven-point future programme of the State was laid down and it was publicly declared that a democratic state would be built, he said.

He said stability of the State, security and prevalence of law and order are essential in building a discipline-flourishing modern developed democratic nation. He said that the Head of State pointed out that good armed forces, good police force and good administrative bodies are required for ensuring stability of the State, security and prevalence of law and order.

He said the government is building the Tatmadaw into a strong, highly-qualified and modern one to be able to safeguard the nation as long as the world exists. The Myanmar Police Force Management Reform Committee was formed with six sub-committees.

(See page 9)