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The Peasant Day message of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe

(The following is a translation of the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, to the Peasants Day 2004)

Esteemed peasantry,

Today, the 2nd of March, is the Peasants Day honouring the peasantry of all Myanmar races. On this auspicious day, I wish all peasantry health and happiness and success of their farming business.

The State Peace and Development Council has laid down and implemented the economic objectives to develop the national economy in leaps and bounds for the emergence of a new peaceful, modern and developed nation that is the national goal.

In doing so, it has been drawing and implementing the short-term economic plans in accord with the geographical position and climatic condition of the nation and the existence of human resources, for well-rounded development of all economic sectors including industrial, forestry, energy, mining, livestock breeding and fisheries, and trade sectors, with agriculture as the base.

As the agricultural sector is the nation's giant pro-

duction industry, the Government has given continuous priority to its success and development, while utilizing greater financial power to build dams and canals, sluice gates, river water pumping stations, and underground water tapping projects all over the country, for, the facilities are the main requirement for the sector's development.

From 1988 to date, the Government has used over K 68,881 million to build 157 dams, irrigating about 2.15 million acres. And plans to reinforce the irrigation sector with the river water pumping stations has led to emergence of 265 such stations in the entire nation, benefiting about 300,000 more acres of crops.

The nation sees marked increase in the sown acreage reaching 39.9 million acres at present, and 150 per cent rise in cultivation of various crops thanks to the Government that takes into account various means to ensure water supply for crops in the whole nation; reclaims fallow, virgin and vacant lands and wetlands, applying various means; launches highland cultivation project to transform slash-and-burn cultivation to terrace cultivation; and renders assistance in multi-sectors to grow double and mixed cropping.

Cent per cent use of the increasing acres of cultivation

fields requires switching to mechanized farming that harnesses machines in harrowing land and cultivating, harvesting and threshing crops. In this regard, the Government as well as the private sector are making arrangements to boost manufacturing of farm machinery.

Instead of directly buying of paddy, the nation's main crop, from farmers as in the previous years, the Government has permitted the free rice trade beginning this year in the interest of the peasants and to help contribute to the progress of the market-oriented economy. The introduction of the new rice trade policy is a means to enhance the work capacity of the peasants and national entrepreneurs in accord with the aspiration of the people, including farmers, whose business directly or indirectly concerns the rice industry.

The Government has already made arrangements to pay special attention to extending sown acreage, ensuring adequate water supply for crops, and switching from manual to mechanized farming, while providing chemical and natural fertilizers, farming techniques and crop strains, in the interest of the entire national people, including peasants.

(See page 7)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Lenya-Mandaing Bridge. — MNA

Pyigyimandaing region will meet with success if five rural development tasks are carried out with might and main

Senior General Than Shwe inspects regional development in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 1 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior

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General Than Shwe, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior

military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Kyaukhtanaung Station in Bokpyin by helicopter on 26 February afternoon.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party met with Tatmadawmen and their families of Kyaukhtanaung Station at the hall of the station. At the meeting, General Thura Shwe Mann gave a speech.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary instructions and greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families.

After that, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at Karathuri in Bokpyin Township by helicopter at 3 pm. They were welcomed there by Tactical Operations Commander Col Tin Maung Nyunt and officials, departmental officials and local people.

At the guest house in Karathuri, the Secretary of Bokpyin Township Peace and Development Council and officials reported on the salient points of Karathuri to Senior General Than Shwe and party.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Brig-Gen Ohn

Myint gave supplementary reports.

In response to the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary instructions and greeted those present on the occasion.

In the evening, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived in Bokpyin where they were welcomed by General Staff Officer (Grade 1) Lt-Col Khin Maung Cho of Bokpyin Station, Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Thein Win and officials.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party paid

homage to Razamuni Pagoda in Bokpyin and made cash donations for the pagoda through members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Atuladhipati Mahamuni Shwethalyaung Buddha Image and paid homage to the image.

Next, they made cash donations there.

On 27 February morning, Senior General Than Shwe greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families of battalions and units under Bokpyin Station.

(See page 16)

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 2 March, 2004

Let's strive for regional development and self-sufficiency

The State Peace and Development Council is taking all the possible measures to create a favourable environment for higher national economic life and for parallel development of various regions across the Union. The Head of State himself occasionally goes on inspection tours of states and divisions, meets with the grassroots and fulfils the needs of the regions concerned.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party on 26 and 27 February visited Kawthoung and Khamaukkyi in Taninthayi Division, inspecting the development work and giving guidance on all that is necessary. In his meeting with members of the Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and entrepreneurs, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe emphasized that a region could enjoy development in form as well as in essence only if it was self-sufficient and its economy was constantly growing and that it was necessary for each and every region to meet these two requirements.

The Government has been building all the necessary infrastructures for less developed regions including border areas. For example, Kawthoung, which had only three or four hundred households in 1962, has now become a district headquarters. It is developing as all the requirements in education, health, transport and economic sectors have been met.

Kawthoung District has a lot of potential for development as it is rich in water and land resources. It is only necessary to extend sown acreage and use high-yield strains to be self-sufficient in rice. Moreover, kitchen crops and the others suitable for the climate and soil should be grown. Not only that, local people should seriously engage themselves in fish and prawn production and cultivation of oil palm, rubber and other perennials so that their region can become more and more developed.

We would like to call upon responsible personnel at different levels, entrepreneurs and local people in Taninthayi Division as well as those in other states and divisions to translate the guidance of the Head of State into action for self-sufficiency and development of their respective regions.

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'

People's Desire

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

State Central Working Committee of the Sangha meets

YANGON, 1 March — The fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of the Union of Myanmar held its fourth meeting in the Maha Pathana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Aung Maung, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, deputy directors-general of the two departments, directors, and officials.

On the occasion, the minister supplicated on religious matters to Sayadaws.



The fifth State Central Sangha Committee holds its fourth meeting in the Maha Pathana Cave, Kaba Aye. — MNA

Next, the report concerning the tasks carried out during the previous year by the SSMNC was read out. The second-day session of the

meeting continues tomorrow. Sandi herbal medicines shop offered 'soon' to Sayadaws while Tun Shwe Wa medical house and Aye Kaba medical house offered traditional medi-

cines. Duiyintee U Soe Myint Daw Khin Ma Yi and family offered 'soon' to Sayadaws at the preliminary meeting yesterday.

MNA



The work coordination meeting for organizing the International Women's Day in progress. — MNA

Tuesday Club visits northern Shan State

YANGON, 1 March — The 38-member study group comprising members of Tues-

day Club who are making investment in Myanmar and Professor Helen James from

Australia and invited guests from the United States, Japan, China, Switzerland and



Members of Tuesday Club tour northern Shan State. — MNA

Singapore, led by Col Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence, toured Mong Ka, Mong Pauk, Mong-Pyan of northern Shan State Special Region-2 and Kengtung, Wang Hong, Yang-Ka, Pa-Hlyo-Kyeik-Latt, Tachileik in the eastern Shan State on 27 February morning and arrived back yesterday afternoon. During their tour, they studied anti-narcotic drugs and opium substitute crops projects, income generating projects, border trade and development in the regions. Local authorities, officials of the national races and representatives of the UNODC briefed the study group, replied to their queries and exchanged views with them.

NLM

Organizing International Women's Day discussed

YANGON, 1 March — The work coordination meeting on organizing the International Women's Day which falls on 8 March 2004 sponsored by Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was held at the meeting hall of Social Welfare Department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning. Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the International Women's Day Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Vice-Chairperson of the Leading Committee Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and commit-

tee members and members of the work committees and sub-committees.

First, Chairman Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint made a speech.

Next, Joint-Secretary-1 of the Leading Committee Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win explained the purpose of holding the meeting.

After that, members of the Leading Committee and leaders of the work committees reported on measures taken sector-wise, followed by a general rounds of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Leading Committee chairman. — MNA

Iraqi donors' conference kicks off in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 1 March — A two-day donors' conference for Iraq's reconstruction kicked off in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, Saturday morning to discuss proposed donor plans and mechanisms for their financing reached in Madrid last October.

Iraqi Minister of Planning Mahdi Al-Hafidh asked donor countries to disburse funds to finance 700 priority projects worth four billion dollars in the next twelve months. "We hope for the early implementation of decisions taken during the Madrid Conference, in which the donor countries pledged 33 billion dollars for rebuilding Iraq," he said.

Addressing the opening session of the conference, UAE Minister of Finance and Industry Mohamed Khalfan bin Kharbash stressed his country's long-standing support for Iraqi and international reconstruction efforts.

He noted that all UAE institutions and firms are prepared to contribute to Iraq's rebuilding efforts. — MNA/Xinhua



From left, Joseph Saba, Director Middle East World Bank, Ross Mountain, UN representative in Iraq, Mehdi al-Hafidh, Iraq's interim minister of planning and development cooperation, and Masamitsu Ito, Japan's ambassador to Iraq take in a press conference after a two-day International Donor's Conference on Iraq in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on Sunday, 29 Feb. 2004.

INTERNET

"Lord of the Rings" takes strong lead at Oscars as favourites win

HOLLYWOOD, 1 March — The last episode of "Lord of the Rings" movie trilogy took a resounding lead at the Oscars, as fellow favourites Renee Zellweger and Tim Robbins snatched best supporting actor trophies.

More than halfway through the glittering awards ceremony Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" had snatched eight Oscars from its dominant 11 nominations, losing out in only one category.

The picture picked up Oscars for best visual effects, for best costume design for the double-nominated New Zealander Ngila Dixon, best sound mixing, best make-up, best original and best original musical score for Howard Shore.

It also won for film editing and for best art direction, with many of the recipients of the golden statuettes hailing from New Zealand.

"There's nobody left to thank in New Zealand," quipped the Oscar's host Billy Crystal after the umpteenth New Zealander linked to the hobbit spectacular went up to claim a statuette.

With the film strongly tipped for the coveted best picture and best director awards, the last episode of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" fantasy trilogy stands a good chance of sweeping cinema's highest awards.

The favourites in the twin best supporting actor categories also triumphed as predicted, with Zellweger, 34, and Robbins, 45, winning their first Oscars.

Zellweger won for her role as a spirited country girl in Anthony Minghella's Civil War drama "Cold Mountain," while outspoken Robbins, won his first Oscar and Hollywood's embrace for his supporting role as man who was abused during childhood in Clint Eastwood's drama "Mystic River."

"Such a privilege to go to work every day with you," a tearful Zellweger clad in white satin said of co-stars Jude Law and

Nicole Kidman, to whom the Texan lost the best actress Oscar last year.

Green party activist Robbins, who caused a furore along with his partner Susan Sarandon, in their opposition to the US-led war in Iraq last year, said backstage he was surprised Hollywood had finally blessed him. "I never would have dreamed it a year ago, because so many negative things were being written when Susan and I opposed the war. I'm sure a lot of people voted for me that don't agree with my politics," he said.

Celebrated writer and director Blake Edwards, 81 received an honorary Oscar for his 50-year lifetime of work that includes "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and the "Pink Panther" movies.

And Julia Roberts presented a moving tribute to four-time best actress Oscar winner Katharine Hepburn who died aged 96 last June, and "her indomitable sense of humour," while they were also homages to Bob Hope and Gregory Peck who both died last year. But in the competition, "Rings" seems to have eclipsed its best picture rivals: Peter Weir's 10-time-nominated seafaring adventure "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," horse-racing epic "Seabiscuit," which has seven nominations, "Mystic River," which has six nods, and Sofia Coppola's wistful comedy "Lost in Translation," which has four.

Robbins had been the clear favourite for best supporting actor for "Mystic River," while Zellweger had also been favoured to make good on her third consecutive Oscar nomination and win best supporting actress for the Civil War drama "Cold Mountain." — Internet

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

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Blair under pressure to publish Iraq legal advice

LONDON, 1 March — Two British newspapers reported on Sunday that the country's top lawyer was pressured to change his advice to Prime Minister Tony Blair on the legality of war in Iraq to say that an invasion would be legally justified.

A spokesman for Blair's office refused to explicitly deny or confirm the reports and insisted the government would not publish the legal advice.

Details of that advice could have been revealed at a high-profile spying case which was dropped last week by the Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith, the newspapers said.

The *Observer* cited senior sources involved in providing legal advice as saying Goldsmith was "sitting on the fence" but redrafted his advice to allay fears of military chiefs who had wanted assurances the war was legal before committing troops.

The *Independent* on Sunday said military chiefs of staff argued for a clearer legal basis on which to go to war and Goldsmith complied days before the invasion.

A spokesman for Blair's Downing Street office declined to answer questions on whether the advice was changed, saying the government did not discuss internal legal matters. "There is a long-standing convention followed by successive governments that legal advice is not disclosed," he said. "The Attorney-General stands by his legal advice. As he has said many times, the advice was right then and is right now."

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Defence said the chief of defence staff at the time, Sir Michael Boyce, would have been required to "satisfy himself that any military operation of any scale was legal" and that the war in Iraq was no different.

"As chief of defence staff and as representative of the other chiefs of staff, he was

entirely satisfied with the legality," the spokeswoman said.

Blair, who has been under almost constant pressure since the end of the Iraq conflict over his handling of the war, has consistently refused to publish Goldsmith's advice to him but insists the Iraq invasion was legal.

Newspapers said on Sunday that advice could have been made public if a case against a former translator for Britain's intelligence services had gone to trial.

The case was dropped on Wednesday when state prosecutors said they had insufficient evidence to show Katharine Gun broke the Official Secrets Act by leaking a memo which she said revealed a US plot to spy on United Nations missions.

Internet

US milly says Estonian soldier killed in crossfire in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 March — An Estonian soldier was killed after he was wounded in a crossfire in central Iraq, the US military said on Sunday.

The soldier was part of a 12-man coalition joint investigating an improvised explosive device northwest of Baghdad late Saturday, a US military spokesman told *Xinhua*.

The patrol encountered an assault involving small arms fire from a group of fighters at about 9:00 pm (1800 GMT), he said.

The Estonian was injured and transported to the 31st combat hospital in Baghdad, where he later died of the wounds, added the spokesman. Earlier, the US military confirmed that a coalition soldier was killed in the incident but did not release the victim's nationality. — MNA/Xinhua

Four drug traffickers sentenced to death in Vietnam

HANOI, 1 March — Four drug traffickers in a big transnational drug trafficking case in Vietnam were sentenced to death on Thursday, following a four-day trial involving 11 defendants.

The defendants were convicted of possessing and dealing 39 kilos of heroin, 50 kilos of marijuana, 15 kilos of methamphetamine and 6,000 ecstasy pills in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Netherlands and Japan, according to *Vietnam News Agency* on Friday.

The ring led by Ngo Xuan

Phuong, 50, and Ngo Duc Minh, 49, started trafficking drugs in 1993. They selected some flight attendants, sailors and overseas Vietnam-

ese to collect, transport and deliver drugs in the countries.

Four death sentence receivers are Phuong, Luu Cong Dung, Dang Van Roi, and Tran Van Tinh.

MNA/Xinhua



South African-born Charlize Theron won the Oscar for best actress on 29 February, 2004 for the drama "Monster," in which she plays the real-life female serial killer Aileen Wuornos. — INTERNET



'Lord of the Rings' director Peter Jackson arrives at the 76th Annual Academy Awards. The last episode of 'Lord of the Rings' movie trilogy took a resounding lead at the Oscars. — INTERNET

British Govt asked to probe Iraq civilian deaths

LONDON, 1 March—Lawyers in Britain are preparing to bring cases against the British Army on behalf of relatives of 13 Iraqi civilians killed after the end of the war.

They have called on Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon to order an independent inquiry into the deaths, which they say represent only a fraction of the total number of suspicious incidents.

One of the lawyers representing the Iraqi families, Phil Shiner, has outlined some of the allegations.

"One example is a man was out fishing with his brother and relatives one night, a

river patrol comes alongside and shoots him dead with a rifle with a silencer," he said.

"Another example, a man at his brother-in-law's house, soldiers burst through the front door, knocked the door down, see him in the hallway, shoot him dead."

The British Ministry of Defence has said the deaths of some civilians are being investigated.

Internet

Arab League chief calls for dialogue on reform plans

CAIRO, 1 March — Arab League chief Amr Moussa said here on Saturday that dialogue is needed with Arab countries on any reform initiative in the Middle East.

"There should be a dialogue with us on reform proposals," Moussa told reporters, alluding to a US initiative aimed at fostering greater democracy and economic growth in the Middle East.

The US plan will be reportedly launched in June at a summit of the Group of Eight.

Arab leaders have given a cold shoulder to the plan, saying that Arab nations reject any pattern of reform imposed from outside.

Moussa, who leads the 22-member pan-Arab forum, also said there is no alternative to his organization.

Referring to a Yemen-drafted proposal for setting

up the Arab Union and a Libyan call for having the union of Arab countries, Moussa said the two proposals stipulate "a radical change of the content, not the form".

The Arab League has been under mounting criticism for not being efficient in dealing with pressing regional issues. — MNA/Xinhua

Hong Kong, Spain make liberal air services deal

HONG KONG, 1 March — An arrangement of traffic rights for unlimited passenger and cargo capacity on routes between Hong Kong and Spain has been reached by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and Spain.

The Hong Kong Government announced here Saturday that delegations representing the two sides concluded Friday a set of very liberal air traffic rights after a two-day negotiation held in Hong Kong.

The principal assistant

secretary for economic development and labour, Danny Lau, who headed the HKSAR delegation conducting the consultations, said that he was very pleased with the outcome of the negotiations.

He explained that in pur-

suit of the government's progressive liberalization policy on air services, the two sides had agreed to a complete open capacity regime on air services between Hong Kong and Spain.

MNA/Xinhua

Supermarket roof collapse injures 10 in Moscow

MOSCOW, 1 March—Ten people were injured after the roof of a parking lot in a German-built supermarket collapsed north of Moscow, ITAR-TASS news agency reported Saturday.

Among them four were hospitalized and six others received medical attention at the scene of the incident, ITAR-TASS said, noting that one of them was rescued from under the debris of the collapsed metal roof.

The Moscow authorities

have blamed builders for the collapse of the roof, said Sergei Tsoi, the Moscow mayor's spokesman.

The roof "was built by specialists from the German company Unger. Construction and design were contracted by the West German

company Metro," he was quoted by the ITAR-TASS.

Tsoi said it was possible that the builders had failed to take account of the extreme weather conditions which can occur in Russia.

MNA/Xinhua



A hand transplant operation in the US. In another operation, surgeons in Australia have reattached a young man's hand that was severed in a brawl and found by police after he arrived at a hospital without it, doctors said. — INTERNET

ဝက်ဟူင်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Berkshire County soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 March—A soldier from Berkshire County was killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq.

The Department of Defence said 29-year-old Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Wells of Egremont died on Wednesday when the helicopter he was flying in crashed in Habbaniyah, Iraq.

Wells and another soldier from Arizona were both killed. They were assigned to the Third Armoured Cavalry Regiment based out of Fort Carson, Colorado.

The military said the cause of the crash is still under investigation.

Wells was married with three sons. He was a 1993 graduate of Mount Everett Regional School where he ran cross country and worked on the school newspaper.

Internet



An Iraqi police runs in front of the site where some witnesses said a man was shot dead by US military convoy with his two sons injured, in Rumyth city, 15 kilometres (9 miles) from Samawa, southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, 29 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

G-15 vows to boost energy cooperation, combat poverty

CARCAS, 1 March — The 12th summit of the G-15 group ended here Saturday with a consensus to strengthen South-South energy cooperation and promote development to combat poverty.

The participants pledged in the Caracas Declaration on Energy and Development, signed at the conclusion of the summit, to promote economic and social development of the 19-member states of the group.

They agreed to launch programmes to develop their energy sectors by increasing public and private investment in line with local legislatures and development priorities.

To boost energy development, the G-15 group will also strengthen cooperation in human resources, experiences and information sharing, technology transfer, and research and market integration, the declaration said.

The G-15 group was formed in 1989 during the summit of Non-Aligned

countries held in Belgrade with the aim of promoting South-South cooperation and South-North dialogue.

The declaration called on international financial institutions to grant developing nations a political space to address their specific growth needs, and urged the developed countries to honour their commitments made in Doha talks.

The G-15 members strongly demanded a fair, reasonable and transparent multilateral trade mechanism to facilitate sustained and stable economic development of developing countries.

They also stressed the need to improve dialogue and mutual understanding between the G-15 group and the G-8, comprising the

United States, France, Britain, Germany, Japan, Canada, Italy and Russia.

Seven heads of state and government attended the two-day summit in Caracas, including Argentine President Nestor Kirchner, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, Iranian President Mohammed Khatami, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson and President of the host country, Hugo Chavez.

In the closing speech, Chavez urged the bloc to take actions to "potentiate the people of the South" and to achieve interdependence between the South and the North.

MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



An Iraqi civilian cries after learning of the death of a family member injured during the US bombardment of Baghdad recently.

INTERNET



A Polish army soldier serving with Coalition Forces in Iraq waves at Iraqis inside a passing minibus, at a checkpoint just north of Karbala, Iraq, on Sunday, 29 Feb, 2004.

INTERNET



US soldiers from 2nd Infantry Division's Striker Brigade based in Alaska, prepare to remove an unexploded ordnance following its discovery in the center of Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday 28 Feb, 2004.

INTERNET



Iraqi boys walk past a US tank on 29 Feb, 2004 in Khadimiya north of Baghdad, Iraq. —INTERNET



British soldiers patrol a road in the southern port city of Basra, Iraq. Thousands of British soldiers have complained that they suffered equipment shortages during the war in Iraq last year because of poor planning by senior officers, a newspaper said.—INTERNET

INTERNET



In this photo, a soldier (R) watches the traffic at a mobile checkpoint in a suburb of Kerbala on 29 February, 2004.

INTERNET

Iraq donors commit about \$1b to Iraq funds

ABU DHABI, 1 March—International donors said on Sunday they would inject about one billion US dollars of the 33 billion US dollars of aid earmarked for Iraq's reconstruction into two trust funds run by the United Nations and World Bank.

Several countries that opposed the US-led war to oust President Saddam Hussein, including France and Germany, refused to contribute any aid to Baghdad if the United States and Britain — who currently occupy Iraq — control the funds.

These countries said they preferred to give aid directly to Iraq or contribute to trust funds run and audited independently.

"This will be a strong starting point... We feel grateful to donors and thank them," Iraqi Planning Minister Mehdi al-Hafedh told reporters at the conclusion of a two-day meeting to activate Iraq aid pledges made at a September donors' summit in Madrid.

Hafedh on Saturday outlined four billion US dollars' worth of projects he said donors could fund to rebuild the country that has suffered from wars and UN sanctions.

"The Iraqis must be in the driving seat and they have demonstrated they have the capacity to do that," said Andrew Golezdzinski, director of the donor coordinating committee of the US-led administration.

World Bank officials said donors had begun to deposit money into the funds over the past two days.

Japan, the single largest contributor to the funds with about 500 million US dollars in aid, leads the donor committee formed to review the operations of the trust funds, officials said.

Earl Anthony Wayne, leading the US delegation to the donor meeting, told reporters that the United States would still channel the bulk of its aid on a bilateral basis to Iraq, although it would put some money in the trust funds.

The United States has allocated 18.6 billion US dollars to Iraq's reconstruction and US officials said about 10 billion US dollars of that amount would be committed to projects by July when an Iraqi government is due to take power.

Lorenzo Perez, a senior International Monetary Fund adviser, told *Reuters* that although US funds and other aid is being used in Iraq the activation of the trust funds would help improve the country's economic activity especially in the second half of the year.

MNA/Reuters



Ahmed Abdul Khaliq, 25, undergoes surgery at a hospital in Samawah, on 29 Feb, 2004, after US soldiers fired on a car that did not stop when a US military convoy passed in Rumaythah, 15 kilometres (9 miles), north of Samawah, southern Iraq, witnesses said. One Iraqi was killed and two others injured. —INTERNET

EU imposes sanctions on US goods in trade fight

BRUSSELS, 1 March—The European Union imposed sanctions on the United States for the first time on Monday as a dispute over tax breaks for US firms turned into a trade war that could cost American exporters 300 million US dollars this year.

The lower tax rates for exports for firms, including Boeing and Microsoft, were judged an illegal subsidy by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which ruled the EU could impose four billion US dollars in sanctions a year on US goods.

But European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy decided to apply gradual pressure by phasing in the measures, which will hit a wide range of goods, including textiles, jewellery and toys. The sanctions are intended to prod the US Congress quickly to replace the tax breaks with measures

in line with WTO rules.

They start at 16 million US dollars as an extra 5-per-cent duty on selected US products in March and rise by 1 per cent a month to 315 million US dollars in 2004 and 666 million US dollars if they run throughout 2005.

Based on the full 4.0 billion US dollars, the main sector to be hit would be US jewellery at an estimated 1.43 billion US dollars.

"The EU's objective remains the withdrawal of the US illegal subsidy," the Commission said in a statement. "The EU has opted for a response which is measured, gradual and geared towards focussing the mind of the US legislature to comply." Officials have tried to play down the impact of the trade row, the first time since the WTO was created in 1995 that the EU has retaliated on US goods.

MNA/Reuters

Italian town sets down pet-pampering laws

ROME, 1 March—Pet owners in a central Italian town must pamper their dogs, cats and birds and even show mercy to supper-time lobsters or face fines as high as 500 euros.

According to a new bill regulating the treatment of animals that will be implemented next week in the wealthy town of Reggio Emilia, canary owners will have to buy a significant other for their bird, who otherwise might suffer from loneliness.

Dog owners will have to provide sufficiently spacious dog houses in shady, sheltered locations and pet owners of all stripes will be prohibited from dyeing the fur of their animals. The rules, spelled out in 39 different articles, also make it illegal to throw live lobsters in boiling water.

MNA/Reuters

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Syria rejects US reform project

CAIRO, 1 March—Syria has joined Arab heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Egypt in opposing Washington's plan for political and other reforms in the Middle East, according to an interview published on Sunday.

"Our position is that we don't want any reform project to be dictated to us from abroad. Reforms must spring from the specifics of the region and not through the diktats of external forces," Syrian Information Minister Ahmad al-Hassan told the London-based daily Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat*.

"No regime would accept the implementation of reforms under external pressure or diktats from abroad".

Saudi Arabia and Egypt, both with close US ties, said last week the Arab world was going through its own reforms and would reject any change imposed from outside.

They were reacting to Washington's Greater Middle East Initiative, which proposes funding for

projects which would promote free elections, civil society, the empowerment of women and the modernization of education.

Relations between Syria and the United States have been strained for years because of US support for Israel and US complaints about the presence in Damascus of Lebanese and Palestinian militant groups.

Hassan defended Syria's emergency laws on the grounds that part of the country, the Golan Heights, is under Israeli occupation. The laws, in force since 1963, give the security authorities wide powers of detention.

"There is no country to the world which has part of its territory under occupation that does not have exceptional laws that might be used

if its security at risk," he said. Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail, arriving in Cairo on Sunday for Arab League meeting, also objected to the Greater Middle East Initiative.

"The countries which want to impose reform from outside must know that this will fail as long as it is not in the framework of a partnership," he told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

Lebanese FM arrives in Cairo for Arab ministerial meeting

CAIRO, 1 March—Lebanese Foreign Minister Jean Obeid arrived here on Sunday to take part in an Arab foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival, Obeid stressed the need for constant consultation and dialogues among Arab countries ahead of an Arab summit due in Tunisia on 29-30 March.

The ministerial meeting is expected to focus on post-war Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict and Finland's rejection to grant holders of Palestinian passports entry visas into the country, an Arab League source said.

"The participants will also deal with the latest developments of the Palestinian intifada (uprising), conditions of Palestinian refugees and the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

India asks Pakistan to modify bilateral air services agreement

NEW DELHI, 1 March—India is understood to have urged Pakistan to modify the bilateral air services agreement for operation of multiple airlines in the sector, to pave the way for the launch of scheduled operations by private carriers as also to enable them to fly cricket fans to that country. Under the present agreement, the two governments recognize only Indian Airlines and Pakistan International Airlines for operations of scheduled flights. The modification suggested is aimed at recognizing Indian private carriers like Jet Airways and Air Sahara as the designated ones to enable them operate

scheduled flights, official sources said here. The sources said the Indian External Affairs Ministry has sent a note to Islamabad in this regard. However, the private carriers could seek permission from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and its Pakistani counterpart to operate chartered flights for cricket fans. Stating that this would require them to furnish the list of passengers and the purpose of their travel at least a week in advance to the two authorities, the sources said the Pakistani authorities would have to give the final nod for these "non-operational chartered flights".

MNA/PTI



Pedestrians in Bologna, northern Italy, are seen during a snowfall on 28 Feb, 2004. In background is the statue of Neptune, mythological God of the seas, symbol of Bologna. —INTERNET

The Peasant Day message ...

(from page 1)

Here, I would like to urge the peasantry to make use of the golden opportunity created by the State's agricultural development drive, while striving to raise their social standard, and for cent-per-cent realization of the production targets of the State's agricultural sector.

Esteemed peasantry,

The State Peace and Development Council has been further consolidating peace and stability, rule of law, and national solidarity, while standing firmly on the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty.

And now, it has started the implementation of the seven-point future policy programme, with the building of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation as the goal. The seven-point future policy programme has been warmly wel-

comed and supported by a large number of countries and the entire national people.

In this regard, I urge the representatives of the peasantry to actively take part in reconvening the National Convention that will pave the way for the emergence of a new Constitution that is in conformity with the seven-point future policy programme, till the successful accomplishment of the nation task — the emergence of a new Constitution. Moreover, you, the entire mass of peasantry, are profoundly urged to accept the success of the seven-point future policy as the national duty in addition to the task of striving for the development of the agriculture sector, the State's main economic pillar, for the Union of Myanmar to perpetually stand tall in the world, with national peace, stability, modernization and development as the destiny.

In like manner, I would like to urge you to join hands with all the national races in discharging the duty.

MNA

The new Myanmar and her pleasant environs

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

(Continued from yesterday)

In Vipassana meditation mindfulness is constantly required. As soon as one loses mindfulness one loses concentration. Therefore mindfulness is controlled by the precept. Precepts, mindfulness and concentration are practices of Vipassana meditation. This practice has no alternative and it is the correct way. We can say in Vipassana words, "Ekayano Maggo" (the only way or means).

The seven-point future programme of the State is like that. National solidarity spirit and Union spirit are genuine political concentration. To see that the political concentration is firm, continuous support of political and national awareness is required. Again political awareness is to be controlled by the political precepts.

What are the political precepts?

The first political precept is non-disintegration of the Union.

The second political precept is non-disintegration of national solidarity.

The third political precept is perpetuation of sovereignty.

Every citizen of the Union should observe these three precepts. Only when one bases on these three will his political awareness be aroused and a modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation be realized.

There is another Vipassana theory. A good teacher or instructor is needed to lead and guide a yogi who practises Vipassana. No yogi can practise Vipassana without a teacher or instructor. However good you are, a teacher is needed. A yogi will reach his destination only under the guidance of the teacher.

Leadership of the government is needed in implementing the seven-point future programme of the State. One will not reach his desired goal in the absence of leadership.

It is necessary for a teacher not to interfere in someone's Vipassana meditation. For example, a teacher from Mogoke Yiktha cannot interfere in the work of yogi who meditates in Mahasi Sasana Yiktha and vice versa. There is no such interference. Good teachers know the rules and observe them. Likewise, it is important that no country should interfere in our march towards a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing nation in the seven-point policy.

If an alien power thinks that only his way or system is the true democracy, it will be self-centred democracy because of his egoism. In other words it may be an individual democracy. Such foreign democracy may be different from discipline-flourishing democracy of Myanmar. The important thing is that those powers are not to dictate their democracy in our country for copying it.

Again it is obvious that surroundings should support and take care of the yogi who meditates. It is necessary for those in the surrounding areas to provide four requisites (food, clothing, shelter and health facility) to the yogi in order to enable him to meditate in peace.

It needs encouragement, assistance and support of international community to accomplish the State's seven-point road map for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. They should be well aware of this point.

Here, I would like to present some excerpts from the Prime Minister's speech.

"The united and collective cooperation of the entire people, and encouragement, support and assistance of international community are essential for phase-by-phase implementation of the State's seven-point road map.

"Therefore, the world nations which would like to see Myanmar as a democratic nation should encourage, support and provide assistance for the country. If they are anxious to disturb and hinder Myanmar from translating the seven-point road map into reality rather than provide a helpful hand...

"With disturbance and hindrance to the nation, it will be still far away from the State's goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation".

I would, therefore, like to remind international community about the above-mentioned expressions. Now the State's goal is in the process of being translated into action. In this regard, if the process is blocked by someone resorting to various ways and means, the perpetrator will be held responsible.

The meditation process consists of the precepts, mindfulness, concentration and methods. Likewise, the seven-point road map is made up of political precepts, mindfulness and concentration.

A lay person needs a good teacher in the meditation process. Similarly, the leadership of the Government is needed in shaping the State's future.

In the meditation process, a meditation centre does not need any intervention of a meditation instructor of a different meditation centre. And a nation does not need any intervention of a foreign country.

In the meditation process, a lay person needs encouragement and support of good surroundings. Similarly, the State's seven-point road map needs encouragement and helpful hands to materialize.

Here, I would also like to present some excerpts from the 57th Anniversary Union Day message sent by Senior General Than Shwe.

"The State Peace and Development Council has laid down and implemented the objectives — Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution; and Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution — for Myanmar to get abreast of the countries of the world, while standing as modern and developed nation.

"Thus, it is a special requirement for the entire national races to strive for the resumption of the National Convention, the main task for the emergence of a new Constitution, with the existing national solidarity.

"The State has already declared its seven-point future political programme clearly and openly. The seven points show exactly the way in which all the national races will have to march towards a discipline-flourishing modern and developed democratic nation without fail".

"The national races who love the country will have to walk straight on the way with full Union Spirit and the spirit of national unity".

Therefore, Myanmar, creating better surroundings to shape a brighter future, is readying itself to realize its goal.

(concluded)

Translation: NY + MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 28-2-2004

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

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသက်ရှောင်အသားဝါ၊ အသည့်ခြောက်၊ အသည့်ကင်ဆာ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS)နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများစသည့်တို့ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့်အပြင် စီးပွားရေးနှင့် လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူခံရခြင်းတို့ ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှ ကင်းဝေးစေရန်၊

မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံများတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Supreme Court Justice tours Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 1 March — Supreme Court Justice U Tin Aye on 28 February met with district and township justices in Bago Division (West), Thayawady District and Pyaw District, and discussed judicial affairs.

On 29 February, he also met with justices and staffs of Shwedaung, Nattalin, Zigon, Gyobingauk and Letpadan township courts and gave instructions on judicial affairs and management matters. — MNA

Drug dealers behind bars

YANGON, 1 March —

A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Yangon and Bago Special Anti-drug Squads, acting on information, searched suspects, Maung Ngwe, Myo Myint, Maung Khin and Tin Win on Thazin Street in North Oakkapala Township on 28 July 2003, and arrested them together with 1.8772 kilos of marijuana.

Waibagi Police Station filed a law suit against Maung Ngwe, son of U Than of Khaymathi (6) Street in North Oakkapala, Myo Myint, son of U Ohn Pe of Dawna Street, and

Maung Khin, son of U Hla Kyaw of Htonegyi Village in Indagaw Township, Bago Division, and Tin Win of U Hla Maung of the same village under section 15/19(A)/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Second District Court on 15 January 2004 sentenced five years' imprisonment each to Maung Ngwe, Myo Myint and Maung Khin under section 15 and 20 years' each under section 19(A) to serve separately and 20 years' imprisonment to Tin Win under section 19(A).

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Thanlyin Bridge No 2 Project in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. — MNA

Secretary-1 inspects construction of Yangon-Thanyin Bridge No 2, sluice gate, industrial zone, dry dock

YANGON, 1 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win this afternoon inspected round the construction project sites of Yangon-Thanyin Bridge No 2, Kayan sluice gate, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Industrial Zone and 12,000-ton dry dock of Myanma Shipyards and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win first arrived at the briefing hall of Yangon-Thanyin Bridge No 2 construction project where he was welcomed by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Com-

mander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, deputy ministers, department heads and officials.

The commander reported on matters related to supply of irrigated water for the all-the-year-round greening of the 30-mile radius of Yangon City and for crops cultivation in dry season through the three ways and means — one is from Moeyungyi Lake through canal system, second from the sluice gate at Kayan Creek to Kayan and Thongwa townships in summer and third from Ngamoeyek Dam to cultivation acreage of Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships through the pipe line on Yangon-Thanyin Bridge No 2. The commander also reported on cultivation of

monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, oil crops, vegetables and other crops, 17,286 acres of extended cultivation, extended construction of dams and reservoirs, sluice gates and river-water pumping stations and 34,000 acres of extended cultivation such as summer paddy, beans and pulses and oil crops.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on tasks being carried out by the ministry for the greening of the 30-mile radius of Yangon City; Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein on arrangements for supply of irrigation water from Ngamoeyek Dam to Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships through the pipe

line on Yangon-Thanyin Bridge No 2; and Superintending Engineer (Project) of Yangon-Thanyin Bridge No 2 construction project U Myint Lwin on progress in bridge construction and future tasks.

The Secretary-1 next fulfilled the requirements and viewed the construction works from the tower at the project site.

After that, the Secretary-1 and party went to the construction project of Kayan sluice gate being implemented by the construction-6 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation near old Natchaungwa Village in Thanlyin Township by watercraft. At the briefing hall, Director of construction-6 U Khin Maung Myint reported on objectives and facts about

the project. The Secretary-1 gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

Next, the Secretary-1 met with chairmen and members of ward and village PDCs from Kayan, Thongwa, Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships.

In his instructions, he said peace and development councils at states, divisions, districts, townships, wards and village-tracts are administrative bodies to which the State assigns duties. As they are in close relation with the general public, they should take great care in their dealings with the public. Since they represent the State, their misconduct will degrade the State.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the Kayan sluice gate under construction with the help of heavy machinery. The sluice gates are designed to prevent the inflow of river water and inundation in Kayan Township in the rainy season, to protect after the rainy season. The sluice gates are being constructed by the construction group-6 of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Kayan sluice gate has 40 valves, each of which measures 6 feet by 16 feet and is of concrete type. On completion, the sluice gate will benefit 30,000 acres of farmland.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Silver Valley rattan furniture house in the industrial zone of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. There

they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, and officials of the management committee for industrial zone.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected round the rattan furniture house and gave instructions. Next, they proceeded to Dagon Pansan auto workshop, where they viewed round the vehicles on display manufactured by Dagon Pansan auto workshop and Super Seven Stars Int'l Trading Co Ltd.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party went to the construction site of a 20,000-ton dry dock being undertaken by the Myanma Shipyards under the Ministry of Transport in Kamayut Township. At the briefing hall of the project site, the managing director of the Myanma Shipyards reported on matters related to the dry dock, progress of construction and future tasks. Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than then presented a supplementary report.

The Secretary-1 also inspected the construction of tug boats, the cutting of metal plates with the help of CNC and building of landing crafts at the workshop-1. The deputy minister and the managing director conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the shipyard. After inspecting the shipyard, the Secretary-1 attended to the requirements and left here.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects a dockyard of Myanma Shipyards. — MNA

Certificates presented to trainees of Drama School and State School of Fine Arts

YANGON, 1 March — A ceremony to present course completion certificates for the 2003-2004 academic year of the Drama School (Yangon) and the State School for Fine Arts (Yangon) under the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture took place at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy

Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Director-General of the Fine Arts Department U Kyaw Win, officials of social organizations related to fine arts, and guests.

U Kyaw Win spoke on the occasion. Certificates were then presented to 41 trainees. Next, the minister, the deputy minister, and guests viewed round the works created by trainees and watched the variety of dances and a drama presented by trainees. Those wishing to

join the three-year courses on singing, dancing, music, painting and sculpture should contact the township peace and development councils concerned. If selected, they will receive a monthly stipend of K 300. Applications can now be sent to the director of the Research and Training Division, Fine Arts Department, on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township not later than 31 May 2004.

MNA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung views works of trainees. — MNA

Pyigyimandaing region ...

(from page 16)

road section and Bokpyin-Taninthyai road section were upgraded into all weather roads.

The government has established good infrastructures in administrative, education and health sectors while striving for ensuring better transport in order to bring about harmonious development across the nation regardless of races and regions.

As the region has favourable weather conditions, progress has been made in economy and the local people have been able to enjoy self-sufficiency in food and departmental personnel and the people are to make concerted and coordinated efforts to fully utilize natural resources.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe greeted those present on the occasion.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and party inspected round Bokpyin by car.

Next, the Senior General and party at 10.30 am arrived in Pyigyimandaing where they were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander Col Win Naing and officials.

At the briefing hall near Layhnya-Mandaing bridge in Pyigyimandaing, the Senior General and party met with departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, the Tatmadawmen and their families.

At the meeting, officials reported on location and area of Pyigyimandaing, undertaking of farming and fisheries in the region, cultivation of oil palm, rubber and pepper and self-sufficiency in foods.

In response to the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave instructions, saying that Pyigyimandaing and its environs lie between Bokpyin and Taninthyai and it is a far-flung region. He added that systematic measures

are being taken for development of Pyigyimandaing region to bring about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation.

The Pyigyimandaing region will meet with success if the five rural development tasks are carried out with might and main. The government has established the basic infrastructures including Layhnya-Mandaing bridge for regional development.

The service personnel who are there are to strive together with local people for regional development.

The service personnel are to organize local people to inculcate them with the nationalism and Union Spirit.

As the region is a border region, officials concerned are to strive for prevalence of law and order for bringing about regional peace and security to enable the people to live with peace of mind.

In addition, strenuous efforts are to be made to reclaim farmlands that are put aside due to various reasons for self-sufficiency of rice in the region.

Next, the Senior General greeted those present on the occasion. Later, the Senior General and party inspected Layhnya-Mandaing bridge. The Senior General and party in the afternoon arrived at Taninthyai where they were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander Col Soe Thet and officials. At Taninthyai Basic Education High School, the Senior General and party met with departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, the Tatmadawmen and their families.

At the meeting, the Chairman of Taninthyai Division Peace and Development Council reported on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, self-sufficiency of rice, the growing of palm oil and rubber, and livestockbreeding.

In response to the report, Senior General Than Shwe



Senior General Than Shwe and party being welcomed by officials and local people on arrival at Kayathuri town. — MNA

gave guidance, saying that Taninthyai is mainly engaged in farming undertakings as it has favourable weather conditions, adding since local people are usually engaged in farming they are not widely engaged in the tasks. Taninthyai will have to provide assistance in enabling Myeik District to enjoy self-sufficiency of rice and land is to be reclaimed to fully grow paddy.

In addition, cultivation of oil palm and rubber is to be extended and strenuous efforts are to be made to fully grow pepper that contributes

to development of national economy. Pepper is thriving in Taninthyai Division, Mon State, Kayin State and Rakhine State and efforts will have to be made to produce pepper as a new export item. Various kinds of crops can be cultivated in Myanmar as it is rich in land and water resources and has three climates and sustained efforts are to be made to fully utilize the resources given by the nature.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and party inspected the completed Taninthyai Bridge.

The Senior General and party went to Myeik by helicopter. They were welcomed by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Science and Technology U Thang, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Commander of Coastal Regional Command Col Hone Ngaing, Col Zin Yaw of Myeik Station and officials.

The Senior General and party visited Laykyun Simi Pagoda in Myeik. Senior General Than Shwe signed in the visitors' book and do-

minated cash to the pagoda though the pagoda board of trustees. Senior General Than Shwe and party conversed with members of the pagoda board of trustees and pilgrims.

The Senior General and party paid obeisance to the Buddha images in Theinhamote. On 28 February, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann met Tatmadawmen and families of battalions and units of Myeik Station at the meeting hall of the command. — MNA

MWAF Vice-President meets members of Muse District OWA

YANGON, 1 March— Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet and officials went to Muse in Shan State (North) on 28 February and met with members of township organizations for women's affairs from Muse, Namkhan and Kutkai in Muse District at Muse city hall and explained organizational set-up and functions of the federation.

MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet spoke on the occasion, and Dr Daw Moe Moe Khaing of health group elaborated on matters related to the nursing of youth girls and the preventing of violence against women and trafficking in persons. Later, the vice-president and officials answered the queries raised by executives of Muse District Organization for Women's Affairs. — MNA

turing of youth girls and the preventing of violence against women and trafficking in persons. Later, the vice-president and officials answered the queries raised

by executives of Muse District Organization for Women's Affairs. — MNA

Military parade columns practise drills

YANGON, 1 March — Military parade columns which will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade started drilling on Myoma Grounds from 5.30 to 9 am today.

The military parade drills were performed by Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw, Kyansittha Column led by Column

Commander Col Thein Tan, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Col Than Win, Nawade Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Thaw, Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Tint Wai Oo, Hsinphyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Oo Kyaw, Bandoolla Column led by

Column Commander Col Myint Ko Ko, Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Kan Nyunt, and Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Maung Maung Than under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein.

Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, and senior military officers watched and inspected the drills of the military parade columns.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party also inspected the military parade drills of Kyansittha and Myawady parade columns at People's Square and People's Park.

MNA



Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials inspect drills of military parade columns. — MNA



Prime Minister urges local people...

(from page 16)

for extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, cultivation of beans and pulses, oil crops and kitchen crops, sufficiency of rice in the region, cultivation of pepper, construction of Wetkyeik dam for water supply and education and health activities.

Chairman of school board of trustees Dr Aung Kyaw Min reported on construction of three-storey school building in Taungup and departmental officials on work being done and requirements.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements in connection with Wetkyeik Dam and construction of three-storey building.

The Prime Minister upgraded some basic education schools to high and middle ones in Taungup and 25-bed hospital to 50-bed one in An.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV, a VCR and a set of computer to the headmistress.

In his address the Prime Minister said Taungup is the gateway to

Rakhine State and it is a place where agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries can be undertaken.

The government is building infrastructures on education, health, social and economic sectors for development of Rakhine State including Taungup and raising of living standard of local people, he said.

He said the government is also building roads and bridges for ensuring better transport in Rakhine State. About three years ago, the Head of State himself formally opened the Yangon-Sittway Road.

The government has built 894 miles of roads including 537 miles of tarred roads in Rakhine State.

Altogether 27 bridges which are 180 feet and above including 2,513 feet long Kissapanadi Bridge and 2,003 feet Minkyaung Bridge were opened. Another five bridges including 2,704 feet Minkyaung Bridge and 1,154 feet Lonedawpauk Bridge are under construction and arrangements have been made for construction of other four bridges.

There are hundreds of medium and small bridges in Rakhine State, he added.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Taungup Township People's Hospital. — MNA

He said one can now travel from Sittway to Yangon through Sittway-Mrauk U-An-Minbu-Magway Road, Sittway-An-Taungup-Padaung-Pyay Road and Sittway-An-Taungup-Thandwe-Gwa-Ngathaingchaung Road.

The Yangon-Kyaukpau Road is being built with the use of geotextile process because there is a marsh land on Maei-Kyaukpau road section.

He said roads linking Yangon and townships in Rakhine State have emerged at the time of the

present government. At the same time, the government is building infrastructures that contribute towards the development of social and economic sectors of local people in other states and divisions.

The Prime Minister spoke at length on upgrading of basic education schools, opening of Sittway University, Government Technological College and Government Computer College for gaining education opportunities and development of human resources, opening of 200-bed and 100-bed specialist hospitals to promote health care services of local people, appointing doctors, nurses and staff and providing medicines and other equipment.

He said dam and river water pumping projects are

being implemented for agricultural development in Rakhine State and efforts are to be made for rice sufficiency in the region and then surplus of paddy.

There are a lot of fallow and virgin lands in Rakhine State including Taungup. So those lands are to be reclaimed for extended cultivation and fisheries including prawn breeding are to be extended from manageable scale to commercial scale, he added.

He said the government is fulfilling requirements for development of Rakhine State and uplift of living standard of the people. He spoke of the need for the people to work hard for development of the region and progress of economic and social life.

He said the seven-point future programme of the

State has been laid down for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the goal of the State. He urged the people to try hard to reach the goal in unity under the leadership of the government.

Township Education Officer Daw Than Sein spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to Taungup People's Hospital where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr San Hlaing and doctors.

They inspected wards and X-ray room. The Prime Minister inspected the site for extension of the hospital which is to be upgraded to 50-bed hospital from 25-bed one.

The Prime Minister and party left for Kyaukpau.

MNA

MWAF Vice-President explains functions of federation in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 1 March — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet and officials arrived at Lashio in Shan State (North) by air on 27 February to explain organizational set-up and functions of the federation to members of Shan State (North) Organization for Women's Affairs.

Daw Khin Lay Thet and party were welcomed at Lashio Airport by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Thant Zin, local authorities and local people.

Next, at Lashio city

hall, MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet met with members of state, district and township organizations for women's affairs in Shan State (North), members of district and township PDCs and local people talking about 557. First, she spoke on the occasion.

MWAF Secretary Daw Htu Yaw explained organizational set-up of the federation and matters related to submitting membership applications; Dr Daw Moe Moe Khaing of health group matters related to health, culture and resettlements and nurturing of youth girls and preventing of violence against women and traffick-

ing in persons; Daw Yi Yi Myint of international economic and communication group matters on environmental conservation and information. Afterwards, Daw Khin Thant Zin presented cash donated by state, district and township organizations for women's affairs in Shan State to the vice-president. Later, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet and party met with executives of Shan State (North) Organization for Women's Affairs at Shweli Yeiktha in North-East Command in the evening and answered the queries raised by those present. —MNA

Reproductive Health Project Instructorship Course opened

YANGON, 1 March — The Reproductive Health Project Instructorship Course jointly sponsored by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, UNFPA and Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Families Planning (JOICFP) was opened at Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami

Roads in South Okkalapa Township here this morning.

It was attended by President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Dr U Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Linn Myint, CEC members, patrons of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Rajib M Assifi, officials

of Health Planning Department, course instructors and trainees.

First, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made an opening speech.

Next, Representative of UNFPA Mr Rajib M Assifi spoke.

The five-day course is being attended by 60 trainees from Mandalay Division. —MNA



President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe addresses opening of Reproductive Health Project Instructorship Course. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe meets with departmental personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and Tatmadaw members and families. (News page 1) — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe cordially meets with Tatmadaw members and families of Bokpyin Station. (News page 1). — MNA

Winners named for 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Competitions

YANGON, 1 March — The list of winners for the military marching songs and military songs competitions organized by the Work Committee for the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 Commemorative Poetry and Arts Competition were announced today.

In the military marching songs competition, the first prize went to Saw Yan Kyaw of Thingangyun Township, second prize to Lin Kyaw of Insein Township, and third prize to Nay Mon Shwe Win of IPRD (Head Office). Than Htut and Yebaw Myint Lwin of the Military Band (Navy) won consolation prizes.

In the military songs competition at level-1, Tekkatho Maung Htay Aung of Hline Township, Maung Thet Aye

of North Okkalapa Township and Letpadan Aye Than of Letpadan Township won first, second and third prizes respectively while consolation prizes went to Yebaw Myint Lwin of the Military Band (Navy) and Soe Htut Khine of South Okkalapa Township.

In the military songs competition at level-2, first, second and third prizes went to Hsuywetwai of Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Phyo Thinza Khin of Patheingyi and Myat Thu Han of Patheingyi while consolation prizes went to Tun Tun Min of Tamu Township and Ei Shwe Zin Min of Myawady Television.

First, second and third prize winners are to attend the award presentation ceremony to be held on 27 March 2004. All the winners are requested to get in touch with U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary of the Subcommittee, for telephoning. —MNA

Radio play hailing Armed Forces Day to be on air

YANGON, 1 March — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, 'Einmet-hte-ka-myat-ye' (tear in a dream) radio play will be broadcast at 7.17 pm on 11 March (Thursday) and at 12.30 pm on 12 March (Friday). —MNA

Commerce Minister receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 1 March — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone received General Manager of Itochu Corporation of Japan Mr Hajime Tamanyu and party at the ministry on Strand Road here at 1 pm today. Also present at the call

were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Directorate of Trade Director-General U Nyunt Aye, Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading Managing Director U Min Hla Aung and officials of the Border Trade Department. —MNA

Deputy Attorney-General leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 1 March — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin left here by air this morning to attend the third MSC International Cyberlaws Conference to be held in Malaysia. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Attorney-Gen-

eral U Aye Maung, directors at the head of office of the Attorney-General's Office, the divisional law officer of Yangon Division and families of the delegation. Assistant Director U Alone Maung of the Attorney-General's Office is also included in the delegation. —MNA

Co-ord meeting on elimination of leprosy held

YANGON, 1 March — A work coordination meeting on elimination of leprosy was held this morning at the Health Department here. The tasks for elimination of the disease will be carried out in Myanmar during 2004. A total of 55 health officials and doctors under the Health Department attended the meeting, which will last till tomorrow. —MNA

Israeli security cabinet approves "Phalcon" sale to India

JERUSALEM, 1 March — Clearing the decks for the sale of 1.1-billion-US-dollar *Phalcon* Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) to India, the Israeli security Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Sunday approved the deal.

The final terms for the deal were agreed upon during the discussions Israeli Defence Ministry Director, General Amos Yaron, had with Indian officials in New Delhi in December.

Indian and Israeli negotiating teams are said to have finished drafting the agreement according to which the Israel Aircraft Industries will receive an advance payment of some 350 million US dol-

lars after the deal is signed. Sources here said Israeli Air Force Commander-in-Chief, Major-General Dan Halutz, is working out the "final technical details" with India on the deal, which will be concluded in the coming weeks. Under the AWACS deal, the Israeli *Phalcon* radar is to be mounted and integrated on the Russian-designed *IL-76* plane made by Beriev Aircraft Design Bureau, a unit of Irkut Aerospace Corporation.

"We hope to sign the contract with Israel, latest by April," a senior official of Irkut Aerospace Corporation told *PTI* in Irkutsk, Siberia. Irkut also produces *Sukhoi Su-30MKI* war planes for India. —MNA/PTI



The newly opened Shwe Metta Home for the aged in Taungup. (News page 16) — MNA

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waterproof covers for camcorders; (AC) alternating current adapters for camcorders; batteries for camcorders; shoulder straps for camcorders; video cameras; video camera recorders; frame rate converters;

video printers; cleaning papers for video printers; laser disk players; video CD players; video CD software; electronic publications (downloadable); DVD video players and/or recorders; digital HD (High Definition) video cassette tape recorders; color video systems for large-scale display; cable television systems; hard disk drives; video camera overhead projectors; electric optical display boards; multi purpose electric display systems; closed circuit video equipment systems; DVD software; television cameras; video switches; non-linear editing system; editing controller; DVD authoring apparatus; light emitting diode display; USB cables; projection screens; optical-disc machines and apparatus; optical disc drives; optical disc recorders; optical disc players; optical disc changers; optical disc cartridges; optical disc mastering apparatus; communication machines and apparatus; facsimile transceivers; bottled toners for facsimile machines; transceivers; telephones; cellular mobile telephones; carry case for cellular mobile telephone; telephone answering machines; private automatic branch exchange systems; global positioning system receivers; radio telephones; marine radars; radars; radio paging receivers; mobile communication systems; multi-channel access radio systems; electric traffic information apparatus; video teleconferencing systems; personal handy-phones; local area network systems; audio-visual code (encoders and decoders); in-car navigation and/or route guidance appliance; electronic toll collecting units for cars; remote controllers; checking (supervision) apparatus and instruments; electric apparatus for door closing and opening; communication and monitoring system for apartment buildings; intruder detection systems; anti-theft warning apparatus; electric theft prevention installations; electric multi-layer security appliances; electric operated gates for garages; automatic controlling machines and instruments; electric distribution boards; traffic-signal control apparatus; bus location system; ultrasonic vehicle detectors; apparatus for intelligent transport systems; light dimmers; daylight switches; inverters; programmable controllers; transformers; power distribution apparatus (electricity); portable power source; power capacitors; computers and computer peripheral devices; computers; gateway apparatus for computer network; wireless PCM/CLA communication cards; word processors; computer software (recorded); image scanners for personal computer; printers; CF (Compact Flash) cards; PCM/CLA adapters; PC cards; cordless cards for LAN (Local Area Network); computer keyboards; mouse (data processing equipment); CD-ROM drives; floppy disk drives; card readers;

card reader and/or writers; bar code readers; time recorders; handy data terminal; electronic cash registers; point of sales systems; data collection terminals; personal digital assistants; DVD-RAM and/or ROM drive; CAD and/or CAM systems; hard disc drives; electronic calculators; computer software; uninterruptible power source for computers; communication, broadcasting; video games; external storage media; video cassette tapes; cleaning tapes for tape drives; digital video cassette tapes; audio cassette tapes; floppy discs; blank optical discs; mini-discs; DVDs; SD (Secure Digital) memory cards; measuring apparatus and instruments; thermoluminescence dosimetry systems; portable X-ray dosimeters; electronic counters; ammeters; power consumption meters; clamp meters; electric leakage meters; electric insulation meters; thermometers; measurement system processors; multi-circuit type electric power monitor; micro-precision measurements; weight scales with body fat monitor; step counter; audio and/or video analyzers; oscilloscopes; modulators; voltmeters; distortion meters; sensors; MR (magnetic resistant) sensors; photo sensor; temperature sensors; position sensors; angular rate sensors; rotation sensors; angle sensors; dew condensation sensors; displacement sensors; shock sensors; current sensors; ultrasonic ceramic sensors; fuel level sensors; magnetic sensors; electric components; light emitting diodes; liquid crystal elements; LCD module; magnetrons; diodes; transistors; thermostats; integrated circuits; IC (Integrated Circuit) memory cards; LSI; semiconductor memory (devices); (one chip) microcomputers; electret condenser microphone cartridge; halftone image processors; thermal printing heads; magnetic heads; permanent magnets; relays; computer display components; semiconductor laser module; CCD image sensor; film capacitor; membrane unit for oxygen enrichment; electric tuner units; high frequency units; RF (Radio Frequency) front end system units; RF (Radio Frequency) modulators; coin validating units; coin selector units; bill validating units; bill selector units; magnetic card readers and/or writers; printed wiring boards; single-sided printed wiring boards; double sided printed wiring boards; multilayer printed wiring boards; printed circuit substrates; speaker components; power modules; AC adapters; chargers; convergence magnets; parts of copying machines and facsimile machines;

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပအသုံးပြု

namely magnet rolls for developing and cleaning device; DC/DC converters; inductors (coils); fixed inductors; variable inductors; condensers; film condensers; electrolytic capacitors; electric double layer capacitors; ceramic capacitors; filters of electric signals; EMI (Electromagnetic Interference) filters; noise filters; SAW (Surface Acoustic Wave) filters; ceramic filters; line filters;

dielectric filters; tunable filters; light modulators; light deflectors; optical transmission components; optical coupling components; laser diode modules; photo diode modules; optical connectors; aspherical lenses; power transformers; switching transformers; current transformers; pulse transformers; line transformers; input and output transformers; flyback transformers; deflection yokes; piezoelectric transformers; thermistors; varistors (surge absorbers); piezoelectric ceramics components; ceramic resonators; SAW (Surface Acoustic Wave) resonators; acousto-optic devices; resistors; potentiometers; trimmer potentiometers; thermal cutoffs; R networks consisting of resistor array for interface circuit; C networks consisting of capacitor array for interface circuit; RC networks consisting of resistor array and capacitor array for interface circuit; encoders; printer units; hybrid IC; switch components; heat sink wiring boards; electro luminescence elements; magnetic resistive (Magnetic Resistant) elements; coils; choke coils; switches; panel switches; touch panels; remote control units; analog tuners; digital tuners; electronic tuners; duplexers; SAW (Surface Acoustic Wave) devices; couplers; baluns; power dividers; voltage controlled oscillators; wireless communication modules and unit; RF (Radio Frequency) modules; PLL (Phase Locked Loop) synthesizer modules; thermal printer units; other electric utensils for the household; electric flat irons; electric hair curlers; electric hair irons; electric iron steamers for face; electric curlers for eyelashes; trolley ducts for wiring (electricity); solenoids; counters; switch boards; telephone apparatus; printed circuit; remote control telecontrolling machines and instruments; high-frequency and regulation apparatus and instruments; electric conduits; communication and monitoring appliances for apartment buildings; switching power supply units; earth leakage breakers; fault-current protective switches; magnetic switches; current converters; liquid level controllers; switches and sockets; lighting remote controls; photo-electric switches; circuit controllers; line selectors; sensor; power controller; frequency controller; induction voltage regulators; aerials; switch boxes; lighting control apparatus; welding machines; electric arc welding apparatus; welding electrodes; metal cutting machines (by arc, gas, or plasma); electric soldering apparatus. (Class - 9) [Reg. No. IV/7361/2003]

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JUNIOR LEADER



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သတင်းနှင့်စာပေဗဟိုဌာန၊ လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်အုပ်စု၊ စာပေဗဟိုဌာန၊ စာအုပ်အုပ်စုနှင့်သတင်းစာ
ဂိုဏ်းစာလှယ်များထဲတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ စိုက်တက်လိုသူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။
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HK, Mainland establish Technology Trading Platform Strategic Alliance

HONG KONG, 1 March— The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and six Mainland technology stock exchanges signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here Friday to establish a Technology Trading Platform Strategic Alliance.

The HKPC and technology stock exchanges from Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Shenzhen signed the MoU for the establishment of the alliance to facilitate business matching, technology exchange and collaboration between the Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, KK Yeung, executive director of HKPC said, "Leveraging on the Mainland's technological capabilities and Hong Kong's strengths in finance, intellectual property (IP) management and international networking, such collaboration will no doubt

serve as a catalyst to enhance global competitiveness of Hong Kong and Mainland companies."

He said, "The formation of the alliance will provide an effective technology and IP trading platform for organizations, enterprises and investors in Hong Kong and the Mainland." According

to the agreement, member organizations will encourage technology transfer, product commercialization and partnership in the areas of electronics, optoelectronics, wireless communications and automotive industries through promotional and experience sharing activities.

MNA/Xinhua

Snow blocks up to 2,000 trucks in southwest France

BORDEAUX, 1 March— Snow in Spain blocked about 2,000 trucks from crossing into the country from mountainous southwest France on Saturday, a police source said.

Conditions in France were a mixture of rain and snow but vehicles weighing more than 7.5 tons were prevented from entering Spain because of heavy going there.

Nearly 1,500 trucks were stuck in a line about six miles long at the border, while an-

other 500 trucks were stopped further north in France.

The Red Cross and local fire services served food and drinks to stranded truck drivers. Officials said they expected to be dealing with weather-related problems

all weekend, and that reopening the border depended on Basque regional authorities.

Elsewhere, bad weather plus a cabin crew strike forced French airline Air France to cancel or delay several flights at Paris' two main airports, Charles de Gaulle (Roissy) and Orly.

MNA/Reuters

Snowstorms in Spain trap motorists

MADRID, 1 March— Parts of northern Spain ground to a halt on Saturday after a heavy snowfall, as the snow and accidents blocked roads and trapped motorists in biting winds and sub-zero temperatures, officials said.

Drivers on the motorway between Madrid and the northern town of Burgos were forced to abandon their cars and take refuge in nearby sports centres and hostels on Friday night, said a source at a local traffic control centre.

Emergency services evacuated nearly 2,000 people to local villages, while in other areas of Spain the snow closed up to 40 mountain

passes on Friday, leaving over 260 villages cut off, Spanish media said.

Television pictures on Saturday showed towns blanketed with snow, resigned drivers stuck in trucks, buses and cars on motionless motorways, and others on less clogged roads struggling to attach snow chains to their wheels.

MNA/Reuters

China's AIDS fighter awarded Barry-Martin prize

WUHAN, 1 March— Gui Xi'en, a professor in Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University, was awarded the 2003 Barry-Martin Prize in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on Saturday for his contributions to AIDS prevention and treatment and his care for AIDS patients.

Martin Gordon, the sponsor of the Barry-Martin Foundation and vice-president of UBS Warburg, awarded the prize to Professor Gui.

"Professor Gui is the representative of China's AIDS prevention and control work and I have known about his efforts and contributions for years," said Gordon.

Gordon said the foundation will appropriate special funds for Professor Gui's AIDS prevention and treatment work from now on. In expressing his thanks for the award, Professor Gui called for more attention and support for AIDS prevention and treatment work, especially that for women and children.

At the beginning of 2000, after hearing that many youths in a county of central China's Henan Province died of a mys-

terious disease, Professor Gui went there and publicized the prevailing AIDS situation and that the cause was illegal blood selling.

Since then, Professor Gui has been engaged in AIDS prevention and treatment work in China. He takes every opportunity to spread knowledge about AIDS and the right way to prevent and deal with it. In 2001, the professor took five AIDS patients to his home and lived with them for five days, using his experience of contact with AIDS patients to show people the right approach towards the disease and the patients.

At the ceremony, Professor Gui said that all the prize he was awarded will be used for AIDS prevention and treatment work.

MNA/Xinhua

Official says foreign tourism recovery in Beijing takes time

BEIJING, 1 March— The Chinese capital of Beijing saw 128,300 overseas tourists in January this year, down by 16.7 per cent in comparison with the same month of last year.

Sources with the municipal bureau of statistics said arrivals by foreign nationals totalled 95,600 in January, down by 26.9 per cent, while arrivals from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan rose by various degrees to hit 32,700.

A tourism official said the drop in overseas tourists was the biggest since 1995.

Despite the rapid growth in tourist arrivals from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, the arrivals of foreign nationals account for 85 per cent of the city's number of overseas tourists.

"So it will take some time for a full recovery in Beijing's tourism regarding overseas tourists," said the official. —MNA/Xinhua

စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များငှားရန်

အလှူ ထိမ်းမြားမင်္ဂလာ အစည်းအဝေး အခမ်းအနားများတွင် ခေတ်မီ ဝတ်စုံတစ်စုံတစ်ရာနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ဈေးနှုန်းသက်သာစွာဖြင့် ငှားရမ်းနေပါသည်။
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (085)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (085) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-3-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Reg. No. 289/2004

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Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for B.L Media Co., Ltd
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 2 March 2004



A fishing boat passes by as coast guard rescuers continue their search and rescue operations on the wreckage of a Superferry ship at Mariveles bay, Bataan, north of Manila, on 29 February, 2004. Hopes of finding alive any of about 100 people missing after fire gutted a Philippine ferry faded on Monday as rescuers scoured the sea near the capital Manila and divers searched the partly submerged ship. — INTERNET

Porsche, VW recall SUVs due to wiring fault

STUTTGURT (Germany), 1 March— Germany's Porsche said it had recalled 22,158 Cayenne sports utility vehicles due to wiring problems on Friday, while Volkswagen said 6,500 of its Touaregs had also needed fixing.

Both vehicles, built on the same platform, had a fault that could lead to a cable fire beneath the instrument panel, but there had so far been no known accidents as a result of the problem, Porsche said.

A spring in the handbrake risked damaging wiring below, a spokesman for Porsche said, adding that the recall by the sports car maker was voluntary and purely a precautionary measure fol-

lowing long-running tests.

All 22,158 Cayennes produced between its launch in October 2002 and July 2003 will have to return to the workshop, including 11,355 sold in the United States where the chunky but sprightly off-roader has proved particularly popular.

Porsche said that all owners of the car, which like VW's Touareg has a foot-operated parking brake, had

been informed and that the cable could be relocated relatively easily.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the United States said on its Internet site that the vehicle's main wiring harness had been incorrectly routed which could lead to the failure of electrical systems and in extreme cases a fire.

MNA/Reuters

S P O R T S

Zaragoza claim precious win over Valladolid

MADRID, 1 March — Real Zaragoza eased their relegation worries by claiming a 2-1 win over 10-man Valladolid in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

The result allowed Zaragoza to move three points clear of the drop zone, and overtake fellow strugglers Valladolid who have now lost five in a row.

Zaragoza took an early lead when Valladolid keeper Albano Bizzarri failed to claim a lofted free kick and allowed midfielder David Generelo to send a looping header into the net in the 10th minute.

The home side drew level before halftime when Oscar got between two defenders to score with a fine glancing header following a neat cross from fellow midfielder Chema.

But they threw away the chance to hold on for the draw when defender Pablo Ricchetti was sent off 15 minutes from time for picking up a second booking after bringing down Zaragoza striker Dani as he raced towards goal. — MNA/Reuters



Conchita Martinez, left, of Spain, and Janette Husarova, of Slovakia, lift Dubai womens doubles trophies after they defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova and Elena Likhovtseva, of Russia, in the womens doubles final at the Dubai Tennis Championship, UAE, on 28 Feb, 2004. Martinez and Husarova won, 6-0, 1-6, 6-3. — INTERNET

Rivaldo leaves Cruzeiro after coach fired

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 March — Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo walked out on Cruzeiro on Saturday after less than two months at the club in solidarity with coach Vanderley Luxemburgo who was fired the day before.

"I took the decision overnight," he told reporters in a media conference broadcast on Brazilian television. "I haven't got (another) club, nothing like that. At the moment, I'm being faithful to the coach who brought me here."

Rivaldo failed to settle at the Brazilian champions, who he joined after spending most of the previous 18 months warming the substitutes' bench at Italy's AC Milan.

He played only 10 competitive games for Cruzeiro, who have made an indifferent start to the season, and scored only two goals, both in last weekend's 7-1 win over Mamore.

He was frequently jeered by the Cruzeiro supporters.

Cruzeiro spokesman Valdir Barbosa said the club had accepted Rivaldo's decision even though he had signed a one-year contract when he joined on January 5.

But the episode raises doubts about the future of the 31-year-old former Barcelona, PSV Eindhoven and Deportivo Coruna forward, who has barely played club football since helping Brazil win the World Cup in 2002.

Rivaldo joined Milan immediately after the tournament in Japan and South Korea but barely got a look in and described his spell there as the worst of his career. He also stands to lose his place in the Brazil team, which he has kept until now despite his lack of club football.

Luxemburgo, Rivaldo's mentor earlier in his career, was fired on Friday, barely three months after leading the Belo Horizonte-based club to their first Brazilian championship.

The controversial former Brazil coach, who had been

in charge since mid-2002, offered his resignation on Friday morning, changed his mind in the afternoon but was fired when the directors refused to allow him to reconsider.

Rivaldo played under Luxemburgo at Palmeiras in the mid-1990s and in the Brazil team that won the Copa America in 1999.

"I didn't sleep well after Luxemburgo's sacking. When he left, I preferred to leave as well," said Rivaldo. "It was my decision because I consider Luxemburgo to be a special person."

MNA/Reuters

Struggling Empoli shock Udinese 2-0

ROME, 1 March — Serie A strugglers Empoli took a huge stride towards escaping the relegation zone with an impressive 2-0 home win over Udinese on Saturday.

A win for Udinese would have lifted them to within a point of the Champions League berth occupied by Lazio.

Instead 16th-placed Empoli dominated the first half and took the lead in the 22nd minute when midfielder Antonio Busce headed in from a corner. Defender Sanchez Cribari nodded a free kick past keeper Morgan De Sanctis to double the Tuscans' advantage four minutes before the break.

Udinese continued to miss their passes after the break and needed to wait until the 84th minute before coming close when striker Dino Fava hit the woodwork with the goal at his mercy. The victory gave Empoli 20 points from 23 games, just two behind Siena and Reggina who missed a chance to climb the table when they drew 0-0 earlier in the day.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal go nine clear as Fulham hold United

LONDON, 1 March — Arsenal soared nine points clear at the top of the Premier League on Saturday after beating Charlton Athletic 2-1 while title rivals Manchester United were held to a 1-1 draw by Fulham.

Big-spending Chelsea snatched a late and barely deserved 1-0 win at Manchester City to take second place, edging ahead of champions United on goal difference.

Saturday's results could prove to be the turning point in the Premier League season as they left Arsenal on 67 points and Chelsea and United on 58 with just 11 games left to play.

But the spotlight was clearly trained on London, where Arsenal remained unbeaten in their 27 games this season after scoring twice in the opening four minutes.

Robert Pires, scoring his 50th goal for the club, and France teammate Thierry Henry soon had Charlton on the ropes at Highbury, though the visitors rallied in the second half and Claus Jensen's strike could easily have been followed by an equalizer.

But Arsenal hung on grimly for a seventh consecutive league win, rounding off an excellent week after beating Celta Vigo 3-2 away in the first leg of their Champions League first knockout round tie.

By contrast, United's season is running into trouble after a second half equalizer from Fulham's Portuguese forward Luis Boa

Morte cost them victory at Loftus Road.

As if part of a script, striker Louis Saha put United ahead in the 14th minute, just a month after his acrimonious departure from Fulham, and the Frenchman had to put up with the constant boos and jeers of his former fans.

United boss Alex Ferguson reshuffled his pack for the game, surprisingly deciding to leave top scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy, winger Ryan Giggs and goalkeeper Tim Howard on the bench.

Midfielder and skipper Roy Keane had to fill in as a centre back as Ferguson was missing three defenders — England's Rio Ferdinand and Gary Neville, through suspension, and France's Mikael Silvestre, through injury.

But Ferguson's gamble, and the enforced absences, came back to haunt the Scot after Boa Morte's equalizer as they slipped to third in the table, just days after losing 2-1 in Porto in the Champions League.

Substitute Eidur Gudjohnsen grabbed Chelsea's winner in the 82nd minute after City had dominated possession and squandered a host of chances at the City of Manchester stadium. — MNA/Reuters

Sevilla claim 1-1 draw with city rivals Betis

MADRID, 1 March — Ten-man Sevilla produced a gritty performance as they came from a goal down to claim a 1-1 draw at city rivals Real Betis in a typically intense derby on Saturday.

Betis got off to a dream start when Alfonso put them ahead with a penalty in the second minute but Sevilla equalized with a neat strike from defender Javi Navarro and held on for a point despite having forward Antonito sent off late in the first half.

The result means Betis, who have not beaten their neighbours in the last seven years, have moved up one place to sixth in the table, while Sevilla are just two points behind in ninth.

The Seville derby started with a bang as Betis were awarded a penalty after less than a minute when defender Daniel Alves was penalized for handball as he tried to clear a corner.

Former Barcelona striker Alfonso sent Sevilla goalkeeper Esteban the wrong way with his spot kick to put his side ahead while many fans were still taking their seats.

Esteban then stopped them falling further behind when he pulled off a near-miraculous double save midway through the half to scramble Benjamin's powerful dipping free kick off the line.

Four minutes later his teammates repaid him for his efforts by grabbing the equalizer, defender Javi Navarro coolly dinking over Toni Prats after the Betis keeper had blocked a close-range shot from Antonito.

Sevilla were dealt another blow when Antonito was sent off after picking up a what appeared to be a harsh second booking eight minutes before the break.

Despite their numerical disadvantage it was Sevilla who came closest to grabbing a winner in the second half, Julio Baptista heading over the bar after a swift counter-attack and fellow striker Silva scuffing wide soon after. — MNA/Reuters

Siena, Reggina play out edgy goalless draw

ROME, 1 March — Serie A strugglers Siena and Reggina missed a chance to climb the table when they drew 0-0 in a tense match on Saturday.

The result left both sides hovering above the relegation zone with 22 points from 23 games. Promoted Siena had lost their last five league matches but created the lion's share of the chances.

Five minutes before the break Norway striker Tore Andre Flo headed goal wards but the ball was easily held by Reggina goalkeeper Ferdinando Coppola.

Coppola again saved the visitors from falling behind in the 67th minute when he dived to block a long-range shot by striker Nicola Ventola. — MNA/Reuters



World No. one, Justine Henin-Hardenne, right, from Belgium, holds the trophy next to Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova after she defeated her, 7-6, 6-3, during the final of the Dubai Tennis Championship, UAE, on 28 Feb, 2004. — INTERNET

MRTV-3
**2-3-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 9:06 Myanmar Roasted Bean
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Ancient City,
Pakhangyi
- 9:25 Scenic Beauty of
Falam and Cultural
Dance
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Art in Glass Bottles
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Agricultural Marketing
in Myanmar
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**2-3-2004 (Tuesday)
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 "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 15:36 Myanmar Roasted Bean
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Ancient City,
Pakhangyi
- 15:55 Scenic Beauty of

- Falam and Cultural
Dance
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Art in Glass Bottles
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"

- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Agricultural Marketing
in Myanmar
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Fossilized Wood Gar-
den
- 16:40 Breeding of Mythun
- 16:45** **National News**

- 16:50 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
- 16:55 Three Types of Dances
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple

- 17:10 Song "Bagan the
Wonder Land"
- 17:12 Dawei Traditional
Longyi Weaving Art
- 17:15** **National News**

- 17:20 Art of Carving On
Fruits
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"

- 19:36 Travel & Description
(Mandalay to Lashio)
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Myanmar Seafood
- 19:45** **National News**

- 19:50 Dat Taw Gyaik
Waterfall
- 19:55 Beginning of Summer-
time
- 20:00** **National News**

- 19:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Blue Moon"
- 20:12 Red Panda
- 20:15** **National News**

- 20:20 A Brief Account of
Bagan
- 20:25 Song On Screen
"Where does love be-
gin?"

- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Macadamia (Perennial
Cash Crop)
- 20:40 Wonderful Swiftlets
Dwelling in House

- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Intricate Art of Silver-
smith
- 20:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)

- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Travelling on the Chin
Mountain Ranges
- 21:10 Song "Two, Together"
- 21:15** **National News**

- 21:20 Nan-Thae Model Plan-
tation (Inlay Lake)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 21:35 Myanmar Roasted Bean
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit

- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Ancient City,
Pakhangyi
- 21:55 Scenic Beauty of
Falam and Cultural
Dance

- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Art in Glass Bottles
- 22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"

- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Agricultural Marketing
in Myanmar
- 22:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Fossilized Wood Gar-
den
- 22:40 Breeding of Mythun
- 22:45** **National News**

- 22:50 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
- 22:55 Three Types of Dances
- 23:00** **National News**

- 23:05 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 23:10 Song "Bagan the
Wonder Land"
- 23:12 Dawei Traditional
Longyi Weaving Art

- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Art of Carving On
Fruits
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**2-3-2004 (Tuesday) &
3-3-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30-1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"

- 23:36 Myanmar Roasted Bean
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit

- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Ancient City,
Pakhangyi
- 23:55 Scenic Beauty of
Falam and Cultural
Dance

- 24:00** **National News**
- 24:05 Art in Glass Bottles
- 00:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"

- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Agricultural Marketing
in Myanmar
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Fossilized Wood Gar-
den
- 00:40 Breeding of Mythun
- 00:45** **National News**

- 00:50 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
- 00:55 Three Types of Dances
- 01:00** **National News**

- 01:05 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 01:10 Song "Bagan the
Wonder Land"
- 01:12 Dawei Traditional
Longyi Weaving Art

- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Art of Carving On
Fruits
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**3-3-2004 (Wednesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 03:36 Travel & Description
(Mandalay to Lashio)

- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 Myanmar Seafood
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Dat Taw Gyaik Water-
fall

- 03:55 Beginning of Summer-
time
- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Blue Moon"

- 04:12 Red Panda
- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 A Brief Account of
Bagan

- 04:25 Song On Screen
"Where does love be-
gin?"
- 04:30** **National News**

- 04:35 Macadamia (Perennial
Cash Crop)
- 04:40 Wonderful Swiftlets
Dwelling in House
- 04:45** **National News**

- 04:50 Intricate Art of Silver-
smith
- 05:05 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)

- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 Travelling on the Chin
Mountain Ranges
- 05:10 Song "Two, Together"

- 05:15** **National News**
- 05:20 Nan-Thae Plantation
(Inlay Lake)
- 05:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 05:35 Myanmar Roasted Bean
- 05:40** **Headline News**

- 05:42 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:50 Ancient City,
Pakhangyi

- 05:55 Scenic Beauty of
Falam and Cultural
Dance
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 Art in Glass Bottles

- 06:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"
- 06:15** **National News**

- 06:20 Agricultural Marketing
in Myanmar
- 06:25 Songs "Truth and
Beauty"
- 06:30** **National News**

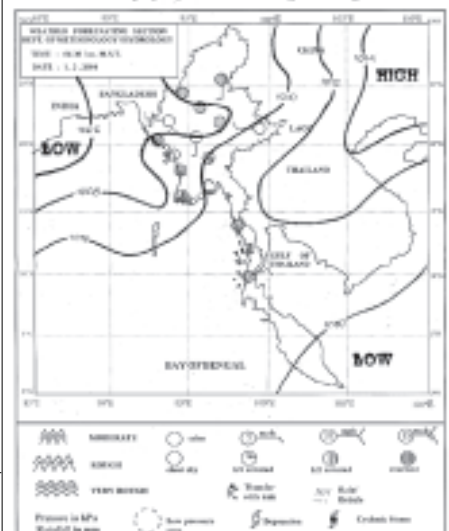
- 06:35 Fossilized Wood Gar-
den
- 06:40 Breeding of Mythun
- 06:45** **National News**

- 06:50 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)
- 06:55 Three Types of Dances
- 07:00** **National News**

- 07:05 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 07:10 Song "Bagan the
Wonder Land"
- 07:12 Dawei Traditional
Longyi Weaving Art

- 07:15** **National News**
- 07:20 Art of Carving On
Fruits
- 07:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas


WEATHER

Monday, 1 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) above normal in lower Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Mandalay, Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 29-2-2004 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 1-3-2004 was 17.7°C (64°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-3-2004 was 83%. Total sun shine hours on 29-2-2004 was (9.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 1-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours M.S.T on 29-2-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 2-3-2004:** Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Slight increases of day temperature are likely in Central Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-3-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-3-2004:** Fair weather.

**Strong Wind Warning
(Issued on 1st March, 2004)**

The day temperatures rise markedly all over the country from early March till middle of May. Strong winds are likely locally in the afternoon/evening over most of the country. Surface winds speeds may reach (40) m.p.h to (50) m.p.h. Strong winds may also be accompanied at times by squalls and hails.



Tuesday, March 2
View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of 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
- 7:50 am**
5. ကဗျာနိဗ္ဗာန်
- 8:00 am**
6. အရေပြေ
- 8:05 am**
7. Song of yesteryears
- 8:15 am**
8. ပေသောင်းတံတား

- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for Everyday
Use
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အဝေးသတိကူညီပုံစံ ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ
ပထမနှစ် (ရတနာ၊ သတ္တဗောဓိ၊
အထူးပြုစုအားလုံး)
(ရတနာ)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Dance of national
races
- 5:25 pm**
7. တောင်သူလယ်သမားနေ့တေးများ

- 5:40 pm**
8. မိုးခန့်ခွဲရေး ဝေးသတိပေး
- 5:50 pm**
9. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
11. Weather report
- 6:05 pm**
12. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုး ပြည့်အစုံ
- 7:20 pm**
13. The mirror images of
the musical oldies
- 7:35 pm**
14. ကော်ဖီအပိုင်း (၂)
- 7:45 pm**
15. ကရုဏ်ပြည့်စုံ ဖိုးကောင်းတံတား
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းစဉ်
"အရပ်ရပ်သတိပေး"
(အပိုင်း-၅)
20. The next day's
programme



Tuesday, March 2
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music
- 8:50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music
-Lullaby (Mandah)
-Vacation
(Vitamin C)
- 9:00 pm** English Lesson:
Look Ahead (8)
- 9:15 pm** Article/Music
- 9:25 pm** Weekly sports reel
- 9:35 pm** Music for your
listening pleasure
My heart keeps
following you (The
Serendipity
Singers)
- 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



Senior General Than Shwe meets with departmental personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and Tatmadaw members and families in Pyigyimandaing town. — MNA

Excerpts from**Senior General's address**

- * The government has established good infrastructures in order to bring about harmonious development across the nation regardless of races and regions.
- * Departmental personnel and the people are to make concerted and coordinated efforts to fully utilize natural resources.
- * The service personnel are to organize local people to inculcate them with the nationalism and Union Spirit.
- * As Pyigyimandaing is a border region, officials concerned are to strive for prevalence of law and order and for bringing about regional peace and security to enable the people to live with peace of mind.
- * Strenuous efforts are to be made to reclaim the farmlands for self-sufficiency in rice in the region.
- * Pepper is thriving in Taninthayi Division, Mon State, Kayin State and Rakhine State and efforts will have to be made to produce pepper as a new export item.

Pyigyimandaing region will meet...

(from page 1)

General Thura Shwe Mann and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo also met the Tatmadawmen and their families of Bokpyin Station at the meeting hall of the station and gave instructions.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party met with departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations at the office of the Township Peace and Development Council.

At the meeting, Senior General Than Shwe made a speech. He said that the government has been giving priority to development of Bokpyin region since the region is difficult of access and has potential for development. He added that

Bokpyin has now possessed the characteristics of a major town and it is in stark contrast with the past. Steps have been taken for development of roads, waterways and airways in the region.

To ensure better transport, Bokpyin-Kawthoung (See page 9)

Prime Minister urges local people to work hard for development of the region and social and economic progress

YANGON, 1 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments left here yesterday and arrived in An at 11 am on that day.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were welcomed by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Com-

mand Maj-Gen Maung Oo, members of Kyaukphyu District and An Township Peace and Development Councils and departmental officials.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by the commander, arrived in Taungup where they were welcomed by Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station, members of Thandwe District and Taungup Township PDCs and departmental officials.

The Prime Minister at-

tended a ceremony to open Shwe Myitta Home for the Aged in Taungup.

Also present were members of the Sangha led by member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Kaingshe Sayadaw in Taungup Maha Saddhamma-jotikadhaja Kanmathana-cariya Bhaddanta Vayamida, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, local authorities and wellwishers.

The commander and donor of the Home for the Aged Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Khin Maung Win formally opened the Home.

The Prime Minister formally unveiled the stone inscription of the home. Next, the Prime Minister paid respects to the members of the Sangha and presented offerings to them.

Wellwisher U Khin Maung Win and Daw Soe Moe Thu presented K 20 million—K 10 million for the fund of the Home, K 5 million each for construction of three-storey building of Taungup Basic Education High School and new build-

ing of Kyauknimaw BEHS in Yanbye to the commander.

The Prime Minister and party inspected hostels, mess hall and Dhammayon.

The Prime Minister performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the opening of the Home which can accommodate 40 elderly people.

The Home for the Aged was constructed at a cost of K 75 million donated by U Khin Maung Win and Daw Soe Moe Thu.

The Prime Minister and party went to Taungup BEHS where they were welcomed by members of school board of trustees, headmistress Daw Nyunt Shwe, teachers and students.

The Prime Minister inspected three-storey building under construction. Next, he met members of Thandwe District and Taungup Township PDCs, departmental officials and members of social organizations at the hall in the school.

Chairman of Thandwe District PDC Lt-Col Hla Tin reported on location and area of Thandwe, population, cultivation of monsoon paddy, per acre yield, arrangements

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects three-storey school building project in Taungup Township, Rakhine State.—MNA