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State Peace and Development Council Chairman

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Bulgaria

YANGON, 3 March — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria which falls on 3 March 2004. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Kyweku-Kyaukphyu Bridge. — MNA

Myanmar will have to leapfrog to catch up with global developments and changes

Senior General Than Shwe inspects institutions of higher learning, hospitals in Myeik

YANGON, 2 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe arrived at the Government Computer College in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, at 9 am on 28 February.

He was 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, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office.

The Senior General and party met with officials, the

acting pro-rector of Myeik University, professors, and principals and teachers of Government Computer College and Government Technological College.

Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin reported to them on the brief account of the university, classes, major

subjects and other academic matters, Principal of GCC Daw Mya Mya Zin and Principal of GTC Daw Nu Nu Swe on academic and (See page 8)



Kyweku-Kyaukphyu Bridge.—MNA

Excerpts from Senior

General Than Shwe's addresses

- It is important for the nation to have qualified human resources to advance with leaps and bounds.
- Teachers should also understand the sector-wise requirements of the Government and its goodwill.
- They will have to teach and train their pupils to become human resources capable of serving the national interest and building the nation.
- Only the nations having qualified human resources achieve progress in the long run.
- If the natural resources in the division can will be utilized effectively, Taninthayi Division will become the one on which the State can rely.
- Effective exploitation of natural resources in Taninthayi much contributes towards the national economic progress and individual income in the division will considerably increase.
- The government has fulfilled the basic requirements in education, health and transport sectors for the development of the division.
- It is sure that Taninthayi Division will become a prosperous division on which the State can rely if the tasks can be implemented with might and main after realizing the better prospects for development.

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PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 3 March, 2004

To further develop agricultural sector and to strive for success of Road Map

The State Peace and Development Council has laid down economic policies and been implementing them with might and main for accelerating the development momentum of national economic life in order to ensure the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In so doing, short-term plans are drawn up and implemented for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

As agriculture is the major production sector of the nation, emphasis was laid on supplying sufficient water for cultivation. Altogether 157 irrigation facilities including dams, reservoirs, sluice gates, weirs, etc were built spending over K 68,881 million to benefit about 2.15 million acres of crop land. Likewise, 265 river-water pumping stations have also been built nation-wide to supply water to about 300,000 acres. While the measures for supplying sufficient water for cultivation of crops are being taken, the Government has been making efforts for reclamation of wetlands and virgin and fallow lands. In addition, shifting cultivation is substituted with terrace or highland cultivation. Attention is also paid to double or multiple cropping of crops. As a result, the number of sown acreage has been increased to 39.9 million acres and cultivation of various crops has risen by 150 per cent. 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.

In his message to the 2004 Peasants Day, State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe pointed out that the peasants are to make use of 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 agriculture sector.

The Government has been consolidating peace and stability, rule of law and national solidarity, while standing steadfastly 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 for building up the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation. The seven-point road map has been warmly welcomed and supported by large number of countries and the entire national people.

Hence, the peasants are to strive for further developing the agriculture sector and make earnest efforts for successful implementation of the road map as a national duty.

Delegation leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 2 March — At the invitation of Vietnamese trade minister, Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun left here for Vietnam this morning to attend the opening ceremony of GMS Trade Fair to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 4 to 7 March, meeting of the executive members of the Greater Mekong Sub-regional economic forum and trade promotion conference.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, departmental heads and officials saw the delegation off at the Yangon International Airport.

The delegation was also accompanied by Director of the Directorate of Trade U Kyaw Soe Lin. — MNA

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Bulgaria

YANGON, 3 March — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Symeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha, Prime Minister of the

Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria which falls on 3 March 2004.

MNA

Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 to be held

YANGON, 2 March — With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 will be held from 2 to 5 April at the Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road, here by the Quartz International Co Ltd. Local and foreign-made cosmetics, consumer items, clothes and textiles, plastic wares, foodstuff, electric & electronic items, construction materials, household goods, stationery and packing materials, traditional medicines and modern medicines, etc will be put on display together with entertainment programmes. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Bulgaria

YANGON, 3 March — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Solomon Passy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria which falls on 3 March 2004. — MNA

Fifth State Central Working Committee of Sangha meeting continues

YANGON, 2 March — The fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of the Union of Myanmar continued its fourth meeting for the second day in Maha Pathana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

On the occasion, Chairman of the Central Committee for Construction of Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe supplicated on the building of the pagoda and progress of its all-round renovation.

Present at the meeting were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, Presiding Sayadaws of the SSMNC and the SCWCS, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser



The Fifth State Central Sangha Committee holds meeting in Maha Pathana Cave. — MNA

U Arnt Maung, directors-general of departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, directors, officials, and local authorities.

In his supplication, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said it was unprecedented in the history of the Buddha Sasana in Myanmar that the first plenary Sangha meeting was held successfully in

1980 with the aim of promoting and propagating the Sasana. To mark the successful completion of the meeting and the unity among the different sects of the Sangha, the Maha Wizaya Pagoda was built. He continued the major donor for religious edifices of the pagoda was families

of All Bus lines Control Committee (Yangon). Then, the meeting went into recess. The meeting resumed at 1 pm, and the report on activities of the SSMNC during the previous year was read out. Then, general round of discussions were held. The meeting continues tomorrow. — MNA



CASH DONATED: Charge d' Affaires of Pakistani Embassy in Myanmar Mr Habib Ur Rahman donated K 100,000 to Myanmar Hockey Federation. On behalf of the wellwisher, U Kyaw Naing and U Kyaw Naing Oo hand over the cash donation to Myanmar Hockey Federation President No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint on 2 March morning at the meeting room of the Federation. — MHF

Delegation leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 2 March — To attend the First GMS Trade Fair in Hanoi, Vietnam, UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin, CEC member U Tun Aung and executive U Myo Thant left here by air this morning and Vice-President U Zaw Min Win and Joint-Secretary-2 Dr Maung Maung Lay left here by air this evening.

They were seen off at the airport by UMFCCI President U Win Myint and officials. — MNA



The delegation being seen off at the airport. — MNA

Soldiers link baby deaths to jabs

BAGHDAD, 2 March—Some UK Soldiers who served in Iraq have expressed fears for their unborn babies after claiming a number of child deaths are linked to anthrax jabs.

There have been two miscarriages, three premature births, one still-birth and a medical termination associated with one Hampshire unit since last year.

At least one of the parents had received the anthrax jab in each case.

A spokeswoman for the MoD said there was no link between a higher rate of congenital disabilities and vaccines.

The National Gulf

Veterans and Families Association (NGVFA) is calling for a public inquiry into the deaths.

It follows claims that women in the first Gulf War were advised by the Army not to conceive children for at least one year after they or their partner received the vaccine.

A total of 105 soldiers from the Gosport based 33 Field Hospital were stationed on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and then Basra at the

beginning of last year.

The unit includes medics, chefs, Royal Engineers, drivers, clerks and quartermasters.

Charles Plumridge, spokesman for the NGVFA, said several worried parents-to-be had called him.

He said: "I had several calls yesterday on our helpline from mothers and husbands whose wives are now pregnant and are worried their babies may be born with some form of

defect.

"One woman was due in four weeks and she was very, very irate.

"They were all inoculated for Gulf War Two with anthrax and all the other vaccines associated with the Gulf."

Among the cases is Lance Corporal Andy Saupe's son, who was born 10 weeks premature with growth problems and limb defects.

Baby Kye survived only five weeks before his life support machine was switched off, 1 March, 2004;

Internet

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Iowan injured in grenade attack in Iraq

MOUNT PLEASANT, 2 March—An Iowa native was injured in a grenade attack in Iraq.

Army Capt. Michael Messer, who grew up in Mount Pleasant, was wounded in the foot and leg on 17 February. The grenade was reportedly thrown from the top of a hospital.

Messer is with the 116th Infantry Battalion based in Fort Riley, Kan. He returned to his unit the next day.

Messer's parents, Melvin and Barbara Messer, of Mount Pleasant, say their son has told them he will make a full recovery. He has been serving in the central part of Iraq, but his parents didn't know if that's where the attack occurred. Messer joined the Army after graduating from Mount Pleasant High School in 1991.—Internet



Iraqi women walk past a Polish soldier at a mobile checkpoint some 15 km north of the southern Iraqi town of Kerbala on 1 March, 2004.

INTERNET

Hollywood takes swipes at Bush, Iraq war

HOLLYWOOD, 2 March—Sunday's Oscars was an opportunity for Hollywood stars to slam President George W Bush and the US-led war in Iraq.

The first salvo came from master of ceremonies Billy Crystal, who opened the show with a reminder about the first Oscar show he hosted 13 years ago.

"Everything was so different," the comic said. "Bush was President, the economy was tanking and we'd just finished a war with Iraq." Of course, he was referring to the current president's father, the first Gulf War and the economic downturn in 1991.

Crystal compared his absence from the Oscars in the last few years with the controversy over accusations that Bush did not always show up for duty during his military service. "They let me come and go as I please," Crystal said. "It's kind of like the

Texas National Guard."

Director Errol Morris, who won an Oscar for his Vietnam war documentary "The Fog of War," compared the Vietnam conflict with Iraq. "Forty years ago this country went down a rabbit hole, and I fear we're going down a rabbit hole once again," said Morris, who was visibly moved.

Sean Penn, who won the best actor award for "Mystic River," took a shot at the Bush administration's failure to find Iraq's suspected weapons of mass destruction. "If there's one thing that actors know -- apart from the fact that there were no WMDs -- is that there are no bests in acting," he said.—Internet

List of Academy Award winners

LOS ANGELES, 2 March — The following is a list of winners at the 76th Annual Academy Awards, the film industry's top honours, presented by Hollywood's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Sunday.

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," the final installment in director Peter Jackson's blockbuster fantasy trilogy, took 11 Oscars, tying a record set by "Titanic" and "Ben Hur."

Best Motion Picture:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line); produced by Barrie M Osborne, Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh

Best Actor:

Sean Penn for "Mystic River" (Warner Bros.)

Best Actress:

Charlize Theron for "Monster" (Newmarket Films)

Best Director:

Peter Jackson for "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line)

Best Supporting Actor:

Tim Robbins in "Mystic River" (Warner Bros)

Best Art Direction:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (New Line); Grant Major, Dan Hennah and Alan Lee

Best Animated Feature:

"Finding Nemo" (Pixar/Buena Vista); Andrew Stanton

Best Costume Design:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (New Line); Ngila Dickson and Richard Taylor

Best Supporting Actress:

Renee Zellweger in "Cold Mountain" (Miramax)

Best Live Action Short Film:

"Two Soldiers," (Shoe Clerk Picture Company); Aaron Schneider and Andrew J Sacks

Best Animated Short Film:

Harvie Krumpet," (Melodrama Pictures); Adam Elliot

Best Visual Effects:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line); Jim Rygiel, Joe Letteri, Randall William Cook, Alex Funke

Best Make-up:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line); Richard Taylor and Peter King

Best Sound Mixing:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line); Christopher Boyes, Michael Semanick, Michael Hedges, Hammond Peek

Best Sound Editing:

"Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" (20th Century Fox); Richard King

Best Documentary Short:

"Chernobyl Heart," (Downtown TV Documentaries); Maryann DeLeo

Best Documentary Feature:

"The Fog of War" (Sony Pictures Classics); Errol Morris and Michael Williams

Best Original Score:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line); Howard Shore

Best Film Editing:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line); Jamie Selkirk

Best Original Song:

"Into the West" from "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line); music and lyric by Fran Walsh, Howard Shore and Annie Lennox

Best Foreign Language Film:

"The Barbarian Invasions," (Canada/Cinemaginaire); produced by Denise Robert and Daniel Louis, directed and written by Denys Arcand

Best Cinematography:

"Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," (20th Century Fox); Russell Boyd

Best Adapted Screenplay:

"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," (New Line); Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens and Peter Jackson



Charlize Theron, Sean Penn, Renee Zellweger and Tim Robbins (L-R) hold their Oscar statues backstage at the Kodak Theatre after winning Oscars at the 76th annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, on 29 February, 2004. Zellweger won best supporting actress for her role in the film 'Cold Mountain,' Penn won best actor for his role in the film 'Mystic River,' Robbins won best supporting actor for his role in the film 'Mystic River,' and Theron won best actress for her role in the film 'Monster.'—INTERNET

Original Screenplay:

"Lost in Translation," (Focus Features); Sofia Coppola

Note: New Line and Warner Bros are units of Time Warner Inc Focus Features is a unit of Universal Pictures, which is owned by Vivendi. Miramax, Buena Vista and ABC are units of Walt Disney Co Sony Pictures is owned by Sony Corp 20th Century Fox is a unit of Fox Entertainment Group, Inc, which is controlled by News Corp Ltd Newmarket Films is privately held.

MNA/Reuters

Survey finds declining support for Iraq occupation

OHIO, 2 March—Confidence in America's military involvement in Iraq has dropped to its lowest level since the war began — slightly more than a quarter of US adults say they are "very certain" the occupation of Iraq was the right thing to do.

According to the latest in a series of surveys about Iraq conducted by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University, nearly half say they are "not certain" the nation has done the right thing in sending troops into Iraq.

Support for a pre-emptive strike — engaging a country like Iraq because of concerns that it may attack the United States in the future — has also declined in recent months. The public appears to be evenly divided on whether the United States should consider deploying troops to countries other than Iraq or Afghanistan, if necessary, to combat terrorism.

President Bush's approval rating has also dropped in recent months with 48 percent saying they approve of the job he has done in the White House, the lowest of his presidency.

Scripps Howard began surveying public support for Iraqi operations starting in late 2002 during the military buildup for a US - led invasion. There has never been a majority expressing strong confidence in the campaign.

The latest poll, conducted the final two weeks of Febru-

ary, found 28 percent "absolutely certain" it was the "correct thing to do" to "send troops into Iraq to force it to disarm its weapons of mass destruction," down from 41 percent in May immediately after Bush declared an end to major military operations in Iraq.

Twenty-two percent said they were "pretty certain," down from 25 percent in May; 47 percent said "not certain," up from 31 percent in May. Three percent were undecided in both polls.

Men are much more likely to support military operations in Iraq than are women, with 31 percent of males saying they are "very certain" compared to 23 percent of women. Non-Hispanic white people tended to be twice as likely to support the military operations than are blacks or other racial minorities.

The latest survey was conducted at the Scripps Survey Research Centre at Ohio University among 1,013 adult residents of the United States interviewed 15-29 Feb by telephone. It was funded by a grant from the Scripps Foundation.—*Internet*

ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက်: www.burmesetoday.com

Thai House Committee calls on govt to withdraw troops from Iraq

BANGKOK, 2 March—Thai House Committee on Foreign Affairs called on the government to review the deployment of troops in Iraq, saying a withdrawal could ease tension in the south by distancing Thailand from the United States. *The Nation* newspaper reported Monday.

Committee Vice-Chairman Kobsak Chutikul said the government should not dispatch a second contingent of troops to Iraq as schedule because the first Thai contingent had sufficiently demonstrated Thailand's commitment to the efforts of the United States and the international community.

Invited by the United States, 400-plus Thai troops travelled to Iraq in last September to participate in the reconstruction there, they are living in the Lima camp in Karbala under orders of Polish troops.

Thailand plans to send a second contingent of more than 400 troops to Iraq by March 17 to replace the first contingent, which has worked there for six months.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqi men shout in support of Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, who represents the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), during a rally in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 1 March, 2004.—INTERNET

US wants unlimited guarantees for military bases in Iraq

PARIS, 2 March—US plans on the redeployment of its military bases from Saudi Arabia to Iraq are coming up against serious international legal problems. According to the information obtained here, the lawyers warned the White House and the Pentagon recently that any decisions within the framework of the talks, now being held with the Provisional Governing Council of Iraq, on a special status of US bases on the Iraqi territory would be invalid from the point of view of international law.

As a result of it, US servicemen in Iraq will be unprotected against legal action taken by international legal institutions, including the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The United States, which decided to move its military bases away from Saudi Arabia, is completing preparations for the creation of a network of military bases on the territory of Iraq. According to information from reliable sources, Washington is trying to get unprecedented concessions from Iraq, including the removal of US officers and men from the jurisdiction both of the Iraqi authorities

and international law. Along with it, the United States wishes to get guarantees for a freedom of movement of the US troops by the Iraqi territory, for the creation of military bases and testing grounds anywhere in Iraq and for the unlimited duration of its military presence in that country.

The lawyers, who provide legal advice to the US Administration, maintain that such agreements could be signed only with an internationally recognized government of Iraq, which is to be formed no earlier than July 1, this year.

Internet

Parents of murdered soldier demand inquiry into son's death

LONDON, 2 March—The parents of a British soldier murdered by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan have called for an inquiry into their son's death after it emerged that repeated requests for armoured vehicles were refused by the British Ministry of Defence, the British *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper reported on Sunday.

Jonathan Kitulagoda, 23, a Private in the British Territorial Army died on January 28 in an attack near Camp Souter, the British base in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Kitulagoda was in an open-topped Army Land Rover with "soft-skin" canvas sides when he overtook a suicide bomber driving a taxi.

"If the British Government is going to send soldiers into dangerous countries, it should ensure that they have the right equipment to do the job and that they are adequately protected," Ranjith and Susan Kitulagoda told the paper in their first comments since their son's death.

According to the paper, acting on intelligence of a resurgence of Taleban at-

tacks, British officers made several formal requests to the Army for armoured Land Rovers to be dispatched to Afghanistan. But the requests were turned down because all of the Army's armoured Land Rovers were in Iraq or part of a consignment held in reserve for a potential resurgence of terrorist activity in Northern Ireland.

However, the paper said, within days of Kitulagoda's death, the order was given for several armoured Land Rovers to be sent to Afghanistan. "I want to know why they were sent out after Jonathan's death and not before. If this is correct, there should be a full investigation. We are still waiting to hear the full facts," the paper quoted Ranjith as saying.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Israeli security Cabinet approves "Phalcon" sale to India

JERUSALEM, 2 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 dollars 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 Beriyev 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.

The payment for the planes for the *Phalcon* system is to be spread over a number of years, Israel Radio reported.

MNA/PTI



Rita Wilson, left, Nicole Kidman, centre, and Tom Hanks pose for photographers as Kidman is honoured by EIF's Women's Cancer Research Fund an Honorary Chairs in Los Angeles, on 1 March, 2004.—INTERNET

British troops in Iraq complain lack of planning by officers

LONDON, 2 March — Thousands of British soldiers have complained that they were failed by their senior officers whose lack of planning had led to equipment supply failure during the war in Iraq, the British *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper reported on Sunday.

The newspaper reported that the unprecedented criticism was contained in a confidential document which would be presented to General Mike Jackson, head of the British Army, next month.

Following weeks of face-to-face conversations with soldiers who served in the Iraq war, a select group of officers and senior non-commissioned officers compiled a report, stating that troops who fought in Iraq believed the kit crisis that affected thousands of British servicemen was caused by a lack of planning by senior officers.

Many soldiers were "frustrated that

they were not properly equipped" when they crossed the front line, the paper said. The report also said many soldiers believed that too much "government spin" supporting the need for war was passed down along the chain of command.

The *Sunday Telegraph* story comes as the government denied claims that British military chiefs put pressure on British Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith to strengthen his advice on the legality of war in Iraq.

Amid media reports that Goldsmith firmed up his legal opinion before the

Iraq war due to concerns that troops could be prosecuted for fighting an illegal war, British Cabinet minister, Commons leader Peter Hain told the GMTV that "we have a fog of fabrication and allegation not backed up by any evidence at all".

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the staunchest US ally on Iraq, has insisted that there was "never any question" of Britain being able to go to war without the clear advice of the attorney-general, whose advice has never been published.

MNA/Xinhua

Egyptian FM says Arabs do not need guides for reform

CAIRO, 2 March — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said on Sunday that the Arabs do not need guides for reform.

"The Arabs would not await to be guided for reform," he told reporters, referring to a US initiative aimed at fostering greater democracy and economic growth in the Middle East.

"The US plan would be under discussions during meetings of Arab foreign ministers," he said, while extending a welcome to external cooperation in the reform process in the Arab world. 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. — MNA/Xinhua

Manila urged to stop sending contingent replacements to Iraq

MANILA, 2 March — A Philippine senator urged the government Sunday to scuttle its plan to send 43 humanitarian and peacekeeping replacements to Iraq following the failure of the US Government to release the needed funds.

Manuel Villar, chairman of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations, said there was no need for the country to maintain such a mission in Iraq and that the government is risking the lives of volunteers by sending them to Iraq.

"The government should abort its plan immediately. It should not insist on deploying Filipino soldiers and health workers," he said in a statement.

The replacement personnel were supposed to leave Sunday for Baghdad as part of the government's plan, but their deployment was deferred due to Washington's failure to provide funds.

The Philippines has a 96-member contingent in Iraq, whose stay in the war-ravaged country was originally set for six

months. But the government decided to extend their stay for another six months last month.

Those who will be replaced are 14 soldiers, 18 policemen and 11 doctors and nurses while the remaining 53 contingent members have to stay in Iraq until the mission is over.

Villar also demanded the return of the contingent from Iraq, recalling that 12 members of the Philippine mission in Iraq were wounded earlier this month in the twin suicide car bombings of a coalition base to the south of Baghdad.

"There was no reason for the government to send a peacekeeping mission last year and there is no reason why we should continue to maintain one in Iraq," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



US forces said on 28 February, 2004 they had shot dead two men suspected of anti-coalition activities, but Iraqi officials in the northern city of Mosul said the victims were innocent bystanders. US soldiers are shown in the town of Mosul on 26 February, 2004 file photo.

INTERNET

China's emergency aid arrives in Morocco

RABAT, 2 March — Emergency humanitarian aid from China arrived at an airport in northern Morocco Sunday and it will be immediately sent to the Mediterranean nation's quake-hit Al Hoceima region.

The supplies, worth 5 million yuan (600,000 US dollars), are mainly tents, generators and water purification and lighting equipment.

The Chinese Government decided to offer emergency humanitarian aid to Morocco shortly after the northern African country was hit last Tuesday by a 6.3 magnitude quake, which claimed at least 572 lives and

left 427 injured and 30,000 more homeless.

Rescue work has nearly come to an end and the Moroccan Government is busy dispatching aid materials offered to the victims by the international community.

By Sunday, more than 20 countries had offered humanitarian aid to Morocco, according to officials from the Interior Ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

China pledges medical insurance to benefit rural people

BEIJING, 2 March — The Ministry of Health has pledged to widen medical reforms to allow most Chinese, especially those living in rural areas, to benefit from proper medical services, reported Monday's *China Daily*.

The government will give priority to increasing investment to build up the public health infrastructure, especially in the countryside, Vice-Minister Zhu Qingsheng was quoted as saying.

The relatively expensive but low quality medical services and fragmentary medical service coverage in rural areas has bottlenecked the development of the country's health industry, according to experts.

The new medical reform measures will let rural people have better access to medical

assistance by joining the new, co-operative medicare system, according to the English-language newspaper.

A recent survey shows that only 12 per cent of farmers covered by medical insurance, compared with 54 per cent among urban people.

The central government is determined to set up an effective welfare system to offer medical care to 780 million farmers and be expanded to cover all farmers by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria to launch second satellite in 2006

LAGOS, 2 March — Nigeria is planning to launch its second communications satellite in about two years, local newspaper *The Guardian* reported Sunday.

Its first satellite, *Nigeria SAT-1*, which was launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in Russia last September for data gathering and other scientific researches, made Africa's most populous country the third on the continent to join the space age, after South Africa and Algeria.

The *Guardian* quoted Federal Minister of Science and Technology Turner Isoun as saying that

the launch, which would cost less than 100 million US dollars, would be another window of opportunity in the country's quest to compete with the international community in the telecommunications sector.

"This will have some far-reaching implications on the nation's communications policy thrust aimed at making it another major tool for economic and social growth," Isoun said.

"The launching of communications satellite would make the (Nigerian) e-Government's dream realistic," he added.

He said that e-Government would help improve Nigeria's poor rating in the information technology world and move the country towards cashless society, which would reduce the incidence of armed robbery attacks, as many banks would settle payment using the e-Government option.

MNA/Xinhua



Separated by a pane of glass, a white cat on the inside of a Brooklyn brownstone tries to play with a black cat sitting on the exterior window sill on Monday, 1 March, 2004, in New York. — INTERNET

Many problems await returning Iraqi refugees

BAGHDAD, 2 March — For many of the Iraqis who had dispersed out of Iraq during the former regime of Saddam Hussein, the way back home would not be an easy one.

Muhsen Abdul Hameed, rotating president of the interim Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) for February, has said that their return would bring about the problem of providing jobs, houses and security, which is not an easy task nowadays.

The interim government has held talks with many of the host countries in a bid to secure a delay in those refugees' return, while most of the countries want to rid themselves of the refugees,

citing the reason that Saddam's regime has been toppled.

Every week, small groups of refugees made their way back to Iraq, but they were facing many problems as they tried to return to their houses, which had been confiscated and distributed to others by the former regime.

Hence came the complicated problem of ownership disputes between the former and current occupants.

The United States has said that it approves the return of the refugees, but considers it still very early yet, pointed out that it would not allow them to return unless a certain mechanism is set for them to return with dignity, respect and safety.

The US occupation authority fears that accepting the return of tens of thousands of families would mean that they would reclaim the properties that were taken from them.

This would create a problem that the US authority in Iraq could hardly contain.

MNA/Xinhua

Swiss cities deemed best for living, Baghdad worst

LONDON, 2 March — Baghdad, which suffered war and occupation in 2003, ranked the worst place to live in the world in a survey just published.

Concerns over security and precarious infrastructure were among the reasons putting Baghdad at the bottom of a survey on the quality of life in 215 world cities by Mercer Human Resources Consulting.

Zurich and Geneva in Switzerland were one and two in the poll, which takes into account factors such as the political and social environment, the level of education, the efficiency of transport systems and standards of recreational facilities.

Vancouver, on Canada's Pacific Coast, was pushed down into third.

A separate poll on top cities for health and sanitation

had Canada's Calgary first with Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver also in the top 10, along with Swiss capital Bern, Zurich and Geneva.

"The top cities for health and sanitation have a combination of excellent hospital services and medical supplies and low levels of air pollution and infectious disease," said Slagin Parakatil, senior researcher at Mercer.

Lowest ranked for health and sanitation was the Azerbaijani capital Baku because of the short supply of medical services and poor waste removal, the report said.

MNA/Reuters

Jordan, Kuwait agree to set up regional logistic storing facility

AMMAN, 2 March — Kuwait and Jordan have signed an accord to set up a regional logistic storing facility in the kingdom's southern port of Aqaba, local newspaper *Jordan Times* reported Sunday.

The agreement was inked by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority and the Kuwait Public Ware-

housing Company on Saturday. The facility, which is expected to provide a logistic base for the two countries in the Middle East region, will serve as a gate for the countries by offering services of freight, distribution, transportation and storing in Aqaba from Europe, Asia and Africa.

About 400,000 Kuwaiti

citizens have visited the Arab kingdom during the past two years, many of whom have rented or bought real estates in Jordan.

Kuwaiti businessmen prefer strategic investments, and many of them are studying opportunities in the Dead Sea area related to tourism, concerned officials said.

MNA/Xinhua



Truck drivers waiting for the authorization to get back to the road, nearby the crossing-point to Spain in Biriatiou, as the Spanish border had been closed by authorities due to the recent heavy snowfalls. — INTERNET

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Australia orders independent Iraq inquiry

CANBERRA, 2 March — Australia ordered an independent inquiry on Monday into pre-Iraq war intelligence on the advice of a parliamentary report that found the threat of weapons of mass destruction may have been overstated.

Prime Minister John Howard, who sent 2,000 military personnel to Iraq, bowed to growing pressure to follow the United States and Britain and hold an independent inquiry to address concerns the threat of

weapons was exaggerated to justify the war. Almost a year after the US-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein, no biological or chemical weapons have been found.

"We will follow the ad-

vice to have a former intelligence expert constitute the inquiry and the terms of reference will broadly reflect what was recommended," Howard told Parliament.

MNA/Reuters

Philippine police raid drug laboratory in Manila

MANILA, 2 March — Some 30 kilos of high-grade shabu (orice) and 3,700 kilos of raw material for manufacturing shabu were seized as the Philippine police raided Monday an alleged shabu (methamphetamine crystals) laboratory in a district in Manila.

In a statement, Anti-illegal Drugs Task Force chief Deputy Director-General Edgardo Aglipay said police

forces swooped down on the suspected laboratory early Monday, confiscating at least 148 sacks, or 3,700 kilos of

ephedrine, a raw material for manufacturing shabu, and some 30 kilos of the finished product of the illegal drug.

Aglipay said the raid was conducted after the apartment has been put under surveillance since September last year and the clandestine laboratory was abandoned by Taiwanese nationals, and no suspects were arrested in the raid. Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo arrived at the apartment to congratulate the police on the successful raid.

The Philippine Government has intensified anti-illegal drugs operations as drug lords ravaged across the country, where there were about 3.4 million drug abusers among the total population of over 80 million, and 70 per cent of the jailed were drug-related, according to the official statistics released last year. — MNA/Xinhua



Polish soldiers guard a checkpoint near the holy southern Iraqi city of Karbala. Coalition soldiers shot and killed a bus driver and wounded several other people. — INTERNET

India lowers excise, Customs duties on steel products

NEW DELHI, 2 March — In a bid to check spiralling steel prices, India Sunday notified a package including drastic cut in excise and Customs duties on whole gamut of steel, iron and coal products.

Central Excise duty has been reduced to 8 per cent from 16 per cent now, virtually across the board, including pig iron, ferro alloys and pellets.

In the Customs duty cut, pig iron, a major input in

steel making has been the major gainer as it has been lowered to 5 per cent from existing 10 per cent, which had come into effect only three days ago.

It may be recalled that on February 24, the Union Gov-

ernment had reduced import duty on pig iron to 10 per cent from 20 per cent prevailing at that time.

The package, which was finalized on Friday at a high level inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is aimed at enhancing supply of steel in the domestic market and check the prices which had skyrocketed in the recent past.

Customs duty on non coking coal, including anthracite, bituminous coal and steam coal has been slashed to 5 per cent from 15 per cent.

Coking coal of ash content below 12 per cent, which was subject to 5 per cent duty has been exempted from Customs duty while the coking coal of ash content of over 12 per cent has been prescribed at 15 per cent import duty.

The duty rates come into effect from Sunday.

MNA/PTI

UNDP to locate regional headquarters in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 2 March — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has decided to locate in Nepal's capital Kathmandu its regional headquarters for Asia in the areas of poverty, crisis prevention and fight against HIV/AIDS, a UN official said.

The decision to develop Nepal as the headquarters has already been finalized, and will be implemented from July 1 this year, *The Kathmandu Post* newspaper on Monday quoted Hafiz A. Pasha, UN Assistant Secretary-General, as saying here Sunday.

"Nepal had been a centre for South Asia, now it will be serving as the centre for all of Asia in the areas of poverty alleviation, crisis prevention, recovery and fight against HIV/AIDS," said Pasha, who is participating in a regional workshop in Kathmandu.

"We have already acquired a new premise just opposite of the UN centre in Kathmandu City, and the number of staff has also been doubled for the purpose," he noted in an exclusive interview by the independent English daily.

MNA/Xinhua

Patriots who discharged duties for perpetuation of the Union at risk to their lives

Chingya (Maubin)

The western mountain ranges, the central mountain ranges, the eastern mountain ranges and the Taninthayi mountain ranges help balance the climate of Myanmar, serving as walls to prevent the entering of extreme cold and heat waves, while letting the monsoon come at the right time. The rivers including the Ayeyawady, the Thanlwin, the Chindwin and the Sittoung serve as the means of transport and provide water for the people and farming. Likewise, the sea brings monsoon rains and is also useful for maritime transport. The national races living in the land of plenty have extended economic, social and cultural relationships among themselves, while depending on one another for prosperity and existence. They have driven out all the enemies trying to harm the freedom, peace and unity and safeguarded the independence and sovereignty at the risk to their lives.

Under the instigation of the colonialists, Sandara Kantashein of Assam launched an armed opposition against the Myanmar King in 1820. Over 7,000 Myanmar soldiers under the command of General Maha Bandoola marched to Assam and crushed the armed uprising. On arrival at Mogaung, chief of Taungsar of the land of Kachins and Jaingphaws asked Maha Bandoola to join forces with his army. Over 1,000 Kachin-Jaingphaw soldiers including Htaungsa Bo Nay Myo Thein Paza joined forces with the General's troops. The Kachin troops were led by Dai Pagan, Shu Rawla, Ket Hsantan, Lawon Zawli, Lawton Zawri, Indein Lawt Hsundu, Zawja Madophyi and Lawtkhun Zawtaung, who were Nay Myo Thein Paza title recipients. It is the history of the national races' endeavours to unitedly drive out the intruders plotting to encroach upon the sovereignty before the First Anglo-Myanmar War.

The British declared war on Myanmar on 5 March 1824, igniting the First Anglo-Myanmar War. The colonialist troops under the command of General Morrison and Sir Archibald Campbell opened the battle front in Myanmar with 9,343 troops, ten naval ships and eight attack flotillas. When Myanmar were gaining victory on the Panwa front, the colonialist naval fleet attacked Yangon.

The King from Inwa sent the message to General Maha Bandoola to march back to the lower Myanmar. But the colonialists had already seized Yangon before the arrival of Myanmar troops. The colonialists brought in troops from Bengal, Hainggyi Island and Manaung Island to face Maha Bandoola's army. The Myanmar troops under the command of Maha Bandoola set up defensive positions at Danubyu to stop the colonialist troops from advancing to upper Myanmar.

The colonialist attacked Danubyu on 7 March 1825. Two British officers Capt Rose and Capt Canon fell during the Danubyu battle. People of the Kayin race from Alamy, Chaungphya and Thabothabyu villages, located in the east and west of Danubyu, gallantly took part in the battle. A Kayin race leader Bo Lan was a reliable commander in Maha Bandoola's army.

Danubyu fort fell on 2 April 1825 due to inequality of firepower. The ethnic Kayins led by Shwe Hlan Bo and Mahn Kya Gyi attacked the fort to retake it. Fierce anti-colonialist battles took place in Ayeyawady Division. At the same time, Kayins and Bamars launched a guerrilla war against the intruders. The colonialist troops advanced to upper Myanmar with ground and naval troops. King Bagyidaw ordered the Myanmar troops led by his younger brother Prince of Dwarawady Thiri Maha Dhammayaza, who was also the Monai Bo Hmu to attack the colonialist army.

The Prince marched together with the over 10,000 soldiers of Shan chieftains and town administrators. The Prince's army alone had over 20,000 men. The British had to honour the bravery of the Bamar and Shan soldiers at the Wethigan battle. A British naval force attacked the Rakhine and Myanmar troops taking positions at Chaungpila region on 23 January 1826. Eleven British soldiers including two officers fell and another 20 were injured in the battle. Although the Myanmar races fought the colonialists courageously, the Randabo Treaty had to be signed on 24 February 1826 due to inequality of firepower.

Under the treaty Myanmar had to concede Assam, Manipur, Rakhine and Taninthayi regions to the colonialists. But the people of the regions never yielded to the occupiers. Instead they continued to fight back the

intruders risk to their lives. Bamars and Rakhines led by Daewun U Aung Kyaw Shwee, town head Aung Kyaw San and Bo Shwe Pan launched attacks on the occupiers in Rakhine region. The national races of Chin hills also fought back the colonialists.

Without making any formal declarations, the colonialists launched the Second Anglo-Myanmar War on 5 April 1852. Various national races of the Union joined forces with the army of King Bagan and faced the colonialist army in the battles.

Kayin, Gekho and Geba national races of the eastern mountain range unitedly attacked the colonialist troops. Min Htin of Alechaung (Gesharong) Village, Min Hla, local chief Aing Thahtaung, who was the Pabbata Thohan title recipient, are famous anti-colonialist leaders. Bo Kyaw, Bo Hlaing, Bo Yut, Bo Yin Tun and Kayins and Gekhos and Gebas led by Aing Thahtaung wrote the brave history of their anti-colonialist struggle.

During the Second Anglo-Myanmar War, the colonialist troops faced strong resistance from the national races in lower Myanmar. The patriotic national races faced the enemy at risk to the lives at the battles despite the fact that the intruders had greater manpower and fire power. There emerged many famous leaders of the anti-colonialist struggle in Yangon, Danubyu, Bago, Patheingyi, Mawlamyine and Mottama regions. They included Natshinywe Bo, Bo Tha Pon, Bo Tha Oo, Bo Mo Oo, Bo Kyaw Zan Hla and Bo Myat Tun.

Bo Myat Tun and another leader, Bo Shwe Pan, arrived at a place 30 miles south of Dalla together with his men. Bo Myat Tun had 7,000 Bamars and Kayins and Bo Shwe Pan had 2,000 troops, totalling 9,000 men. Bo Myat Tun was planning to attack the colonialists from the other bank of Yangon. But the colonialist troops sailed to Pyay and Bago. He and his troops dug in at a place west of Kyonkazin village west of Danubyu to attack the colonialists.

Bo Myat Tun's fort was built of timber. He made arrangements for the people of villages and towns along the river bank to leave their homes, and then destroyed the villages and towns, in order that the marching colonialist troops would not find any place to rest or get water or food supplies. He set up outposts to attack the intruders if they came from the roads via Danubyu or Pantanaw. His troops fell trees along the creeks and set up barriers. They lay in wait in the trenches along the bank for the enemy.

The encounter between Bo Myat Tun's troops and the colonialist troops took place near Danubyu on 17 January 1853. The colonialist boats faced difficulties in sailing along the creek where booby traps were set up. At that time the patriots on both banks attacked them. Thus, the 180-strong colonialist contingent had to retreat after 12 of its men were wounded by the Myanmar attack.

In February 1853, a colonialist contingent of Capt C B Loch comprising 158 naval personnel, 62 landing troops and 300 ground troops of Maj Manchinn marched to Danubyu Fort. Bo Myat Tun and his Mon, Kayin and Bamar patriots awaited the coming battle. The colonialists encountered the troops led by Bo Myat Tun on the Danubyu bank. The commander of the British contingent was wounded, six of his men were killed and 53 seriously wounded. The Myanmar troops seized cannons and ammunition from the colonialist contingent.

Although the colonialists attacked the fort from the rear, they could not overrun it. Sir John Cheid selected the best ones of the colonialist soldiers stationed in Pyay. He led the soldiers together with troops from other battalions, a 24-pounder howitzer cannon, one nine-pounder cannon and artillery troops to the fort.

Together with the reinforcements which arrived from Pyay, he sailed downstream the river to Danubyu. The artillery troops marched on land to the fort. On 6 March, he joined forces with the troops led by Maj Hodish and fought the Myanmar patriots near the fort till 17 March.

At 2 pm on 7 March, 500 European soldiers, 570 troops from other units marched together with rations for seven days, two light cannons, three rocket launchers and two mortars.

Bo Myat Tun and his patriots fought a defensive battle from the fort. The colonialist troops captured a section on patrol of Bo Myat Tun's troops and managed to approach the fort. The colonialist troops tried to enter the fort supported by continuous covering fire. The patri-

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

ots fired back with two cannons seized from the British troops and gallantly defended the fort. The colonialists were able to move the 24-pounder gun to a place as close as 25 yards from the fort and pounded the fort with it. As the patriots suffered heavy losses, they had to withdraw from the fort. Twelve officers and 95 privates of the British troops were wounded, and three officers, 18 junior officers and 250 privates were killed in the battle. Two sons of Bo Myat Tun were wounded, and because of the superior fire power of the British troops, a large number of patriots were killed.

Bo Myat Tun retreated to Minkayu village together with Mon, Kayin and Bamar patriots. He then retreated to Yekyaw village and then to Tawkon village. Later, he took refuge at a place near Hinthada in the north, and recruited men and gathered weapons.

Bo Myat Tun and his patriots while hiding in the woods joined forces with other patriotic soldiers led by Bo Gaung Gyi, who was the former head of Tarpon Station in Thayawady. Bo Gaung Gyi and the troops led by his younger brother Bo Gaung Lay were attacking villages and small towns under the colonialist control. Later they became stronger and attacked the troops led by Sir John Cheid along the Ayeyawady River bank.

Bo Myat Tun sacrificed his life for the nation while fighting the colonialist troops together with Phu Kantalay, an ethnic Kayin, in the area where Duya village is now situated.

Concerning Bo Myat Tun, Governor-General of India Lord Dalhousie sent a telegraphic message to Sir Arthur Phayre on 27 April, saying that it was heard that Bo Myat Tun was captured; that it was assumed that Capt Fytche had captured Bo Myat Tun; that Bo Myat Tun should not be treated as a robber or a bandit; that he led 4,000 men to launch armed resistance against the colonialists for three times; that the colonialist troops led by a general had to crush the armed resistance for over a month; that the colonialists suffered heavy losses in the battles; that he should be treated as a good leader and a hero; that he or his sons if captured should not be treated as criminals; and that the matter should be submitted to the governor-general himself.

The colonialists unjustly occupied other countries and usually branded the patriots of the country who fought them back as bandits or robbers. But the sacrificing spirit of Bo Myat Tun and his Mon, Kayin and Bamar patriots was acknowledged by a governor-general. The anti-colonialist struggles of the Myanmar patriots from the early periods to 1897 are glorious till now. Because of the participation of the national races, the Tatmadaw was able to restore the sovereignty and independence of the nation. The Tatmadaw born of the anti-colonialist struggle and the requirement of the nation has been formed with all the national races of Myanmar. Thus, it has been able to discharge the national duties in all sectors.

It is the bounden duty of all the new generation national races of the Union to preserve the fine traditions and the bravery of the Myanmar patriots including Bo Myat Tun, in addition to honouring them. Because those patriots had served the national interest at risk to their lives.

(Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 29-2-2004)
(Translation: TMT)

Myanmar will have to leapfrog...

(from page 1)

management matters, Head of Marine Biology Department Dr Htay Aung on his subject and the islands in Myeik Archipelago.

Minister for Education U Than Aung said the Myeik University has the best opportunity among the universities that teach Marine Biology in Southeast Asia, and explained the extension programmes of the department,



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to the officials in Myeik General Hospital. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe hears a report presented by officials at Myeik Government Computer College. — MNA

academic matters and research work.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung explained the current condition of the GCC and GTC and extension plans.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that qualified human resources are essential to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Institutions of higher learning are being set up to narrow the gap between the regions in terms of development and in producing human resources. The world at present is seeing rapid developments and changes. A developing country like Myanmar will have to leapfrog to catch up with global developments and changes, and ordinary steps alone may not be enough. The nation should make five or more steps forward for every step taken by others. It is important for the nation to have qualified human resources to advance with leaps and bounds.

Qualified teachers as well as international level curricular are needed to bring out brilliant intellectuals, engineers and scientists. The institutions of higher learning must have adequate number of advanced teaching aids. Plans are under way to send teachers abroad for further studies and to train them in the country with advanced equipment.

Teachers should also understand the sector-wise requirements of the Government and its goodwill. They will have to teach and train their pupils to become hu-

man resources capable of serving the national interest and building the nation. Teachers themselves should also try to promote their qualification. Only the qualified can produce brilliant persons. Brilliant human resources are required for long-term progress of the nation. There are examples that only the nations having qualified human resources achieve progress in the long run.

Thus, the education promotion programmes are required. Education qualification competitions should be held institution-wise and prizes should be presented to the winners to implement the programmes.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the 3,600-foot long Kywegu-Kyaukpha Bridge, which was inaugurated on 26 October 2003. They also viewed the surroundings of the bridge.

After observing the rubber plantations in Myeik region by car, they visited the Government Technological College in Myeik, and greeted the principal and the teachers. In Myeik University, they cordially conversed with the acting Pro-Rector Daw San Yi and faculty members and inspected it.

On arrival at Myeik General Hospital, they were welcomed by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Head of Taninthayi Division Health Department Office Dr Swe Win, Medical Superintendent Dr Tun Lwin, physicians and health staff.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint reported to the Senior Gen-

eral on the salient points of the hospital.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said requirements were fulfilled for upgrading of 200-bed general hospital in Myeik, 200-bed general hospital in Dawei and 100-bed hospital in Kawthoung and other hospitals and dispensaries.

In the past if someone suffered from a disease, he was sent to Yangon for treatment. The government opened specialist hospitals in order to provide local people with health care services of high standard. Hospitals and dispensaries were opened to provide health care services fully. Moreover, institutes and schools that can produce skilled doctors and health staff were opened, he said.

He spoke of the need for health staff at different levels to carry out the tasks for health education, prevention of diseases and treatment with sense of duty. By doing so, national health standard will improve, he said.

He said the health staff are to review the tasks whether they are effective or not. In dealing with patients, weaknesses are to be remedied in time.

He stressed the importance of providing effective health care services to the people with goodwill for their longevity and living with peace of mind free from diseases as everybody loves to be alive.

The Senior General signed in the visitors' book.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party in-

spected dental and oral unit, out-patient department, blood bank and X-ray room.

The Senior General and party met members of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, chairmen of Myeik District and Township PDCs, officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, townsenders and entrepreneurs at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik at noon.

Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on development tasks in Taninthayi Division, measures undertaken for rural development, collection of tax, paddy cultivation acreage in the division, sufficiency of rice, cultivation of oil palm, rubber, pepper, construction of 12 oil palm factories, mining, meat and fish and transport sectors, economic development, per capita income and arrangements for regional development.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on State economy and production, contribution of Taninthayi Division in the State economy, per capita income and economic sector.

Senior General Than Shwe then gave guidance. He said he and his entourage came to the region to inspect development of Taninthayi Division and to fulfil the requirements on 25 February. If the natural resources in the division can be utilized effectively, Taninthayi Division will

become the one on which the State can rely, he said.

There are plenty of land, marine and sea resources. Fish and prawn, petroleum and natural gas contribute much towards national development. Pearl culture is a reliable and potential business of the division. Mineral resources can still be explored not only in the sea but also in the land. Exploiting the land resources, paddy cultivation is to be extended so that there will be sufficiency of rice in Taninthayi Division. Lands where oil palm and rubber can be grown are still left. Rubber and palm oil can be exported through the extended cultivation. Pepper which earns foreign exchange can be grown well in the region, he added.

Effective exploitation of natural resources in Taninthayi Division contributes towards the national economic progress and per capita income in the division. It is sure that Taninthayi Division will become a prosperous one on which the State can rely if the tasks can be implemented with might and main after realizing the better prospects for development, he said.

He spoke of the need to work hard. The government has fulfilled the basic requirements in education, health and transport sectors for development of the division, he added.

Continuing, he said, the government is implementing the tasks spending a large sum of money with the aims of developing even the far-

flung areas. In response to the government's goodwill, local people are to make efforts for development through hard work. He urged them to make endeavours for local rice sufficiency, regional and national development hand in hand with the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Senior General Than Shwe and party toured Myeik and inspected fish and prawn factories there.

Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Kyunzu by air via Myeik and met with departmental staff, USDA members, those of social organizations and Tatmadawmen and their families at Kyun Yadana Hall of Kyunzu Township Peace and Development Council Office.

At the meeting, on behalf of the Senior General, General Thura Shwe Mann said in the time of Tatmadaw Government, not only the whole country but also Taninthayi Division has developed in all aspects thanks to the cooperative efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Next, he urged those present to make efforts for the development of their region and the State. Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted those present. Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed round Kyunzu by car, and proceeded to the township people's hospital and met with doctors and nurses. Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived back in Myeik by helicopter.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe views panoramic scene of Myeik from a viewpoint near Buddha Sasana Beikman. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe meets with faculty members at Government Computer College in Myeik. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects the General Hospital in Myeik. — MNA

Prime Minister makes inspection...

(from page 16)

sectors and requirements.

The Prime Minister attended to the needs for construction of Ngalawai bridge, facilitation of an auto-exchange in Kyaukpyu, and providing of fire engines for Yanbye and Manaung and said that the purpose of the tour is to inspect development projects and to attend to the needs. According to the officials of Kyaukpyu District, regional development and businesses have not met the target yet, he said. The district is blessed with marine resources. Previously, the marine resources could be exploited on a commercial scale in the region, but now the process has come to a halt. Besides, despite a lot of cultivable land, the region has not enjoyed local rice sufficiency yet owing to lack of land reclamation, he added.

Therefore, officials and departments concerned are to take a leading role in providing agricultural methods and assistance for effective utilization of the resources, he pointed out.

Township level officials are to take such measures as extension of land reclamation, introducing high-yield paddy strains, extended cultivation of cash crops such as green gram, groundnut and mustard, establishing model farms and disseminating agricultural methods for boosting agricultural production, he noted.

Model fish and prawn breeding is to be conducted in the region for promotion of livestock breeding sector. Organizing measures are to be taken in the interest of local people who are engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding, and assistance is to be provided for the farmers, he remarked.

A new natural gas deposit has been found in the sea adjacent to Kyaukpyu region recently, and so the region will be prosperous with oil production process soon. Besides, being blessed with good conditions to establish a deep sea port, Kyaukpyu region will be a prosperous one. Thus, officials are to make preparatory measures in creating good conditions for regional economic progress, he said.

At a time when the Government has been making efforts for raising the economic and living standard of the people, departmental personnel and the people, on their part, are also to make endeavours with goodwill for regional development and elevating the socio-economy life of the people, he urged.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV set and a video cassette player each to Kyaukpyu Basic Education High School Nos 1 and 2 through respective principals.

The Prime Minister and

entourage also viewed computer aided instruction, computer application and e-Mail, video system, electronic media (language lab), reading corner (printed media) room of Kyaukpyu BEHS No 1.

They arrived back at An in the evening.

Yesterday morning, the Prime Minister looked into development projects in An. The Chairman of the MEC and party arrived at An BEHS No 2 at 8.30 am. They inspected the multimedia teaching classrooms and left instructions on construction of new lecture rooms and academic matters to the teachers.

The Prime Minister proceeded to An Civil Engineering Project site. Officials reported on points about the project, of allocation of land plots, construction of roads and bridges, work being done, future tasks, distribution of water from Hinywet Dam and construction of town hall in An. The Prime Minister fulfilled the needs and gave necessary instructions.

The Chairman of the NHC headed for the site of An Township Hospital (100-bed) Project. Officials reported on facts about the project, progress in construction of the main building, operation theatre, obstetric and gynaecological ward, paediatric ward, and outpatient ward, construction of a surgical ward, and arrangements



Senior General Than Shwe meets with departmental personnel, USDA members and officials of social organizations in Kyunzu Township. — MNA

being made for giving medical treatments. The Prime Minister left necessary instructions.

The Prime Minister and party viewed the buildings round the project site.

Afterwards, they visited Swedawtaik Dhammayon in An and presented offertories to Chairman of An Township Sangha Nayaka Committee MyoU Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panñā Dhika and members of the Sangha.

They went to the immigration control centre No 25 in An. Officials reported on border trade businesses and immigration work. The Prime Minister gave instructions and met with local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations and townswelders. On the occasion, the Township Peace and Development Council Chairman reported on facts about the region, cultivation of monsoon paddy, edible oil crops and

beans and pulses, education and health sectors, forest conservation and nursing trees plantations.

The Prime Minister attended to the needs for construction of new buildings for An BEHS Nos 1 and 2, and dealt with highland reclamation, boosting per acre yield of the crops, planting such cash crops as green gram and pepper, conservation of forests, and establishing tree plantations.

Next, the Prime Minister presented a TV set, a video cassette player and a computer set each to An BEHS Nos 1 and 2, saying that during the inspection tour of Rakhine State, he fulfilled the requirements for development of Taungup and Kyaukpyu townships the previous day and An Township earlier in the morning.

Agriculture thrives in An Township and officials are to encourage the people to extend growing of

seasonal and perennial crops. He stressed the importance of transforming hill-side cultivation to highland cultivation in An Township. He said that the officials concerned are to organize local farmers so as to replace the strains of crops with high-yield ones. He called for measures to be taken for local food sufficiency and extension of more tree plantations in An Township.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the departmental officials to strive with goodwill to ensure rapid development of the region, to win the trust of local people and to raise socio-economic life of local people. The Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the afternoon via An.

MNA

**Donate
blood**

Buddha Pujaniya of Myat Mawtin Pagoda held

YANGON, 2 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials, attended the Buddha Pujaniya of Maha Makutaramsi Hsandawshin Myat Mawtin Pagoda in Ngapudaw Township on 28 February morning. Present on the occasion were the chairman Sayadaw and member Sayadaws of Ayeyawady Division Sangha Nayaka Committee, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife Daw Tin Tin Latt, senior military officers, departmental officials, members of the pagoda board of trustees, social organizations, wellwishers and guests.

After opening the ceremony with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife offered flowers, water, lights and offertories to the pagoda. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party paid homage to the pagoda. The congregation received the Five Precepts from member Sayadaws, who later recited *parittas*. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who made donations for all-round renovation of the pagoda. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also supplicated on religious matters to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. After the ceremony, Patheingyi District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Hla Thwin presented the paintings of the pagoda to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Col Maw Oo Lwin of Local Battalion. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife performed rituals of golden and silver showers.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Kanchaing village, where he attended a ceremony to hand over the newly-built basic education middle school (branch). On the occasion, outstanding students opened the stone inscription bearing the motto that reads 'Build a modern and developed nation through education.' Next, the commander and the assistant education officer of Ayeyawady Division formally opened Thiha Hall at the school. On the occasion, the chairman of the school board of trustees reported on matters related to the middle school. The commander also spoke on the occasion. The commander and the schoolhead handed over to Col Maw

Oo Lwin the commemorative pennant to mark the handover of the school. The schoolhead also handed over documents related to the building. The commander made a donation of K 100,000 for all-round renovation of the school through the schoolhead.

At the assembly hall of the school, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental personnel, member of social organizations and townselders. On the occasion, local authorities reported on the location and area of Kanchaing village, health, social and economic conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the State had already set up 24 development zones all over the country, and carried out rural development tasks, agricultural and livestock breeding. He also urged officials concerned to take measures for rural health care services and rural water supply. He also cordially greeted those present at the meeting. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed the regional development conditions in Kanchaing village.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Thameehlagyun in Ngapudaw Township. At the briefing hall there, officials reported on measures being taken for control and care of turtles in Ayeyawady Division, for preventing the turtles from extinction, environmental conservation tasks, and the population of turtles along Myanmar seashore. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions. Next, they proceeded to Ahsinchaing village of Pyinkhayaing station and met with local people.

On arrival at Pyithaya village, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party paid homage to Kalat Pagoda and viewed natural stallactites. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented K 30,000 for the Pyithaya primary school and inspected the regional development conditions. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also oversaw the bridge linking Deedugon village with Thayachaung village and gave instructions on maintenance of the bridge. He also inspected the 30-acre prawn breeding pond of U Zaw Min. There are 406.82 acres of prawn breeding ponds in Deedugon village-tract. Later they went to the basic education high school at Ahsinchaing village of Pyinkhayaing station. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially met with locals, members of social organizations, and donated K 100,000 for the school through the schoolhead.



The Myat Mawtin Pagoda in Ngapudaw Township. MNA

He also visited the 16-bed Station Hospital and gave encouragement to in-patients. He also inspected the operation theatre and medical storehouse at the hospital. He also provided K 100,000 to the hospital fund.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Chaungwa village, where he cordially met with social organizations and townselders. He also donated K 100,000 to the band troupe of the affiliated high school.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party then left there by Tatmadaw vessel and arrived at Haigyikyun in Ngapudaw Township in the evening. At the battalion hall there, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially met with officers and other ranks of the battalions and units.

— MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development of Haigyikyun and Ngayokkaung region

YANGON, 2 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and members, inspected agricultural and livestock breeding tasks in local battalion in Haigyikyun Station on 29 February morning.

First, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the pepper farm No 3 and inspected cultivation of 1,000 pepper saplings and the poultry farm where 100 ducks are raised in the local battalion. He next gave necessary instructions to officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed the thriving crops plantation and local chicken breeding farm. In the local battalion on Haigyikyun, pepper, betel vines, carrot, water cress and perennial crops such as thitsint, mango trees and other trees are cultivated and 1,000 ducks, 374 goats, 10 buffaloes are bred. There are also 49 acres of sea prawn breeding ponds in the battalion.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Haigyikyun Station Hospital where they viewed round the X-ray room and operation theatre and donated K 100,000 to the funds of the hospital. He then inspected the post and telegraph station of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and greeted the staff.

After inspecting Haigyikyun Police Station, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed the development of Haigyikyun by car. They next went to Win Kyaw Kyaw Ice Factory in the model village which produces 160 300-pound ice blocks per day. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and party proceeded to Khamaukmaw Village by boat and inspected road construction tasks along Patheingyi-Mawtin Road by car.

At 1.30 pm, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Ngayokkaungtaung Village where they cordially greeted departmental officials and townselders at the village basic education school and fulfilled the requirements. At the meeting with the townselders, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made cash donation for the village basic education school and opening of the library. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Ngayokkaung where they were welcomed by local people.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials and townselders at Ngayokkaung Basic Education High School. Also present were Chairman



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townselders at Kanchaing village middle school in Ngapudaw Township. — MNA

of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and division/district/township level officials.

Ngapudaw Township PDC Chairman U Nyunt Tin and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported on monsoon paddy cultivation, and health and administrative affairs of the region.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said to ensure the smooth transport of the Ngayokkaung region, the State has constructed Patheingyi-Mawtin earthen road and with the result that pepper can be transported by road from Ngayokkaung Taung Village to Patheingyi and Mawtinsun. He said the State has laid down five rural development tasks. And it is undertaking the tasks for construction and upgrading of schools and appointing teachers, opening new station hospitals and rural health care centres and employing doctors and nurses, he added. Plans have been laid down and agricultural and livestock breeding works are being carried out to boost the rural economy. It is needed to extend the cultivation of perennial trees and crops, he said. Measures are to be taken for cultivation of pepper by using the scientific method as well as conventional method. The region is required to set its objectives in order to become the one where pepper is grown most in Myanmar. Then, he also stressed the need for implementation of prawn and fish breeding tasks.

In conclusion, he said local people are to cooperate with departmental officials in implementing the tasks for their regional development.

After that, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated K 100,000 for the fund of Ngayokkaung Station Hospital.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the development of Ngayokkaung region, cultivation of coconut, betel and mangoes and Myakyuntha beach. — MNA

Fish donated to Armed Forces Day parade columns

YANGON, 2 March — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Myanmar Mann Marine Products Trading this morning donated 500 viss of Ngathalauk fish (*hilsa*) worth K 475,000 to the military parade columns which will participate in the Armed Forces Day parade at the Resistance Park here.

At the donation ceremony, Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted the donation presented by Chairman of the Trading U Ti Toe.

Similarly, Myakyaik Sayadaw of Yankin Hill in Mandalay also donated 17,220 bottles of safe drinking water. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the meeting to coordinate measures for holding plenary meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women's Affairs. — MNA

Myanmar women entering a new age; their ability rising, their fine traditions flourishing

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets delegates to plenary meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women's Affairs

YANGON, 2 March — Patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with delegates to the plenary meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women's Affairs at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha at 3 pm yesterday and gave necessary instructions.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the deputy chief justice, the vice-mayor, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, Chairperson of the leading committee for organizing the plenary Meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women's Affairs MWAFF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, vice-presidents and members, work committee members and guests.

First, the Prime Minister spoke on the occasion. He said not long ago, the MWAFF and State/Division Organizations for Women's Affairs held a conference. The future programmes and the sectors which requires remedial measures will have to be discussed. The State founded the MWAFF to extend the functions to develop the women's sector.

The State values and honours the spiritual ability and fine traditions of the womenfolk who have energetically taken part in the respective sectors throughout the successive eras of history. The MWAFF has been

momentum of the sector and enhance its essence and leadership role.

Of the nation's population of over 52 million, about 27 million are women, and 15 million of them are young ones or in their prime age. Thus, such a large volume of human resources should be united to become a single mighty force.

In addition, the women have been serving the national interest as a strong force throughout the course of history. Thus, all will have to further consolidate their strength. The MWAFF has been formed for the women to lead the invaluable force and to take the task of sharing responsibilities by themselves, till the Federation has become a united organization on which the womenfolk can rely.

The MWAFF has been formed with the fine traditions — to promote the women's sector in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation; to protect the rights of women; to develop the economy, health and education of women and to ensure a secure life for them; to nurture train them to promote their spirit of cherishing and valuing the traditions and culture; to systematically carry out the task of preventing violence against them and rehabilitation; to launch the task to eliminate trafficking in women and children; and to cooperate with international, regional and local bodies in ensuring the rights of women in accord with the traditions and culture and customs of the national races.

Moreover, the basic principles of the federation are: to serve only the national interest with the united strength of the entire nation based on Our Three Main National Causes; the ethnic basic principle of giving serious attention to love, friendship, respect and unity of the national races; the social basic principle of contributing to the community peace, food, clothing and shelter needs, and health, education and cultural development; and the basic women's affairs principle of promoting the women's sector and ensuring a secure live for the womenfolk. The womenfolk will have to discharge their duties in accord with the basic principles.

The Federation is an organization, with sound foundations in which all the Myanmar women who love their race and who wish to serve the interest of the nation are to strive only for the national cause. Officials are urged to collectively work to help the Federation run in accord with its vision.

Personnel of the Federation have already toured wards, villages, townships, districts and states and divisions and explained the basic principles, aims, functions and membership application of their body. Thus, the basic principles, organizational set-up and functions will have to be amended if necessary. The Federation is the main organization to boost the morale of women, and manage the health, education, organization and other affairs. It is also the highest body of the women's sector helping realize

the State's policies and aims of the sector. Thus, the organizations at different levels will have to work in harmony and unison under its supervision. All the members should work with loving kindness and goodwill.

President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe reported on formation of the federation. She said the federation was formed on 20 December 2003. It includes two honorary patrons, 12 members of Panel of Patrons, 44 central executives and 332 members of central organization for women's affairs.

She said the federation will carry out 16 major tasks based on policies on women's development and ensuring secure life laid down by the government for Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and sectors designated by The Fourth World Women's Conference. The sectors are education, health, economy, prevention of violence against women, culture, conservation of environment, information and communication, young girls and women, international communications, scrutiny of laws, prevention of human trafficking, nurturing and resettlement, organizing, national races affairs, discipline and finance and administration.

She said organizational set-up and functions, fundamental rules were compiled.

She said central executive members led by President and Vice-President of MWAFF made field trips to states and divisions. They met members of state and division organizations for women's affairs and explained procedures on finance and expenditure, indicators needed in compiling reports and fundamental rules of the federation. They also replied to the queries.

President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe reported on the date and venue in connection with holding of plenary meeting of MWAFF and delegates of state and division organizations for women's affairs, objectives of the meeting, committees for holding the meeting, accommodation, estimated expenditure and assistance to be provided.

The Prime Minister, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general and officials took part in the discussions. Next, members of Panel of Patrons of MWAFF and delegates of state and division organizations for women's affairs discussed the holding of plenary meeting.

Next, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and said the delegates coordinated functions of the federation. The future tasks of the federation to be implemented have now come to shape.

He said it is very important to carry out the tasks of the federation systematically and correctly.

He also stressed the importance of correct leadership, systematic measures, education and supervision, good character, sacrifice and goodwill towards the organization.

He urged them to try to become the social organization that can serve the interest of the nation in the history.

MNA



MWAFF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains matters on holding the plenary meeting of State/Division Organizations for Women's Affairs. — MNA

founded to organize the women mass to become a national force, while enabling them to take part in the nation-building task in the respective sectors.

As the Government has been making systematic efforts for the progress and firmness of the Myanmar women's sector, the women's spirit to love the nation and the race, patriotism to preserve the race, and the spirit to serve the well-being of the nation and the people have been further vitalized, and their tradition of actively taking part in the activities related social organizations promoted.

At present, the sector of Myanmar women are entering a new age; their ability is rising and their fine traditions flourishing. In this regard, the Government has been making arrangements to promote the women's organization as a means to accelerate the developing

Military columns continue practising drills

YANGON, 2 March — The military columns which are going to participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade continued practising drills in the Resistance Park from 7 am to 10 am today.

Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein led the practising drills of the columns — Anawrahta Column headed by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansittha Column by Column Commander Col Thein Dan, Bayintnaung Column by Column Commander Col Than Win, Nawaday Column by Column Commander Col Aung Thaw, Aung Zeya Column by Column Commander Col Tint Wai, Hsinbyushin Column by

Column Commander Col U Kyaw, Bandoola Column by Column Commander Col Myint Ko Ko, Myawady Column by Column Commander Col Kan Nyunt, and Aung San Column by Column Commander Col Maung Maung Than.

Chairman of the management committee for the observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade 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 inspected the drills.

MNA

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UN panel enlists private sector in war on poverty

UNITED NATIONS, 2 March — A UN commission seeking to enlist local businesses in the global war on poverty urged developing nations on Monday to pursue policies that encourage savings, investment and innovation.

"The private sector can alleviate poverty by contributing to economic growth, job creation and poor people's incomes," the panel reported.

"It can also empower poor people by providing a broad range of products and services at lower prices," said the panel headed by Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin and ex-Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo.

Local businesses in impoverished nations are typically overtaxed and overregulated, the commission found, recommending that governments ease the burden on entrepreneurs trying to start up a company and cope with myriad regulations they are required to meet.

In Angola, for example, it now takes 146 days and 5,531 US dollars — more than eight times the average per capita income — to start a business, compared to 28 US dollars — far less than 1 per cent of the per capita income — in New Zealand.

Impoverished countries and the

international agencies trying to help them develop can encourage private-sector development "only by fostering properly functioning competitive markets", the panel said.

Martin, in a statement, said the panel focused on the need for new and innovative partnerships between governments and small and medium-sized businesses, which he said would "contribute significantly to the creation of jobs and prosperity for the least advantaged where it really counts — in their local communities."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan launched the commission last July, asking it to report back to him on how to build strong local private sectors in poor countries.

Annan said poor nations were falling short of UN demands for more foreign aid, increased trade and greater private sector investment, preventing them from achieving ambitious goals set for them by the United Nations at a 2000 summit.

MNA/Reuters

Unemployment, growing problem in Central, East Europe

UNITED NATIONS, 2 March — Workers in Central and East Europe are more mobile than they used to be but unemployment is a growing problem in the region, said a UN report released here Monday.

In developed countries, job turnover increases during economic boom times because higher demand for labour encourages people to leave their jobs for better ones, while during recessions labour turnover declines due to low demand, according to the report, Labour markets in transition: Balancing flexibility and security in Central and Eastern Europe.

The United Nations International Labour Organization said in the report that job markets in the region have increased their flexibility, but the forms of flexibility are different from those

to be found in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries.

In the transition countries, however, people do not trust the economic health of many of the companies offering new jobs.

"They know that if they become unemployed their loss of income would be dramatic and the support provided by labour market and social welfare institutions is poor," said the report, "for these reasons, they prefer to stay in their current jobs even during an economic upswing."

MNA/Xinhua

Putin picks ex-tax chief for PM

MOSCOW, 2 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin made a surprise choice for prime minister on Monday, picking a bureaucrat with credentials to appeal to the powerful law and order lobby while reassuring Western investors.

Putin, catching Kremlin-watchers on the hop, picked Mikhail Fradkov, a former chief tax policeman and seasoned trade official, to succeed Mikhail Kasyanov, whom he sacked last week.

Putin said Fradkov, 53, Russia's envoy to the European Union and a former trade minister, had "strong experience in fighting corruption", adding that the job required a top professional with wide-ranging government experience.

MNA/Reuters

Venezuelan President threatens US with oil weapon

CARACAS, 2 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that Venezuela would block the US access to its oil resources if the United States imposes sanctions on or invades the country.

Chavez was responding to a recent threat from the United States that it would impose sanctions on Venezuelan oil companies on the US soil if Venezuela suspends oil exports to it.

In a televised speech to the nation, Chavez said: "If Mr Bush is possessed with the madness of trying to blockade Venezuela, or worse for them, to invade Venezuela in response to the desperate song of his lackeys... sadly not a drop of petroleum will come to them from Venezuela."

The Venezuelan President also accused Bush's administration of providing financial aid for opposition parties and terrorists in Venezuela.

Chavez said Venezuela is a free and democratic country and his people are ready to defend the country with blood and lives.

Pro-government supporters held a rally Sunday in Caracas to back the government and oppose US interference in the country's internal affairs.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman rides an unicycle at a park in Shanghai on 28 February, 2004. The unicycle was designed several years ago by Chinese inventor Li Yongli who called it 'the number one vehicle in the world'. —INTERNET

OPEC oil price keeps strong on US unchanged crude reserve

VIENNA, 2 March — The average crude oil price rose to 30.61 US dollars per barrel last week, up 41 cents compared to the previous week, the Vienna-based Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said Monday.

The crude oil price, based on the average price package of seven market-monitored crudes, was pushed high by the unchanged US crude oil reserve, according to the OPEC Secretariat.

A report by the US energy department said last week that the United States had not raised crude oil reserve and had reduced import.

By the end of last week, OPEC oil prices had hovered above the 22 to 28 dollars per barrel range for 60 consecutive trading days, and the post Iraq war high of 31.13 dollars per barrel appeared last Friday.

OPEC's President and Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro said

Monday that the cartel will raise its oil output temporarily to check the rising momentum.

Confronted by the situation, OPEC assured that there was no supply shortage.

Ali bin Al-n' Aimi, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister of Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest crude oil exporter, said Monday, "It is extremely important that the market remains stable. The world's economic growth depends on a very reliable supply of energy."

Despite the current price hike, OPEC made a surprise decision on 10 February in Algeria that it would lower output quotas by one million barrels a day effective from

1 April. The decision would reduce the cartel's oil output from the present 24.5 million barrels a day to 23.5 million barrels.

Some ministers believed that the cut is a necessary step to prevent oil prices from falling due to the end of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and a reduced demand for fuel.

However, some analysts worried that the move would push higher the oil prices that have already been rising in the international market.

The action drew immediate reaction from the United States for fear that the output spike would hurt the US economy.

MNA/Xinhua

About 2,900 journalists flock to upcoming NPC, CPPCC sessions

BEIJING, 2 March — About 2,900 journalists from home and overseas had registered to cover the upcoming annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) by Monday, according to the meetings' Press centre.

The number of journalists is almost same as that for last year's sessions in which the new generation of leadership was elected and administrative reform was deepened.

Constitutional amendment is widely regarded as the most important agenda of the Second Session of the 10th National People's Con-

gress (NPC).

Other hot issues on the agenda of both sessions include fighting corruption, increasing farmers' income, helping laid-off workers find jobs, improving social security, protecting ecological environment as well as coping with land requisition.

MNA/Xinhua

UN volunteers to help Cambodia to register citizens

PHNOM PENH, 2 March — Cambodia Monday launched its first nation-wide mobile civil registration campaign with the technical support of an advance team of the United Nations' Volunteers (UNV).

The initial pilot phase of the registration will begin in the provinces of Svay Rieng and Kampong Speu, and the main registration will start in August with the full-deployment of 24 UNV registration specialists in June, according to a statement of the UNV.

Over 95 per cent of Cambodia's estimated 13 million population has not been recorded in the civil registry due to the decades of turmoil in the country, despite the government's goal of having every-

one registered by August 2005.

"Civil registration is critical for establishing one's identity as citizen of a given country," said Shabir Ahmed, a coordinator for the UNV.

"Mobile civil registration in Cambodia is going to achieve a number of objectives including registration of eligible citizens, capacity building of the commune councils in planning and implementation, as well as hands-on training," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Real stretch lead as Valencia slip up

MADRID, 2 March—Real Madrid took full advantage of a slip-up by title rivals Valencia when they stretched their lead at the top of the Primera Liga to eight points following a 4-2 victory over struggling Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Celta looked anything but relegation candidates as they eclipsed Real in the first half and took a deserved lead thanks to a close-range striker from Sasa Illic on 18 minutes. But Real roared back into life in the second half and well worked goals from Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo put them 3-1 in front.

Celta striker Savo Milosevic grabbed a late consolation with a cool finish on the break, but Real had the final say when Zidane notched his side's fourth in injury-time.

Against all expectations Radomir Antic's Celta took Real by storm in the opening minutes at the Bernabeu, creating a string of early chances.

Carlos Queiroz's side did not manage a shot on goal until Raul fired a snap shot from the edge of the area after a quarter of an hour and it was the visitors who took the lead three minutes later.

Illic made the most of some slack marking from the Real defence to poke in from close range after an Alexander Mostovoi corner had fallen to his feet.

Real, who were jeered off by their own fans at halftime, continued to look a little shaky after the restart and Casillas had to react quickly to block a sharp shot from Savo Milosevic.

But a minute later they

got the breakthrough that changed the course of the match when Ronaldo stabbed in from close range after Pinto had failed to hold a David Beckham header.

Real immediately began to ooze confidence and nine minutes later they took the lead when Zidane met a pinpoint Luis Figo cross with an expert header.

Figo himself scored Real's third when he raced on to an excellent lofted pass from Beckham, controlled with his thigh and beat Pinto with a low, angled shot.

Although Milosevic cut the Real lead with a well taken goal in the 90th minute, Zidane made it 4-2 with a great finish from the edge of the area after yet more good work from the outstanding Figo.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane, centre, is congratulated by his teammates Roberto Carlos, left, and David Beckham after he scored a goal against Celta Vigo during their Spanish League soccer match in Madrid, Spain, on Sunday, 29 February, 2004.—INTERNET

Juninho settles his debt with Middlesbrough, himself

CARDIFF, 2 March — For Juninho it was third time lucky when he finally won a trophy in his third stint at his beloved Middlesbrough with a 2-1 victory over Bolton Wanderers in the League Cup final on Sunday.

Just as he had said before the match, this victory was as important to the little Brazilian as winning the World Cup with his national team two years ago.

"It's because of the relationship I've had with the club from the first time I came from Brazil, and trying to win a title. In the second year we lost two finals so the feeling had remained (with me) of a lack of success," Juninho told Reuters.

Juninho was in the Boro teams that lost the League Cup and FA Cup finals in 1997 to Leicester City and Chelsea respectively before moving on to Atletico Madrid.

He returned to Middlesbrough on loan from Atletico in 1999 and after loan spells in Brazil with Vasco da Gama and Flamengo he signed a permanent deal with Boro in 2002.

"Coming here (to Boro) for a third time and getting another opportunity...I feel this title is as important as the World Cup," said Juninho, a member of Brazil's team that won a record

first crown in Japan in 2002.

Juninho, who turned 31 a week ago, has two more years on his contract but said he would not see out his career at Middlesbrough. "I have always said I will go back to Brazil."

The Brazilian said Boro, who raced into a two-goal lead inside seven minutes but were pulled back to 2-1 in the 21st, deserved their victory but that they nearly paid the price for failing to kill off their opponents.

"I think in the second half we deserved to score another goal, we didn't get it so always when the ball went to our box the hearts beat faster," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Middlesbrough's Chairman Steve Gibson is held up by Franck Queudrue (L), Juninho (C) and Bolo Zenden as Middlesbrough celebrates winning the Carling Cup Final football match, on 29 February, 2004 in Cardiff, Wales. Middlesbrough defeated Bolton 2-1.—INTERNET

Roma, Juventus wins keep up pressure on Milan

ROME, 2 March — AS Roma came from behind to crush Parma 4-1 and champions Juventus brushed aside Ancona 3-0 to keep up the pressure on Serie A leaders AC Milan on Sunday.

The results gave second-placed Roma 53 points from 23 games, one more than Juventus and two behind Milan, who take on Lazio at Rome's Olympic Stadium in a later match.

Roma's form during February had been blighted by

the kind of inconsistency highlighted by the scoreless draw with bottom-placed Ancona that followed their sparkling 4-0 defeat of Juventus.

A 30th-minute lob by striker Alberto Gilardino put Parma ahead and threatened

a torrid afternoon for the 2001 champions, but Italian international Antonio Cassano equalized seconds before the interval. He latched on to a Francesco Totti pass before rounding keeper Sebastien Frey and firing into the roof of the net.

Roma grabbed the lead seven minutes after the break, when Emerson poked an Olivier Dacourt through-ball past Frey.

A 70th-minute free kick by Totti and an opportunistic goal from a rebound by Brazilian midfielder Mancini sealed the victory.

At Turin's Stadio delle Alpi Juventus gave a convincing response to criticism by their president Umberto Agnelli that they had fallen short of last season's standards, recording a comfortable victory over Ancona.

Midfielder Mauro Camoranesi gave the home team the lead in the seventh minute with a looping right-footed drive.

MNA/Reuters



Massimo Ambrosini (L) of AC Milan is airborne as he scores a diving header against Lazio's goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi during their Serie A clash at the Olympic Stadium in Rome, on 29 February, 2004.—INTERNET

Newcastle, Liverpool both miss out

LONDON, 2 March — Newcastle United missed the chance to strengthen their grip on fourth place in the English Premier League on Sunday when they were held 1-1 at relegation-threatened Portsmouth.

With Liverpool, one of Newcastle's main rivals for the final Champions League spot, drawing 2-2 at bottom club Leeds earlier, Newcastle seemed on course to widen the gap after Craig Bellamy's 34th-minute effort.

But Lomana LuaLua, who is on loan to Portsmouth from Newcastle, pounced in the 89th minute to volley an equalizer and secure a precious point for the south coast club to lift them out of the relegation zone.

Newcastle remain in fourth place on 42 points, 16 behind third-placed Manchester United but two ahead of Charlton Athletic and three more than Liverpool.

"I don't know whether he'll be pleased or not," Newcastle manager Bobby Robson told Sky Sports, when asked about LuaLua's contribution.

"He'll be pleased for Portsmouth, he was wearing a Portsmouth shirt but he's damaged us and that will leave a sour taste in his mouth. That's a massive two points we've lost today." Harry Kewell put Liverpool in front against his old club with a superb solo goal after 21 minutes of a thrilling draw at Elland Road.

Goals from Eirik Bakke and Mark Viduka turned the game on its head before Czech striker Milan Baros powered in an equalizer shortly before the end of a pulsating first half.

Liverpool pressed hard for a winner after the break but it was Leeds who almost snatched the points when Alan Smith headed powerfully against the crossbar.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea plan to use PSV as nursery club

LONDON, 2 March — Chelsea are close to striking a deal which will effectively lead to Dutch side PSV Eindhoven acting as their nursery club, according to newspaper reports on Sunday.

As part of the proposed agreement between the two clubs, Chelsea are helping to finance a big-money move by Santos defender Alex to PSV, said the reports.

"Nothing's been properly finalized just yet but there are clear advantages for everyone concerned," PSV chairman Harry van Raaij was quoted as saying in the News of the World.

"It is true Chelsea are behind this signing of Alex for PSV. Everyone's hopeful we can continue to work together for the good of both clubs."

Brazilian Alex, 21, will spend a maximum of two years with PSV before joining Chelsea, said the newspaper reports.

Chelsea won 1-0 at Manchester City on Saturday to climb up to second in the Premier League table, nine points behind leaders Arsenal. — MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3


**3-3-2004 (Wednesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Poppa Mountain Park
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Kinpon Bridge
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOo Lwin"
- 9:25 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits
- 9:28 The Patheon Umbrella
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Ancient Buddha
Images Carved On
Stone Walls (Akauk
Mountain)
- 9:40 Song "Hill Steps
Town"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi Re-
gion (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaung)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**3-3-2004 (Wednesday)
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 Poppa Mountain Park
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Kinpon Bridge
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOo Lwin"
- 15:55 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits
- 15:58 The Patheon Umbrella

- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Ancient Buddha
Images Carved On
Stone Walls (Akauk
Mountain)
- 16:10 Song "Hill Steps
Town"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi Re-
gion (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaung)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Pickled Featherback
Mandalay, The Golden
City
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Bamboo Parquet
- 16:55 Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
Honouring Buddha

- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Reclamation & Cultiva-
tion in the Uplands
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"

- 17:12 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 17:15** **National News**

- 17:20 Bagan Our Pride and
Glory of the Past
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Reclamation & Cultiva-
tion in the Uplands
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"

- 17:12 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 17:15** **National News**

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Glory of the Past
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Sights "Come and See
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tion in the Uplands
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"

- 17:12 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 17:15** **National News**

- 17:20 Bagan Our Pride and
Glory of the Past
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 20:35 Fossilized Wood Gar-
den
- 20:40 Breeding of Mythun
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)

- 20:55 Three Types of Dances
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple

- 21:10 Song "Bagan the
Wonder Land"
- 21:12 Dawei Traditional
Longyi Weaving Art

- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Art of Carving On
Fruits

- 21:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"

- 21:35 Poppa Mountain Park
- 21:40** **Headline News**

- 21:42 Kinpon Bridge
- 21:45** **National News**

- 21:50 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOo Lwin"
- 21:55 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits

- 21:58 The Patheon Umbrella
- 22:00** **National News**

- 22:05 Ancient Buddha
Images Carved On
Stone Walls (Akauk
Mountain)

- 22:10 Song "Hill Steps
Town"
- 22:15** **National News**

- 22:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi Re-
gion (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaung)

- 22:25 Song on Screen "Mus-
ical Maze"
- 22:30** **National News**

- 22:35 Pickled Featherback
Mandalay, The Golden
City
- 22:45** **National News**

- 22:50 Bamboo Parquet
- 22:55 Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
Honouring Buddha

- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Reclamation & Cultiva-
tion in the Uplands
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"

- 23:10 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 23:15** **National News**

- 23:20 Bagan Our Pride and
Glory of the Past
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Reclamation & Cultiva-
tion in the Uplands
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"

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Myanmar
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Glory of the Past
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Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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- 23:05 Reclamation & Cultiva-
tion in the Uplands
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"

- 23:10 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 23:15** **National News**

- 23:20 Bagan Our Pride and
Glory of the Past
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**3-3-2004 (Wednesday) &
4-3-2004 (Thursday)
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 Poppa Mountain Park
- 23:40** **Headline News**

- 23:42 Kinpon Bridge
- 23:45** **National News**

- 23:50 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOo Lwin"
- 23:55 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits

- 23:58 The Patheon Umbrella
- 24:00** **National News**

- 24:05 Ancient Buddha
Images Carved On
Stone Walls (Akauk
Mountain)

- 00:10 Song "Hill Steps
Town"
- 00:15** **National News**

- 00:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi Re-
gion (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaung)

- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Pickled Featherback
Mandalay, The Golden
City

- 00:40 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi Re-
gion (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaung)

- 00:45 **National News**
- 00:50 Bamboo Parquet

- 00:55 Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
Honouring Buddha

- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Reclamation & Cultiva-
tion in the Uplands
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"

- 01:10 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 01:15** **National News**

- 01:20 Bagan Our Pride and
Glory of the Past
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- Sights "Mingalabar"
- 03:36 Myanmar Roasted Bean
- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 Cruise on Min Kyan
Sit

- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Ancient City,
Pakhangyi

- 03:55 Scenic Beauty of
Falam and Cultural
Dance
- 04:00** **National News**

- 04:05 Art in Glass Bottles
- 04:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Rice Flowing
Like a Canal"

- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 Agricultural Marketing
in Myanmar

- 04:25 Song "Ayeayawady"
- 04:30** **National News**

- 04:35 Fossilized Wood Gar-
den
- 04:40 Breeding of Mythun

- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 Travel & Description
(Lashio to Muse)

- 04:55 Three Types of Dances
- 05:00** **National News**

- 05:05 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 05:10 Song "Bagan the
Wonder Land"

- 05:12 Dawei Traditional
Longyi Weaving Art
- 05:15** **National News**

- 05:20 Art of Carving On
Fruits
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"

- 05:35 Poppa Mountain Park
- 05:40** **Headline News**

- 05:42 Kinpon Bridge
- 05:45** **National News**

- 05:50 Tour In Myanmar
"PyinOo Lwin"
- 05:55 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits

- 05:58 The Patheon Umbrella
- 06:00** **National News**

- 06:05 Ancient Buddha
Images Carved On
Stone Walls (Akauk
Mountain)

- 06:10 Song "Hill Steps
Town"
- 06:15** **National News**

- 06:20 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi Re-
gion (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaung)

- 06:25 Songs on Screen "Mus-
ical Maze"
- 06:30** **National News**

- 06:35 Pickled Featherback
Mandalay, The Golden
City
- 06:40** **National News**

- 06:45 Ancient Buddha
Images Carved On
Stone Walls (Akauk
Mountain)

- 06:50 Song "Hill Steps
Town"
- 06:55** **National News**

- 07:00 Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi Re-
gion (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaung)

- 07:05 Songs on Screen "Mus-
ical Maze"
- 07:10** **National News**

- 07:15 Pickled Featherback
Mandalay, The Golden
City
- 07:20** **National News**

- 07:25 Bagan Our Pride and
Glory of the Past
- 07:30 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 Reclamation & Cultiva-
tion in the Uplands
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"

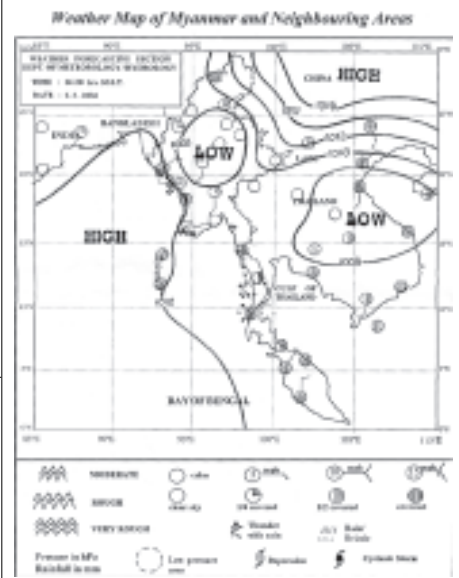
- 07:10 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 07:15** **National News**

- 07:20 Bagan Our Pride and
Glory of the Past
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
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- 07:00** **National News**
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tion in the Uplands
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Song "Naughty Girl"

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WEATHER
Tuesday, 2 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 (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Mon States, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant Day temperature was (39°C) in Aungmye.

Maximum temperature on 1-3-2004 was 35.5°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 2-3-2004 was 18.0°C (64°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-3-2004 was 92%. Total sun shine hours on 1-3-2004 was (8.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 2-3-2004 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 East at (18:30) hours M.S.T on 1-3-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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 inspects construction of Maha Theikdizaya Pagoda in Myeik

YANGON, 2 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, with his entourage, visited Maha Theikdizaya Pagoda on 29

February morning and inspected the pagoda, which is under construction in Myeik.

Senior General Than Shwe and party first paid homage to Buddha statues kept in the cave of the pa-

goda and then to relics which will be enshrined in the pagoda.

After signing in the visitors' book, Senior General Than Shwe viewed round the pagoda and inspected progress made in construc-

tion of the pagoda. Officials presented reports on construction works of the pagoda to Senior General Than Shwe, who later gave guidance. Next, the Senior General greeted departmental officials, and

members of religious associations, the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations. At 10 am, Senior General Than Shwe and party went to the Buddha Sasana Beikman Building at

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pandavamsa invested the Senior General and the congregation with the Five Precepts, followed by the recitation of parittas by Sayadaws. Next, Senior General Than Shwe offered



Senior General Than Shwe pays reverence to the Buddha Image in the cave of the Maha Theikdizaya Pagoda in Myeik. — MNA

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provisions to the Sankyung Sayadaw. Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and members of the State Peace and Development Council, the

commander-in-chief (Navy), the commander-in-chief (Air), and ministers also provided offertories to Sayadaws. Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party shared the merits gained from the good

deeds. Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the Myeik jetty, seaport and its nearby areas from the viewpoint near the Buddha Sasana Beikman Building.

MNA

Prime Minister makes inspection tour of Rakhine State

YANGON, 2 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, arrived at Kyaukpyu via Taungup, Rakhine State, on 29 February afternoon.

They were welcomed there by local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations. They proceeded to Kyaukpyu Education College and inspected the computer training centre and presentation room. Principal Daw Khin Khin Wai reported on courses being conducted in the college. Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for construction of a new build-

ing, saying that measures are being taken for opening new educational institutions and upgrading old ones. In the process, the Prime Minister gave instructions on adopting the plans for appointing sufficient number and high quality of the teachers.

On arrival at Kyaukpyu District People's Hospital (100-bed), Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looked into wards, operation theatre and medical store, and gave instructions to the officials on meeting the standard of health care services of a district level hospital (100-bed).

At the Rammawady Hall in Kyaukpyu, the Prime Minister held a meeting with local administrative bodies, service personnel and social organizations. On the occasion, Kyaukpyu District Peace and Develop-

ment Council Chairman Lt-Col Myo Tint reported on location, area and population of Kyaukpyu District,

average annual rainfall, land utilization, cultivation of monsoon paddy, preparations for extended paddy

cultivation, condition of local rice sufficiency, growing of various kinds of fruits, pepper, cold season

crops, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and kitchen crops, education and health (See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects construction of Ann Township Hospital (100-bed) in Rakhine State on 1-3-2004. — MNA