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Senior General Than Shwe being welcomed by faculty members and officials at Dawei University.— MNA

Government has already provided infrastructures in various sectors for development of Taninthayi Division

Senior General Than Shwe meets departmental personnel in Palaw, Dawei, inspects Maungmagan Beach in Launglon Township

YANGON, 3 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Palaw via Myeik at 12.30 pm on 29 February.

They were welcomed there by Staff Officer (Grade I) (Q) of the Coastal Region Command Lt-Col Tun Ohn, Myeik District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Kywe and officials.

The Senior General and

party held a meeting with local authorities, service personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, townsenders, Tatmadaw members of Palaw Station and their families at Kanyodan Yadana Hall in Palaw.

On the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann delivered an address, saying that Senior General Than Shwe and entourage dropped in Palaw, while touring Taninthayi Division to fulfil the requirements for regional development.

After taking over the State's responsibilities, the Tatmadaw Government has been systematically implementing the development projects, and now the magnificent development images in all spheres have stood witness to the government's ef-

forts, he said.

Based on the current achievement, continuous efforts are to be made with added momentum for greater development, he said.

(See page 16)

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

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Senior General Than Shwe meets departmental personnel and local people at Town Hall in Dawei.— MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 4 March, 2004

Strive for regional security and economic development

Rich in natural resources, the Union of Myanmar enjoys favourable environments for self-sufficiency and regional development. The State Peace and Development Council on its part, making the best use of these conditions, has been building economic and social infrastructures region-wise for the harmonious development of the entire Union.

Prevalence of peace and stability has paved the way for the execution of more economic and social work.

Therefore, regional administrative organs and the local people on their part should work together to widen the horizon of peace and stability and rule of law in their respective regions.

In his meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations, Tatmadawmen and their families during his visit to Bokpyin, Karathuriya, Pyigyimandaing and Taninthayi in Taninthayi Division on 26 and 27 February, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe emphasized that it was necessary for the local people to cultivate the love for the motherland and for the responsible personnel to safeguard their regional peace and stability and rule of law so that the local people can live in peace and security.

As the Bokpyin region is away from the capital and difficult of access, the Government has given special emphasis to development work in the Bokpyin region.

Now the Bokpyin-Kawthoung and Bokpyin-Taninthayi motor roads can be used in all weathers. And all the requirements for the development of transport, administration, education and health infrastructures have been fulfilled in Bokpyin, Pyigyimandaing and Taninthayi.

As Taninthayi township enjoys a favourable climate, gardening is the main industry of the area. It is necessary to extend arable land for the cultivation of paddy, oil palm, rubber and pepper to ensure self-sufficiency and economic development of the region.

Therefore, we would like to call upon departmental personnel and local people in Taninthayi Division to work in concert for peace and stability and economic development of their region, bearing in mind the guidance given by the Head of State.



Ranbaxy, Indian multi-national Pharmaceutical, celebrated its decade of presence in Myanmar at Traders Hotel in Yangon recently. There was also a scientific symposium chaired by Prof U Saw Naing, consultant physician of New Yangon General Hospital.

(H)

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'

Meeting of Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha concludes

YANGON, 3 March—

The Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continued for the third day at Maha Pasana Cave Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning and concluded in the evening.

Present were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, adviser U Arnt Maung, directors-general and officials.

Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Dawei Gawthitayama Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Açinnabhivamsa presided over the meeting and Joint-Secretary Nyaungdon



The third day session of the Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha in progress. — MNA

Ponnamayama Zaykyau Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa acted as master of ceremonies.

Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundalajoti sought the approval on the report of the SSMNC. Then, Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha

People's Desire

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

Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara submitted lists of vice-chairmen Sayadaws and joint-secretaries Sayadaws for the second three-year term and the meeting chairman Sayadaw sought the approval of the

lists. The meeting ended in the afternoon.

Today's wellwishers U Hla Aye and Koephaysay Family of No 177, Wahdan Street, Lanmadaw Township, offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws and then traditional medicines to the Sayadaws.

MNA

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 3 March— The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there.

Pamphlets and booklets on scientific cultivation of crops, mechanized farming, utilization of natural and chemical fertilizers are also available there.

The Nursery Market Festival is drawing more and more visitors and attracting people to get interested in agriculture and livestock breeding works. — MNA



U Aye Lwin and U Moe Kyaw being seen off at the Yangon International Airport. — (H)

Officials leave for Bangkok

YANGON, 3 March— Executive of UMFCFI Secretary of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association U Aye Lwin left here by air yesterday morning for Thailand to attend the Bangkok Furniture Fair 2004 in Bangkok from 4 to 7 March. CEC member of UMFCFI U Moe Kyaw also left here by air to attend the Leadership Forum 2004 in Bangkok from 3 to 5 March. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by UMFCFI President U Win Myint and officials. — (H)

Winners in colour photo contest announced

YANGON, 3 March— The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Colour Photo Organizing Working Committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein announced the winners today.

AK Moe (Zoology) won the first prize, Sein Win Htway in the second and Anthony (Mawla myine) in the novice class of the contest entitle 'Prosperous Myanmar', and Saw Thein Win (City News) the first, NyaungU Po Cho the second and Shweinthia Khin Maung Win the third in the class of the contest for those have already won the prizes.

U Lu Maung (MPS) won the first prize, U Than Aung (IPRD) the second and Ko Aung Than (Ayeyya) the third in the novice class of the contest entitled 'Preserve Cultural Heritage' and NyaungU Po Cho won the first prize in the contest for those who has already won the prizes.

The winners are to contact Secretary of the Work Committee U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, not later than office hour on 7-3-2004. Prizes will be presented to first, second and third winners at the prize presentation ceremony to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. Consolation prizes will be presented to winners at the respective military commands.—H

UN diplomats say Iraq had no WMD after 1994

WASHINGTON, 3 March—A report from UN weapons inspectors to be released today says they now believe there were no weapons of mass destruction of any significance in Iraq after 1994, according to two UN diplomats who have seen the document.

The historical review of inspections in Iraq is the first outside study to confirm the recent conclusion by David Kay, the former US chief inspector, that Iraq had no banned weapons before last year's US-led invasion. It also goes further than prewar UN reports, which said no weapons had been found but noted that Iraq had not fully accounted for weapons it was known to have had at the end of the Gulf War in 1991.

The report, to be outlined to the UN Security Council as early as Friday, is based on information gathered over more than seven years of UN inspections in Iraq before the 2003 war, plus postwar findings discussed publicly by Kay.

Kay reported in October that his team found "dozens of WMD-related program activities" that Iraq was required to reveal to UN inspectors but

did not. However, he said he found no actual WMDs.

The study, a quarterly report on Iraq from UN inspectors, notes that the US teams' inability to find any weapons after the war mirrors the experience of UN inspectors who searched there from November 2002 until March 2003.

Many Bush administration officials were harshly critical of the UN inspection efforts in the months before the war. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in August 2002 that inspections "will be a sham."

The Bush administration also pointedly declined UN offers to help in the postwar weapons hunt, preferring instead to use US inspectors and specialists from other coalition countries such as Britain and Australia.

But UN reports submitted to the Security Council before the war by

Hans Blix, former chief UN arms inspector, and Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the UN's nuclear watchdog agency, have been largely validated by US weapons teams. The common findings:

Iraq's nuclear weapons programme was dormant.

No evidence was found to suggest Iraq possessed chemical or biological weapons. UN officials believe the weapons were destroyed by UN inspectors or Iraqi officials in the years after the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraq was attempting to develop missiles capable of exceeding a UN-mandated limit of 93 miles.

Demetrius Pericos, the acting executive chairman of the UN inspection teams, said in an interview that the failure to find banned weapons in Iraq since the war undercuts administration criticism of the UN's search before the war.—Internet

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Shiite leaders blame US for deadly Iraq attacks

KARBALA, 3 March—Three Iraqi Shiite Muslim leaders blamed the United States and its security policies as the occupying power for the devastating attacks in Karbala and Baghdad that killed more than 180 people.

"We put the responsibility on the occupation forces both directly and indirectly," said cleric Sayyed Ahmed Saffi, a spokesman for Iraq's most influential Shiite religious leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

"Until now, it is the occupation forces responsibility because they are dealing with the Iraqi police in an unsuitable way," Saffi said, without saying whether Sistani endorsed his comments. "The existence of the occupation encourages such attacks," he added.

At least 112 people were killed and 235 wounded in Karbala in a suicide attack backed by mortar fire and bombs detonated at roadsides leading to the Shiite holy city south of Baghdad.

Internet



An angry mob of Iraqis throw rocks at US troops after retreating back to their camp following a series of explosions in Khadimiya at Baghdad, Iraq, on 2 March, 2004.

INTERNET

More than 180 killed, hundreds wounded in bomb attacks in two Iraqi cities

BAGHDAD, 3 March—More than 180 people were killed and hundreds wounded in simultaneous bomb attacks in two Iraqi cities on 2 March, with some blaming US forces for lax security.

In Karbala, at least 112 people were killed and 235 wounded in several coordinated blasts.

Baghdad blast

In Baghdad, at least 70 people were killed and 321

wounded in coordinated suicide attack in a Shiite district in the northwest of the capital.

Three suicide bombers detonated explosives.

In the southern holy city

of Najaf, one of Iraq's four main Shiite clerics, Bachir Najafi, blamed the attacks on the United States for failing to protect the country's borders from foreign terrorists.—Internet

Henan Province pledges vigorous assistance to "AIDS" patients

ZHENGZHOU, 3 March — The government of central China's Henan Province has pledged to improve the living conditions of its AIDS patients as soon as possible.

Government officials said that a group of 76 officials from Henan Province went last month for

a one-year mission to help improve AIDS control and treatment work in the most seriously affected villages.

They will team up with local officials to fan out into the 38 most affected villages in the province — including Wenlou village of Shangcai county, which has AIDS patients in nearly every household and has hit the headlines of worldwide media in recent years.

These officials are expected to supervise village authorities to offer free medical treatment to AIDS patients, free and anonymous HIV/AIDS tests, free education for orphans of AIDS patients and to take care of the elderly who have lost children to AIDS.

They would also help the villagers build basic infrastructure, including a paved road, a well, a school, a clinic and an orphanage and a home for the elderly in each village. The provincial government has earmarked over 30 million yuan (3.6 million US dollars) to finance building of the facilities.

So far, 4,352 AIDS patients in Henan have received free medical treatment.

Henan, China's most populous and a largely agricultural province, reported a population of nearly 93 million at the 2000 national census.—MNA/Xinhua

CPC calls for understanding inner-party supervision regulations

BEIJING, 3 March — Wu Guanzheng, a senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC), has called on all party members to thoroughly study and implement its first-ever inner-party supervision regulations made public recently.

Wu, secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, said that the party will continue to expand inner-party democracy as an important basis for improved inner-party supervision.

The regulations make it clear that the emphasis should be on supervising the leading Party organizations and officials, which holds the key to solving difficulties in supervision implementation, Wu said.

Wu said the regulations underlined the important role of institution building for inner-party supervision and also are vital to guarantee the effect of the supervision.

Wu, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said the regulations stress the need for members to abide by both the Party's disciplines and the law.

No organization or individual will be allowed to enjoy privileges above the Constitution and the law, said Wu.

He described the inner-party supervision as the basis for the outside supervision of the party, and called on the coordinated combination of both kinds of supervision.

The target of supervision is to strengthen the solidarity and unity of the Party, so supervision of Party members should be combined with the support and protection work. Party members should implement their supervision rights according to the regulations, said Wu.—MNA/Xinhua

India's exports surge 8.74% in January

NEW DELHI, 3 March—Continuing the forward march, India's exports surged 8.74 per cent to 5.11786 billion US dollars in January 2004 over 4.70669 billion US dollars in the same month last year.

In rupee terms, exports went up by 3.12 per cent to 2,853.05 billion rupees in the review month over 2,409.65 billion rupees in January 2003, an official release said on Monday. Cumulative

(April-January 2003-04) exports surged 12.8 per cent to 47.5025 billion US dollars over 42.10055 billion US dollars during the year-ago period. This is over and above the 17.1 per cent export

growth in April-January 2002-03 over the corresponding period previous year.

Even as exports climbed 8.74 per cent, trade deficit nearly doubled during April-January 2003-04.—MNA/PTI



Women react near the scene of several bomb blasts which exploded in densely-occupied areas, in the holy city of Karbala, Iraq, on 2 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Ex-Iraq WMD hunter says Bush should 'come clean'

LONDON, 3 March—Former chief US weapons inspector David Kay said in an interview on Wednesday President Bush should come clean and admit he was mistaken about Iraq having stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons.

Kay told Britain's *Guardian* newspaper that the failure to accept that the intelligence was wrong was giving the impression people had been deliberately misled.

"When you don't say you got it wrong, it leads to the general belief that you manipulated the intelligence and so you did it for some other purpose," he told the paper.

Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was the main reason given by the Bush administration for the war in which

more than 500 US troops have died.

In January, Kay resigned his post saying he now believed no such arms existed and the failure to find any such arms has raised serious questions about the quality of pre-war intelligence.

Bush has since defended the war saying Saddam Hussein had the capacity to develop banned weapons even if he did not actually possess them.

But Bush's Democratic challengers have accused him of hyping the threat to justify the invasion and undermount-

ing pressure in an election year he has ordered an independent investigation to examine the issue.

Kay, who says he still believes the war was justified and that Bush had acted in good faith, said the President had to go further to regain public trust.

"It's about confronting and coming clean with the American people, not just slipping a phrase into the state of the union speech," Kay said. "He should say 'We were mistaken and I am determined to find out why'." —*Internet*

US soldier killed in Iraq attack

BAGHDAD, 3 March—A US soldier was killed on Tuesday in Baghdad after resistance fighters tossed a grenade at an army Humvee as it drove down a road in the capital.

According to the US occupation forces, another soldier was injured and taken to a military hospital where he was listed as being in a serious condition. There was no word on Iraqi casualties.

Both soldiers were part of the 1st Armoured Division. The occupation military said it did not believe the attack was related to the bombings at Shia shrines in the capital and in Karbala, which left several dead and injured.

Most of that number have died since US President George Bush declared an end to major combat on 1 May. — *Internet*

549 US service members killed since the beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 March—As of Tuesday, 2 March, 549 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 378 died as a result of hostile action and 171 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine, Estonia and Poland have reported one each.

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 411 US soldiers have died—263 as a result of hostile action and 148 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations,

2,727 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department's figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 419.

The latest deaths reported by the military: One 1st Armoured Division soldier was killed and another wounded Tuesday after insurgents threw a grenade into a Humvee in Baghdad.

Internet

Bermuda's Premier calls for break from Britain

HAMILTON (Bermuda), 3 March — Bermuda's Premier has called for a national debate on independence from Britain and said the wealthy island can fully develop only if it breaks centuries-old colonial ties.

Premier Alex Scott's centre-left Progressive Labour Party supports independence but has not put the issue on the agenda since winning power for the first time in 1998.

"It is for the people of Bermuda to decide whether or not they wish to become independent," Scott told supporters on Sunday. "But we consider it our duty to declare our conclusion that only with independence can national unity be forged and pride in being Bermudian fully develop. We call on the people of Bermuda to act boldly in fashioning their future."

The ruling party supports putting independence to the test at a general election, but the centre-right opposition United Bermuda Party favours a referendum followed by a constitutional conference. The next general election must be held by 2008.

Some 75 per cent of Bermudians voted against independence when it was last put to a referendum in 1995, but the poll was boycotted by the Progressive Labour Party.

Bermuda, a mid-Atlantic island of 62,000 people east of North Carolina, would be the third wealthiest country in the world

based on a gross domestic product per capita of nearly 60,000 US dollars.

The self-governing colony has been under British control since 1684.

The low-tax island has one of the world's biggest reinsurance markets and is the nominal home of 13,500 international companies.

Business groups welcomed the call for debate on independence.

"The subject is going to come up and it is good that he (Scott) is looking for an open discussion," said Bermuda Chamber of Commerce President Charles Gosling. — *MNA/Reuters*



Iraqi men check the list of casualties from the explosion at al-Karkh hospital in Baghdad, on 2 March, 2004. — *INTERNET*

Australian Defence Force signs contract with Boeing

CANBERRA, 3 March — The Australian Defence Force (ADF) signed a contract with Boeing Monday for a most advanced air defence command and control system.

The 88 million US dollars Vigilance system would enable the ADF to support surveillance and air defence of the entire country from two operations centres in New South Wales and Northern Territory, Australian Defence Minister Robert Hill said in a statement.

"This means we will be able to better respond to pos-

sible future incursions into Australia's airspace, not only by aircraft but also by any missiles that are detected," said Hill.

The system would provide high-tech communication facilities which would be networked with other ADF and allied surveillance and combat assets, according to the Defence Minister.

"The contract involves the complex task of integrating and installing high technology systems and will bring together capabilities developed both overseas and within Australia," said Hill.

The first command and control system is expected to be installed and operational by mid-2007.

MNA/Xinhua

Shaolin Temple under repair in Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 3 March— Extensive renovations of the Shaolin Temple, the cradle of the famous Shaolin Boxing, have started in central China's Henan Province.

Located in the Songshan Mountain area in Dengfeng City, the temple was built in 496 in the period of the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-581).

The temple was originally constructed for the Indian monk, Bodhidharma, who came to China to spread Buddhism and introduce an Indian form of exercise. The Chinese monks that gathered as followers combined this with Chinese techniques to produce the unique form of

"wu shu" or martial arts. The fame of Shaolin Temple attracts millions of visitors every year.

The temple has a mountain gate, guest rooms, Dharma Pavilion, Baiyin Hall, Ksitigarbha Hall, and a hall housing 1,000 statues of Buddha and murals depicting 500 arhats.

The renovation project includes dismantling buildings on 5,000 square metres, laying 40,000 square metres of high quality grey bricks,

building houses on 1,000 square metres and installing a fire-fighting system. It will cost an estimated 40 million yuan (4.8 million US dollars).

The temple has undergone repairs on many occasions since the founding of new China in 1949. The current renovation aims to improve infrastructure facilities and provide a bigger space for martial arts demonstrations and exhibitions.

MNA/Xinhua



An employee of Smart loads bags into the trunk of the new Smart Roadster during its presentation at the 74th Geneva International Motor Show on 2 March, 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland. — *INTERNET*

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



A US soldier prepares to extinguish a fire that engulfed a Hummer military vehicle following an attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday morning, 2 March, 2004 killing a US soldier. — INTERNET



The flash from an explosion is seen between two buildings in Karbala, Iraq, on Tuesday, 2 March, 2004.
INTERNET



US Army soldiers from the 1st Armoured Cavalry Division run to reinforce the gate of Camp Bonzai after a stone-throwing mob attacked US forces in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 2 March, 2004. — INTERNET



An Iraqi woman cries as she waits for news of her relative, a victim of the explosion in Baghdad, at the Medinat hospital on 2 March, 2004. —INTERNET



Captain Jason Deel from the 4th Infantry Division Ironhorse replaces an anti-USA and ICDC (Iraqi Civil Defense Corps) graffiti with supporting ones during a joint night patrol with ICDC members in Tikrit, the former stronghold of ousted leader Saddam Hussein in northern Baghdad, on 28 February, 2004.
INTERNET



Iraqis carry a victim to a hospital as US soldiers rush to the scene moments after a series of explosions in Khadimiya, Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 2 March, 2004.
INTERNET

UN Iraq inspectors say US has not cooperated

UNITED NATIONS, 3 March — UN Arms inspectors on Tuesday complained that a lack of cooperation by the United States had stymied their efforts to completely account for Iraqi weapons.

The latest quarterly report by the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, known as UNMOVIC, says Washington never gave the commission a copy of US inspector David Kay's findings on Iraqi weapons, and it failed to seek any UN information for Kay's team.

UN inspectors withdrew from Iraq a year ago, shortly before the US-led invasion of the country. After the war, the United States deployed its own team under Kay and refused to allow UN inspectors to return. Kay's team concluded that Iraq did not have stockpiles banned weapons as alleged by President George W. Bush in making his case for war.

"During the period under review, no official information was available to UNMOVIC on either the work of, or the results of, the investigations of the United States-led Iraq Survey Group in Iraq. Nor has the (US) survey group requested any

information from UNMOVIC," the UN report said.

It sets out Kay's findings that it was unlikely large stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons were deployed in Iraq after 1994, but makes no comment on them.

The report also said it was hoping for more cooperation from the new US search team, led by Charles Duelfer, who was formerly the deputy chairman of the UN inspectors and replaced Kay in January.

Demetrius Perricos, acting executive chairman of UNMOVIC, said the agency now hoped to get a copy of Duelfer's findings. "The commission hopes that this report will be provided to it," he said.

The UN group, seeking a permanent role in monitoring arms programmes internationally, is hoping to complete its accounting of Iraqi arms as a model for future investigations.

MNA/Reuters

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Iraqis, carrying the wounded, run from the second of the series of explosions in Karbala on 2 March, 2004—INTERNET

IATA says international air traffic in healthy recovery

GENEVA, 3 March — The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released traffic figures for January 2004 on Monday, which reflect the air industry's sound recovery from last year's Iraq War, SARS eruption and global economic recession.

The figures for January 2004 show a 5.9 per cent growth in passenger traffic and 11.2 per cent increase for freight, as compared to January 2003.

"These results confirm the healthy recovery trend of the last quarter of 2003," said IATA Director General and CEO Giovanni Bisignani.

"It is a good start towards achieving the 7 per cent annual growth in global passenger traffic and 4.4 per cent in cargo that we have forecast for 2004," he said.

The Middle East region continues its strong recovery with 30.3 per cent passenger traffic growth as compared to January 2003 when the Iraq conflict slowed travel to the region.

The Far East and Africa regions also enjoyed a sustained traffic increase, which can be attributed to the New Year holidays in Asia and the religious holidays in the Middle East.

North America and Europe traffic were both over the 3 per cent growth mark.

MNA/Xinhua

LAAW asks ICC to probe Blair's war crime claims

LONDON, 3 March — The British pressure group Legal Action Against War (LAAW) asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague on Tuesday to probe allegations of war crimes by British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

As well as Blair, the staunchest US ally on Iraq, the LAAW was also targeting British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon and Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith, who advised that the US-led war against Iraq was lawful.

According to the LAAW, the ICC should investigate whether the bombing campaign in Iraq, the use of cluster bombs and depleted uranium shells constituted war crimes.

The LAAW, which has been set up by a group of concerned British citizens to investigate and utilize every possible legal avenue available to prevent Britain using military force to resolve international disputes, said a "principle charge" was "intentionally launching an attack knowing it will cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians".

None of the reasons given for the Iraq war, including Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, violation of United Nations resolutions and removing Iraqi former presi-

dent Saddam Hussein, provided a satisfactory legal basis for attacking Iraq, lawyer Michael Mansfield, who supported the LAAW, told a news conference here.

Although the ICC did not have jurisdiction to rule that unlawful aggression was a war crime, the context of considering the particular individual war crimes had to be set against what the LAAW claims was an unlawful war, Mansfield said.

The court should not just address alleged war crimes in "banana republics" but should investigate the world's powerful nations too, Mansfield argued.

The legal petition from the LAAW was launched as the British Government continued to defy pressure to publish the full legal advice it received on the war's legality.

The British Foreign Office on Tuesday declined to comment on the petition, saying only that it stood by the legal basis given for the war.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil calls on IMF to help against hunger

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 March — The Brazilian Government Monday urged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help curtail the misery of hunger affecting 40 million Brazilians.

Patrus Ananias, the Brazilian Social Development and Hunger Fight Minister, seized the opportunity of IMF Director Horst Kohler's attendance to a ceremony in northern Montes Claro City to request "more efforts" in the disbursement of resources to fight poverty.

Ananias pointed out that the ministry's main target was to aid more than 40 million Brazilians living below the line of poverty, defined by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

MNA/Xinhua



A wild Asian elephant feeds her calf at the Minneriya National Park near Polonnaruwa, 170 km (106 miles) northeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's domesticated elephants are in desperate need of a new job as machines take over their traditional role in the logging trade. — INTERNET

China to open special rehabilitation sections for drug addicts

BEIJING, 3 March — A special section would be opened in China's rehabilitation centres for drug addicts with HIV/AIDS, said a Chinese public security official Monday.

In some places, special centres will, if possible, be established for drug addicts with HIV/AIDS disease, said Luo Feng, Vice-Minister of Public Security, at a Press conference, when describing China's measures in drug control in 2004.

In 2004, China would push forward drug abuse

control and rehabilitation, as well as the programme of Drug-free Communities and Villages, said Luo.

Cracking down on drug-related crimes and intercepting drug sources were still important measures that China would take in drug control in 2004, according to Luo.

The country would also enhance drug prevention education and control the growth of number of new drug addicts. Besides, it would keep on strengthening exchanges and cooperation with international drug control agencies and neighbouring countries, said Luo. — MNA/Xinhua

Heilongjiang registered over 12% industrial growth in 2003

HARBIN, 3 March — The northeastern province of Heilongjiang reported a 12.2-per-cent rise in its total industrial added value in 2003, the latest statistics show.

The province's industrial added value in 2003 stood at 224.9 billion yuan (27 billion US dollars), according to the provincial economic commission.

The total industrial output accounted for over 50 per cent of the province's gross domestic product last year, and the industries contributed

nearly 60 per cent to the province's GDP growth in 2003. The province's GDP increased by 10.3 per cent in 2003.

Total taxes and profits from the industries of the province reached a record 87.73 billion yuan (10.6 billion US dollars) and 59.49 billion yuan (7.2 billion US dollars), respectively 23.4

per cent and 28.9 per cent from a year earlier, according to the provincial economic commission.

It is high on the Chinese Government's agenda to revitalize the three traditionally industrialized northeastern provinces that include Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning. — MNA/Xinhua

“Is that so, Maung Ka Lu?” “It’s more than that”

Maung Ka Lu

Grandpa: You are welcome, Maung Ka Lu, I am expecting you.

Maung Ka Lu: I was also thinking about a visit to you. Not long ago, the TV and the radio were broadcasting and dailies were featuring a variety of articles honouring the Independence Day and then the Union Day. Did you read them?

Grandpa: Why not? We need to know all the news about and objective conditions of our nation. The more we know about them the stronger nationalistic fervour we will have. If not, we would possibly be deceived by outsiders and would be on the wrong track. So, we must know all the authentic facts of history, in order that we may not be fallen into the evil trap laid by the internal and external perpetrators.

Maung Ka Lu: Yes Grandpa. We must always remember the background history of the two auspicious days — the Independence Day and the Union Day. We must always remember the lives, blood and sweat sacrificed by all the patriotic Myanmar races for the emergence of the two significant days in history.

Grandpa: Correct. If a country falls into the trap of the greedy colonialists, it will face oppression and torture. They robbed of all the riches and products of an enslaved country. When our country fell under subjugation, the companies owned by the white men like Steel Brothers and Bulinja Pool took away all the crops — rice, beans and pulses, corn, sesame and cotton — from the nation. Bombay Burma company exploited all the nation's timber, while the Burma Corporation manipulated the mining business, and the BOC controlled the oil industry. Thus, our people, workers and peasants became poor. We will never let our country face the evil situation again. Hence, we must collectively safeguard our independence and sovereignty.

Maung Ka Lu: All the national races took part in the struggle to regain independence. So, we all must safeguard the independence which is the jewel of all the national races.

Grandpa: That's the reason, the media were featuring independence day commemorative articles and special pages a number of days before the arrival of the Independence Day. As you have already known, the neo-colonialists and their minions are hatching plots in collusion to harm the independence.

Maung Ka Lu: Yes Grandpa. I have learned their plot to break up the Union and the national solidarity. As it is mentioned in the Union Day commemorative articles, we should not forget the Panglong Conference where the national races collectively made a firm resolve to restore independence.

Grandpa: Right. The colonialists occupied all our territory. But when they were about to grant independence, they tried to leave certain sections of the country from granting independence, saying that they would grant independence to the plains only; that they would like to keep the people of hill regions under their subjugation; that the national races were not capable of administering themselves; and that they did

not deserve independence. They had insulted us. At the Panglong Conference, our national race leaders firmly declared that they would not accept the colonialists' scheme, and started to rebuild the Union. Despite the colonialists, perpetration to cause dissension among the national races, they were able to show that the blood was always thicker than water in times of emergency. Thus, the colonialists were flabbergasted.

Maung Ka Lu: Yes Grandpa. The combination of the spirit to regain independence and the Panglong spirit is the Union Spirit. Because of Union Spirit, our national races have become more united.

Grandpa: The nation regained independence due to strong Union Spirit and consolidated national solidarity. When our nation regained independence, all we needed was just to properly and collectively utilize the land and water resources and fertile crop fields and to fully enjoy the taste of freedom. But unfortunately, our nation passed a period of nearly half a century for nothing, because of the external attempts to cause internal disagreements, extreme ideologies of some persons from inside the nation and some persons who ignored the independence and the people's interest. Now it is just within a 15-year or 16-year period that we have achieved marked progress. I think you can tell me about it.

Maung Ka Lu: In brief, as the 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold, peace has been prevailing in the whole Union, leading to consolidating the national unity. The people have been carrying out with full energy and Union Spirit the endeavours for all-round national development, combining the advantage of the peaceful environment and the rich natural resources. And the nation has been achieving unprecedented development in a short span of time.

Grandpa: True. These are undeniable facts. The nation was in disarray resulting from the unrest in 1988. Transport and the flow of goods came to a halt. Innocent people were beheaded. Factories and warehouses were destroyed and looted. There could not be any rule of law in the nation as anarchy reigned. Every pack of people had its own leader trying to harass and bully the people, who had to stay indoors with fear and uncertainty. The Tatmadaw, after saving the nation, has restored everything — community peace, the rule of law, and the flow of goods — back to normal since 18 September 1988.

Maung Ka Lu: What you said is true Grandpa. First, the Tatmadaw has restored peace and stability in the nation. Then, it faced a lot of difficulties in bringing the businesses of the people back to normal. Soon, the nation achieved peace and stability, and the armed groups returned to the legal fold. The result of peace and stability is the national development.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 3-3-2004)

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသည်းရောင်အသားဝါ၊ အသည်းခြောက်၊ အသည်းကင်ဆာ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS)နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများစသည့်တို့ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့်အပြင် စီးပွားရေးနှင့် လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူခံရခြင်းတို့ ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှ ကင်းဝေးစေရန် မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးခန်းများတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Seminar on TB in Myanmar

YANGON, 3 March — The opening of the Seminar on Tuberculosis in Myanmar took place at the Health Staff Training School on Asheizay Street in Dagon Township here this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

Also present on the occasion were heads of departments under the ministry, medical superintendents, specialists, officials, the presidents of social organizations, Chairmen of the Board of Directors of the Research Institute of Tuberculosis (RIT) of Japan Dr Nakamura.

In his address, the deputy minister said that the National Health Committee is giving high priority to combating tuberculosis. Myanmar is using the WHO recognized most effective DOTS Strategy to combat TB. The WHO set Global TB Target By 2005 identify 70 per cent of all people with active TB and cured 85 per cent of those detected. In 2002, Myanmar case detection rate was 70 per cent and treatment success rate is 82 per cent which is very close to WHO target. The achievement is due to high political commitment, efforts of health personnel, and community involvement and participation of NGOs and INGOs hand in hand. Next, Dr Nakamura delivered a speech.

The seminar was held under the third joint programme of RIT and JATA (Japan). At the seminar, the papers on anti-TB including the JATA project which covers six townships — Mingala Taungnyunt, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Channayathazi, Amarapura and Augmyethazan townships were submitted. The seminar continues till 4 March. — MNA

Htidaws to be hoisted atop pagodas in Mingaladon Garden City

YANGON, 3 March — Under the patronage of Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Panña Dipa Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw, a ceremony to hoist Htidaws atop Jabu Ushaung Myatphonekhaung MyoU Pagodas in Mingaladon Garden City will be held on a grand scale from 5 to 7 March.

In the garden city, replicas of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image, Kelasa Hsandawshin Pagoda, Bagan Dhamma Rajaka Pagoda, Kyaikhtiyo Hsandawshin Pagoda and Kyaikhtihsaung Hsandawshin Pagoda, and Shin Upagutta Image, Shinsivali Image, Thattahtana, Dagundaingkyau and pagodas have been built. At the ceremony, Htidaws will be hoisted atop

171 pagodas including encircling pagodas.

Starting from 29 February, the Htidaws (tiered and ornamented finials), Hngetmyatnadaws (Vanes) and Seinbudaws (Diamond Orbs) are being kept temporarily at the Kyaikhtihsaung Pagoda, the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda and the Shwedagon Pagoda. The religious objects will be conveyed back to the garden city at 4 pm tomorrow.

Panledaings (pivots) and Htidaws will be hoisted atop the pagodas at 7 am on 5 March morning; and Seinbudaws and Hngetmyatnadaws, at 8 am on 7 March. On 5 and 6 March evenings, those present will be entertained with Anyeints and Myanmar traditional orchestras.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe presents cash donations to offer gold foils for Shwetaungsa Pagoda in Dawei to officials.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe donates provisions to a Sayadaw at Lawka Marazein Pagoda in Dawei.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Maungmagan Beach.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe cordially converses with departmental personnel, local people and Tatmadawmen of Palaw Station at Kanyoedan Yadana Hall in Palaw.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe meets Tatmadawmen and family members at Heinze Station Hall in Yebyu Township.—MNA

Government has already...

(from page 16)

On 1 March, Senior General Than Shwe and entourage paid obeisance to members of the Sangha at Lawkamazein Pagoda. Senior General Than Shwe presented offertories to Agga Maha Kamahtanacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arindama of Zeyawady Kyaungtaik in Dawei.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) presented offertories to the members of the Sangha.

Secretary of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sagara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Senior General Than Shwe presented cash for offering Shwethingan to Shwetaungsa Pagoda to the Board of Trustees. He then signed in the visitors' book.

Senior General Than Shwe and party met departmental officials, Chairmen of district and township Peace and Development Councils, members of USDA and townsenders at the town hall in Dawei. Chairman of Dawei District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo reported on cultivation of crops including rice, rice sufficiency in the region, cultivation of oil palm, rubber and pepper, forestry, mining and electric sectors, rural and border development, education, health and transport matters, implementation of the projects.

General Thura Shwe Mann reported on endeavours for building of a peaceful modern developed nation and need to

carry out the tasks hand in hand with the State, the people and the Tatmadaw. Senior General Than Shwe said the Government has been giving priority to development of Dawei region. Infrastructure development is important for carrying out regional development undertakings. The Government has already provided infrastructures in various sectors including health, education and transport sectors in Dawei and Myeik development zones for progress of Taninthayi Division. The Ye-Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung Union Highway reaching Kawthoung in the southernmost tip of the nation has already been built, and necessary bridges on it has been constructed. Thanks to Ye-Dawei railroad, the journey from Mawlamyine to Dawei has become one-day-trip. Travelling time between the two destinations can be cut after completion of the upgrading work. Completion of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) will ensure direct link between Dawei and Yangon, and will contribute to the progress of the Taninthayi region.

The Government has been narrowing the development gap between all regions of the nation to the most possible degree, and striving for their simultaneous progress, without taking into account the distance or condition of any region. The Government has already fulfilled all the requirements, and the Dawei region should strive to boost production and accelerate regional development.

Efforts should be made to add value to the natural resources in the region, and energetic efforts are required for regional development. He cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

At the briefing hall in Maungmagan Beach in Launglon

Township, the Senior General and party heard a report on salient points of the pleasant beach, which is eight miles long, presented by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, who also explained that plans are under way to make the beach as beautiful and developed as the Ngapali and Ngwe Hsaung beaches. Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association U Khin Shwe explained arrangements to develop the beach.

Senior General Than Shwe said a master plan should be presented to make further discussions for the development of the beach. Further improvement of the transport to the region will ensure its long-term progress. The Senior General and party then inspected the beach.

In Dawei, they met with the heads of Dawei University and the colleges and faculty members at the university. Pro-Rector of the university U Kyaw Kyaw Htay, Principal of Dawei Education College U Mae Aung, Principal of Government Technological College Daw Kyay Yi and Principal of Government Computer College Daw Myint Myint Maw presented reports on the location, classes, major subjects of the institutions of higher learning, provision of teaching aids, academic matters and strength of faculty members.

The Senior General provided guidance on the need of adequate human resources like well-rounded intellectuals and intelligentsia in building a new nation, the building of necessary infrastructure by laying down the special four-year national education promotion plan and the need of making efforts to bring about highly-qualified human resources.

(See page 9)

Government has already ...

(from page 8)

Next, the Senior General signed in the visitors' book of the Dawei University.

Senior General Than Shwe also cordially greeted the faculty members of the university and inspected the progress made in construction of school buildings at the university. Later, Senior General Than Shwe and his entourage viewed the development conditions of Dawei by car.

The Senior General and

General Thura Shwe Mann extended greetings, followed by the guidance given by the Senior General.

Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Mon State and Kayin State and arrived back here from Mon State this evening.

On 1 March, General Thura Shwe Mann met with Tatmadawmen and their families from battalions and units of Dawei Station at Aung San Hall and gave instructions.

the punctual broadcasting of television programmes. The minister also looked into the IPRD in Bokpyin Township on 26 February and the construction of the subprinting house in Myeik on 27 February. After hearing the reports presented by officials concerned and inspecting the printing house, the storehouse, the generator, the water tank and progress of the construction of staff quarters, the minister gave instructions. He also inspected the IPRD and the television relay station in Myeik.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to Tatmadawmen and family members of Heinze Station at the station hall in Yebyu Township.—MNA



party also visited Dawei Education College and Government Computer College. They also cordially greeted teachers, trainees and students who were welcoming them.

On 2 March, the Senior General and party arrived at Heinze Station in Yebyu Township by helicopter and there he met with Tatmadawmen and their families. At the get-together,

Similarly, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, member of the entourage, arrived at the Information and Public Relations Department at Kawthoung District on 25 February, and there the minister inspected the wall magazines, the office building and Pyinnya Alin Library.

The minister also oversaw the television relay station and gave instructions on

More ancient Buddha Images of Inwa Period excavated

YANGON, 3 March — A team led by U Hla Kyi Maung Maung, director (admin) of the Archaeological Department has been taking measures for renovation of deteriorating Aungmyetharon Pagoda built by King Swazawke of Inwa near Zaga-in village of Pinya ancient city, Tada-U Township, Mandalay Division, since the second week of December 2003. A total of 32 ancient Buddha statues of Inwa era had been found during the period from 11 January to 7 February 2004. On 28 February, seven more Buddha statues were found from south-west corner of the pagoda. To date, 39 Buddha statues have been found from the pagoda. — MNA

203 drug cases exposed in January

YANGON, 3 March — The Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, and the Customs Department exposed 203 drug-related cases during January 2004.

The cases were: 30 cases with 56.2 kilos of opium, 73 cases with 25.1 kilos of heroin, 1 case with 0.97 kilo of morphine, 6 cases with 2.76 kilos of opium oil, 4 cases with 11.27 kilos of low-grade opium, 17 cases with 0.84 kilo of marijuana, 1 case with 3.75 litres of phensedyl, 46 cases with 343,696 stimulant tablets, 0.1 kilo of ephedrine, 59 kilos of stimulant powder, 6 cases with 5.281 kilos of opium dust, 1.5 kilos of chemical powder, 8 cases for failure to register, and 11 other cases. Action was taken against 314 persons — 271 men and 43 women. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann gives instructions to local authorities, departmental officials, local people and Tatmadawmen at Kanyoedan Yadana Hall in Palaw.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann meets departmental officials and local people at Town Hall in Dawei.—MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivers an address at the meeting with Tatmadaw officers and other ranks and their families at Pathein Station hall. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development undertakings in Ngayokkaung, Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 3 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence inspected development undertakings in Ngayokkaung town, Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Division, on 1 March.

Accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, he met with local elders in the town and attended to the needs in constructing a two-storey school building.

At the station hospital, he inspected the store room, a solar-powered freezer, and operation theatre and visited the patients. After inspecting the farming work at the police station, he inspected construction of an earth road, 19 miles and five furlongs long, linking the town and Ngayokkaungtaung village. At the village, he cordially met with members of social organizations.

At the meeting, he said the regional transport is improving thanks to the assistance of the Government. As the village's location is good, it will develop in the near future. Local people are required to strive for progress of their own region. The social organizations should render cooperation sector-wise. General Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service Dr Nyi Nyi and Ayeyawady Division Manager U Hla Myo disseminated scientific cultivation methods to the farmers.

During the inspection of Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road Project, he heard a report on the tar laying of the section, 30 miles and three furlongs long, being undertaken by Asia World Co Ltd, presented by officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the road by car. The Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road is 30 miles and three furlongs long. The gravel road is 21 miles and tarred road 9 miles three furlongs long. The gravel road is being upgraded to 14

feet wide concrete road on the Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected cultivation of summer paddy in Tunpalun Village, Pathein Township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions. Out of the 61,152 acres, 47,562 acres of summer paddy have been grown in Pathein Township.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected laying of concrete on the Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung road section and approach road to the Pathein Bridge by Asia World Co Ltd.

They spent the night in Pathein.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met Tatmadawmen and families in the Pathein Station Hall.

He gave instructions on education, health, social affairs and livestock breeding on a manageable scale.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back here in the afternoon.—MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects the construction of Kanni-Ngwe Hsaung road leading to Pathein Bridge in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Military parade columns continue practising drills

YANGON, 3 March — The parade columns which will take part in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade continued their drills in the Resistance Park here this morning from 7 am to 10 am.

Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansittha Column led by Column Commander Col Thein Tan, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Col Than Win, Nawade Column led by Column Commander Capt Aung Thaw (Navy), Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Tint Wai, Hsinphyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Oo Kyaw, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Myint Ko Ko, Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Kan

Nyunt, and Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Maung Maung Than practised parade drills under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein.

Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces

Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, and senior military officers watched and inspected the parade columns practising drills.

MNA

**အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း
တစ်တောင်တစ်တောင်တက်
မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။**



59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Observance Management Committee Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the drill of parade columns. — PUPR



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays homage to Sayadaws at Fourth Meeting of Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha at Maha Pasana Cave.—MNA



Prime Minister visits fourth meeting of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha

YANGON, 3 March—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visited the fourth meeting of the fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha at the ordination hall of Maha Pasana Cave in Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill this afternoon.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office arrived at the ordination hall at 1.40 pm. They were welcomed there by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung

Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung and heads of departments.

The Prime Minister paid homage to State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws and members of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha. He visited the session of the third day of the fourth meeting of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha.

The Prime Minister inspected preparations for religious title presentation and dry rations offering ceremony.—MNA

Vegetable & Livestock Farming inspected

YANGON, 3 March—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected cultivation of vegetable plantations and livestock breeding tasks at Yangon Division Vegetable and Livestock Farming Special Zone near Nyaungnabin Village, Hmawby Township, yesterday. At Hmawby Hsan Hall in Fish Breeding Special Zone-1, he met with officials concerned and gave instructions. So far, 5,405 acres of land have been put under vegetable plantations at the Special Zone. Similarly, over 1.1 million of broilers and layers have been bred and over 900,000 broilers have been sold. Over 1.2 million of fish are being bred in 568 acres of ponds. —MNA

Press conference on narcotic drugs reports of INCB held

YANGON, 3 March — The press conference related to the narcotic drugs reports of International Narcotic Control Board-INCB was held at the hall of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-UNODC on Malikha Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

Present were Director (News) of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Hla

Tun, Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Htway, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members, officials of periodicals, Resident Representative Mr Jean-Luc Lemahieu of UNODC and officials.

At the press conference, Resident Representative Mr Jean-Luc Lemahieu said that as illegal cultivation

areas of poppy plantation continued to decline in east and south-east Asia regions in 2003, there was the two-thirds decline of poppy cultivation in Myanmar in 2003 compared with the cultivation in 1996 due to endeavours in narcotic drugs elimination being undertaken by the Government of the Union of Myanmar. Similarly, it was

obviously seen that seizures of production and trafficking of amphetamine stimulant tablets declined in Myanmar in 2002.

He welcomed Myanmar and Mongolia which joined as members in the narcotic drugs control treaty (1988) and drug eradication treaty (1982).

Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, members of Mekong Basin Countries, signed the MoU on cooperation in drugs elimination in 1993

and approved to implement that MoU in September 2003. He supported regional cooperation such as control of transnational smuggling of narcotic drugs, matters related to amphetamine tablet and prevention against HIV infection.

In addition, he was satisfied with eradication of narcotic drug production jointly carried out in April 2003 by Myanmar and Chinese police forces.

As there were 81,400 hectares of poppy plantations in Myanmar in 2002 and 62,200 hectares in

2003, cultivation of poppy plantation was obviously reduced by 24 per cent.

UNODC, on its part, is carrying out drugs elimination tasks in Myanmar with the assistance being provided by the US, Germany, Japan and Italy. It is estimated that out of US\$ 26 million which will be spent on drugs elimination in Kokang and Wa regions, UNODC has already fetched about US \$ 6 million. Later, the resident representative answered the queries raised by journalists. —MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets staff of Kawthoung District IPRD. (News on page 1) —MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects wall magazine at Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department. (News on page 1) —MNA

Upgrading of sports grounds inspected

YANGON, 3 March—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspected upgrading of Salin football grounds in Kyimyindine Township this morning.

The minister then inspected arrangements for construction of a football ground in the compound of Kyaikkasan Sports and Physical Education Institute

in Tamway Township.

According to the instruction of the Prime Minister, Salin sports ground in Kyimyindine Township, Hline sports ground in Hline Township, Padetha and Myathida sports grounds in South Okkalapa Township, the sports ground in Thakayta Township, four sports grounds in Kyaikkasan Sports Ground in Tamway Township, Mandaing sports

ground in North Okkalapa Township and one training ground at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, totalling 11 are being upgraded by the Ministry of Sports and eight university sports grounds of university in Kamayut Township by Myanmar Football Federation.

Then, the minister inspected the hostels and mess of the athletes of Myanmar Archery Federation.—MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspects construction of football ground in the compound of Kyaikkasan Ground in Tamway Township.—SPED

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD., a corporation incorporated and existing under the Laws of Japan and having its office at 1006, OaZa Kadoma, Kadoma-Shi, Osaka 571 8501, Japan is the sole owner and proprietor of the following Trade Mark:-

Panasonic

The said Trade Mark is used in respect of the following goods:-

Chemicals, acid gas eliminating filtering materials; catalysts; zinc oxide whisker crystals; photographic printing papers for video printers; photographic printing seals for video printers. (Class 1) [Reg. No. IV/4057/2003]

Toners, toners for copying apparatus and machines; toners for facsimile apparatus and machine; ink cassettes for video printers. (Class 2) [Reg. No. IV/4058/2003]

Common metals and their alloys; metal building materials; conduit tubes of metal; doors of metal; gates of metal; wireless operated garage doors of metal; mail boxes of metal; acid-resistant high-polymer cladding steel sheeting; steel panels for office flooring; welding wire; bands of metal for tying-up purposes; building boards of metal; safety cashboxes; safes (strong boxes); branching pipes of metal; building materials of metal; fittings of metal for buildings; building panels of metal; ceilings of metal; chests of metal; clips of metal for cables and pipes; door fittings of metal; drain pipes of metal; drain traps (valves) of metal; ducts of metal; elbows of metal for pipes; fences of metal; floors of metal; gutter pipes of metal; gutters of metal; ladders of metal; letter boxes of metal; nuts of metal; pipes muffs of metal; pipes of metal; poles of metal for electric lines; posts of metal for electric lines; nails; pipes of metal for guarding of electric wire; props of metal; roof coverings of metal; roofing of metal; roof flashing of metal; screws of metal; shutters of metal; steel pipes; steel tubes; wall claddings of metal

(building); wall linings of metal (building); windows of metal; water-pipes of metal. (Class 6) [Reg. No. IV/4068/2003]

Machine and machine tools; welding machines; robots for metalworking; machines for inserting electronic components; dry etching machinery; micro electric-discharge machines; optical disc production systems; processing machines for printed wired board; parts mounting machines; gas-operated soldering machines; screw fastening machines; electric screw drivers; electric hand drills; motors; motors, electric, other than for land vehicles; generators of electricity; (DC) direct current generators; (AC) alternating current generators; home electricity generation system; elevators (lifts); washing machines; electric clothes washing machines; tubs for electric clothes washing machines; electric dish washers; electric dish washing and / or drying machines; compressors; air compressors; centrifugal compressors; pumps; electric pumps; mixing, cutting and chopping machines; electric blender machines; electric juice extractors; electric food processors; electric meat grinders; electric can openers; electric knife sharpeners; electric coffee mills; electric ice crushers; electric garbage disposers; electric hand mixers; garden tools; electric lawn mowers; garden sprayers for disinfectants and insecticides other than hand tools; electric appliances for cleaning; electric vacuum cleaners; electric floor polishers; electric water supplier; chip mounting devices; electric wax applicators for ski. (Class 7) [Reg. No. IV/4089/2003]

Razors; electric shavers; adapters for electric shavers; blades for electric shavers; electric hair clippers; electric epilators; electric lint shavers; electric beard trimmers; electric hair trimmers; electric nose trimmers; hand tools and implements; electric hair irons; electric curling brushes; electric razors; fingernail polishers; electric manicure sets; electric nail files. (Class 8) [Reg. No. IV/4059/2003]

Any imitation or fraudulent use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law. U OHN MAUNG, B.Sc., B.L. Advocate & Notary Public No. 3, 34th Street, Yangon.

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပအသံပေးစနစ်

ENGAGEMENT

DR. MIN THAW M.B.,B.S (YGN), son of U Kaung Yin & Daw Myint Thein, residing at Shwe Zar Yan Pagoda Road, Thaton to **AYE AYE MAW** B.A. (Hons) (English) daughter of (U Thein & Daw Htay Kyin) residing at South Okkalapa, Yangon. on 23rd December 2003 at the Dusit Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Parents of both sides and Dr. Min Thaw-Aye Aye Maw.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NORAUTO a Company incorporated in France, of Centre de Gros Lesquin, Rue du Fort, 59262 SAINGHIN EN MELANTOIS (France), is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

NORAUTO

Reg. No. 4289/1996

Reg. No. 4868/2003

in respect of "Accessories and spare parts for cars, vehicles and apparatus for locomotion: cars, vehicles and apparatus for locomotion"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for **NORAUTO** P.O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 4 March, 2004

TRADE MARK CAUTION

CHENG SHIN RUBBER IND. CO., LTD. of No. 215, Meel-Kang Road, Huang-Ts'o Village, Ta-Suen, Chang-Hwa, The Chinese - Taipei is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks -

MAXXIS

(Reg. No. IV/3074/2003)

(Reg. No. IV/3075/2003)

in respect of - "Tire, tube."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Thain Aung B.Sc., R.D.B.L. Advocate MYANMAR TRADE MARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM E-mail: mtpip@myanmar.net.mm Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box 666 Yangon. 4 March 2004

CORRIGENDUM

With regard to the Cautionary Notice published on 24 February, 2004 for trademark "One Touch", owned by "One Touch GmbH & Co. KG" of Germany, in the list of goods appearing in the first column, line 6, there should be semi column (;) between the words "make-up" and "blusher" and in the second column, line 12, the correct words should be "threads for textile use."

Hong Kong's crime figures dipped 11% in January

HONG KONG, 3 March — Hong Kong's Secretary for Security Ambrose Lee said on Saturday that crime figures fell 11 per cent in January from the same period last year, mainly due to the reduction in shop thefts, car thefts and deception cases.

After the first Fight Crime Committee meeting in 2004, Ambrose Lee told the media that serious crimes in Hong Kong also dropped 18 per cent, due to the fall in serious wounding and extortion cases.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing drivers pay no more "towing fee" for illegally-parked cars

BEIJING, 3 March — Besides a normal parking fine, Beijing drivers will pay no more extra "towing fee" for their illegally-parked cars from March 1, a source with the local traffic control bureau announced Sunday.

According to the current national regulation on road transportation released in 1988, if drivers parked their cars in unauthorized parking spaces, the police could only impose a fine of five yuan (0.6 US dollars) or suspend their driving licences for one month.

In order to reduce the traffic jams, many cities like Beijing publicized local documents regulating that drivers should pay an extra "towing fee" of about 200 yuan (some 24 US dollars) for their illegally-parked

cars, which usually would be towed by the police.

But the police often tow illegally-parked cars without warning or neglect to inform the car owners after towing their cars away. The extra "towing fee" sparked extensive complaints among drivers in large cities like Beijing, who say they are driven to the random parking by a serious lack of parking lots.

According to China's first Law on Road Transportation Safety, which will take effect on May 1, 2004, this kind of extra "towing fee" should be cancelled and if drivers park in the unauthorized places, the police should ask them to leave instead of giving an immediate fine.

But if the drivers refused

to leave, they would be fined from 20 to 200 yuan (2.4 to 24 US dollars), and their cars would be towed by the police, the official warned.

Beijing now has more than two million vehicles, and the number is set to soar. Serious traffic jams and lack of parking lots have become the problems affecting local residents.

Beijing plans to build huge free or low-cost parking lots beyond the fourth and fifth ring roads. Car owners living in the suburbs will be encouraged to park their cars outside the fourth and fifth ring roads and take buses or subways downtown. Low or nonexistent parking fees in these areas would help ease growing parking demands in urban areas. —MNA/Xinhua

Natural disasters killed 2,259 in China in 2003

CHENGDU, 3 March — Natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, droughts, typhoons and snowstorms killed 2,259 people in China last year, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Various disasters damaged 54.386 million hectares of crops, of which 8.546 million hectares produced nothing, the ministry said.

Natural disasters affected 490 million people

and flattened 3.43 million houses across the country, causing an economic loss totalling 188.42 billion yuan (22.78 billion US dollars).

The central government allocated a record 4.05 billion yuan (489.72 million US dollars) for disaster relief last year, up 62 per cent from the previous year.

Initial statistics available show that provincial, prefectural and county-level governments set aside

2.404 billion yuan (290 million US dollars) for disaster relief, a year-on-year rise of 34 per cent. The Ministry of Civil Affairs has urged various localities across China to guarantee supply of food, clothing and other daily necessities for people in disaster-hit areas and help them rebuild homes before the start of flood season this year. —MNA/Xinhua

DRIVE SAFELY

Indonesia's export, import slightly down in January

JAKARTA, 3 March — Indonesia's export in January reached 5.03 billion US dollars, but 3.66 per cent lower than that of December 2003, the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) said here Monday.

But the figure in January was still 0.74 per cent higher than the same month last year, said Slamet Mukeno, the Deputy of Economic Statistics of the BPS.

The deputy said that the decrease of export in January compared to December 2003, was caused by the decrease of non-oil and gas export, which totalled 3.837 billion US dollar, 5.44 per cent lower than the previous month.

However, Indonesia's oil and gas export in January increased to 1.19 billion US dollars, 2.54 per cent more than that in December last year, he said.

Mukeno said that Japan, the United States and Singapore are the main importers of Indonesia's non-oil and gas product in January.

The Indonesian Government has targeted the country's export growth by 5 per cent to 7 per cent in 2004.

At the same time, Indonesia's import in January was down to 2.75 billion US dollars or 2.76 per cent lower than in December 2003, he said. The deputy said that the decrease of the country's import in January was driven by the 9 per cent decrease of imports of non-oil and gas products over December. The import totalled 2.05 billion US dollars in January.

He said Japan, the United States and China are the main countries supplying products to Indonesia in January.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia's foreign tourist arrivals decreases in January

JAKARTA, 3 March — The number of foreign tourists visiting Indonesia in January reached to 358,400, 1.9 per cent lower than December 2003, said the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) here Monday.

But the figure was significantly 28.29 per cent higher than that of January 2003, said Slamet Mukeno, the Deputy of Economic Sta-

tistic of the BPS.

The number of foreign tourists to the beautiful resort of Bali Island in January also increased to 109,600, 10.24 per cent higher than December last year, he said.

Indonesia's tourism industry was first hit by the financial crisis in Southeastern Asia in 1997 and now by the global economic downturn. —MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခဲ့



A European Space Agency (ESA) Ariane V rocket blasts off from Kourou, French Guiana, on 2 March, 2004. Europe's Rosetta space mission, which aims to chase and then land on a comet in search of secrets of the history of the solar system, has begun its ten year voyage after the spacecraft separated from the Ariane rocket early on Tuesday, space officials said. — INTERNET

Rosetta spacecraft launched from French Guiana

KOUREU (French Guiana), 3 March— Europe's Rosetta space mission, which aims to chase and land on a comet to try to unlock the mysteries of the solar system, blasted-off aboard an Ariane rocket from French Guiana on Tuesday, space officials said.

The rocket departed from the European Space Agency's (ESA) launch centre in Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America at 4.17 am (0717 GMT) on the first stage of a seven-billion-kilometre, 10-year journey to reach the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

Two launch attempts last week were cancelled due to bad weather and technical problems.

The Ariane-5 rocket lit up the partly cloudy equatorial night sky and was visible from the ground for over a minute.

It is scheduled to fly for over two hours before its upper stage re-ignites and then releases the Rosetta spacecraft.

Scientists believe comets may contain chemical and physical records from the time the solar system was formed some 4.6 billion years ago. The Rosetta mission will attempt to discover the secrets of how life began on Earth — and perhaps even elsewhere in the universe.

"This mission will attempt to see material that dates from the formation of the solar system," said Philippe Kletzkine, ESA's lead scientist for Rosetta's comet-landing probe.

"Comets are small masses far from the sun in a sort of deep freezer. For four and a half billion years they have been kept in deep freeze. The importance of this mission to identify and analyse this material, as it was during the formation of our planet and at the beginning of life," Kletzkine said.

MNA/Reuters

China has over 17,000 centenarians

BELJING, 3 March— The number of centenarians in China has climbed past 17,000, hitting a record high, according to the latest statistics from the China National Committee on Aging.

By the end of 2003, Beijing alone boasted 257 centenarians, with three of them over 110 years old, a rise of 57 over 2001.

Female centenarians account for approximately 80 per cent of the total, including three aged over 110 years old, and 209 centenarians, or 84.6 per cent of the total, are urbanites, according to statistics of the Beijing Municipal Committee on Aging.

According to a recent survey conducted by the Beijing Municipal Research Centre on Aging, the secret for longevity of those centenarians could be due much to, among other things, a natural way of living, good-quality sleep and rational eating, open-mindedness and a good temper, as well as fine family living environment.

Liu Ruocun from

Chaoyang District in Beijing does not hear well, but taken good care of by his family members, the 103-year-old is still in a good mental state.

"My daughter-in-law prepares tea and snacks for me every morning. Isn't it good enough?" said Liu.

Addicted to drinking and smoking, Liu was not in good health when he was young. He gave up the habit later and never caught any serious diseases after that.

Statistics from the Ministry of Civil Affairs show that China has already become an aging society with a high-age population rate, and the country now has 134 million people, or 10 per cent of the national total, at and over the age of 60. Experts said the figure could keep rising at an annual rate of 3.2 per cent in the next half century.

MNA/Xinhua

Study says breast-fed babies have lower blood pressure

WASHINGTON, 3 March— Breast-fed babies grow up to have lower blood pressure than bottle-fed children, British researchers reported on Monday.

This could mean they will have lower blood pressure as adults, and thus a lower risk of heart disease, the No 1 killer in the industrialized world, the researchers said.

For every three months a child was breast fed, his or her systolic blood pressure reading — the top number — went down 0.2 point, on average. Breast-feeding time did not significantly affect diastolic blood pressure — the lower number.

"Even this small reduction may have important population-health implications," said Richard Martin, a senior lecturer in epidemiology and public health at the University of Bristol in Britain, who led the study.

"A 1 per cent reduction in population systolic blood pressure levels is associated with about a 1.5 per cent reduction in all-cause mortality," Martin added, equivalent to a reduction in premature death of about 8,000 deaths per year in the United States and 2,000 deaths per year in Britain.

Lower blood pressure is directly linked to lower risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease and other related illnesses.

Breast-fed babies are also less likely to be overweight, have fewer behavioural prob-

lems and may show differences in intelligence, other studies have shown. Therefore, groups such as the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that all mothers breast-feed their babies for the first year, and two years if possible.

Writing in the journal *Circulation*, the researchers said the nutritional content of breast milk may be responsible.

Breast-fed children tend to consume less sodium, which is one factor that can influence blood pressure. Breast milk also contains long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids, which are compounds that can affect the development of blood vessels.

Infant formula supplemented with these fatty acids has been associated with lower blood pressure.

Formula feeding can also cause babies to eat more than they need and can, in some babies, cause too-rapid weight gain.

"Excess weight is also associated with higher blood pressures and promotes insulin resistance, which often precedes development of diabetes in adulthood," the American Heart Association, which publishes *Circulation*, said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia's dengue outbreak unlikely to be new strain

JAKARTA, 3 March— Indonesia's dengue fever outbreak, which has killed hundreds of people in the past two months, is not likely to be the result of a new and more deadly strain of the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

The death toll from the disease has climbed to 344 since the start of January, with 19,908 cases recorded across the archipelago, the Health Ministry said in a statement. Indonesian officials have said they are waiting for the results of blood tests to find out if the outbreak is the result of a new strain of the virus.

But Georg Petersen, the WHO's representative in Indonesia, said a new strain was unlikely. "We don't expect that to be the case," Petersen told Reuters.

He said the disease outbreak this year was likely part of a five-year cycle common in tropical countries. "The main reason for the outbreak is the immunity in the population (is lower)," Petersen said. "It seems to have a peak or large outbreak around every five years," he said. Indonesia's Government has come under heavy criticism in the local media for its handling of the disease and many say the outbreak highlights loopholes in the country's underfunded and hobbled health care system.—MNA/Reuters

S African President congratulates Theron on Oscar win

JOHANNESBURG, 3 March—The whole country of South Africa, including President Thabo Mbeki, on Monday congratulated Charlize Theron on winning an Oscar for best actress Sunday.

Mbeki was among the first to congratulate Theron, who won Hollywood's top prize for her role in "Monster".

"In this film, we see her drawing on her innate tough-mindedness and her own emotional stamina in overcoming the tragic personal circumstances of her own early life in order to shine," Mbeki said in a statement

after the news spread over South Africa on Monday morning. "Ms Theron, who is able to command all of the cosmetic glamour and hype that naturally go with Hollywood stardom, has fittingly won this great prize for her performance in a film, 'Monster,' that demonstrates her far more profound qualities,"

Mbeki said.

Raised in the small town of Benoni, near Johannesburg, Theron overcame tragedy in her own childhood — her mother fatally shot her father in self-defence during a violent argument 13 years ago — to pursue her dreams in Hollywood.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian scientist gets top French honour

NEW DELHI, 3 March— Indian physicist P G S Mony was Monday awarded one of France's most prestigious awards, the 'Chevalier de l'Ordre d'Honneur', for his contribution in promoting cooperation between the two countries in the area of science and technology.

Mony, Director of the Indo French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, supported by both the governments, is the first Indian to get this French honour in the category of science.

The Centre is a joint organization with equal participation between the two countries which takes up research projects involving the two sides in various areas of science.—MNA/PTI



An acrobat from the Beijing Acrobatics School performs in China's capital on 25 Feb, 2004. The school is the largest art school in China and teaches circus arts, martial arts, dances and arts from other categories. Chinese acrobatics has a long historical tradition, dating back more than 2,500 years. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Probe turns eye on Lazio bonuses and transfer deals

ROME, 3 March—Serie A club Lazio may have received funds diverted from food company Cirio before it plunged into insolvency, a judicial source said on Monday.

Rome magistrates are investigating the collapse of Cirio, which was owned by former Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti.

The source said they believe they have found evidence that Lazio paid bonuses to their players for their 2000 Italian championship win using cash diverted from Cirio.

Lazio and Cirio are both listed on the stock market although Cirio shares have been suspended since mid-2003 and the company is in the process of being liquidated.

Lazio declined to comment.

Rome investigators are also looking at transfer deals between Lazio and Parma in recent years, the source said.

Parma is owned by dairy company Parmalat, which is struggling to survive a multibillion-euro hole in its accounts which has led to the arrest of its founder Calisto Tanzi and his son, former Parma president Stefano Tanzi. —MNA/Reuters



Jorge Daniel Guagua, right, of Ecuador's El Nacional soccer team fights for the ball with Alberto Garcia, of Argentina's Independiente, during their Libertadores Cup, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 2 March, 2004.

INTERNET

Bulgarian coach hit by bottle suffers broken nose

SOFIA, 3 March—The coach of Bulgarian club Botev Plovdiv suffered a broken nose when he was hit by one of the bottles thrown by Cherno More Varna fans as his team left the stadium after their First Division match in Varna on Saturday.

Local television station Nova Televisia showed coach Trifon Pachev with his nose bandaged as he told the channel in an interview on Sunday that it had been broken in the incident.

After Saturday's match supporters from both clubs fought in the streets of the city and two fans were arrested.

The Bulgarian Football Union is expected to look into the incidents.

Cherno More won 3-1 to move up two places to seventh after 18 matches, while Botev stayed bottom after their 13th defeat.

MNA/Reuters



Fabricio De Carvalho, right, of Sao Caetano of Brazil marks the goal against Uruguay's goalkeeper Federico Elduayen of Penarol, left, during their Libertadores Cup soccer match at Centenario Stadium in Montevideo, on 2 March, 2004. —INTERNET

World Club Cup, WADA agreement get FIFA's green light

LONDON, 3 March—A revamped FIFA Club World Championship will start in December 2005 and be held annually although the venue for the first competition has yet to be finalized, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Sunday.

At an executive committee meeting, world soccer's governing body also agreed to sign WADA's anti-doping declaration in Paris on May 21 and temporarily lift the international suspension imposed on Guatemala.

Despite some opposition to an enlarged Club World Championship from the South American Confederation (Conmebol) last week, Blatter announced that FIFA's Executive Committee had unanimously approved its inauguration during a London meeting on Sunday.

The championship, held once in January 2000 in Brazil with eight teams involved,

was not staged in either 2001 or 2003 because of financial and then logistical difficulties.

The first round will consist of knockout matches between the champions of Africa, Asia, the North American and Caribbean federations (Concacaf) and Oceania.

The two winners of those matches will play the South American and European champions in a knockout semifinal.

The losers of the first-round matches will play off for fifth and sixth places, while the semifinal losers will play off for the third and fourth places which means that every team will play two matches during the eight-day competition.

The tournament is likely to put an end to the Intercon-

tinental Club Cup played between the European and South American champions almost every year since 1960. Blatter said discussions would be held among organizers to see what the future of the competition might be.

Most of the decisions taken by the executive committee were expected. The committee approved the latest stage of the negotiations with WADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency, and Blatter reiterated that the FIFA would sign up to WADA's code at the FIFA Congress in Paris on May 21.

He also said that the concept of individual case management in doping cases, rather than an automatically imposed blanket ban, would be part of the agreement with WADA. —MNA/Reuters

Roberto Carlos handed two-match ban by UEFA

MADRID, 3 March—Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos will miss the return leg of his side's Champions League knockout tie against Bayern Munich after he was handed a two-match ban by UEFA on Monday.

The Brazilian international was given the ban by UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Committee for "improper conduct" after retaliating for a foul by Bayern defender Martin Demichelis in the 59th minute of last week's 1-1 draw in Munich.

"The UEFA disciplinary body ruled that Roberto Carlos had committed an act of assault, which usually carries a three-match ban," read a statement on UEFA's web site.

"However, it took into account the foul committed on the player, and subsequently imposed a two-match suspension."

Real Madrid director Emilio Butragueno said the club had been taken by surprise by UEFA's decision.

"We thought the incident was a reaction by Roberto Carlos to a heavy challenge by Demichelis and we did not think he would be banned," Butragueno told the

Real Madrid web site.

"In any case, we think a two-match ban is excessive. The club will be studying the decision over the next few days to see if we can appeal."

Television replays showed Roberto Carlos swiping at Demichelis's face after being fouled by the Bayern defender who received a booking for the offence.

Roberto Carlos went unpunished by referee Terje Hauge who said he had been unable to see the Brazilian's reaction to the foul because his view had been impeded by two players.

The Real Madrid defender went on to score his side's equalizer seven minutes from time when his long-range free kick squirmed under the body of goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, cancelling out a 75th minute goal from Bayern striker Roy Makaay.

UEFA said the Real player had until midnight on Thursday to lodge an appeal against the suspension.

If the ban is upheld

Roberto Carlos will miss the return match against Bayern at the Bernabeu on March 10 and the first leg of the quarterfinal if Real reach the next round.

It is not the first time the left-back has been in trouble with the football au-

thorities.

Last year he was given a three-match ban by world soccer's governing body FIFA for pushing Israeli referee Alon Yefet during Brazil's 2-1 defeat to Portugal after being sent off for protesting about the award of a free kick. —MNA/Reuters

Curfew-breaking Japan players face JFA probe

TOKYO, 3 March—Seven Japan players who allegedly broke curfew in a late-night drinking session will be asked to explain why they flouted team rules, the Japan Football Association (JFA) said on Sunday.

The players were said to have thrown sushi and verbally abused female staff during a night out on February 9, during a Japan training camp in Kashima, north of Tokyo.

"The JFA will speak to all the players and ask them to explain what happened. If true, then it's important for them to know how serious it is to break JFA rules," JFA Press manager Hideto Teshima told Reuters.

"However, they did not commit a traffic accident and nobody got injured, so I doubt it will be too much of an issue. The JFA will probably just give them a warning."

Weekly magazine Shukan Gendai is set to publish an article of the incident on Monday, reporting that the seven players, including World Cup midfielder Mitsuo Ogasawara, acted improperly during their curfew-breaking visit to a local bar. —MNA/Reuters



Russia's Marat Safin shouts as he misses a point against Switzerland's Roger Federer during the Dubai Tennis Championship on 2 March, 2004, in Dubai. Federer won 7-6, 7-6. —INTERNET

MRTV-3
**4-3-2004 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 9:06 Shwesaryan Pagoda
Festival
- 9:10 **Headline News**
The Wonderful
Peikchin Ravine
- 9:15 **National News**
Novitiation of 1000
novices in Myan Aung
Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
- 9:30 **National News**
The Art of Stone
Sculpture
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"
- 9:42 Hot Springs in Lashio
and Nam-Kham
- 9:45 **National News**
Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (II) (Upper
Shangaug - Awadam)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**4-3-2004 (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Shwesaryan Pagoda
Festival
- 15:40 **Headline News**
The Wonderful
Peikchin Ravine
- 15:45 **National News**
Novitiation of 1000
novices in Myan Aung
Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
- 16:00 **National News**

- 16:05 The Art of Stone
Sculpture
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"
- 16:12 Hot Springs in Lashio
and Nam-Kham
- 16:15 **National News**
Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (II) (Upper
Shangaug - Awadam)
- 16:20 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 16:25 **National News**
Gold Honey, Honey
Gold
- 16:30 **National News**
Lacquerware in Bagan
- 16:35 **National News**
The Ancient City
Mrauk U
- 16:40 **National News**
Long Drum Folk Song
& Dance
- 16:45 **National News**
Thihathana Throne
Song "Saying with the
Eyes!"
- 16:50 **National News**
Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 16:55 **National News**
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 19:36 Pupa Mountain Park
- 19:40 **Headline News**
Kinson Bridge
- 19:42 **National News**
Tour In Myanmar
"Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 19:45 **National News**
A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits
- 19:50 The Patheon Umbrella
- 19:55 **National News**
Ancient Buddha
Images Carved On
Stone Walls (Akauk
Mountain)
- 20:00 **National News**
Song "Hill Steps
Town"
- 20:05 **National News**
Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaug)
- 20:10 **National News**
Song "Smoke of Sor-
row (Lwan Ngwe
Wai Wai)"

- 20:30 **National News**
Pickled Featherback
Mandalay, The Golden
City
- 20:35 **National News**
Bamboo Parquet
Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
- 20:40 **National News**
Honouring Buddha
National News
- 20:45 **National News**
Reclamation & Cul-
tivation in the Uplands
- 20:50 **National News**
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"
- 20:55 **National News**
Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 21:00 **National News**
The Art of Stone
Sculpture
- 21:05 **National News**
Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"
- 21:10 **National News**
Hot Springs in Lashio
and Nam-Kham
- 21:12 **National News**
Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (II) (Upper
Shangaug - Awadam)
- 21:15 **National News**
Song on Screen
"Young Love"
- 21:20 **National News**
Gold Honey, Honey
Gold
- 21:25 **National News**
Lacquerware in Bagan
- 21:30 **National News**
The Ancient City
Mrauk U
- 21:35 **National News**
Long Drum Folk Song
& Dance
- 21:40 **National News**
Thihathana Throne
Song "Saying with the
Eyes!"
- 21:45 **National News**
Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 21:50 **National News**
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**4-3-2004 (Thursday) &
5-3-2004 (Friday) Evening**

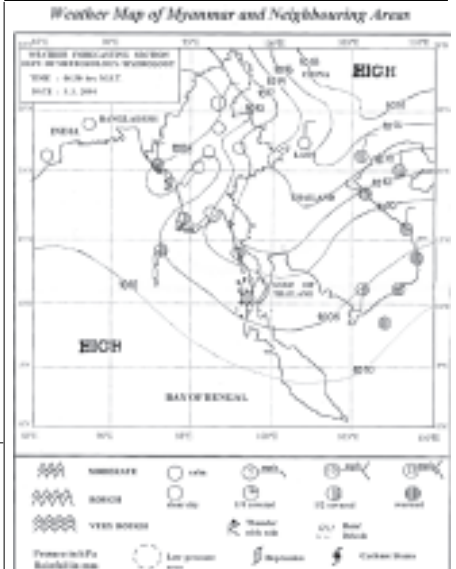
- & Morning Transmission
(23:30-1:30)**
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Shwesaryan Pagoda
Festival
- 23:40 **Headline News**
The Wonderful
Peikchin Ravine
- 23:42 **National News**
Novitiation of 1000
novices in Myan Aung
Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
- 23:45 **National News**
The Art of Stone
Sculpture
- 23:50 Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"
- 00:05 Hot Springs in Lashio
and Nam-Kham
- 00:10 **National News**
Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (II) (Upper
Shangaug - Awadam)
- 00:12 **National News**
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 00:15 **National News**
Reclamation & Cul-
tivation in the Uplands
- 00:20 Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"
- 00:25 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 00:30 **National News**
Bamboo Parquet
Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
- 00:35 **National News**
Honouring Buddha
National News
- 00:40 **National News**
Reclamation & Cul-
tivation in the Uplands
- 00:45 **National News**
Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"
- 00:50 **National News**
Hot Springs in Lashio
and Nam-Kham
- 00:55 **National News**
Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (II) (Upper
Shangaug - Awadam)
- 01:00 **National News**
Song on Screen
"Young Love"
- 01:05 **National News**
Gold Honey, Honey
Gold
- 01:10 **National News**
Lacquerware in Bagan
- 01:15 **National News**
The Ancient City
Mrauk U
- 01:20 **National News**
Long Drum Folk Song
& Dance
- 01:25 **National News**
Thihathana Throne
Song "Saying with the
Eyes!"
- 01:30 **National News**
Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 01:35 **National News**
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**5-3-2004 (Friday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 03:36 Pupa Mountain Park
- 03:40 **Headline News**
Kinson Bridge
- 03:42 **National News**
Tour In Myanmar
"Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 03:45 **National News**
A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits

- 03:50 Tour In Myanmar
"Pyin Oo Lwin"
- 03:55 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits
- 03:58 The Patheon Umbrella
- 04:00 **National News**
Ancient Buddha
Images Carved On
Stone Walls (Akauk
Mountain)
- 04:10 **National News**
Song "Hill Steps
Town"
- 04:15 **National News**
Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (I) (Yangon-
Putao-Upper Shan-
gaug)
- 04:20 **National News**
Song "Smoke of Sor-
row (Lwan Ngwe
Wai Wai)"
- 04:25 **National News**
Pickled Featherback
Mandalay, The Golden
City
- 04:30 **National News**
Bamboo Parquet
Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
- 04:35 **National News**
Honouring Buddha
National News
- 04:40 **National News**
Reclamation & Cul-
tivation in the Uplands
- 04:45 **National News**
Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"
- 04:50 **National News**
Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 04:55 **National News**
Bamboo Parquet
Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
- 05:00 **National News**
Honouring Buddha
National News
- 05:05 **National News**
Reclamation & Cul-
tivation in the Uplands
- 05:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"
- 05:15 **National News**
Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
- 05:20 Bagan Our Pride and
Glory of the Past
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 05:35 Shwesaryan Pagoda

- Festival
- 05:40 **Headline News**
The Wonderful
Peikchin Ravine
- 05:45 **National News**
Novitiation of 1000
novices in Myan Aung
Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
- 05:50 **National News**
The Art of Stone
Sculpture
- 05:55 **National News**
Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"
- 06:00 **National News**
Hot Springs in Lashio
and Nam-Kham
- 06:05 **National News**
Biological Expedition
to Hponkan Razi
Region (II) (Upper
Shangaug - Awadam)
- 06:10 **National News**
Song on Screen
"Young Love"
- 06:15 **National News**
Gold Honey, Honey
Gold
- 06:20 **National News**
Lacquerware in Bagan
- 06:25 **National News**
The Ancient City
Mrauk U
- 06:30 **National News**
Long Drum Folk Song
& Dance
- 06:35 **National News**
Thihathana Throne
Song "Saying with the
Eyes!"
- 06:40 **National News**
Tour In Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 06:45 **National News**
Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**WEATHER**

Wednesday, 3 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, Kayin, Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (40°C) in Aungmye.

Maximum temperature on 2-3-2004 was 36.3°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 3-3-2004 was 18.2°C (65°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-3-2004 was 91%. Total sun shine hours on 2-3-2004 was (7.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 3-3-2004 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 8 mph from Southerly at (18:30) hours M.S.T on 2-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-3-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Isolated rain are likely in Northern Myanmar area.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-3-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-3-2004:** Generally fair.



Thursday, March 4

View today:

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
5. Dance of national races
- 8:05 am
6. Dance variety
- 8:15 am
7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
(အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ)
- 8:25 am
8. ရဲဘော်တန်းတော်

- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday
Use
- 4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
5. အစားအသောက်ဆိုင်ရာ
ရုပ်ရှင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ
ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအသုံးပြုအားလုံး)
(ရုပ်ရှင်)
- 5:15 pm
6. Cute little dancers
- 5:30 pm
7. "အလွန်အမင်း"
ဇော်ဝိုင်း၊ ဇော်ဝိုင်း၊ ဇော်ဝိုင်း၊
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်စောလင်း)
- 5:45 pm
8. လက်ဆွဲတေးဂီတ

- 7:55 pm
9. မြန်မာ့မြန်မာစကား
- 6:10 pm
10. နိုင်ငံအစိုးရသစ်တော်စွမ်းမြင့်
စိမ်းလန်းစေ့စည်
- 6:20 pm
11. ဗုဒ္ဓအသွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
- 6:30 pm
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုက်လွှဲ
"မိုးနက်သော" (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 7:35 pm
15. Musical programme
- 7:45 pm
16. ပညာဝါရီကုသိုလ်တော်
နတ်လူသားနတ်
- 8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ "တပေါင်းလည်းကောင်း"
(မိန့်နီတင်စဉ်စီစဉ်တင်ဆက်သည်)
21. The next day's
programme



Thursday, March 4

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
- 8:50 am National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music
- Friend (Paul
Slade)
- I wanna love you
forever (Jessica
Simpson)
- 9:00 pm 59th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day
Commemorative
Play "A pair of
maroon velvet
slippers"
- 9:20 pm Article
- 9:30 pm Favourite songs
chosen by music
lovers
- I'll be there
(Mariah Carey)
- Just the way you
are (Billy Joel)
- If (Bread)
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to departmental personnel, local people, Tatmadawmen and families at Kanyoedan Yadana Hall in Palaw.—MNA

Excerpts from Senior General Than Shwe's address

- * Government has been giving priority to development of Dawei region.
- * The Ye-Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung Union Highway reaching Kawthoung in the southernmost tip of the nation has already been built, and necessary bridges on it has been constructed.
- * The Government has been narrowing the development gap between all regions of the nation to the most possible degree, and striving for their simultaneous progress, without taking into account the distance or condition of any region.
- * Completion of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) will ensure direct link between Dawei and Yangon, and will contribute to the progress of the Taninthayi region.
- * Efforts should be made to add value to the natural resources in the region, and energetic efforts are required for regional development.



Government has already ...

(from page 1)

In the process, the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to be united in making combined efforts for ensuring food sufficiency in respective regions and then for development of the entire nation, he added.

Next, the Senior General said that he toured Palaw three or four years ago, adding that the government has been attending to the needs for regional development.

While the government has been striving constantly for regional and national development, divisions, districts and townships, on their part, are also to endeavour for progress of respective regions, he noted. Measures are to be taken to be able to accelerate the development momentum by mak-

ing better arrangements after reviewing the previous undertakings sector-wise, he remarked. After the meeting, the Senior General had a cordial conversation with those present. Next, the Senior General and party inspected progress of Palaw and Palaw Bridge. On arrival at Palauk Station, they met with departmental personnel, members of the USDA and social organizations, Tatmadaw members of Palauk Station and their family members.

Township Officer of Palauk Township General Administration Department U Myint Khaing reported on conditions of the township, efforts for regional development, education, health and transport sectors, rice sufficiency and surplus in the region and requirements. Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann explained about the purpose of the tour of Senior General

Than Shwe and entourage. Senior General Than Shwe then gave guidance on implementation of the tasks for community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order, sufficiency of food and economic progress, dynamism of the Union Spirit and patriotism and security of the regions.

Senior General Than Shwe and entourage greeted departmental officials, Tatmadawmen and their families. They then left Palauk by helicopter and arrived in Dawei in the evening. They were welcomed at Dawei Airport by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Col Kyaw Aung of Dawei Station, departmental officials, members of USDA, social organizations, teachers, students, Tatmadawmen and families.

(See page 8)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects all-round upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Garden

YANGON, 3 March—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt yesterday morning inspected all-round upgrading tasks of environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Garden and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At 9.30 am, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the briefing hall of the construction of Water Plaza at Central Symbol Zone at Kandawgyi, where they were welcomed by Chairman of the Working Committee for all-round Upgrading of Environs of Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism

Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the deputy ministers, members of the working committee and departmental officials.

First, the commander reported to the Prime Minister on progress of upgrading tasks at the Recreation Zone, the Education Zone and the Central Symbol Zone. Next, officials reported on tasks being carried out by respective groups and future tasks. After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister attended to their needs and gave instruction that officials are to coordinate timely completion of the upgrading tasks applying technology and using their experiences for enabling the public to take a rest in the modern garden and durability of the grand garden. Then, the Prime Minister inspected completion of the water plaza

at the Central Symbol Zone, construction of the barbecue garden modern restaurant at the Recreation Zone, and the modern aquarium being built by Myanma Agriculture Service, the fruit garden and propagation booth where 37 kinds of fruits including durian, kyetmauk (Amaratus caudatus), pineapple, papaya and others will be displayed, the booth of vegetable patches, spices and herbal plants, the orchid park, the booth of vegetable patches with the use of fertilizers, the flower booth, nursery shops and agricultural equipment shops and sanitation tasks being carried out at the Kandawgyi Garden. Officials conducted the Prime Minister round the sites.

Next, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and left there in the morning. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects upgrading tasks at environs of Kandawgyi Garden.—MNA