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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to President of Iran

YANGON, 11 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2004. —MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to First Vice-President of Iran

YANGON, 11 Feb — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mohammad Reza Aref, First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2004. — MNA

Delegates from various countries come to Myanmar to observe activities of National Sanitation Weeks

Personnel and people urged to vigorously work together to achieve 100% sanitation coverage by 2005
Seventh National Sanitation Week launched

YANGON, 10 Feb — A ceremony to launch the 7th National Sanitation Week 2004, co-organized by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, was held at the hall of Yangon Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning,

attended by Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of NHC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development

Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, members of NHC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, chairmen of social organizations, ambassadors of ASEAN missions in Yangon, UN resident representatives, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, departmental heads, medical superintendents, matrons, nurses, trainees of Yangon Institute of Nursing and departmental officials.

First, Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the opening of the National Sanitation Week 2004. — MNA

It is incumbent upon all citizens to maintain national solidarity with Union Spirit



It is incumbent upon all the citizens to maintain and safeguard unprecedented national solidarity with Union Spirit in order that the Union of Myanmar can stand tall in the world forever.

In the same vein, the national force formed with the government, the Tatmadaw and the national people is to continue to work harder for the successful realization of economic plans which have been laid down by the State with the aim of enabling the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with others in terms of development.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 55th Anniversary Union Day)

57th Anniversary
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commemorative
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23,087



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 11 February, 2004

Rural development tasks for ensuring development of entire Union

The Government has been making all-out efforts for the parallel development of all the regions across the Union. Ours being an agricultural country, most of the population are farmers and they live in rural areas. Therefore, development of rural areas is the most fundamental requirement for development of the entire Union. This being the case, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe exhorted all those responsible to implement the five rural development tasks, namely, ensuring smooth and easy transport in rural areas, ensuring sufficient supply of water for drinking and agricultural purposes, raising the education and health standards and improving agriculture and livestock breeding work.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, also Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, toured Sagaing Division and inspected the Thaphanaseik Dam in Kyunhla Township, Kyeebin-et Dam in Kanbalu Township and the post-primary school and rural dispensary and rural gravel road in Hseikphu-Myaung model village. In meeting with officials and local people there, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the State is providing necessary assistance for implementation of five rural development tasks and the local people are to make strenuous efforts for developing their respective regions.

Thanks to Thaphanaseik Dam, cultivation of paddy, wheat, pulses & beans and sesame can be undertaken successfully with irrigated water. Over 500,000 acres have been put under monsoon and summer paddy with the irrigated water from the dam. In the fiscal 2002-2003, over 880,000 acres were put under crops. In the past, summer sesame could not be cultivated in the region and now it is grown in 39,000 acres. The Thaphanaseik Dam is also generating hydroelectric power.

The Thaphanaseik Dam was opened on 17 April 2001 and its hydel power plant on 18 June 2002. The Kyeebin-et Dam was opened on 25 December 2001 and it is benefiting about 8,500 acres of crop land. For better transportation, rural roads in the village have been upgraded and the road linking the village with Kanbalu has also been constructed.

Regarding rural health care services, a rural dispensary has also been opened there and prevention and treatment of diseases and educative works are being effectively carried out. Arrangements are also made to supply clean drinking water at the village.

Now, the model village is achieving success in cultivating sunflower, pulses & beans and maize.

Rural development is essential for ensuring development of the entire Union. Emphasis is thus laid on implementation of the five rural development tasks. It is incumbent upon the entire people to participate actively in the rural development tasks.

57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Iranian FM

YANGON, 11 Feb— On the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Kamal Kharrazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.— MNA

I&P Ministry holds 4-monthly meeting

YANGON, 10 Feb — The Ministry of Immigration and Population held its third four-monthly coordination meeting 2003 at the Population Department (Head Office) on Maha Bandoola Street here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister U Maung Aung, departmental heads and officials. In his address, the minister dealt with conducting reviews of the strong and weak points in the previous four-month period to make greater progress. He spoke of the need for officials concerned to be equipped with nationalistic fervour and to discharge duties in accordance with the State's objectives in order to realise the goals. He stressed the importance of data of the nation's population to be collected as a national duty. Next, the deputy minister discussed matters on tasks of the ministry, followed by a general round of discussions. The deputy minister delivered closing remarks. — MNA

Union Day Exhibition booths inspected

YANGON, 10 Feb — 57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition Subcommittee Chairman Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, together with Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing and officials, this morning inspected the Union Day exhibition booths at Hmawby sports ground in Yangon North District. — MNA

Union Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 10 Feb — The 57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition continued for the third day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here today. Altogether 3,403 persons visited the Exhibition. — MNA

Tar road opened to hail Union Day

YANGON, 10 Feb — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day, a ceremony to open a self-reliant tarred Pynnyaban Road was held in Kyeedawgon ward in Meiktila on 7 February morning. The road is 14,000 feet long and 12 feet wide. It was built within two weeks. — MNA

Union Day exhibiton booths opened

YANGON, 10 Feb — Under the Union Day Flag Conveying Programme, the Union Flag will rest for a night at Industrial Zone sports ground in Hlinethaya of Yangon West District. The Union Day exhibition booths at the sports ground were opened at 9 am today. About 1,000 people were present at the opening ceremony. MNA

People's Desire

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



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and wife present offertories to a sayadaw. — ENERGY

"Soon" offered to members of the Sangha

YANGON, 10 Feb — Staff of the Ministry of Energy offered "soon" to members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University at Mogok Refectory on Kaba-Aye Hill here at 10 am today. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and wife Daw Khin Mar Aye presented offertories to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. The minister next handed over K 200,000 for offering "soon" and Director-General of the Department of Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana who accepted the cash donation. — MNA

Top International and Myanmar Golfers ready for Myanmar Open

YANGON, 10 Feb—Four of the top players in this year's Myanmar Open met the press and public at Yangon Gold Club today. Defending champion Lin Keng-Chi led the international field at the press conference along with 2002 champion Thongchai Jaidee, second placed finisher at last year's Open. Also attending were contenders and local favourite Zaw Moe. The Myanmar Open will be played for the sixth time at the Yangon Golf Club from 12 to 15 February 2004.

Defending champion Lin Keng-Chi has continued to impress since his victory last year, going on to finish a respectable 33rd on the Japan Tour Money List last season. He will again have to fight off stiff competition from the rest of the field, including Thongchai Jaidee who finished second at last year's Myanmar Open, three strokes off Lin's pace. Jaidee continues to impress and was very nearly the first APGA player to win back-to-back Order of Merit titles. His most recent victory came in the Volvo Masters of Asia in 2003, bringing his career victories on the APGA Tour to seven. Jaidee also finished in the top ten of the Thailand Open 2004, the first Asian Tour event preceding the Myanmar Open. Jaidee will be looking to go one better on his performance from last year but can expect to face some tough competition from Myanmar's in-form local professionals Zaw Moe and Aung Win. Two-time Myanmar Open amateur champion, Zaw found his form late in the season last year, finishing fifth at the APGA Tour's Royal Challenge Indian Open and posting three top-ten finishes on the competitive Japan Tour. The winner of the APGA Tour's Singapore Open in 1997, Zaw Moe will be looking for a second tournament breakthrough in his national open in 2004.

After finishing in the top-ten at the last two Myanmar Opens, Win could be narrowing in on what it takes to become the historic first ever Myanmar golfer to win the Myanmar Open.

Thailand's Boonchu Ruangkit, who won the preceding Tour event, the Thailand Open, veteran Canadian and Asian Tour professional Rick Gibson. Former Myanmar Open winners Anthony Kang (2001) and James Kingston (2001) will also be in the field along with a host of other top international players in the hunt for the Myanmar Open Trophy and the tournament's top prize of US\$ 32,300 out of the US\$ 200,000 total purse. — MNA



Four of the top players in this year's Myanmar Open meet the press. — MGF

Delegates from various ...

(from page 1)

He said that today, Myanmar is in a transition to a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic State. Through the implementation of the 7-step Roadmap, we are fully confident that we will be able to attain our national goal. In these endeavours, it is our view that an educated and healthy population is one of the pre-requisites for the emergence of a modern and discipline-flourishing democratic society. The Government therefore attaches a high priority to uplift the education and health standards of the nation. As a result, even as a primary health care is now available to people from all corners of the country, hospitals with modern up-to-date facilities and specialist doctors have been established in every state and division. Compared with the conditions in 1988, the health sector in the country has changed dramatically for the better. Health care has not only the curative but also preventive aspects. Therefore, the Government is devoting much attention towards this preventive sector. As is well-known, safe and adequate water supply, good sanitation conditions and sound practices of personal hygiene are interlinked and complementary to each other for the promotion of health and socio-economic well-being of the people. Myanmar has set the policy guidelines to expend safe drinking water supply and adequate sanitation facilities in order to fulfil the basic needs of the people. The National Health Policy of Myanmar also emphasizes intensification and expansion of health activities including prevention and control of air and water pollution.

In the past decades, in adequate safe drinking water supply, coupled with low coverage of sanitation and poor personal hygiene practices had resulted in such



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for a documentary photo together with faculty members and students in front of the main building of Hpa-an University on 9-2-2004. (News reported) — MNA

diseases as diarrhea, dysentery, and typhoid. As such, there arose a need for intensive and extensive efforts in all these three areas, more specifically in sanitation and personal hygiene promotion. The National Health Committee therefore passed a resolution at the 20th National Committee Meeting in 30th October 1995 mandating the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry for the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs to coordinate and implement systematically sanitation work throughout the country.

The Government has accorded Sanitation for All as high priority in the National Health Policy. The National Health Committee is always looking for ways for improving health services for the people and in 1996, it conducted a review of the overall sanitation strategy in the country. As a result of this evaluation, it was decided to change the conventional, cost-sharing, supply-driven, top-down approach to self-help and self-reliance, need-based driven community participatory approach using "social mobilization" process. This

process brings together all feasible, potential and practical allies from multi-sectoral organizations and is able to create awareness among people and motivate them for positive behaviour changes. The First National Sanitation Week was launched successfully in 1998 from 11th to 17th May. This was a turning point in the history of Myanmar's sanitation programme as sanitation activities gained great momentum. Since then, National Sanitation Week had been held every year in order to carry forward the momentum of the sanitation programme. Compared to the period before the implementation of the sanitation weeks, it can be seen that the sanitation coverage of the country has doubled from 46% to 90% of the population.

From the Fourth National Sanitation Week, proper maintenance of water sources was added to the sanitation tasks. The progress made in water supply and sanitation sector also has considerable effect on reducing the rate of incidence of water and unsanitary conditions related diseases and consequently

reduced infant and child mortality rates.

The experiences in the promotion of sanitation and hygiene in Myanmar provide good examples of how people can be motivated to adopt sanitary and hygienic practices. This nationwide success achieved within such a short period, was internationally recognized and appreciated by all, including countries from South-East Asia region countries. Delegates from various countries had come to Myanmar to observe our activities of the National Sanitation Weeks. The sharing of experience among each other had proved to be very fruitful for all.

The success is attributable to high level political commitment, coordinated state, divisional and township level action, community mobilization by village health authorities and participation of non-governmental organizations. Multi-level efforts have raised greater awareness of sanitation and hygienic issues and led to sanitation activities on self-help basis. Easy access to locally produced materials produced by the private sector at reasonable prices is also a factor for

accelerated programme performance achieving appreciable increase in coverage percentage.

The Seventh National Sanitation Week will be held this week aiming at increasing sanitation coverage up to 95 per cent by the end of the year 2004. I have full confidence that through our efforts we will be able to attain the objective as we have gained very valuable experiences from the previous activities. I wish also to urge all responsible personnel and the entire people to vigorously work together so that we will be able to achieve 100 per cent sanitation coverage by 2005. In the course of this year's activities, we shall also be paying attention to sanitation at schools and public places.

With the rapid development of urbanization, safe water supply has also become critical factor to take care of. Unsafe water sources can be the source of major disease outbreaks which can challenge the lives of many people especially the young children. Protection of safe water sources and maintenance of water qualities are of vital importance for all of us when we are build-

ing a modern nation.

Therefore, not only sanitary efforts but protection of water sources and practicing hygienic behaviour will be the main points to be carried out with great momentum during this Seventh National Sanitation Week.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize again that to obtain the objectives of the Seventh National Sanitation Week, each and everyone, including responsible personnel from the Ministry of Health, related government departments and non-governmental organizations like Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Red Cross Society should make a concerted effort and undertake sanitation programmes as a national endeavour. May the activities of the Seventh National Sanitation Week achieve all-round success. Next, UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll Long gave a speech. After the launching ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party and guests viewed the health knowledge booth on the Sanitation Week. —MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe clarifies organizational set-up of MWF in Kengtung

YANGON, 10 Feb — President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe together with Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win and officials arrived in Kengtung, Shan State (East) via Heho on 8 February afternoon to clarify organizational set-up of the federation.

They were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife Daw Khin Pyone Win, local authorities, supporting group and working group members, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and local people.

At 5.30 pm, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party met with members of Shan State (East) level Organization for Women's Affairs at the Yeiktha of the command. The president and officials answered the queries related

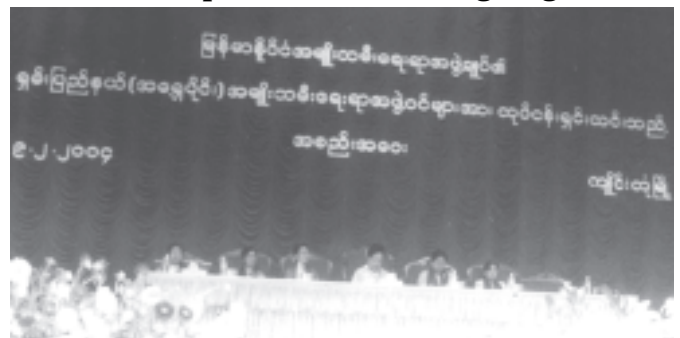
to the organizational set-up and functions of the federation.

On 9 February, a ceremony to clarify the organizational set-up of MWF to members of the Shan State (East) level Organization for Women's Affairs was held at the town Hall in Kengtung, attended by about 570 members including members of Kengtung, Monghsat, Mongphyat and Tachilek district level Organization for Women's Affairs and local authorities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe said that officials of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation went to States and Divisions explained about tasks of the federation so as to ensure development of entire women's life. Now, they arrived there to explain the organizational set-up of the federation, aims and functions to members of Shan State (East) level Organization for Women's Af-

fairs. The federation was formed with the lofty aims such as uplift of women's role, protection of the women's rights, development of social, education, health and economic affairs of women and securing of women's life. Officials of the federation went to grassroots level for participation of entire women in implementing the aims of the federation. Women are now about a half of the population in Myanmar. As MWF is an NGO, it can widely and effectively carry out the tasks more than Women's Affairs Committee, the previous organization. Later, she urged the entire women to try to become gentle, polite and patriotic ones after realizing the noble aims of the federation in accord with the motto, "Let's make efforts for development of women's life".

Joint-Secretary-General Daw Khin Htar May, Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win, leader of health work-



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe makes clarifications on organizational set-up of MWF. MNA

ing group Dr Moe Moe Khaing, leader of girls working group Daw Khin Myo Myint and leader of environmental working group Daw Yin Yin Lay explained duties and functions of their groups.

Next, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted K 1 million each donated by Triangle Region Command; Shan State (East) Peace and

Development Council; U Sai Tit Aung-Daw Nan Yon; U Naw Aung-Daw Nan Woe Hlaing; and U Tha Wai-Daw Khin Saw Hlaing; K 500,000 each by Aluya Co; Shan State Special Region-4; and Hong Pang Co. Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win accepted K 300,000 donated by Woodland Co; K 300,000 by U Sai Inkham-Daw Nan

Hsaing Phong; K 200,000 each by U Kyi Myint-Daw Nan Kham; and U Kyaw Nyein-Daw Nan Kham Hsaing; K 100,000 by U Thauang Htay (Public Works), U Aung Kyaw Myint and U Sai Tin; and Daw Han Shen Kham.

Later, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Union Flag conveyed to Yangon North District

YANGON, 18 Feb—The Union Flag that stopped over for the night in the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Dagon Myothit (South) yesterday was conveyed to the sports ground of Hmawby Township, Yangon North District by Union Boat and the relay teams this morning. Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min accepted the Flag from the convey teams and planted it in the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Hmawby Township to stop over for the night there.

First, the Union Flag was saluted to the accompaniment of the military band. At 6.15 am, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein took out the Flag from the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Dagon Myothit (South) and carried it to the archway of the sports ground, where he handed it over to Lt-Col Myat Min.

Next, Lt-Col Myat Min at 6.20 am planted the Flag in the silver bowl on the Union Boat.

Later, the Flag was conveyed from the sports ground of Dagon Myothit (South) Township to the sports ground of Hmawby Township. Along the route, the Flag was accorded a rousing welcome by teachers and students, departmental personnel, social organizations, dance troupes, USDA members, MWVO members, members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross members, Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, factory workers, farmers and the people led by the Chairman of Dagon Myothit (North) Peace and Development Council and the Chairman of North Okkalapa Township Peace and Development Council and others.

The Union Boat that carried the Union Flag arrived at the welcoming archway of Hmawby at 8.40 am. Lt-Col Myat Min saluted and took out the Flag from a silver bowl. And he conveyed and handed it over to the relay team headed by Chairman of Hmawby Township Peace and Development Council U Soe Myint Aung.

After that, the Flag was conveyed by the relay team that carried along Yangon-Pyay road and handed it to the relay team led by USDA executive U Aung Than Zaw. Next, the Flag was conveyed by the relay teams led by the Chairman of Htantabin Township Peace and Development



Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Myat Min salutes the Union Flag after planting it in a silver bowl on the dais in Hmawby sports ground. — MNA

Council, the Chairman of Hlainethayar Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Insein Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Mingaladon Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Shwepyitha Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Taikkyi Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Hlegu Township Peace and Development Council and others along Yangon-Pyay road. The Flag was handed over to member-2 of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Head of the District MPF Police Lt-Col Maung Maung Lwin at the entrance to the sports ground of Hmawby.

At the welcoming archway of the sports ground, Police Lt-Col Maung Maung Lwin handed over the Flag to member-1 of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Deputy Commissioner U Thein Naing. The relay team led by Commissioner U Thein Naing handed over the Flag to Lt-Col Myat Min at a designated place of the sports ground. Lt-Col Myat Min conveyed the Flag and planted it in a silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Hmawby Township at 10.30 am.

ဝတ်မှုမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Final rites of Konlon Sayadawgyi held in Pindaya

YANGON, 10 Feb — A ceremony to donate cash for holding final rites of Pindaya Konlon Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka State Ovadaçariya Abhidhaja Maha Saddhamajotika Konlon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya, aged 96 years, vasa 76, was held at Sasana Beikman of Galontaung Monastery at noon yesterday.

Present were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental officials and local people. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Myint Maung accepted K 6,926,200 donated by wellwishers.

At the final rites, member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tejavana administered the Five Precepts. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Brig-Gen Thang Htaik of Aungban Station dropped the velvet over the remains. Then, they donated provisions to 226 members of the Sangha.

Next, member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sunanda delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Afterwards, the remains of the Sayadaw were carried onto the Karaweik carriage. Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials and disciples conveyed the remains to Sankyaungdaw. —MNA

The sports ground was crowded with the visitors who came to salute the Flag. There are also exhibition and sale booths of various departments in the sports ground.

In the evening, the Documentary Film of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise showed movies to the audience. There are also other entertainment programmes. —MNA

Malaysian PM urges youths to ensure people's unity

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Feb—Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Sunday urged the younger generation to ensure the people's unity to remain firm for the sake of the nation's growth.

The younger generation should comprehend the philosophy of having consensus, cooperation and power sharing to enable them to continue developing the country as the people's unity had been the pillar of the nation's progress, Abdullah said in his speech at the United Youth Movement of Malaysia's Chinese New Year Gathering here.

Recounting the nation's history on unity, particularly among the Malay, Chinese and Indian communities — dating back to the birth of Malaysia, Abdullah said it all began with political consensus which was later translated into social and economic programmes.

Malaysia is a multi-racial country with a population of some 24 million. It consists of the Malays who make up 58.1 per cent, the Chinese 24.3 per cent, the Indians 6.9 per cent and the indigenous inhabitants in Sarawak and Sabah (East Malaysia) some 4 per cent.

Abdullah said the interest of all Malaysians should be included in the national development agenda to ensure that nobody was left out from the development mainstream.

He also advised youths of different communities and religions to forge friendship among themselves for them to better understand each other's way of life and culture.

"Racial integration now (when compared to the past era) is much better," said the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, he said the younger generation, which were the "buds and fresh dynamism" to their veteran counterparts, should understand the history of the nation's development and grasp the objective and vision which Malaysia was bound for.

"They (younger generation) should know what they inherited, the direction the country is heading for, what is the existing vision and what is the mission to be accomplished," he said. —MNA/Xinhua

NASA engineers dispute decision to axe "Hubble"

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—The verdict seems final: NASA says it is just too risky for shuttle astronauts to fix the *Hubble* Space Telescope, which means an early death for the world's premier astronomical eye in the sky.

But two reports by NASA engineers maintain it is no riskier to service the orbiting telescope than to use shuttle astronauts to finish building the *International Space Station*, which will require some 25 shuttle flights.

The engineers' reports, provided to *Reuters* by an astronomer familiar with the case, dispute NASA's January 16 decision to forgo a scheduled shuttle mission to repair and upgrade *Hubble* in 2005 or 2006.

"The final planned *HST* (Hubble Space Telescope) servicing mission, SM4, will be at least as safe as shuttle flights to the *International Space Station*," one of the reports

said.

The other report argued that missions to *Hubble* would have the same ability as those to the station to deal with possible damage to the shuttle's thermal protection system. Damage to this system on liftoff doomed shuttle *Columbia* to break up on re-entry on February 1, 2003, killing all seven astronauts.

Both reports were written by NASA engineers who feared they would lose their jobs if their names were made public, said the astronomer, also requesting anonymity.

MNA/Reuters



The verdict seems final: NASA says it is just too risky for shuttle astronauts to fix the Hubble Space Telescope, which means an early death for the world's premier astronomical eye in the sky. —INTERNET

Dornier plane revived for Philippine service

MANILA, 10 Feb —A grandson of German aircraft pioneer Claude Dornier and his small Philippine airline are putting a retired World War II plane back into service.

Iren Dornier spent eight months and six million US dollars renovating the *Dornier 24ATT*, the only turboprop seaplane revived from about 200 built in the 1930s and 1940s that were known for search and rescue missions in Europe during the war.

The German pilot said South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR), a Philippine domestic carrier he founded in 1995, will recommission the plane for its charter service to shuttle business people and tourists among the archipelago's 7,100 islands.

"This project realizes my dream of many years. It will boost our image of seeking to introduce something new," Dornier said.

His grandfather designed and built thousands of aircraft from the 1910s until his death in 1969.

The original of the refurbished plane, due to fly by early 2005, had sat in a German museum for two decades. —MNA/Reuters

Wu Yi hopes for more eco ties with New Zealand

BEIJING, 10 Feb — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi on Monday expressed the hope that China and New Zealand will further increase their trade and economic cooperation.

In a meeting with Jim Sutton, New Zealand minister for trade negotiations, and his party here Monday, Wu said that the successful state visit of President Hu Jintao to New Zealand last October has greatly promoted the all-round growth of the bilateral ties, including trade and economic ties, between the two countries.

She expressed her appreciation for New Zealand's active economic and trade exchanges and cooperation with China and the importance it attaches to China's economic development.

The two countries are highly complementary in economy and ready to further expand their trade and economic relations, Wu said, expressing the belief that with joint efforts, the Sino-New Zealand friendly ties will record greater progress.

Acknowledging that New Zealand is willing to beef up its cooperation with China and implement the consensus reached between their leaders, Sutton said he believed that trade and economic cooperation between the two nations will be further enhanced.

MNA/Xinhua

Kerry attacks Bush on jobs before Virginia vote

MEMPHIS (Tennessee), 10 Feb— Senator John Kerry attacked President George W. Bush's record on the economy on Monday as he campaigned in Virginia and Tennessee on the eve of Democratic primaries he hopes will prove a candidate from Massachusetts can win in the South.

The Democratic front-runner, who lost his previous Southern contest, in South Carolina, to Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, was expected to fare better in Virginia and Tennessee, where recent polls showed him leading.

Energized by victory in three states over the weekend, Kerry addressed a crowd of about 600 supporters in front of a red-brick fire hall in downtown Roanoke, Virginia.

Throughout the day he hammered at Bush's record on the economy, telling Virginia voters, "This President has the worst jobs record of the last 11 presidents combined."

"I heard just before I came in here that the President and the administration have released a new report, and in this new report they say they are going to create 2.5 million jobs over the course of the next year," the

senator said. "Well, I've got a feeling this report was prepared by the same people who brought us the intelligence on Iraq."

He questioned the election-year timing of the report and charged that each previous time the administration had predicted job growth it had produced job losses. "I believe that all across America people have a right to question a report that comes at election time promising a higher number of jobs than they have produced at any time over the course of this entire administration," Kerry told a Memphis news conference.

The Massachusetts senator said the United States had lost three million jobs during the Bush Administration, including 50,000 in Virginia and 65,000 manufacturing jobs in Tennessee. And he said Bush's policies were responsible for the country's huge deficit.

MNA/Reuters

Schroeder says quit SPD helm to save government

BERLIN, 10 Feb— German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said on Sunday he had given up the leadership of his demoralized Social Democrats to save his centre-left government and focus on unpopular economic reforms.

German newspaper editorials and commentators spent the weekend pouring scorn on Friday's surprise move by Schroeder, who said he decided on his own to turn over the reins of his party to deputy Franz Muentefering.

"It wasn't easy, not even for me," Schroeder told Der Spiegel news magazine. "It wasn't Muentefering's idea. I went to Franz. I talked him into it. I had to convince him to do it." Amid a painful overhaul of Germany's welfare state, Schroeder's popularity has slumped to record lows in his sixth year in office and the left wing of his party has criticized his reform course.

Facing routs in 14 state and regional elections this year that may cost them their jobs, provincial SPD party barons have pressed Schroeder to take some pain out of the reforms and fire unpopular Cabinet members to win back public confidence.— MNA/Reuters

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Iraq asks for health certificate for imported US meat

BAGHDAD, 10 Feb— The Iraqi Ministry of Health announced that US meat would be asked for health certificate before being imported to Iraq, *Al Nahdha* local newspaper reported on Monday.

"The Ministry of Health made a decision to ban importing American meat to the Iraqi markets unless it has a credible health certificate from the American Ministry of Agriculture and Industry," Khalil Muhsin, Director of the Food Research Centre of the Ministry, told the newspaper.

"It would also be acceptable to provide the certificate from an internationally-recognized body saying that the meat is disease free, for human consumption and is sold in America," Muhsin added.

Muhsin doubted that the imported food sold in the Iraqi market can be all for human consumption, adding that many of the canned products imported from abroad contain illegal ingredients. He said that the reason why such materials exist in the Iraqi markets is the absence of security committees at the Iraqi borders to monitor and control such activities.

MNA/Xinhua



US troops patrol a street of central Baghdad on 9 Feb, 2004. Two US soldiers were killed and six wounded in an explosion as they tried to dispose of weaponry in northern Iraq.—INTERNET

US soldier killed south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 10 Feb— One US soldier was killed on Sunday by a bomb planted on a road south of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, a US military spokesman said.

He said the soldier died at about 4.30 pm (1330 GMT) near the town of Mahmudiya, about 12 miles south of Baghdad.

His death brought the number of American soldiers killed in combat since the start of the US-led war in Iraq to 370.—MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers remove barbed wire from a street in the centre of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 10 February, 2004.—INTERNET

Dominican baby dies after removal of second head

SANTO DOMINGO (Dominican Republic), 10 Feb— A seven-week-old Dominican girl born with one of the world's rarest birth defects died on Saturday, hours after undergoing a delicate operation to remove an undeveloped second head, her doctors said.

Rebeca Martinez died of post-surgical bleeding problems at around 6 am (1000 GMT), said Dr Santiago Hazim, medical director of the CURE International Centre for Orthopedic Specialties in Santo Domingo.

A team of international doctors operated on Martinez for some 12 hours on

Friday to remove the second head in what was thought to be the first such operation ever.

Speaking at a news conference on Saturday with Hazim, the child's parents, Maria Gisela Hiciano and Franklin Martinez, called their daughter's death the will of God and praised the team of 18 doctors who carried out the surgery.

"If there is one grade above super excellent, it belongs to this team of doctors," the father said. Both parents appeared calm and resigned to their daughter's death.

MNA/Reuters

US scientists predict quake in California desert

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb— A team of US scientists expects a 6.4 magnitude or larger temblor in the Southern California desert by September 5, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Monday.

Led by Vladimir Keilis-Borok, a scientist from University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), the team has been predicting quakes within certain timeframes and geographic regions.

That has led to criticism that their work is not precise enough to be useful,

but others see it as significant progress in the science.

The team gained visibility last December, when a 6.5-magnitude quake hit near San Simeon, California. That's within the 310-mile stretch of California that the team last June predicted would see a quake of magni-

tude 6.4 or larger within nine months.

The *Los Angeles Times* report said that the team's predictions are based on perceived "chains" of small earthquakes that are comparable to past patterns preceding larger quakes in the same area.

MNA/Xinhua

China's soybean imports soar in 2003

BEIJING, 10 Feb — China bought 20.74 million tons of soybeans from the international market in 2003, up 83.3 per cent year-on-year and exceeding domestic production for the first time, according to Customs figures released Monday.

China, once a major exporter of soybeans, produced only 16.2 million tons in 2003. Natural disasters like droughts affected the nation's soybean production.

The nation spent 5.4 billion US dollars, a 118.2-per cent increase, for the imports, mainly from the United States, Brazil and Argentina, according to the General Administration of Customs.

The imports supplied about 66 per cent of China's demand for soybeans.

In the early 1990s, China remained a net exporter of soybeans, with exports reaching one million tons per year.

MNA/Xinhua

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Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Deadliest attacks on US and coalition forces in Iraq

Up to 5 February 2004, the death toll of US soldiers rose up to 530 due to the armed resistance of Iraqi guerillas who use sophisticated weapons. Armed attacks against US-led coalition forces by Iraqi guerillas increased and the invasion forces have been suffering great casualty.

US and allies casualties resulting from Iraqi guerilla attacks

Date	Location	Incident	Casualty
21-3-2003	Kuwait border	Helicopter crashed	12
23-3-2003	Nasiriyah	Ambush	28
3-4-2003	-	gun battle	11
7-4-2003	-	gun battle	18
24-6-2003	Southern Iraq	Ambush	6
12-9-2003	-	Friendly fire	8
2-11-2003	West of Baghdad	Helicopter shot down	15
7-11-2003	-	Helicopter shot down	6
12-11-2003	Police station in Nasiriyah	car bomb attack	19
15-11-2003	Mosul	Black hawks shot down	17
17-1-2004	Near Baghdad	roadside bomb	5
Total			145



A burned out car is seen near Italy's paramilitary headquarters after an explosion in Nasiriyah, southern Iraq on 12-11-2003.



US soldiers speak about the downing of their Chinook helicopter on 2-11-2003.



Map of Iraq showing US helicopter crashed in which 17 American troops were killed on 15-11-2003.



Iraqis gather around the rubble of a house in Karbala, about 110 kms south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 Dec, 2003 after guerillas unleashed a massive and coordinated assault on a pair of military bases and the governor's office.



Two cars burned after a bomb attack in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on 20 November 2003.



A US Army Blackhawk helicopter lifts off as troops search a crash site where a Chinook helicopter crashed into a field near the restive town of Fallujah on 2 November, 2003. At least 15 US personnel were killed and 21 wounded.



Iraqis stand beside the remains of a car after a suicide attack outside a police station on the outskirts of Baghdad, on 15 December, 2003.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Development images of Bago Division in the time of the State Peace and Development Council



Ayeyawady river crossing Nawaday Bridge, which is 4,183 feet long, in Pyay, Bago Division.



The 1,500-foot long Shwegyin-Madauk bridge.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Paddy sown acreage	1200000	1580000
Irrigation facility	16	37
Industrial zone		
State-owned	-	1 (Indagaw)
Private	-	1 (Khittaya)
Transport		
Tarred road (mile)	554	584
Gravel road (mile)	144	191
Bridge (above 180 feet)	50	64
Bridge (under 180 feet)	2742	3267
Communication		
Post office	65	92
Telegraph office	17	21
Auto-exchange	3	6
Auto telephone	3300	12425



Lagunbyin Dam on border of Yangon and Bago Divisions benefits 22,000 acres of farmland.

The four-storey building of Pyay University in Bago Division (West).



The diesel engine factory in Indagaw Region, Bago Division.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Information		
TV retransmission station	2	4
e-Library	1	3
Library	-	115
Education (basic)		
High school	80	95
Middle school	181	227
Primary school	3450	3974
Education (higher)		
University	-	3
College	2	6
Health		
Hospital (200-bed)	1	2
Hospital (25-bed)	2	4
Station hospital	37	46
Rural health care centre	77	151
Rural health centre (branch)	374	408
Nurses training school	1	2

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



Unity is strength

The Union of Myanmar is a nation with an area of 261,228 square miles and home to over 100 national races. Its administrative system is divided into seven states and seven divisions, 64 districts and 324 townships. Of the population of over 53 million, over 70 per cent reside in rural areas. The townships, districts and states and divisions will develop, only if the rural areas, where the majority of people live, develop. In other words, the Union will develop only if there is progress in the rural areas, the most basic regions of the nation.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, saying, "Roads must be repaired and upgraded to facilitate the flow of rural goods to the markets in the towns. Coordination will have to be made to effectively repair the former district council roads, linking the towns and villages. We will be able to facilitate transport sector and raise the economic, health and education standards of the vil-

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:



Heavy machinery at work to drill tube-wells at Natyegan village, Magway Township, Magway Division.

five years of the 30-year plan, 45 miles of tarred roads, 345 miles of gravel roads, 113 miles of laterite roads, and 869 miles of earth roads totalling 1,372 miles of rural roads were built in 2001-2002; 108 miles of tarred roads, 444 miles of gravel roads, 171 miles of laterite roads and 1,479 miles of earth roads totalling 2,202 miles of rural roads were built in

Rural development in Myanmar

lage people, only if we can develop the rural areas. Thus, priority should be given to phase-by-phase development of the rural roads."

In accord with the guidance, the five rural development tasks — transport facilitation; po-

given priority. The respective development affairs committees are implementing the task. Improvement of the transport is required for development and modernization of the towns and villages. Beginning the fiscal 1997-98, the De-

ple donated K 422.80 million. The State and Division Development Affairs Committees have been building roads linking villages; villages and towns; and in the towns and districts, to raise the

2002-2003; and in 2003-2004, a target has been set to build 21 miles of tarred roads, 154 miles of gravel roads, 47 miles of laterite roads totalling 537 miles of rural roads.

The development

Nyein Min San (Maha Aung Myay)

table water supply; education promotion; health care promotion; and economic development — have been laid down and are being implemented.

Of the five tasks, the task — transport facilitation — has been

velopment Affairs Department has been extending roads and bridges in rural regions, using 55 per cent of its funds. During the four-year period from 1997-98 to 2000-2001, 281 miles and three furlongs of tarred roads, 1,305 miles and four furlongs of gravel roads, 703 miles and four furlongs of laterite roads and 1,226 miles and five furlongs of earth roads totalling 3,529 miles of rural roads have been completed.

The expenditure was a total of K 3,126.44 million, to which DAD contributed K 2,703.64 million and the local peo-



Low-cost rural houses as the one shown in the photo are being built for easing the shelter needs of the village people.

economic, social, health, education and transport standards of the rural areas. The 30-year rural road development plan from 2001-2002 to 2030-2031 is being implemented.

During the first

affairs committees are working to supply potable water to villages, giving first priority to villages which have no water resources at all or where water is hard to find; second priority to

(See page 9)

Rural water supply

State/Div	Target for 2003-04	Completion up to 31.12.03
Sagaing Div	312	144
Magway Div	159	87
Mandalay Div	769	470
Others	1091	768
Total	2331	1469



Tarring a rural road linking Kyakansu village in Hmawby Township and Ngazutaung village in Hlegu Township in Yangon Division.



An artesian well at Kyundaw village in Taungdwingyi Township.

(from page 8)
villages which have insufficient water supply; and third priority to villages which are not accessible to potable water.

The five methods — drilling tube-wells, building new mini reservoirs to store rain water, digging new wells and upgrading them, supplying water from springs, and diverting water from rivers and creeks — are being employed to supply water to villages.

Villages in the dry regions including Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway divisions have been designated as priority villages. Officials are making field tours down to the villages in other states and divisions. In addition to the three divisions in the dry region, the 10-year water supply

projects has been implemented in other states and divisions. Of the target of 8,042 villages in the three divisions, potable water supply has been ensured in 714 villages in 2000-2001; 1,098 villages in 2001-2002; and 1,020 villages in 2002-2003; and the

being implemented to supply clean water to 344 villages where water is difficult to find, 5,489 villages which do not have access to sufficient water supply and 9,350 villages with no potable water supply totalling 15,183 villages. During the three-year period

provement in the transport, there is also progress in the economic, health and education sectors. There are now three primary schools in every five villages. Education promotion is another priority given to development of rural areas. Special attention has been paid to school enrollment of the school age children, extension of elementary schools and opening of post-primary schools in the rural areas.

In the rural health sector, station hospitals and dispensaries have been extended, and more



Village people visit a rural health education exhibition.

target for 2003-2004 is 416 villages.

In other states and divisions, a project is

from fiscal 2000-2001 to 2003-2004, clean water supply project has been launched in 5,024 vil-

lages in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine states, Taninthayi, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions and northern, southern and eastern Shan State.



The extended building of a high school in Kokkodaw village in Salin Township, Magway Division.

Rural roads

Type	1988		2003	
	Mile	furlong	Mile	furlong
Tarred	280	7	711	5
Gravel	682	7	3144	1
Latrite	673	5	1375	7
Earth	2092	2	17635	4
Total	3729	5	22867	1

As there is im-

Poem

The Positive sign of the Union

- * The goodwill flower of the Union
Which blooms on Motherland
On the border abode.
Sweet songs of peace are heard
Brethren of the land assemble.
In solidarity and amity
New history is made, new nation built
It's simply amazing.
- * Loving kindness showers of the nation
Which on Motherland fall afresh
On the rural abode.
Green, fragrant and pleasant
Brethrens of the land assemble.
United and loving each other
New nation, new granary is built
It's simply amazing.
- * With new amazing features
The positive sign of the Motherland
May it last forever.
It shan't break up no matter who tries
With hands clasping one another
The Union like the heart and life
Brethrens group shan't break up
Will forever try to perpetuate
For centuries by the hundred thousands.

Thiha Aung (Trs)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)

Efforts are being made for progress of the agriculture and livestock breeding in the rural areas. The State has built over 150 dams and 265 river water pumping stations.

A project has been launched to set up 34 special poultry farms in two or four townships in every state and division. The farms are distributing meat to rural people at reasonable prices.

Road transport, clean water supply, education and health care services are improving in the rural areas. The rural economy including farming is developing. And the development of the rural and urban areas in the whole nation is the result of the harmonious and energetic efforts made by the entire national people with unity and Union Spirit.

(Translation: TMT)



The State builds the Cheinchaung Bridge to facilitate transport between Zokthok village and Bilin town in Mon State.

Non-existence of genocide...

(from page 16)

forgiveness, and harmonious efforts based on mutual interest — and sharing joys and sorrows together.

As they have been living in harmony in the Union of Myanmar, the national races are residing together in all the states and divisions.

Concerning the fact, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to trainees of primary teachership course No 35 of the University for Development of National Races, saying, "As all the national races are living in various parts of the territory of the Union of Myanmar, each and every region of the Union itself is a mini-Union home to multi national races living in unity and togetherness. As the national races are indivisible attaching one another with bonds of love, there must be amity and unity among the national races."

In accord with the guidance, all the national races must stay away from narrow racism, and must live in a family spirit like the brothers and sisters residing in togetherness and peace based on common interest, with Union Spirit and unity.

Throughout the course of history all the conflicts resulting from the rivalry of the feudal monarchs and the instigation of the colonialists were short-lived. The significance of the Union of Myanmar is that unlike some countries of the world there has been no genocide among the national races based on racial hatred and antagonism.

The course of the nation's history has inter-relationship with the national solidarity. The nation enjoyed strength and glory during the periods when the unity is strong, and during the times when the national unity was weak, the political, economic, social and security conditions of the Union were in a state of decline and the Union itself faced alien intrusion and transgression of the sovereignty.

Colonialism became stronger during the late 19th Century, and since the colonialist countries extend relations with Myanmar, they had known her natural riches and had been trying to occupy her.

The colonialists made attempts to cause dissension among the feudal lords ruling Myanmar, and when the unity broke up in the country, they, relying on their most advanced weapons of the 19th Century, attacked and seized the country.

As the colonialists knew the strong patriotism and Union Spirit of the national races, and their will to live in unity and weal or woe, they made schemes to break up the Union Spirit of the national races from its roots to prolong the enslavement of Myanmar.

The imperialists employing their notorious divide and rule policy, instigated the national races in political, administrative, social and racial matters. Therefore there were misunderstanding and suspicion among the national races.

National race leaders who realized their political awareness and the strength of national solidarity rebuilt national solidarity to establish independent and sovereign Myanmar. It was obviously found in history that the imperialists deliberately created various problems in order to enslave Myanmar although she regained her independence.

Far-sighted national race leaders revealed national solidarity with firm determination to regain the independence without dividing the plain and hill regions in Panglong, Shan State on 12 February 1947. As a result, Myanmar became sovereign and independent State without being excluded any part of the country.

February 12, a day to be remembered in the course of Myanmar history, an important day for perpetuation of the Union and a day of political significance for independence, was designated as the Union Day. The Union Day ceremonies are held nationwide every year with political essence after laying down the national objectives.

After regaining independence, internal insurgency occurred due to driving of a wedge among the national races and ideologically influenced by the neo-colonialists. The whole country was under the dark shadow of multi-coloured armed insurgency. The newly-independent country led to a situation under the influence of the neo-colonialists.

The Tatmadaw stood by the people dutifully and made efforts for prevailing peace in most of the urban areas. But rural areas especially border areas suffered bad legacy of internal armed insurgency. People in those regions lived in fear for years and many lives were lost due to misunderstanding and suspicion among the national races.

After taking up State duties, the Tatmadaw government seriously reviewed political situations of different eras that Myanmar passed. As Myanmar is a Union, only when there is consolidated solidarity among the national races, will the Union exist forever and sovereignty be perpetuated forever. Therefore, the national policy of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty was laid down and emphasis was

also placed on national reconsolidation and propagation of the Union Spirit.

When correct attitudes, genuine goodwill towards national races and concrete deeds of the government meet clear views and upright objectives of armed groups, most of the armed groups returned to the legal fold. As a result, peace and stability which was absent for over 40 years have prevailed in the country.

Border areas are far-flung areas. Under the colonial rule, the imperialists did nothing for development of those regions. After regaining independence, there was no peace and stability. Successive governments could not carry out regional development tasks. Therefore, economic, education, health and social standards of the people in those areas were low.

Work committees, regional committees and sub-committees were formed under the central committee for development of border areas and national races led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe himself. The government has been carrying out the tasks for development of border areas and social life of the people living in those areas with greater momentum since 1989. Priority was given to transport and communications, education, health, electric power and agriculture, livestock breeding and mineral exploration that contribute towards the development of economy. The government also fulfilled basic human rights of the people in border areas.

Considerable progress has been made in border areas during 15 years. Transport from one place to another has become easy. Big cities with buildings, schools, hospitals and dispensaries, markets, offices, hotels, museums and parks have emerged in the place where there were small villages. It is heartening to note that students can receive their education in primary, middle and high schools using modern teaching aids.

Besides, health care centres such as hospitals, clinics and delivery rooms are providing effective and sufficient health care services, and so the health standard of local people are improving and there has been a decrease in infant mortality rate as well as in mortality due to infectious diseases but an increase in life expectancy.

Regarding the economic sector, the Government is rendering necessary assistance for cultivation of poppy-substitute crops. As a result, local farmers have made success in growing seasonal and perennial crops such as rubber, grape, lychee, coffee, tea and orange on such a commercial scale that the surplus produce is distributed to nearby regions and exported to neighbouring countries. As regards livestock breeding sector, poultry, pig and others are being bred on a small scale as well as commercial scale. There have been hydropower plants, mills and factories as well as hotels for

tourism industry.

Therefore, border areas where national races live that lagged behind in development in the past due to poor transport have now developed in agriculture, livestock breeding, industrial, trade and tourism sectors with fine roads and bridges, modern communication facilities and smooth transport. Furthermore, these regions have been facilitated with schools, hospitals and clinics and so on.

The Government has been implementing the projects for development of border areas and national races, and rural development plans simultaneously for bridging the development gap between urban and rural regions. Now, rural regions have caught up with the development of urban regions. Moreover, 24 development regions including Panglong where the Union conceived have been established for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation in economic, education and health sectors.

With a view to transforming the Union of Myanmar to a modern developed nation that can stand tall among the world nations, the Government is realizing the political, economic and social objectives. In the process, it is carrying out the uphill tasks to reach the nation's goal.

Only when there emerges a new enduring State Constitution, can a modern developed nation be built in accord with the new State Constitution. So representatives from all walks of life are going to meet at the National Convention to draft a new State Constitution.

The entire people are to make combined and united efforts in the tasks to resume the National Convention essential for emergence of a new State Constitution through the might of the already-achieved national solidarity.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on the delegates to make continuing efforts in transforming the Union to a modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation exerting the already-achieved national solidarity and upholding the 57 Anniversary Union Day objectives:

- for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
- to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development and
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister had a cordial conversation with the delegates. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan holds a meeting with local people at Poppakine village, Saw Township. — MNA

Information Minister meets local people in townships of Magway, Sagaing Divisions

YANGON, 10 Feb—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 6 February met with local people of villages in the townships of Magway and Sagaing Divisions and coordinated matters related to information and regional development.

The minister on 6 February morning met with the staff at Information and Public Relations Departments in Chauk and Seikphyu Townships. At the meeting, the minister called on officials concerned to strive to be able to expand the media coverage up to villages in border areas with high quality and attended to the needs.

At 2.30 pm, the minister met with local people at Poppakine Village in Saw Township and gave instructions on regional development and farming. The minister donated publications to the libraries there.

At 4 pm, the minister met with local people, teachers and

students at Laungshwe Model village and accepted 274 USDA member applications. And the minister presented K 100,000 for village BEHS, text books and exercise books for students and publications for the libraries.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the government is making all-out efforts for national development, adding that progress has been made as a result, thereby benefiting much the entire national people. The people, on their part, are to strive together with the government and the Union Solidarity and Development Association in implementing the five rural development tasks, he noted. At the same time, the entire national people and the government are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for successful realization of the seven-point future political road map to ensure the emergence of peaceful modern democratic nation. —MNA

We are convinced that we can stand tall if united. We might fall if we are divided. It is clear that united we stand, divided we fall. Indeed, it is commonly known that unity is strength.

History stands witness to the fact that we lost independence and sovereignty due to lack of unity. Actually, we regained our independence through the united efforts of all the national brethren.

As regards the perpetuation of the Union as well as gaining prosperity of the national peoples, the national unity is essential.

It can be recounted that during the colonial period, the colonialists intentionally sowed discord and doubt among the national races. As a result, armed conflicts accompanied the nation's independence and thus delayed its development.

During the time of the State Peace and Development Council Government, national unity is further consolidated. Realizing the genuine goodwill of the Government, altogether 17 armed groups have now returned to the legal fold and are participating actively in the development works of their respective regions. Unprecedentedly, national unity is further strengthened.

In fact, unity ensures peace and tranquillity which is fundamental requirement for achieving progress. With the united strength and full understanding and goodwill towards one another, the national peoples can strive for prosperity. Without unity, no prosperity can be brought about.

For instance, border areas lagged behind in development due to lack of peace and tranquillity. Now, national unity is strengthened and there prevails peace and tranquillity in the border areas. Accordingly, development endeavours can successfully be carried out for the betterment of the national peoples living in border areas. It can vividly be seen that endeavours for socio-economic development of the national peoples at border areas are meeting with success.

These border areas are achieving tremendous development within a short period. It is a practical lesson that the prosperity of the Union totally depends on the national unity.

As regards the achievements in developing the country, it is to be attributed to the prevalence of peace and tranquillity. Only when there is peace and tranquillity, can development endeavours be made without

hindrances. Obviously, without unity, peace and tranquillity cannot prevail.

To uphold and further strengthen the national unity, Union Spirit is essential. Union Spirit is the spirit of striving for prosperity of the Union where national races reside, through amity and unity.

The perpetuity, stability, peace and tranquillity and development of the nation hinge on collaborative efforts of all the national races based on Union Spirit.

We now have seven-step roadmap to build the Union into a discipline-flourishing nation.

As regards promoting the socio-economic life of the national people, emphasis is placed on boosting agricultural productions, increasing the generation of electric power, turning conventional cultivation into mechanized farming and ensuring better transportation.

The Union Day objectives of this year have also been laid down as follows:



The 57th Anniversary Union Day commemorative postcard.

- for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic;
- for all national races to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual

- existence;
- to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful imple-

mentation of the seven-point future policy programme.

It is a bounden duty of all the national brethren to further consolidate the national unity and make collective efforts for turning our Union into a new, peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing nation.

A group of staff from the Department of Anthropology, Yangon University, departed from the port of Kawthoung on the 3rd of April 1997 in a coaster at 7:40 am, on a study tour.

After going for about 3 hours and 10 minutes, the coaster reached St Matthew's Island or Zardet Kyee Island, which is the largest island in Myanmar waters. The island was full of woodlands, thickets mountains, valleys and ravines. The hills rose up gradually starting from the beaches. Zardet Kyee Island is about 8560 acres.

In the North of Zardet Kyee Island there are Lampi Island, Bocho Island and Makyone Galet village.

Under the scorching sun at 11:00 am, the sea looked as if painted in emerald green.

At 12:30 pm we went over to the island in a boat. When we got there, it was 1:00 pm. already and with the tide down, we had to anchor our boat quite a distance away from the shore. We all waded in the salty sea-water to get to the shore.

We all headed for the village monastery. We all had lunch at the monastery. Salone Lunch consisted of potato and chicken curry, assorted vegetable soup, and fried fish-paste.

After lunch, we said a few words of thanks,

handed out some donations, and proceeded into the village. At the centre of village, we found a Nat shrine with the image of the Nat inside, and a museum. The Nat shrine was erected beside the museum. In front were the Salone drum and some bamboo joints, laid out by the village headman for singing and dancing to entertain us.

First we visited the museum. In the museum, we found a Nat shrine, an image of a Nat and a Salone boat made of salt-wood. A variety of sea fishes, sea-shells, corals, and black-corals were displayed. Different kinds of fishing gear, hunting weapons, carpentry tools, gardening and farming gadgets were also on display.

When we came out, we studied the Nat shrine and image in front of the museum. By that time, the Salone men and women, young and old, children from the village had all gathered, ready to entertain us with music and dance. Everyone came out and the whole village was busy going to and fro.

All of them had come out into the streets. Apart from the Salones, numbering about 400 only, the gathering consisted of groups in small numbers of Mons, Rakhines, Pa-Os, Myeiks, Dawei, Chinese, and Barmars.



A typical traditional house of Salone nationals.

When we had taken our places, the Nat priest (Shaman) led the singing and dancing, with accompaniment of various kinds of instruments. Salone young men played music by beating drums and hitting the bamboo joint with a stick.

There was much merry making where both men and women sang, danced, and drank wine. Both men and women drank any kind of wine from wine to Johnny Walker whisky. They drank, smoked, sang and danced and were very happy indeed.

The study team was also very busy interviewing them on respective subjects and taking photographs and

measurements of their accessories, which are of cultural significance. Their songs, language terminology and expressions are recorded on tape.

After that we went to Talun Salone primary school to interview Salone nationals there. The primary school is within sight of the museum.

We were able to interview all the village people including the experienced old, performing artists, and the Shaman as follows:

- (1) The background history of Salone nationals, topography, physical feature, costumes, language and literature, tra-

ditional cuisine, music, musical instruments, and dances.

- (2) Kinship system, succession, inheritance,
 - Youth
 - Engagement and marriage
 - Pregnancy, childbirth, christening, childcare, upbringing
- (3) Faith and Religion, traditional festivals, superstitions, manas and taboos
- (4) Economy
- (5) Political organization, education, health

We divided the team into five groups and asked over 600 questions and recorded the answers.

The Taninthayi Division, which is located in the southernmost part of the Union of Myanmar, constitutes Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung districts. Salone nationals may be found on the islands in Myeik and Kawthoung districts as separate minority groups.

The Salone nationals reside within the Myeik and Kawthoung townships and on islands in Myeik Township, Kyun Su Township, Palaw Township,

Taninthayi Township, Kawthoung Township, Bokpyin Township. They also live on Limpi Islands, Makyone Galet village and Nyaung-Wi village.

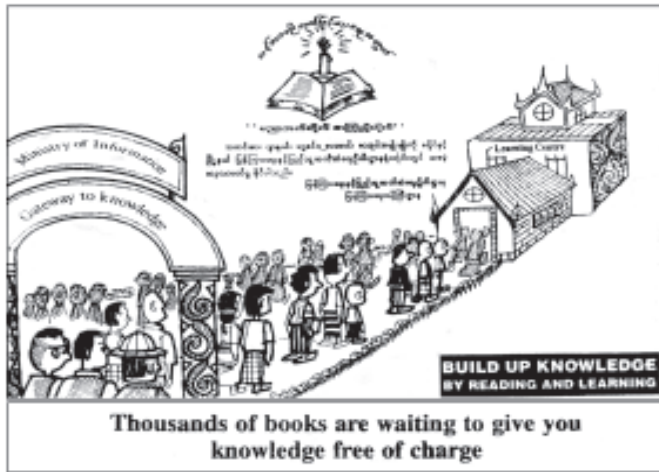
Depending the ocean as their base, the Salone nationals wander along the seashore or live on the sea. During the four months of the Rainy Season, from May to August, when there are storms and gales, they build temporary huts on stilts and live on shore. In the remaining eight months, from September to April, they roam the seas in Kaban boats.

The livelihood of the Salone nationals, being fishing and shell-collecting, diving for seafood and oysters, is associated with the sea in one way or another, regardless of the season and where they reside, that is on land or on sea. That is why we should conduct a tour of the beautiful Myanmar sea where the Salone nationals are residing.

(Kyemon: 1-2-2004)
(Translation: Pe Thwin)

Let's make a tour of the place of Salones

Prof Daw Tin Yee (Anthropology Department, Yangon University)



ADVERTISEMENTS

New int'l exhibition centre to be built in S-W China

CHENGDU, 10 Feb—Construction of a new international convention and exhibition centre started recently in this capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The centre, which covers 100 hectares in the new district of southern Chengdu, will take three to five years to complete at an estimated cost of five billion yuan (602 million US dollars).

The project comprises three parts, including an exhibition area which has nine exhibition halls with a total floor space of 200,000 square metres, hotels and cultural facilities and a park.

When the project is completed, it will host 150 exhibitions and 2,000 meetings annually with 20 million participants, said Deng Hong, chairman of the Chengdu International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Currently, Chengdu has two exhibition centres, which accommodate 600 meetings and 50 exhibitions a year.

MNA/Xinhua

INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by **The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited**, for the supply of 6,600 Metric Tons HSD (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).
 2. Tender Closing Date (14-2-2004) at 15:30 PM.
 3. For detail information Contact Phone NO. 290843, 298851 General Manager (Finance Department).
- The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited. No. 189/191 Mahabandoola Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.**
General Manager (Finance)
The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited.

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JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ (၅) အမှတ် (၄၇) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

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The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လေ့လာရေး ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်။
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

Cypriot President goes to Athens before New York meeting

NICOSIA, 10 Feb — Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos left here for Athens on Sunday for talks with the Greek leadership in view of a meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York later this week.

Speaking on his departure at the Larnaca Airport, Papadopoulos said he would go to New York with the aim to resume negotiations on the Cyprus problem on the basis of Annan's twice-revised plan and reach a settlement by 1 May. "We are going

with goodwill. We always supported the commencement of talks on the basis of the Annan plan and our aim remains to reach a settlement by 1 May," he said.

Papadopoulos was expected to meet with Greek Prime Minister Costas

Simitis, Minister of Foreign Affairs George Papandreou and possibly the opposition.

Annan has invited the island's Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to meet him on Tuesday in New York to start a new round of peace talks.—MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပကိုယ်စားပြု

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P.O Box 60, Yangon.

Dated: 11 February 2004

Uganda plans to construct over 800 health units countrywide

KAMPALA, 10 Feb—The Ugandan Government is to construct 868 health units, including 214 sub-district hospitals countrywide to extend and deliver efficient services to its people.

Ugandan Minister of State for Health Mike Mukula was quoted by local media as saying on Monday that every constituency in the country by 2006 will have a mini-hospital, an ambulance, a generator, clinical and medical inspectors, an out patient ward and all will be well equipped.

The Ugandan Government has secured over 25 million US dollars from Netherlands for about 124 health centres and units countrywide.

Mukula said this would be the first of its kind in Africa, adding that "it's a very ambitious programme but we shall provide it systematically".

He said that 60 ambulances were dispatched last month to different referral hospitals and about 90 others were yet to be delivered.

Mukula said that Uganda was to intensify the roll back malaria campaign because it was killing people in big numbers in Africa, adding that more than 80,000 people died of malaria last year in Uganda.

MNA/Xinhua

China uses Internet for appraisal of foreign-funded enterprises

BEIJING, 10 Feb — Encouraging results have been received in simplifying the procedure of the annual appraisal of foreign-funded enterprises in China by employing the Internet, a new method effective on a trial basis from the start of the year, the State Industry and Commerce Administration said recently.

"The new measure has received a good response from foreign-funded enterprises over the past one month, and one-ninth of them have accepted the new appraisal method," said Liu Ye, an official with the administration.

"More foreign-funded enterprises are expected to choose the new method before the March 15 deadline for application for the annual appraisal," said Liu, who is in charge of enterprise supervision.

Traditionally, foreign-funded enterprises in the country have had to make several visits to the administration's outlets to complete their annual appraisal. Now they can finish all the steps, apart from the final appraisal, through the Internet.

Enterprises can learn the latest appraisal requirements, download and fill in the required form, and receive the preliminary appraisal result via the Internet, which will be a welcome saving of time for enterprises, said Liu.

Special technology has been adopted to guarantee the privacy of documents completed by enterprises, the official added.

As the new method is still in the pilot stage, enterprises may still choose the traditional method if they so wish.

With the improvement of the administration's network system, the new Internet method will be expanded to other administrative fields, Liu said.

MNA/Xinhua

UN report says cloud forests, water source to millions face risk

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Feb — A warming climate threatens tropical mountain forests that strip moisture from clouds and supply water to millions of people in Africa and Latin America, experts said in a UN report released on Monday.

Cloud forests in equatorial and sub-equatorial regions of Latin America, Africa and Asia, account for just 2.5 per cent, or 154,000 square miles of world tropical forest cover. But the benefits are felt way beyond their boundaries.

Clean and predictable water supplies from such forests in La Tigra National park in Honduras meet 40 per cent of demand in the capital Tegucigalpa, says the report, "Cloud Forest Agenda".

The capitals of Ecuador, Mexico and Tanzania are other cities that consume cloud forest water.

But the habitats could disappear because of a range of factors including a warmer climate, predicted by scientists

as the result of increased atmospheric concentrations of sunlight-trapping gases released from fossil fuel burning.

"A unique feature of these forests is that they can capture moisture through condensation from the clouds, which also makes these habitats very sensitive to climate change," said Philip Bubb, one of the co-authors of the report, in a statement.

The risk was both to water supplies and the dozens of species found only in such habitats, he said.

Other risks include forest clearance for farming, fires, road construction and the introduction of species from other parts of the world.

MNA/Reuters

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China spends \$12m annually to train officials abroad

BEIJING, 10 Feb— Chinese central finance allocates 100 million yuan (12 million US dollars) every year to send 40,000 officials abroad for training, according to Liu Yanchao, deputy director of the Overseas Training Department of the State Bureau of Foreign Experts Affairs (SBFEA).

A mid-term or long-term training programme abroad costs about 100,000 yuan (12,092 US dollars) for one person, but the investment is well worth it, Monday's *21st Century Business Herald* quoted Liu as saying.

In China, over 90 per cent of the cadres at provincial level or ministry level had training experiences abroad. Some provincial leaders were among China's first group of high-level leaders trained at the John F Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University.

Chinese officials who have been trained abroad range from national leaders to cadres of local districts and cities.

"It is a very large talent pool," said Liu.

China's earliest overseas official training programme started in cooperation with France.

In 1991, Chinese central departments began to entrust a French association for talent training and exchange to train their officials through the SBFEA.

The association has received over 4,000 Chinese trainees in the past 15 years, one-fifth from central government and the rest

from local governments, said Guy Marty, chairman of the association.

The French training programmes cover a wide range of fields, including grape planting, the French agricultural market, operation of supermarkets and management of large enterprises.

In 1999 when China initiated reform of state enterprises, the Chinese Government sent officials to learn from the French Government how to manage and control state enterprises undergoing privatization.

Many countries take training as an opportunity for Chinese officials to understand them. The Japanese Association for Overseas Training Scholarships stopped training once but resumed the programmes after they found many of the trained officials were put in important positions back in China.

To meet the demand of China's official training, AFEPE, a French association promoting trade between France and China, turned itself into an association specially engaged in official training, chaired by Marty. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Three Gorges Project to transmit electricity to Guangdong

YICHANG, 10 Feb — The hydropower station of the Three Gorges Project, the largest hydro-electric project in the world, began to supply electricity to energy-starved Guangdong Province on Sunday.

The power station is expected to transmit 8.16 billion kilowatts hours of electricity to the south China province this year, equivalent to the output of a new thermal-power plant, with an installed capacity of 1.6 million kilowatts.

Li Yong'an, general manager of the China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation, said his corporation will put more generators into operation and generate more electricity this year.

Six generators went into operation in 2003, producing 8.6 billion kilowatts hours of electricity in total.

Under the state target, the Three Gorges Project will produce 30.9 billion kilowatts of electricity this year.

To attain the production goal, four more generators, with an installed capacity of 700,000 kilowatts each, are scheduled to start operation respectively in March, May, July and September this year to bring the total number of generating units in operation to ten.

Since the first generating unit began operation on July 10, 2003, the Three Gorges Project has transmitted electricity to 10 provinces and municipalities in central, eastern and south-western China.

The Three Gorges project is located at the Xiling Gorge Section between the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River at Sandouping Town in Yichang City, Hubei Province. With a total investment of 21.76 billion US dollars, the project started in 1993 and is scheduled for completion in 2009.

The power station is designed to have a total of 26 generating units each with an installed capacity of 700,000 kilowatts. When all units are in operation, the station will be able to generate 84.7 billion kilowatts hours of electricity annually.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Oil prices steady ahead of OPEC gathering

LONDON, 10 Feb — Oil prices held firm on Monday as members of the OPEC cartel gathered in Algiers for a meeting expected to leave the group's official production limits unchanged.

London Brent crude rose 13 cents to 28.96 US dollars a barrel, while US light crude was up 12 cents on the day at 32.60 US dollars.

Although prices still sit above the OPEC cartel's preferred 22-28 US dollars price band, U.S. futures have slipped from more than 36 US dollars over the last three weeks as cold weather in the United States has eased.

Signals from OPEC indicate the group, which controls half the world's export trade in crude, will keep official production unchanged at 24.5 million barrels per day. — *MNA/Reuters*

Switzerland's jobless rate hits six-year high in January

GENEVA, 10 Feb — Switzerland's unemployment rate rose to 4.3 per cent in January, reaching its highest level in six years, according to a report released on Monday.

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) said the number of people registered out of work rose by over 5,000 to 168, 163 last month.

The rate rose 0.2 percentage points on the figure for December, said the SECO. However, taking into account the so-called seasonal effect, the rate was unchanged at 3.9 per cent.

Unemployment figures for January are usually higher than other months due to the seasonal effect. In certain industries, such as construction, paper making and forestry sectors, there is normally less demand for workers during the winter.

Jean-Luc Nordmann, head of SECO's labour di-

vision, gave a positive analysis on January's figures, insisting they were not as bad as they looked.

Nordmann expected the seasonal effect would be over by March after which time there could be a small decrease in jobless figures.

He said the jobless increase was almost half of that a year ago when a rise of more than 9,000 was recorded.

In addition, there was a significant rise in job vacancies, up from 3,408 to 9,451, which analysts considered a promising sign.

The Economy Ministry said it drew some signs of encouragement from the January figures.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Brazil flood deaths reach 119, epidemics feared

BRASILIA, 10 Feb — The death toll from the heaviest rains in more than a decade in Brazil has risen to 119 people, the government said on Monday as it began to stockpile medical supplies in fear of epidemics.

Sixteen of Brazil's 27 states have now been hit by floods which started in January, the National Integration Ministry said, adding that 180,000 people have had their homes destroyed or been forced to leave them.

The federal government, is scrambling to resupply medicine stocks after distri-

buted 30 tons of supplies to prevent dengue, leptospirosis, diarrhoea and other diseases, the Health Ministry said. "We are now making emergency purchases in case the rains go on," Health Minister Humberto Costa told reporters at a briefing, adding that central and southern areas were ex-

pected to be hit by fresh storms soon.

Costa feared an outbreak of leptospirosis, a disease spread by the urine of infected animals, which causes fevers and diarrhoea, but rarely death. Some 30 cases have now been reported in the state of Espirito Santo. — *MNA/Reuters*

Indonesia to rely on counter-trade to boost export

JAKARTA, 10 Feb — The Indonesian Government will give a greater focus on counter-trade scheme in its efforts to boost non-oil export and meet the export target in 2004, a minister said here Monday.

Industry and Trade Minister Rini Soewandi said counter-trade is implemented by 130 countries around the world and accounted for 30 per cent of total world trade value, or is equivalent to some

500 billion US dollars. She said counter-trade would help provide jobs in Indonesia and boost the country's foreign exchange revenue.

"The government gives

a greater focus on counter-trade," Rini said.

Indonesia has set a 7-per cent rise in the 2004 export from 61.02 billion dollars in 2003.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



Rescue workers have pulled a 24-year-old woman from the wreckage of a 10-storey building, one week after it collapsed killing scores of people. Turkish rescue workers stand on the rubble while diggers prepare to lift concrete blocks from the 10-storey apartment building which collapsed late on Monday in Konya, central Turkey. — *INTERNET*

Woman found alive week after Turk building collapsed

ANKARA, 10 Feb — Rescue workers pulled a 24-year-old woman from the wreckage of a 10-storey building on Monday, one week after it collapsed killing scores of people.

NTV television showed rescue workers applauding as the woman, named as Yasemin Yaprakci, was carried from the rubble to a waiting ambulance on a stretcher.

Anatolia news agency said Yaprakci was very tired after her ordeal but NTV quoted her as saying: "I am fine, don't worry."

Rescue workers tracked her down after hearing her cries for water, NTV said.

Her rescue came one day after a 16-year-old boy was

also dragged alive from the rubble.

The death toll from the collapse of the building now stands at 84, NTV said.

Officials say faulty construction caused the 36-apartment building to collapse in an affluent district of Konya, a city 150 miles south of the capital Ankara.

Police have arrested two contractors over the incident.

The Konya building collapsed during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha when some families were entertain-

ing guests, making it more difficult to estimate the final number of people trapped inside.

A five-metre-high pile of debris was all that remained of the recently built block.

Turkey's poor building standards and widespread graft have often been blamed for building collapses and the high death tolls from earthquakes that frequently strike the country, but few builders or developers have been convicted.

— *MNA/Reuters*

S P O R T S

Olympique Lyon's title hopes suffer after shock defeat

LYON, 10 Feb— Olympique Lyon's shock 1-0 defeat at home to En Avant Guingamp on Saturday could have ended their aspirations to defend the Ligue 1 title.

The champions, who were four points behind Monaco before Saturday's round of games, slipped to third, seven points off the pace, after the principality team beat Metz 2-0.

AJ Auxerre moved into second on goal difference after a 2-0 victory at Stade Rennes.

"We hurt ourselves and it won't be easy for the rest of the season," said goalkeeper Gregory Coupet, who conceded an injury-time goal to Guingamp defender Nisa Saveljic. "We have to keep our chin up high."

Club president Jean-Michel Aulas said the defeat was a huge psychological blow for Lyon, who reduced a 10-point gap with Monaco in January to just four by Saturday.

"Between a draw and a defeat, the mathematical difference is slim. But psychologically, it is enormous," he said. "We now have to heal the spirits."

Lyon forward Sidney Govou, however, refused to give up hope with 15 games remaining in the league competition.—MNA/Reuters



AS Roma's captain Francesco Totti (L) congratulates goalkeeper Ivan Pelizzoli after he saved a penalty against Juventus' David Trezeguet during their Serie A clash at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on 8 February, 2004.—INTERNET

Cassano leads Roma's 4-0 romp against Juventus

ROME, 10 Feb— Striker Antonio Cassano struck twice as AS Roma romped to a 4-0 victory over champions Juventus on Sunday, reviving their Serie A title hopes.

The result moved Roma clear of Juventus into second place with 46 points, five adrift of leaders AC Milan, while Juve were third with 43.

It was Roma's biggest win over the Turin-based club since 1931, when they won 5-0 at the old Testaccio stadium in the south of the Italian capital.

Last weekend's loss to Brescia and a draw with Udinese had prompted many to question whether Roma had the staying power to keep up with leaders Milan.

"This win is worth double... not just because of who we beat but also because it showed we've raised our level since January," said delighted Roma coach Fabio Capello.

"This is the most important time of the year. Although there's a long way to go in the championship, the games you play now set you up for the run-in.

"They show whether you really are a challenger, especially those against your direct title rivals."

Juventus arrived at the Olympic Stadium with a poor defensive record, having conceded 21 goals in 19 matches.

Roma exposed their weaknesses at the back after just 13 minutes, when midfielder Olivier Dacourt fired in a low ball from the edge of the area.

The home side kept up the pressure early in the second half with Emerson blasting a close-range shot over the bar.

The floodgates opened in the 53rd minute when Juventus defender Paolo Montero tripped Cassano in the area and Francesco Totti converted the penalty to

double their lead.

Shortly after, Juventus suffered another blow when Montero was sent-off for a clumsy kick on Totti.

Roma attacked at will and in the 70th minute a Mancini cross was deflected into Cassano's path and the striker coolly nudged the ball past keeper Gianluigi Buffon at his near post.

Failing to make an impact in open play, Juve's best chances appeared to be from set pieces.

However, their misery was compounded in the 74th minute, when Ivan Pelizzoli parried a David Trezeguet penalty.

Cassano completed the rout five minutes from time, again combining with Mancini to head past Buffon.

Juve coach Marcello Lippi felt Montero's sending off ended their chances of salvaging anything from the game.

MNA/Reuters

Benfica beat Belenenses to close gap on Sporting

LISBON, 10 Feb— Goals from Tomislav Sokota and Joao Pereira gave Benfica a 2-0 win at Belenenses in the Portuguese Premier League on Sunday, helping them to close the gap with second-placed Sporting to two points.

Champions Porto extended their lead to seven points after recording a 2-1 victory over Uniao Leiria on Saturday. Sporting drew 3-3 at Nacional Madeira.

MNA/Reuters

Deportivo stay in title hunt

MADRID, 10 Feb— Deportivo Coruna stayed in touch with the top two in Spain with a 2-0 win away to Albacete on Sunday, while Ronaldinho scored a spectacular goal to send Barcelona up to fourth with a 2-1 victory away to Osasuna.

Deportivo took control of their game in Albacete in the second half with two goals in two minutes from Lionel Scaloni and Albert Luque.

Javier Irureta's side were soon in trouble when Hector was sent off for bringing down Carlos Aranda in the area with 66 minutes gone but Jose Molina saved from the Albacete striker's penalty and Deportivo clinched a comfortable victory.

The result kept Deportivo in third place with 46 points from 23 games.

Real Madrid lead the standings with 52 points after their 2-1 win at home to Malaga on Saturday, with

Valencia staying second, two points behind, after a 3-0 win over Atletico Madrid.

Barcelona moved into the final Champions League slot with a determined victory over Osasuna, clinched with a moment of brilliance from Ronaldinho.

Javier Saviola had put Barca ahead from Xavi's astute through ball late in the first half but Osasuna hit back when Victor Valdes brought down Valdo in the box and gave away a penalty that was converted by Patxi Punal.

Osasuna, level on points with Barcelona going into the game, poured forward in search of a winner but Ronaldinho secured Barca's third successive league win in the 77th minute.

The Brazilian playmaker controlled an Edgar Davids pass back into the area, teed the ball up with one touch and hooked it back into the far corner.

Barca's victory gave them

37 points from 23 games and took them a point ahead of Athletic Bilbao after their 2-1 win over Murcia.

Deportivo, needing a win to stay on the tails of Real Madrid and Valencia, dominated the first half against Albacete but needed a bit of luck to break the deadlock in the 58th minute.

Juan Carlos Valeron took a pass from Diego Tristan and shot weakly at Albacete keeper Manuel Almunia. The ball broke straight to Scaloni on the right of the area and he slotted in.

Two minutes later, Luque made it 2-0, finishing off a swift counter-attack, and Molina's fine penalty save helped the visitors hold on.

"We took victory from an even game," Irureta said. "I'm very happy. "We had the better chances but after the sending-off Albacete improved and we had a nervous final few minutes."

MNA/Reuters

Hasselbaink penalty keeps Chelsea in touch

LONDON, 10 Feb— Chelsea kept in touch with the top two in the Premier League after Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's first-half penalty secured a laboured 1-0 home win over Charlton Athletic on Sunday.

Hasselbaink struck in the 28th minute but, bar a late flurry of Adrian Mutu misses, there were few other chances at either end as fifth-placed Charlton were also operating below their best.

After the excitement of Saturday's programme, Sunday's fare was dull in comparison, the low-key Stamford Bridge game following an even more dreary goalless draw between Manchester City and Birmingham City. Arsenal remain top on 58 points following their 3-1 win at Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday, a result that established a club record 24-game unbeaten start to the season.

Manchester United are second on 56 after their extraordinary 4-3 home win over Everton. The champions led 3-0 after 30 minutes but needed an 89th-minute Ruud van Nistelrooy goal to win it.

Chelsea remain third, on 52, with Newcastle United, 3-1 winners over Leicester City, fourth on 37 and ahead of Charlton on goal difference. Liverpool and Fulham both have 35 points.

Hasselbaink broke the deadlock from the spot after Mark Fish was ruled to have

hailed down the Dutchman.

The South African defender claimed Hasselbaink had been backing in but Fish had wrapped his arms around him, giving the referee an easy option.

Charlton improved slightly after the break but there remained little danger until the last 10 minutes, when Mutu had three good chances.

The Romanian, without a home league goal since September, over-elaborated to go round goalkeeper Dean Kiely and could not find the target from a tough angle.

Mutu then lashed a shot against the post before Kiely blocked from point-blank range when a goal looked certain.

The misses did not matter in the end as Chelsea gained revenge for their 4-2 defeat at The Valley on December 26.

After the fireworks of midweek, when Manchester City came from 3-0 down with 10 men to beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-3 in the FA Cup, it was back to reality at the City of Manchester ground.

The hosts had the better of the few chances but were denied by Birmingham goalkeeper Maik Taylor.—MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (C) celebrates with teammates Adrian Mutu (R) and Mario Melchiot (L) after scoring with a penalty kick against Charlton Athletic at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London during the Barclays Premiership match against 3rd place Chelsea and 4th place Charlton Athletic.—INTERNET

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe views operations on cleft lip and palate patients

YANGON, 10 Feb— President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, accompanied by Patron of Supervisory Committee for Shan State (East) MCWA Daw Khin Pyone Win and party, on 9 February morning, arrived at Kengtung General Hospital in Kengtung where they were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party, officials of MMCWA, the medical superintendent and staff.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party viewed operations on cleft lip and palate patients at the operation theatre and provided cash assistance to the patients individually. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the ceremony to donate cash for medicines and medical equipment used in conducting operation on the patients. She then presented K 750,000 to Kengtung General Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Than Maung; K 192,000 to Maxillo-facial and Jaw Surgery Specialist Dr Nu Nu Yi of Mandalay General Hospital; and K 52,000 for the patients to Shan State (East) MCWA Supervisory Com-



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents gift to a patient. MNA mittee Dr Sai Kham Hlaing.

Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave away clothes for model villages in Shan State (East) to Shan State (East) Supervisory Committee for MCWA Patron Daw Khin Pyone Win.— MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the full dress rehearsal of Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony. —MNA

Full-dress rehearsal of Union Day Flag-hoisting ceremony held

YANGON, 10 Feb — A full-dress rehearsal of the 57th Anniversary Union Day Flag-hoisting ceremony was staged at People's Square on Pyay Road here at 6 am today. Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Management Committee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and committee members, the chairman of the sub-

committee for holding Union Day Flag-hoisting ceremony and members, military region commanders, chairmen of district PDCs, senior military officers, chairmen of township PDCs, departmental officials and members of USDA and social organizations. According to the agenda, the full-dress rehearsal was held — taking position of the State Band, arrival of the Union Flag, saluting the Union Flag, taking position of the flag relay team, reading the message of State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and others. — MNA

Victorious Myanmar soccer team recounts experience

YANGON, 10 Feb— The experience of Myanmar youth soccer team which took part in the First U-18 BIMST-EC Cup 2004 held in Phuket, Thailand, was recounted at the hall of Myanmar Football Federation on Waizayanda Road, Thingangyun Township, this morning. Present were Patron of the MFF Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Patron Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win, President of MFF Chairman of Dagon International Ltd U Win Aung, Vice-President Deputy Commandant of Defence Services Self-Defence and Sports Institute Lt-Col Maung Ko, leader of the team Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung, Vice-Presidents Member of BOD of Kanbawza Bank Ltd U Wai Yan Aung, U Ko Ko Hwe of Tawwin Family Construction, Director of SPED U Nyan Tun, General Secretary of MFF Deputy Director of SPED U Tin Aung and members, journalists, the footballers and guests.

Patron of MFF Maj-Gen Kyaw Win gave an opening speech. Next, team leader U Thein Aung recounted the experience of the team in the First U-18 BIMST-EC Cup 2004. Replies to questions raised by those present were given by officials. — MNA



The meeting to recount experience of victorious Myanmar team in progress. —NLM

New road opened to hail Union Day

YANGON, 10 Feb —As a gesture hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day, the Bohnu Bahtoo tarred road was opened in Dagon Myothit (North) Township here at 7 am today. Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the new road which is 17,000 feet long and 18 feet wide. — MNA

41st Gem Emporium to be held

YANGON, 10 Feb —The 41st Myanmar Gem Emporium will be held beginning 13 March 2004 and those citizens who are undertaking exploration and trading of gems under the Myanmar Gems Law will be permitted to attend the emporium and take part in competitive bidding. During the 41st Emporium period, jewellery and gem sales counters will be allocated on ground floor of the Myanmar Gem Emporium and those wishing to open the sales counters can contact the management sub-committee office and gem market supervisory committee beginning 17 February. — MNA

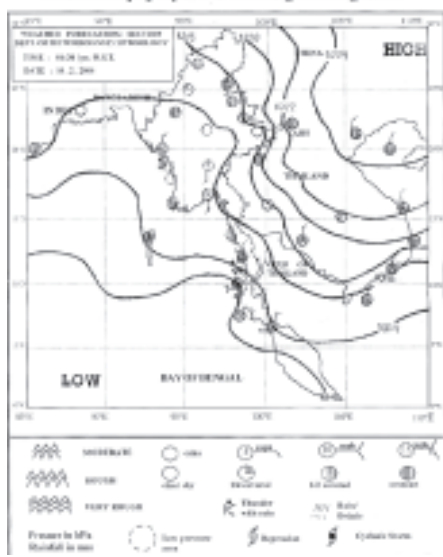
UMFCCI President meets Ambassador

YANGON, 10 Feb — Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President U Win Myint met Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Counsellor Mr Rahu Kulshreshtha and Commercial Counsellor Mr Rajinder Khanna at the UMFCCI head office this morning. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to boosting of investment and trade between the two countries, exports of quality peas to India, holding of 'Made in India Show' Seminar on Across Borders: India-Myanmar Trade and Economic Cooperation at Yangon Trade Centre and Sedona Hotel on 19 and 20 February and meetings between Indian and Myanmar businessmen. Also present on the occasion were UMFCCI executive members U Tin Myint and U Myo Thant. — MNA



The Indian Ambassador calls on UMFCCI President U Win Myint. — UMFCCI

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 10 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C above normal in Shan State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Chin and Rakhine States, 7°C below normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. Maximum temperature on 9-2-2004 was 33.0°C. Minimum temperature on 10-2-2004 was 17.0°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-2-2004 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 9-2-2004 was 7.7 hours approx. Rainfall on 10-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 16 mph from South at 16:30 hours MST on 9-2-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 11-2-2004:** Possibility of isolate rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 40%. **State of the sea:** Strong easterly winds with moderate sea are likely at time off and along Mon-Taninthayi coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach 35 mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-2-2004:** Partly cloudy.

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt extends greetings at the meeting with Union Day delegates. — MNA

Non-existence of genocide among national races resulting from racial hatred and antagonism Myanmar's significance

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Union Day delegates

YANGON, 10 Feb — Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met Union Day delegates at National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) at 4 pm today and extended greetings.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the management committee for organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, members of the central committee and management committee, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and officials and departmental heads. Secretary of the management committee Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies and read out the agenda. Next, the Prime Minister extended greetings. He said:

I feel immense pleasure to see the representatives of the national brethren, coming here from various parts of the Union of Myanmar, at the get-together like a reunion of the family members.

According to the significant findings of the excavations and research work, it can be firmly said that the Myanmar races have been living on Myanmar soil since the emergence of human beings in the world. There are now solid evidence proving that all the Myanmar races are not the immigrants who migrated to the country from the places lying outside its territory, but are the true descendants of the Union, living and increasing in numbers on the Myanmar soil.

There are slight differences in the dialects of the national races due to the time and climate and geographical conditions of the regions the forefathers chose as their home, while trying to find a dwelling place in the Myanmar territory which has an abundant supply of food and water resources. In other words, it is the basic factor for all the national races to have a belief that they are of

the same family residing on Myanmar soil since time immemorial.

All the over 100 national races have the same characters — sincerity, kindness, helpfulness, loving kindness, forgiveness, sympathy and peacefulness. And since the start of the human civilization and till now, the national races have been living in unity in a family spirit — mutual love and friendship, helpfulness, inter-relationship, (See page 10)

PM sends felicitations to Iran

YANGON, 11 Feb — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects arrangements for hosting Union Day dinner

YANGON, 10 Feb — Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this evening inspected arrangements for hosting dinner to commemorate the 57th Anniversary Union Day and the performance of traditional cultural troupe as a full-dress rehearsal in the President's House Compound on Ahlon Road.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the management committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the director general of State Peace and Development Council Office and officials, arrived at the President's House at 5.30 pm. They were welcomed there by members of the central committee and management committee and departmental officials.

First, the Prime Minister inspected arrangements for holding a dinner to hail the 57th Anniversary Union Day and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Next, the Prime Minister watched the performance of traditional cultural troupe as a full-dress rehearsal, and greeted the cultural troupe members. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt enjoys the full-dress rehearsal of traditional dance troupes of national races. — MNA

Union Day delegates tour Yagon

YANGON, 10 Feb — The national races cultural troupe members and Union Solidarity and Development Association members from various States and Divisions who are currently here to attend the 57th Anniversary Union Day ceremony and dinner this morning visited Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township and paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image. They also watched the White Elephants there. Afterwards, they visited the Drugs Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township. — MNA