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The 57th Anniversary Union Day message of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar

YANGON, 12 Feb — *The following is a translation of the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Union Day, 2004, of the Union of Myanmar.*

Esteemed brethren of the Union,

On this auspicious occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day, I would like to wish all the national races residing in the Union health and happiness and be blessed with auspiciousness.

Since the prehistoric times and till now, the over 100 national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan, the descendants of the same family, have been living in the Union of Myanmar in solidarity, residing on the same land and partaking of water from the same source, and sharing joy and sorrow together.

Because of the gratitude owed to our forefathers of the successive eras, who lived in unity with high vision, attaching themselves with bonds of amity, with the family spirit — love and friendship, helpfulness, sympathy, mutual reliance, understanding, forgiveness, and cooperation based on common interest — as the foundation, the national races of the Union have been

able to live together and join hands for a long time. In this regard, it is the bounden duty of all the national races to understand and uphold the gratitude and to strive with never declining zeal, strong perseverance, and energetic efforts for further flourishing and vitalization of the family spirit and Union Spirit among the national brethren.

The mountain ranges in the north, east and west of Myanmar and the seas facing the nation in the west and south are serving as its natural walls. And all the glory of Myanmar that helped the nation stand tall among the world nations under her own monarchs for years countable by the thousand within its boundary of the walls; and the flourishing of the independent and admirable civilization, art and social values originating from traditions, customs and thoughts rooted in the family spirit, Union Spirit and the spirit of loving the nation, the spiritual strength of the people.

As the Union of Myanmar prospered with her own culture and art as a sovereign nation, it was a nation that was able to present herself to the world with pride and fame.

Myanmar fell into the hands of the occupiers in the 19th Century, during which, the colonialists relying on their superior firepower were trying to seize more land in the whole world. However, the colonialists were not

able to occupy Myanmar easily. The unyielding spirit, and the spirit to love the nation that made Myanmar gallantly ward off and drive out all the dangers harming the Union still stands as milestones in history. During the battles to drive out the colonialists, the national brethren, joining hands and standing firm in unity, courageously defended the nation and drove out the invaders. Because of the inequality in the firepower, Myanmar had to give up the fight and lost her independence and fell under subjugation.

The colonialists destroyed the nationalist fervour and the spirit to love the nation of the Myanmar people, while hatching plots through racial, social and administrative means to cause dissension and doubts between one national race and another.

However, the Myanmar races were able to restore anti-colonialist spirit, Union Spirit and national spirit, striving to regain independence on all fronts through applying various means. The national race leaders clearly expressed the national solidarity, the most important requirement for the national liberation, at the Panglong lying in the heart of the motherland on 12 February 1947. As they were able to show unity,

(See page 2)

Mogaung Bridge opened to hail 57th Anniversary Union Day The bridge across Nankaung Creek facilitates transport to Kachin State

YANGON, 11 Feb — Mogaung Bridge on Nankaung Creek was inaugurated in Mogaung Township, Kachin State, yesterday hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address at the ceremony.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said the 945-foot bridge spanning Nankaung Creek is situated on Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway.

In the past, the people had to mainly rely on railroad in travelling from Mandalay and Sagaing divisions to Kachin State, and besides, the existing air passenger transport had limits. Every time the rail transport was cut off for certain reasons, commodity prices rose

in Kachin State.

According to the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the Shwebo-Myitkyina Road has been upgraded to a tarred road, and since 1996 it has become a strategic road for passenger and cargo transport on the west bank of Ayeyawady River. As there

was no motor road bridge on it, Mogaung railroad bridge was used as a rail-cum-road bridge. The completion of the Mogaung motor road bridge has facilitated transport. Thabeikkyin-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina road was built on the east bank. In addition to Shwebo-Myitkyina Road, Mandalay-

Tagaung-Shwegu-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road is also serving as a gateway to Kachin State.

In addition to the roads linking the state with other regions, Public Works and Tatmadaw members have upgraded Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Road, Namti-Tanai-Nanyun Road,

and Mogaung-Phakhant-Phalamone-Hkamti Road to all-weather facilities. Ten major bridges including Mogaung Bridge have been built in the state. Airports in Myitkyina, Putao and Bhamo have also been upgraded.

In the past, roads linking upper and lower

Myanmar ran only on the east bank of the Ayeyawady. But now a network of motorways, railroads and bridges reaching all the regions of the nation have been built. Roads have emerged as Union Highways helping facilitate transport for all national races and regions.

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Newly opened Mogaung Bridge on Nankaung Creek in Mogaung Township, Kachin State. — MNA

57th Anniversary
Union Day
commemorative
special features
on pages
7, 8 and 9.

With Union Day
Supplement

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 12 February, 2004

Let's lend ourselves to national endeavours

Today is the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day of the Union of Myanmar, home to various national races who have been living together in unity through thick and thin from time immemorial.

It was on 12 February, 1947, all the national brethren of the Union signed the Panglong Agreement in unison to show that they were determined to have total independence for the entire nation and live together for ever. Therefore, the day has been designated as the Union Day since that time and it is held every year with full political essence.

The Union Day is the most important day in the history of our country. We can say that the Independence Day was born out of the Union Day. Without national unity and the Panglong Agreement, our country would not have become an independent and sovereign nation again. Therefore, national unity is still the life-blood of our Union. This being the case, the State Peace and Development Council, or the Tatmadaw Government, has always given top priority to national unity.

The objectives of the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day are:

- 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 the 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.

Emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation is our national goal. The Tatmadaw Government has been working day and night to achieve that goal by safeguarding the national policy and by trying to successfully implement the 12 political, economic and social objectives and the seven-point future policy programme.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the entire national people, on this auspicious occasion of the Union Day, to actively and unitedly lend themselves to all the national endeavours being carried out by the Government in the long-term interest of the State.

Poppy fields destroyed

YANGON, 11 Feb — Up to 29 January 2004, combined teams have destroyed 5,946.79 acres of poppy fields during the current poppy growing season in various regions. On 27 January, a combined team found and destroyed 13 acres of poppy fields at a plot near Nantpok Creek in Hkamti Township. The team usually comprises members of the Tatmadaw local battalions, the Intelligence Unit and the Myanmar Police Force, departmental personnel and local people. — MNA

The 57th Anniversary Union Day message ...

(from page 1)

Myanmar had been able to restore her image as an independent and sovereign nation on 4 January 1948.

It was due to misunderstanding and suspicion in the nation resulting from the wounds inflicted on her by the colonialists' attempts to drive in a wedge there occurred internal instability hampering efforts of the past successive governments to concentrate on the national development. And that was the reason behind the lack of national development in the past.

The State Peace and Development Council has taken lessons from history in which the national strength was derived from national unity, and national weakness and backwardness were the result of the loss of national solidarity. It has laid down the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty and has been strengthening national unity, with the national re-consolidation and the perpetual flourishing of Union Spirit as the objective. Thus, 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold. Moreover, the Government has been ever extending a warm welcome to the remaining armed groups, and is continuously making efforts with the resolve to restore cent per cent national unity. Peace and stability has been restored in the border regions. In the past, the regions lacked peace and stability due to misunderstanding and doubts between one national race and another, the outcome of the remoteness of their locality that created weak inter-relationship among the locals. The restoration of peace and stability in the areas paved the way for the launching of the border area development drive in 1989, that is laying sound political, economic and social foundations and bearing fruits of progress for the locals.

In the past, the economic and social gap was wide between the rural and urban areas. To bridge this divide, the rural development project has been implemented for the economic and social progress of the village people. In addition, 24 development zones have been designated in an equitable ratio in all the states and divisions for development of the various sectors including economic,

health and education in the whole nation.

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

Thus, it is a special requirement for the entire national races to strive for the resumption of the National Convention, the main task for the emergence of a new Constitution, with the existing national solidarity. The State has already declared its seven-point future political programme clearly and openly. The seven points show exactly the way in which all the national races will have to march towards a discipline-flourishing modern and developed democratic nation without fail. The national races who love the country will have to walk straight on the way with full Union Spirit and the spirit of national unity.

Here, I would like to profoundly urge the entire national races to actively and energetically implement the following objectives of the 57th Anniversary Union Day (2004) for emergence of a modern and developed nation in the future, while striving to further strengthen patriotism and Union Spirit:

- For all the 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 the 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
- For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme. — MNA

Moe, Han bid to end title drought in Myanmar

YANGON, 11 Feb — Home heroes Zaw Moe and Kyi Hla Han ted off in the US\$ 200,000 Myanmar Open on Thursday determined to end their country's frustrating bid for a first title in the tournament. Since the event's inception in 1996, no local player has tasted success in the Myanmar Open and both Moe and Han, along with the promising Aung Win, are the nation's best bets once again at Yangon Golf Club. The local challenge, which includes the top-20 players from the local tour, will face some stiff resistance from an international field which includes Filipino ace Frankie Minoza, Thailand's Boonchu Ruangkit and Thongchai Jaidee, both former winners of the Myanmar Open, defending champion Lin Keng-chi of Chinese-Taipei and Cheng Tze-chung, also from Chinese-Taipei. For the Hong Kong-based Han, the Asian number one in 1999, he is counting on a fast start on the course that he grew up on to contend for the top prize of US\$ 32,300. "Over the last two months, I've been playing all right. I'm feeling very relaxed mentally but I need to get some confidence into my game to really have a chance."

"I have to count on a good start on Thursday to get going here and the goal is to get into contention at the weekend. We've got one of the strongest fields this week, so it will be a real challenge to us," said Han, whose best

outing in the Myanmar Open was joint third in 2000.

Big-hitting Moe, who has plied his trade with great success in Japan for the past decade, is wielding new clubs this week and hopes it will drive him to what could be a famous home victory. He has also overcome a finger injury sustained during the season break which forced him to withdraw from the second round of the Johnnie Walker Classic in Thailand a fortnight ago. "The finger didn't hurt so much in my practice round this morning," said a relieved Moe. "I sprained the little finger on my right hand while carrying my bags a few months ago and it has been causing me pain when I hit the ball. It was quite bad in Thailand but it seems okay now. However, I'm not going to be practising a lot this week to avoid aggravating it." Moe, a former Singapore Open champion, said that one of the reasons why there has not been a local winner was due to the fact that the pressure to perform on home soil is tremendous. "The pressure is so much different," he conceded. "It is one of my goals to try and win this event and I'll keep on trying."

In recent years, the home-based Win has challenged for the crown much to the delight of the local fans. He raised loud cheers by finishing tied third last year while in 2002, he led midway through the final day before setting for tied sixth position.

The Myanmar Open is celebrating its ninth year in 2004. Event sponsors include Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd with co-sponsors MAI, Sedona Hotel, Wilson, Grand Slam, Inetel, Canon, Maruman, Dagon Beer, MIMS Logistics, Max, UPG and Alpine Purified Drinking Water. — MNA

Karate team arrives back

YANGON, 11 Feb — Myanmar team won one silver and one bronze at the 6th Senior Karate Championship of the Asia Karate Federation, held in the People's Republic of China from 3 to 9 February.

The team, led by Vice-President of Myanmar Karate Federation Dr Ye Naing Win, a former Karate national selection, arrived back here yesterday evening. Myint Zaw Oo, Min Aye and Wan Ko Ko Oo won silver in team-wise kata event and Myint Zaw Oo won bronze in singles kata event. Athletes totaling 256 from 23 countries took part in the championships sponsored by AKF. The team was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by President of MKF Police Col (Rtd) Khin Maung Tun and executives, officials of the Sports Physical and Education Department and others. — MNA



The Myanmar Karate team seen with team leader Dr Ye Naing Win, the manager and the coach. — MKF

Car bomb kills around 50 south of Baghdad

ISKANDARIYA (Iraq), 11 Feb—About 50 people were killed and dozens wounded on Tuesday when a car bomb ripped through a police station south of Baghdad, witnesses and hospital doctors said.

"There are around 50 martyrs, 30 of whom have been identified, and dozens wounded," Dr. Tahsim Ahmad told *Reuters* at Iskandariya Hospital, near the site of the attack.

The hospital's director, Razak Jannabi, said: "Thirty dead have been brought here, I believe that number is rising. I believe it's at 49."

A *Reuters* reporter counted at least 20 bodies outside a hospital in the small town of Iskandariya, 25 miles south of Baghdad.

"It was a car (bomb) that was parked outside the

station," policeman Sadeq Khodeir told *Reuters*. "It brought down part of the building and the court house."

US troops cordoned off all roads leading to the blast site.

A suicide bomber blew himself up outside the house of a US-backed tribal leader in the restive town of Ramadi west of Baghdad earlier on Tuesday, wounding four bodyguards.

The attacks followed a pattern of targeting Iraqis seen as collaborators with the US occupation.

A twin suicide bomb-

ing in northern Iraq killed more than 100 people on February 1.

The bombings targeted Iraq's two main Kurdish parties, which enjoy good ties to Washington.

Ramadi and neighbouring areas, at the heart of the so-called Sunni triangle where resentment of the United States is strongest, have seen scores of attacks on US forces and allied Iraqis. But areas south of Baghdad, like Iskandariya, have seen much less violence.

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers inspect the site where a suicide car bomb exploded. At least 55 people were killed and 65 wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a pick-up truck packed with explosives outside a police station south of Baghdad crowded with civilians

INTERNET

Chinese, Vanuatu FM's hold talks

BEIJING, 11 Feb—Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Vanuatu counterpart Moana Carcasses held talks Tuesday, exchanging views on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Li said China-Vanuatu relations maintained good momentum and the two countries had expanded their exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

The Chinese Government believed that the two countries would boost high-level exchanges, expand cooperation in trade and economy and increase coordination and cooperation in regional and international organizations so as to push forward bilateral ties, said Li.

MNA/Xinhua

India-Pakistan talks to focus on agenda, structure of dialogue

ISLAMABAD, 11 Feb—Pakistan on Monday said the three-day official level talks between India and Pakistan beginning here from February 16 would focus on agenda, structure of the dialogue and address the future course of action to be taken by both the countries.

"Since they are resuming talks after a long time, they will have to look at agenda and structure of talks and future course of action," Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said.

He said both the coun-

tries would hope "to define the ground rules and prepare our nations for more comprehensive and substantive talks".

We have to see the ambit of these talks and their scope. We have to sit together and

negotiate.

"Hope this round of talks would be successful and pave the way for other rounds in which we can focus more substantively on outstanding issues," he said while answering a question. —MNA/PTI

India to undertake conservation of Cambodian temple

NEW DELHI, 11 Feb—Conservation of the ancient Ta Prohm Temple in Cambodia has been entrusted to the Archaeological Survey of India, which will undertake the work in six phases beginning this year at an estimated cost of five million US dollars.

The task spread over 10 years is being undertaken in response to repeated requests to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee from the Royal Government of Cambodia and follows an agreement signed between the two countries during Vajpayee's visit to that country in 2002.

The project envisages conservation of not only the stones and monument, but also of the age-old tree structures enveloping them and the surrounding environment in harmony with nature, an official release said here quoting Culture Secretary Dhanendra Kumar who is in Cambodia.

MNA/PTI

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Arabs complain they are in dark on US reform plans

CAIRO, 11 Feb—The United States has kept most Arab governments in the dark about its plans for the Middle East, now taking shape under the title of the Greater Middle East Initiative, Arab diplomats and officials said on Tuesday.

The way Washington has handled the initiative so far has added to Arab feeling that the Bush Administration is planning a future for the region behind their backs, they said.

US officials say they want European support for the initiative in readiness to announce it in June when the Group of Eight leaders hold their annual summit, hosted this year by US President George W. Bush at Sea Island, Georgia.

The Group of Eight does not include any Arab countries.

Arab governments have read about the proposals from the media or through public

statements by US officials, though US Secretary of State Colin Powell did discuss them on Monday with Crown Prince Sheikh Salman bin Hamad of Bahrain.

"The Arab leaders feel their future is on the table at a time when they themselves are not sitting around that table. They find that rather disturbing," said one Arab diplomat, who asked not to be named.

"Whenever a group of countries is being talked about or having their future planned for them, without them being consulted, that's not something that people would accept wholeheartedly. In fact, quite the

contrary," said another Arab official, who also asked not to be named.

The latest version of the initiative includes offering possible trade deals, political engagement and military support for countries that reform, US officials said on Monday.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri said on Tuesday that the gravest part of the US initiative was that the Arabs were not part of it so far.

"The Arab nations and its leaders must know what's being planned... so they can take the appropriate position," he told reporters in Cairo. —MNA/Reuters

532 US service members killed since beginning of war in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb—As of Tuesday, 10 February, 532 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 372 died as a result of hostile action and 160 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 57 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; others, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 394 US soldiers have died—257 as a result of hostile action and 137 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. Since the start of military operations, 2,617 US service members have been

injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Non-hostile injured numbered The latest death reported by the military:

— No new deaths reported. Identifications reported by the Department of

Defence:

— Staff Sgt Richard P Ramey, 27, Canton, Ohio; killed by an explosive Sunday in Mahmoudiya, Iraq; assigned to the 703rd Ordnance Company, Fort Knox, Ky, supporting the 82nd Airborne Division.—Internet



Map of Iraq locating Iskandariya, where a car bomb exploded outside a police station on 10 Feb, 2004 killing at least 45 people.—INTERNET

Kay says no point in searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb— The former chief of the group of experts responsible for finding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, David Kay, said there was no point in continuing to hunt for arms he said "really did not exist".

"I think finding them is probably the wrong approach, the wrong strategy," Kay told a news conference.

"Iraq is as large as California, Baghdad is as large as LA (Los Angeles). Have you looked every possible place? The answer to that question is always going to be no. My confident prediction is that 20 years from now, maybe 50 years from now, people will still be digging things up in Iraq," he said.

When you "look for the production processes, learn where they have been produced, look for the people that have been involved in that production, look for the records,

... pretty soon you reach the conclusion they really did not exist," he said.

"My personal conclusion is that there were no large stockpiles of chemical and biological weaponized material."

Kay resigned in January and has blamed intelligence failures, not political leaders, for the much-publicized accusations that Saddam possessed chemical and biological weapons and sought nuclear arms — the core of President George W Bush's case for war.

Internet



An Iraqi man waits while his car is searched by a US soldier recently.—INTERNET

Annan concerned about divisions among Iraqis

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Feb— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed concern on Monday over divisions among Iraqis about a system to assume power from the US-led occupation this summer.

But he said the UN electoral team, which arrived in Baghdad on Saturday to study whether elections can be held before the transfer of power on June 30, had been well-received and was speaking to a spectrum of Iraqis.

Annan told reporters and later the UN Security Council on Monday that he expected the group, led by senior adviser, Lakhdar Brahimi, to finish its work in about a week, and that he would make his recommendations before the end of February.

"I am concerned that there is no consensus yet on the best way to handle the transition," Annan told a closed meeting of the Security Council.

"Many Iraqis have been calling for elections before June 30. Others disagree and prefer other options for choosing the members of Iraq transitional institutions," he said, according to his speaking notes.

He said he made clear there is no single "right way" but that Iraqis themselves should agree on a plan.

Annan said the UN team would meet

Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the influential and reclusive leader of Iraq's Shiites, who make up 60 per cent of the population.

The current US plan is to choose legislators indirectly through regional caucuses, a move opposed by al-Sistani. US President George W Bush wants UN help to arrange an early transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis in an effort to ease the postwar violence and dispel concerns of extended US rule as he faces a tough reelection fight in November.

Annan said he was working under the assumption that the transfer of power would take place, as agreed, on June 30. However, he said again that "if the parties were to agree to other arrangements I think it would be difficult to reject it. We will have to consider it."

US Ambassador John Negroponte stressed, however, the need to adhere to the June 30 date.

"We are very committed to the June 30 deadline," he told reporters after the Council meeting. "This is a date of the utmost importance to us." — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia estimates to import 200,000 tons of rice in 2004

JAKARTA, 11 Feb— Indonesia is expected to import about 200,000 tons of rice in 2004, significantly lower than in 2003, the head of the Indonesian State Logistics Agency (Bulog) said on Tuesday.

Last year Indonesia imported 655,126 tons of rice. The initial estimation for this year's stock is 1.9 million tons and the domestic supply is two million tons, the president-director of the agency Widjanarko Puspoyo said.

In the next year, the domestic supply and distribution would be similar to the figures of this year, he said, adding "the volume of (rice)

import in 2005 will also be 200,000 tons".

However, he said that the estimation for 2005 was still tentative and would also be affected by the domestic supply and stock at the end of this year.

The agency forecast the world rice production this year will be 392 million tons, or 11.7 million tons higher than in 2003, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

China to invest heavily in rural development

BEIJING, 11 Feb — China's central government will set aside a record 150 billion yuan (18.07 billion US dollars) this year as part of its annual budget to buoy rural development.

"The figure will be approximately 30 billion yuan (3.61 billion dollars) more than last year's spending," said Chen Xiwen, deputy director of the office of Central Financial Work Leading Group, at a Press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council here Monday.

The added money will be used mainly to support rural tax reforms, upgrade ecological conditions, develop education, health care and training for young farmers, build more infrastructure facilities and speed up poverty reduction in rural areas, he said.

The Ministry of Finance has basically passed the budget plan, which was expected to be submitted to the upcoming National People's Congress in March for deliberation and enforcement, according to Chen.

MNA/Xinhua

Mild tremors jolt central Syria

DAMASCUS, 11 Feb— A series of moderate tremors has jolted a largely uninhabited area in central Syria without causing any damage or injuries, the official news agency reported on Monday.

The series of tremors measuring 1.9 to 3.5 on the Richter Scale hit the hilly, desert area 31 miles northeast of the capital Damascus on Sunday, it said.

Syria has not experienced a major earthquake in decades. In the 12th Century, one of the world's worst earthquakes hit the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, killing 230,000 people.

MNA/Reuters



Iraq bomber blows self up near tribal chief house

RAMADI, 11 Feb— A suicide bomber blew himself up outside the house of a US-backed tribal leader west of Baghdad Tuesday, wounding four bodyguards, in the latest attack on Iraqis working with US-led occupation forces.

Witnesses said the bomber detonated his explosives outside the house of Amer Suleiman, chief of the al-Duleimi tribe in the area and head of the local US-appointed authority in the restive town of Ramadi, 68 miles west of the capital.

The unidentified bomber died on the spot and four Duleimi bodyguards were wounded, some of them critically, the witnesses said.

The attack followed a pattern of targeting Iraqis seen as collaborators with the US occupation. A twin suicide bombing in northern Iraq killed more than 100 people on February 1.

The bombings targeted Iraq's two main Kurdish parties which enjoy good ties to Washington.

Ramadi and neighboring areas, at the heart of the so-called Sunni triangle where resentment of the United States is strongest, have seen scores of attacks on US forces and allied Iraqis. —Internet

Chinese Mainland official calls for more cross-straits cooperation

QINGDAO, 11 Feb — The Chinese Mainland is ready to expand tourism cooperation with Taiwan, said Sun Gang, deputy director of the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) here Monday.

Sun said at the opening ceremony of a tourism amity meeting across the straits that the tourism operators across the Taiwan Straits had the responsibility to contribute to China's reunification.

Since currently the Chinese Mainland still cannot organize tourist groups to Taiwan, Sun expressed his hope that Taiwan tourism operators could introduce more Taiwanese to visit the Mainland.

Tourism operators across the straits should consult on providing more popular tourism lines and products with Taiwanese, so as to expand the tourism scope and promote tourism exchanges and cooperation across the straits, Sun said.

Sun noted that the cross-straits cooperation in tourism had recorded a constant development in recent years, and to realize uninhibited tourism as soon as possible was the common desire across the straits.

MNA/Xinhua



People make their way in snow storm on Red Square, with St Basil Cathedral in the background, in Moscow, on 10 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

UN team in Iraq to wrap up work in a week

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Feb — The work of a UN team studying whether elections are possible in Iraq was going "extremely well" and it would wrap up its visit in about a week, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday.

The team arrived in Baghdad on Saturday to see whether elections could be held, as Shiites want, or recommend alternatives for selecting an interim Iraqi government before the US-led coalition relinquishes power on June 30.

US President George W. Bush wants UN help to arrange an early transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis to try to ease the postwar violence in the country and dispel concerns of extended US rule as he faces a tough re-election

fight in November.

Annan said the team, led by veteran UN official Lakhdar Brahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, had met with members of the coalition and the Iraqi Governing Council and was now meeting with other Iraqis.

"I think the work of the team is going extremely well," Annan told reporters. "So far, so good. The atmosphere has been good. They have been well received and there's been very good and

frank discussions."

"I think they (the team) will be there for a week or so. And I would hope to be able to give my decision to the Governing Council before the end of the month," Annan said.

Annan said Brahimi, the team's leader, would soon meet with Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the influential and reclusive leader of Iraq's Shiites, who make up 60 per cent of the population.

Brahimi's presence appeared to indicate the team

would do more than fact-finding but negotiate among the Iraqi factions.

"The issue they are dealing with is much, much more than technical and I needed somebody with Mr Brahimi's experience to lead the team," Annan said.

Brahimi, whose presence was kept secret until the last minute, had been reluctant to go. UN officials said on Monday Annan had ordered him to lead the team.

MNA/Reuters

ဘားငွေဖြိုး ပြည်အကျိုး

Colombia denies dispatch of troops to Iraq

BOGOTA, 11 Feb — The Colombian Army has neither planned to send troops to Iraq nor received any such request from the coalition led by the United States, Britain and Spain, Commander Carlos Alberto Ospina said Monday.

Ospina made the remarks at a Press conference in response to recent foreign reports about possible dispatch of Colombian troops to Iraq.

Colombian public forces have more than 200,000 troops actually carrying out a massive offensive against illegal armed groups and thus no troops are available for deployment in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

At least 43 people killed in Iranian plane crash

ABU DHABI, 11 Feb — At least 43 people were killed in Iran's passenger plane crash on Tuesday near Sharjah International Airport in the United Arab Emirates, UAE state television reported.

The dead comprised 19 Iranians, 12 Indians, four Egyptians, two Filipinos, two Algerians, one Bangladeshi, one Chinese, one Nigerian and one Syrian, local police was quoted as saying.

There are two male survivors, including a "miracle" child, both in critical condition, the police said, adding four women and two children were among the dead.

A total of 39 passengers and six crew members were aboard the Kish Airlines plane which crashed Tuesday in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, an official of the Iranian Civil Aviation Authority (ICAA) confirmed.

The Iranian Student News Agency (ISNA) quoted the official as saying that 12 of the passengers were Iranians and the rest are foreigners.

According to the UAE state television, a long line of dead bodies were displayed covered by red blankets. Several dead bodies were shown in dramatic footage of the burning fuselage.

Rescue workers wearing surgical masks over their mouths battled through thick black smoke as firemen doused the wreckage with water hoses.

The twin-turboprop Dutch-built Fokker-50 crashed when it was landing at the Sharjah Airport on a flight from its home port Kish Island in southern Iran.

The airplane belongs to Iran's Kish Airlines, which operates daily flights around the Gulf to the island and is used particularly by Iranian tourists and Asian workers who have to leave the UAE briefly to obtain new visas. — MNA/Reuters



Black smoke rises from the construction site in Samawa, southern Iraq, on 10 Feb, 2004 after the Dutch forces explosive ordnance disposal unit disposed of an explosive.

INTERNET

Mexicans demand payment from US work programme

MEXICO CITY, 11 Feb — Mexican protesters, many of them over 70 years old, demanded compensation on Monday from a US guest worker programme begun in World War II that is still causing controversy in Mexico.

Several hundred former workers, known as "braceros," demonstrated outside the US Embassy to call for payment of pension money they say was withheld from their salaries when they worked temporarily in the United States from the 1940s to the 1960s.

The ex-workers have stepped up their demands since US President George W. Bush proposed a programme last month that would allow immigrants, most of them Mexicans, to win a three-year temporary work permit.

On Saturday, some 2,000 bracero pensioners, many on horseback, forced their way onto President Vicente Fox's ranch in central Mexico to Press their demands.

The braceros have warned Mexicans to be cautious of the Bush plan, which critics see as a bid to win Hispanic votes in an election year.

They charge both governments with manipulating Mexican workers to help fill

a labour shortage in the United States in a worker programme that ran from 1942 to 1966.

"What we found (in the United States) was humiliation and sacrifice," said Felipe Munoz, 85, a farmer from the state of Tlaxcala. "That's what hurts, that they cannot compensate us for that sacrifice. Most of us are now in our old age."

A Mexican congressional commission is investigating the workers' claims that 10 per cent of their salaries was withheld and deposited in government accounts to be distributed later, but never received.

The US State Department said the braceros' complaints were in the hands of US courts. It gave no further details.

The braceros did not say exactly how much they are owed, but with interest it amounted to tens of thousands of dollars on each of five million worker contracts, said organization leader Luz Rivera. — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi newspaper warns UN team of being deceived

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb — Iraq's local newspaper Azzaman on Tuesday warned the UN experts team headed by Al Akhdhar Al Brahimi of being deceived by some political powers.

"Brahimi and his team would not miss distinguishing real intentions so as not to walk into a trap," the newspaper pointed out.

"So as not to be dragged in the deceit set up for him, Brahimi needs to confer with representatives of the silent majority, who are beyond doubt outside the Governing Council," said the paper.

"The call for elections is being used for purposes narrower than the content of the political legitimacy, for some political powers say something and mean something else," it added.

The UN delegation arrived here last Saturday to assess the feasibility of an early election of Iraq's first post-occupation government,

called by top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani. The mission has met US Civil Ambassador for Iraq Paul Bremer, members of the Interim Governing Council, and Kurdish leaders. It was expected to travel to the southern city of Basra to meet Al-Sistani himself Thursday before returning to New York. MNA/Xinhua



A couple stands in front of a shop window of Moscow's TsUM superstore on the evening of 7 Feb, 2004. Many Moscow shops are preparing to mark St Valentine's Day on 14 February. — INTERNET

Beijing to restore 16 ancient bridges

BEIJING, 11 Feb — Sixteen bridges in Imperial Yuanmingyuan Garden, or the old Summer Palace in the northwest of Beijing, are expected to get repaired and restored this year, according to the garden's administration.

The garden, built from 1709 onwards, featured an imposing and ingenious amalgamation of traditional Chinese garden art and Western architecture. It was burnt down by Anglo-French Allied Forces in 1860.

After repeated discussions, experts last year reinspected the remains of 30 stone and wooden bridges in the garden. Some of the dilapidated bridges were found to be still in good shape and could be repaired, Beijing Daily reported recently.

Zong Tianliang, deputy director of the Yuanmingyuan Garden Research Office, said that the 16 bridges to be repaired this year include the "Green Wave Bridge", which was the garden's only bridge bearing an inscription from Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Loss of Iraqi people due to US invasion of Iraq

US and its allies invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003 and they continue to occupy the country. Following the invasion, Iraqi people have to face many difficulties and remains hopeless.

Loss of Iraqi people due to US invasion of Iraq

Subject	Loss
Deaths resulting from cluster bomb	279
Children deaths (From March to September 2003)	69
Iraqi deaths due to air strikes (From March to September 2003)	1169
Deaths due to indiscriminate shooting of US and allies forces	112
Iraqi deaths during US-led war against Iraq (From March 2003 to January 2004)	9896
Iraqi servicemen deaths during the US-led war against Iraq	about 10000
Estimate cost for rebuilding Iraq	\$ 49.1 bn
Lost of antiques from Archaeological Museum	about 3000 items



An unexploded bomb lies in a crater in middle of the Granada primary school in the Germa Ali area of Basra, in southern Iraq, on 28 May 2003. The school's 650 pupils, aged between six and 12, attend classes with the bomb lying nearby. The director of the school said they have informed the British military but the bomb has not been removed.

Kathim Jawad Al-Jhelian looks at the damage in his house after British troops raided his house at four in the morning on 25 May 2003 in downtown Basra. The troops suspected him of having weapons in his home. They arrested him and let him go after detaining him for seven hours.



Fire and black smoke rise from the gas-oil plant in southern Iraq Rumeila oil fields outside Baghdad on 1 May, 2003. The smoke causes air pollution and soil contamination.



A house in downtown Baghdad seen destroyed in an overnight missile attack on 30 March, 2003 by US forces.



A ransacked and looted Iraq's largest archaeological museum in Baghdad. Antiques experts charged US troops in failing to protect priceless artifacts and sites from vandals.



Smoke billows from a large explosion that rocked Baghdad, Iraq during air raids of US forces against early, on 31 March, 2003.

Let's join hands firmly and in unity

Myint Soe (Na Ta La)

From Inlon Innan to national unity

I am interested in the Inlon Innan.

The most interesting part is reverberations of the Inlon Innan or the harvesting festival from the lawns of the Malikha Villa, the venue of the festival, in Myitkyina in that particular evening. The Inlon Innan represents unity and is the symbol of peace. It is a festival extending warm and cordial relations among the people.

The Nyein Foundation hosted a dinner marking the Kachin traditional Inlon Innan festival on the lawns of the villa in Myitkyina at 7 on 29 December 2003. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner. Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander of Northern Command, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, officials, peace negotiators, leader of Kachin State Special Region 1 U Zakon Ting Ring and members, leader of Kachin State Special Region 2 U Lamon Tu Jaing and members, Chairman of the Nyein Foundation Rev Dr Sabwe Jum and members, priests, members of the Baptist Council and special guests.

The participants also included members of the New Mon State Party, Kayan Pyithit Party, Kayinni National Democratic Party and Kayah State National Races Liberation Front, and Kayin, Mon, Chin, Kayah and Wa peace negotiators. The festival was participated by various national races.

The songs, including "The brethren of the Union", "The people who love Myanmar", "The Union nation" and "Join hands forever" sung by the Kachin traditional cultural troupes to entertain the guests at the ceremony were full of essence.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, "The Government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point future policy programme for the non-disintegration and the perpetuation of the Union; and for long-lasting of the national unity and the essence of the Union family."

"I would like to urge all the national races to collectively join hands to successfully implement the seven-point future political programme to maintain and enhance the peace, prosperity, unity and progress that are flourishing in the Union; and for the ever firmness of the Union, based on Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity."

In his new year greetings, U Lamon Tu Jaing said, "Let's join hands in unity, goodwill and sincerity, regardless of the faith and race, to usher into the new year, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes. U Zakon Ting Ring also extended new year greetings, saying, "I firmly believe that the Union of Myanmar will become the most peaceful, developed and united nation in the world if the politicians also join hands with the Tatmadaw, as we all the national races are joining hands with the State, in ensuring peace and development in the entire nation. It is hoped that as the endeavours are being made under the



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, national race leaders and Kachin races pose for a photo at the dinner marking the Inlon Innan festival.

leadership of the State for ensuring food, clothing and shelter and peace and prosperity for the nationalities, the entire national races will surely enjoy the fruits of the endeavours."

In their new year address, the Kachin leaders have pledged to uphold Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty, expressing their confidence in the State's leadership and the Tatmadaw.

Let's join hands firmly

In reality the peace groups already have trust in Our Three Main National Causes, as they hand in hand with the Government are able to restore national consolidation. In this regard, they have heartily welcomed the seven-point future policy programme of the State laid down by the Prime Minister. Moreover, the peace groups including those from other regions have pledged to collectively take part in implementing the political programme. The following table shows the names of the national race groups together with the date on which it met with the Prime Minister and made pledges to take part in the task:

New Mon State Party	21.8.03
Shan State (North) Special Region 2	17.11.03
Shan State (North) Special Region 3	22.11.03
Kachin State Special Region 2	29.11.03
Kachin State Special Region 1	5.12.03
Kayan Pyithit Party	25.12.03
Shan State (South) Special Region 6	27.12.03
Pa-O National Organization	
Kayah State Special Region 2	3.1.04
Shan State All National Races Liberation Front	7.1.04
Kayah State Special Region 1	9.1.04
Shan National Race Group (Shwepyithar Aye)	14.1.04
Shan State (North) Special Region 1	19.1.04
Shan State (North) Special Region 5	22.1.04
Shan State (North) Special Region 7	23.1.04
Rakhine Race Representative Group (Aungzeya Peace Village)	27.1.04

Other national race groups are going to support the political programme.

During their meeting with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, who is also the Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas

and National Races, the national race groups also presented plans to accelerate the anti-narcotics drive, the areas where Government assistance is required and their work programmes.

The Government has been launching the border areas and national races development drive for nearly 14 years since 1989.

It has been launching the drive in the border regions including Kachin State Special Region 1, Kachin State Special Region 2, Kokang region, Wa region, Shan region, Palaung region, Kachin North-East region, Kengtung East region, Mawpha region, Pa-O region, Kayah region, Mon region, Kayin region, Taninthayi region, Rakhine region, Chin region, Naga region, and Kabaw valley region, spending a total of K 50,245.75 million up to 31 December 2003.

In addition to the regional development undertakings, the national race peace groups are launching the anti-drug drive. With the aim of extending local distribution and exports, they are extending cultivation of annual and perennial alternative crops and finished-goods production.

Perpetuation of the Union

The Government has been laying down and implementing the border areas and national races development programmes in order to safeguard the national races from falling into the alien deception that may cause doubts and disunity, and to further strengthen the national solidarity and Union Spirit through harmonious progress of all regions.

The entire national races have unanimously supported the seven-point future policy programme of the State. The national race groups have not only welcomed the programme, but also made pledges to actively take part in the task to implement it.

All the national races have taken part in restoring peace in the entire nation, based on the national unity and Union Spirit; joined hands for regional development; and welcomed and supported the future policy programme.

Hence, we fully believe that they are sure to work in unity for the success of the policy programme for the perpetuation of the Union. They all are standing in firm unity.

(Translation: TMT)

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity



Unity is strength

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Rural areas to be established in building nation

In building a nation, rural areas are to be built first, then, township, district, state, division and up to central level. Rural area is a very basic one and nationalities in rural regions are the most basic. Rural areas are to be established in building a nation. If the foundation of a building is good, it will last long. The whole Union is to be established from rural areas.

Senior General Than Shwe
State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief
(From guidance given to trainees of No 35
Primary Teachership Course of University for
Development of National Races)



The outpatient ward of Haka People's Hospital in Chin State.

Development images of the entire nation in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

After taking up the State responsibilities, the State Peace and Development Council constructing national solidarity has been striving for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In the process, the Government has given first priority to tasks for development of border areas and national races. Then, it has been implementing the plans after designating the 24 special development regions for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation. It has placed special emphasis on the five rural development tasks for development of rural people that make up 70 per cent of the nation's population.

Now, thanks to the combined efforts of the Government and the people, the nation has enjoyed such fruitful results as harmonious development between rural and urban areas, better transport, health, education and economic sectors.



Power Intake under construction at Paunglaung Dam Project.



*Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)
under construction seen from
Mottama bank on 29-1-2004.*

*On completion,
the facility will be the longest bridge
in Myanmar.*

Agriculture & Irrigation

Subject	1988	2004
Paddy output (million basket)	630	1000
Cultivable land (acre)	-	2000000
Water pumping station	-	265
Irrigation facility	138	294
Dam under construction	-	39

*The building of digital auto-exchange
under the Myanma Posts and
Telecommunications that was opened
in Kawhmu on 8-2-2004.*



Electric power

Subject	1988	2004
Units used (million)	2226.45	5064.20
Maximum power (megawatt)	300	800
Power plant (megawatt)	706.82	1219.81
230 KV grid (mile)	600	850
132 KV grid (mile)	790	1165
Hydropower plant	-	28
Natural gas factory (under construction)	-	6
Power plant project	-	11

Health

Subject	1988	2004
Hospital	631	774
Clinic	247	429
Rural health centre	1337	1404
Regional health centre	64	84
Traditional clinic	99	214

Transport

Subject	1988	2004
Tarred road (mile)	5543	8398
Gravel road (mile)	1569	3194
Bridge (above 180 feet)	16	167
Railroad (mile)	2793	3897
Airport	21	27
Airport for jets	6	18

Communication

Subject	1988	2004
Post office	1115	1307
Telegraph office	310	460
Telephone line	67016	342317
Cellular phone system	-	8500
Digital European Cordless Telecommunications System	-	2700
CDMA telephone (Fixed)	-	18250
(Mobile)	-	11800
GSM Mobile	-	21900

Education

Subject	1988	2004
BEHS	33747	40049
University, college	32	154
Technical institute	-	4
University of computer studies	-	2
Aerospace engineering university	-	1
Maritime university	-	1
Technological college	-	26
Computer college	-	24

Border area development

Subject	1988	2004
Earth road (mile)	-	2748
Gravel road (mile)	-	1578
Tarred road (mile)	-	297
Bridge (large)	-	42
Hospital	-	52
Basic school	-	782
Water supply (village)	-	7760

*Patheingyi University.*

Developing Panhsan (Pankham) in Shan State (North).

*The 500-ton cement plant in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division.***Industry**

Subject	1988	2004
State-own factory & mill	567	723
Cooperative factory & mill	139	157
Private factory & mill	39159	44749
Agricultural factory & mill	153	189

*A tube-well drilling machine in action at Natogyan village, Magway Township.***Rural development**

Subject	1988	2004
BEHS	-	at least 3 schools in five villages each
Rural health centre	1337	1404
Rural housing estate	-	276
Rural water supply (village)	-	5024
Rural road (mile)	-	35292
Livestock breeding (chicken, pig)	-	34 farms in 2 to 4 townships of each state & division

Energy

Subject	1988	2004
Crude oil barrel (thousand)	4299	7710
Oil pipeline on land (mile)	17	70
Gas pipeline on land (mile)	391	1401
Gas pipeline offshore (mile)	-	425
Oil & gas field	13	18

*Nyaungdon oil and gas field in Nyaungdon region, Ayeyawady Division.***19 Industrial zones**

No	Industrial zone	No	Industrial zone
1.	Mandalay	11.	Monywa
2.	Myingyan	12.	Bago
3.	Yangon East	13.	Taunggyi Ayethaya
4.	Yangon West	14.	Yenangyoung
5.	Yangon South	15.	Patheingyi
6.	Yangon North	16.	Myeik
7.	Meiktila	17.	Pyaw
8.	Myaungmya	18.	Pakokku
9.	Hinthada	19.	Kale
10.	Mawlamyine		

Mechanized farming**Production of farm machinery & implements**

Power tillers
Combined harvesters
Tractors
Water pumps
Trailers for general purpose
Ploughing blades
Small farming trucks
Farm tools

Information

Subject	1988	2004
TV retransmission station	15	166
IPRD office and library	100	360
Library (self-reliance)	-	1782
Sub-printing house		
Mandalay	-	1
Taunggyi	-	1
Magway	-	1
Kengtung	-	1
Kale	-	1
Myitkyina	-	1
Sittway	-	1

*Ground satellite station of Bagan Cybertech in MICT Park.*

Mogaung Bridge opened ...

(from page 1)

Transport facilities have ensured direct links between the regions and enhanced understanding and unity among the national races.

In addition to transport sector of Kachin State, health and education facilities have been built in the region. Institutions of higher learning have been built in all important places including Bhamo and Mohnyin in addition to Myitkyina.

One 300-bed hospital, one 200-bed district level hospital, one 100-bed hospital, five 50-bed hospitals, three 25-bed hospitals, one 25-bed drug rehabilitation hospital, and 30 16-bed hospitals have been built in the state. A midwifery training school and a nurses training school have also been built.

Thanks to the transport, health and education infrastructures, Kachin State has been achieving significant progress. Sown acreage of the state has reached 560,000 acres at present from 360,000 acres in the past. Cultivation of edible oil crops, beans and pulses and other crops have been extended.

There are now six dams, four diversion weirs and two river water pumping stations in the state. In the past there were only three dams. In the past, Kachin State could not produce enough rice for local consumption. Now the state can produce surplus food. Beginning 1998-99 the state has been producing enough rice for local requirement. Rice production exceeded the local consumption by 112 per cent in 2002-2003.

Thanks to prevalence of peace and stability and the rule of law, the state is enjoying fruits of success in various sectors. National race peace groups are also taking part in regional and economic development undertakings together with the State. Since the end of the armed insurgency in the



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveils stone inscription of Mogaung Bridge in Mogaung Township, hailing 57th Anniversary Union Day.— MNA

state, there has been understanding, sympathy and cooperation among the national races who are enjoying the fruits of peace and cooperation.

Various national races have been living in unity and amity in all regions of the nation formed with 14 states and divisions. For example, over 50 ethnic races including Bamar, Jainphaw, Shan, Lisu, and Lawwaw are living in Kachin State.

Thus, all the national races are urged to uphold Our Three Main National Causes with Union Spirit. As there are now transport facilities linking all the regions of the Union, all the national races will have to strive for development and perpetuation of the Union.

Also present were Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials, local authorities, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and cultural troupes and local people.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun spoke on the occasion. He said Public Works is implementing the tasks for ensuring better transport in Kachin State. There were 1,471 miles of roads in Kachin State in 1988 and now there are 1,596 miles of roads. The Mogaung Bridge is the 10th bridge which is over 180 feet and above. It was constructed in one and half years. As roads and bridges have improved, people can now travel to Kachin State in two ways—on both east and west banks of Ayeyawady River.

He said the government implemented road and bridge projects for development of Kachin State. He urged local people to maintain the roads and bridges for durability.

Next, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe said Kachin State relied on only railroad in the past when travelling to Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. After 1988, the Shwebo-Myitkyina Road was upgraded to all-weather one. The Mogaung Bridge is an important one on the Shwebo-Myitkyina Road.

It was a rail-road bridge and now it was constructed as a rail-cum-road bridge. Now people can go to Tanai and Putao regions easily because of the bridge.

He said the government will build other bridges on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road. The government undertook the tasks for regional

Myanmar and Ireland establish diplomatic relations

YANGON, 12 Feb—The Union of Myanmar and Ireland, desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and on Consular Relations, decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at Ambassadorial level with effect from 10 February 2004.

The agreement to establish diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and Ireland was signed by the Ambassadors of the two countries in Kuala Lumpur on 10 February 2004. —MNA

Union day delegates tour Yangon

YANGON, 11 Feb— The Union day delegates— Traditional cultural troupes of States and Divisions and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association— visited the National Museum on Pyay Road this morning. They then viewed booths of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. Next, they went to Myanmar ICT Park in Hline Township and Bagan Cybertech Co Ltd. In the evening, they were hosted dinner by senior military officers and families of Mingaladon and Yangon Stations.— MNA

Union Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 11 Feb— The 57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition, organized by 57th Anniversary Union Day Organizing Sub-committee, continued for the fourth day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall today. The exhibition was crowded with members of the Sangha, students, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and people, totalling 3,439. Students took part in the Computer Quiz. Book stalls of News and Periodicals Enterprise and Sarpay Beikman sell various kinds of books. The exhibition will be kept open without charge from 9 am to 5 pm daily till 16 February. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the opening of Mogaung Bridge in Mogaung Township.— MNA

MNA





Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint salutes Union Flag at sportsground in Hlinethaya Township. (News on page 16)MNA

Commander hosts dinner to Union Day delegates

YANGON, 11 Feb — Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials of the command hosted dinner in honour of the cultural troupe members and delegates to the 57th Anniversary Union Day from states and divisions at their homes today.

Chairman of the 57th

Anniversary Union Day Organizing Management Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and family hosted dinner to five Union Day delegates from Taninthay Division at their home.

The delegates presented local products as gifts to the family. Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, tactical operation commanders and officers hosted dinner to cultural troupe members and 71 delegates, who are members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, at their homes. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay host dinner to Union Day delegates. — YANGON COMMAND

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship winners announced

YANGON, 11 Feb — The Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Fund Supervisory Committee of the Ministry of Education announced the list of outstanding students in 2002-2003 matriculation examination and outstanding Myanmar major students who passed the exam in 2001 matriculation exam.

Scholarship winners: Ma May Thu Kyaw, daughter of U Than Kyaw of Insein BEHS No 2 won the first prize; Maung Kyaw Zay Latt, son of U Htay Maung of Monywa BEHS No 1 the second and Maung Hein Kyaw Moe, son of U Kyaw Soe of Dedaye BEHS No 2 the third in Myanmar; Maung Saw Htut, son of U Maung Maung Htwe of Kamayut BEHS No 2 the first; Maung Kyi Tha Aung, son of U Thant Zin of Yangon Institute of Education Practising School the second and Maung Tin Tun Aung, son of U Sein Aung of YIEPS the third in English; Ma Khaing Thet Hsu, daughter of U Kyi Soe of Kamayut BEHS No 2 the first; Ma Thu

Thu Cho, daughter of U Win Cho of Chanayethazan BEHS No 16 the second and Ma Ei Mon Win, daughter of U Nyo Win of South Okkalapa BEHS No 3 the third in Maths; Ma Khaing Thet Hsu, daughter of U Kyi Soe of Kamayut BEHS No 2 the first in Chemistry; Ma Zune Mo Hsu, daughter of U Than Myo of Chanayethazan BEHS No 16 the first in Physics; Ma Khaing Thet Hsu, daughter of U Kyi Soe of Kamayut BEHS No 2 the first in Biology; Ma Yi Wai Htet, daughter of U Kyaw Myint (External Candidate) of Dagon Myothit (South) Township the first in Geography; Ma May Khalar, daughter of U Kinneth of Cocokyun BEHS the first in History; Ma Theingi Soe, daughter of U San Thein of Mingaladon BEHS No 3 the first in Economics; and Maung Tun Lin, son of U Myint Aung of Thabyaybin Branch of Lewe BEHS No 1 the first in Optional Myanmar.

Ma Aye Mya Sanda, daughter of U Aung Maung

of Dagon University, Ma Phyu Phyu Sin, daughter of U Khin Soe of Dagon University, U Zin Nyein Htet, son of U Thein Tan of Dagon University and Ma Tun Phyo Thwe, daughter of U Thauang Myint of Yadanabon University won Myanmar scholarship awards.

Those who have won the awards are to contact Education Planning and Training Department (Tel: 554314) as soon as possible and awards will be presented to the winners in conjunction with the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award presentation ceremony to be held in Pakokku on 22 February morning.

MNA

WWFP gifts for MMCWA

YANGON, 11 Feb — Women's Federation for World Peace of Japan presented US \$ 500 to the Kyauktan Township Nutrition Programme of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association this morning.

The Japanese NGO also

presented two sweater knitting machines and 30 first aid boxes to the MMCWA. Chairperson of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted the gifts from Mrs Fumi Kantayama and Mrs Sachiko Akao of the WWFP at the meeting hall

of MMCWA. After presenting certificates of honour to the donors, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke words of thanks. Vice-Chairpersons Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and executives and WWFP members were also present. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepts cash and kind for Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated by an official of a Japanese NGO. — MNA

Minister tours Saw, Htilin, Gangaw townships

YANGON, 11 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan paid homage to Saw Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naninda at Thiri Ottamayama Monastery, in Saw, on 7 February and supplicated on religious affairs. At Yawmingyi U Bo Hlaing Hall in Saw, the minister met with departmental officials and local people and explained endeavours and accomplishments of the State, rural development tasks and seven-step road map of the State. Next, he presented K 200,000 for Saw Township USDA, text books and exercise books for students, periodicals to village libraries and clothes and soap for local people to officials. On arrival at Youth Development Parahita School in Kangyi Village, the minister paid homage to the Sayadaw and supplicated on religious affairs. He then presented donations to officials. The minister next clarified undertakings of the State in health, education, agriculture and transport sectors and urged them to extend agricul-

ture and livestock breeding tasks. While in Kyaukthu high school, the minister met local people and presented gifts for the school and local people to officials. In the afternoon, he toured Lesaw, Kyee, Awng and Tharakha villages. On 8 February morning, he paid reverence to member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Bhaddanta Adiccha in Htilin. At Htilin BEHS, the minister met departmental personnel, local people and students. He then presented gifts for local people to officials. The minister visited Htanbingon and Ponna villages. Then, he viewed tasks of self-reliant hydel power worksite on Maw Creek near Htanbingon Village. At the worksite, the 200 feet long dam will be installed with 15-kilowatt turbine. Afterwards, the minister met with local people in Wethet, Hsaimindaw and Nyaungle villages. During his inspection tour, the minister urged officials to carry out development tasks of Saw, Htilin and Gangaw townships and attended to their needs. MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets local people in Tharakha village, Htilin. — MNA

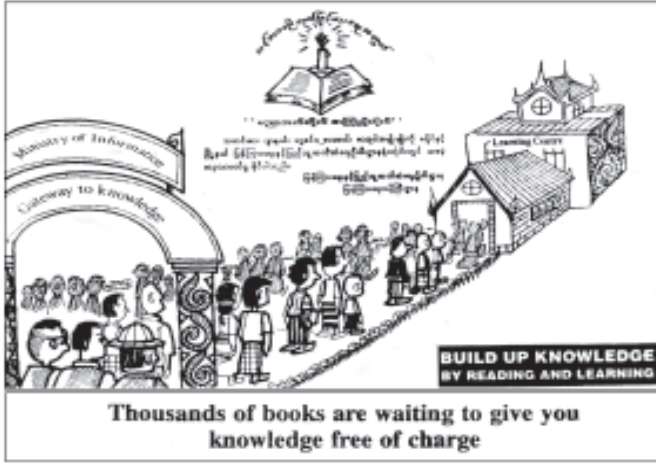
MWAF officials meet executives of Divisional Organization for Women's Affairs

YANGON, 11 Feb — Vice-President s of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw May May Yi and Daw Than Than Nwe met executives of Magway Division Organization for Women's Affairs at No 88 LID on 9 February.

Present were Secretary of MWAF Dr Daw San Shwe, leaders of working group Daw Mya Mya, Professor Daw Min Thet Mon and Daw Kyi Kyi Mya, members of supporting group, Director-General of General Administration Department U Myat Ko, executives of Magway Division Organization for Women's Affairs and officials of Magway Division

Supporting Group for Women's Affairs.

Vice-President-1 Dr Daw May May Yi explained the purpose of their tour. Division Commissioner U Aung Win reported on work done on eight sectors of the Working Group. Secretary Dr Daw San Shwe explained about organizational set-up of the federation and procedures for membership. Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe explained about national races affairs, Leader of information group Daw Mya Mya about organization, discipline, finance and administration and Daw Kyi Kyi Mya about rehabilitation group. — MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

South Africa to write off debt of several African nations

CAPE TOWN (South Africa), 11 Feb—The South African Government said here on Monday that it is considering writing off the debt owed it by several African countries.

Foreign Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said in a Press briefing at the Parliament that the debt dated from the apartheid era, before the first democratic elections in 1994, and was granted by the previous government.

She told the media that the countries involved included the Central African Republic, Gabon and Mozambique, but there were others as well.

It did not appear there was any chance of getting the money back, and writing off the debt could be the best way to deal with the issue, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

India says various economic blocs in region are inter-linked

PHUKET (Thailand), 11 Feb—Describing as “positive” its role in integrating the region, India has said the economic groupings in South and Southeast Asia, including ASEAN and BIMSTEC, are inter-linked and not overlapping each other.

“They are all interlinked, not overlapping each other and India wholly supports the role of positive movement in the region,” Commerce Minister Arun Jaitley told PTI.

His view was shared by External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha who said although a certain amount of overlapping was inevitable “it only intensifies but not duplicate... you are not repeating in another context”.

Both Sinha and Jaitley were in this island resort of Phuket, which Thailand calls a “pearl in the Andaman sea”, to attend the BIMSTEC ministerial meeting.

The latest development

on economic front in the region is the Framework Agreement on Free Trade Area among countries of BIMSTEC grouping which comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal.

Terming India’s role in integrating the region “positive”, Jaitley said “we are keen on a positive movement in the area” and the signing of the Framework Agreement is a step forward.

He said “four old (India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar) and two new members (Nepal and Bhutan) have signed this agreement”.

Thai Foreign Minister Surakiat Sathirathai also said by tying together overlapping sub-regional frameworks not only will the BIMSTEC serve as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia but also effectively link the Bay of Bengal via the South China Sea via Andaman.—MNA/PTI

Nigeria signs \$13.1b debt rescheduling agreements

ABUJA, 11 Feb—The Nigerian Federal Government has signed nine debt rescheduling agreements worth more than 13.134 billion dollars since 2002, an official from the Debt Management Office in the capital Abuja said Monday.

According to the official, the rescheduling agreements were signed with Britain, Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, France, the United States, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and Austria.

The official who refused to be identified disclosed that negotiations were still going on with Russia while the rescheduling agreement with Finland was ready for signature.

The official said that Nigeria and Italy were yet to conclude the reconciliation of debt data as a prelude to the signing of agreements between them.

The official said Nigeria paid up all its debt arrears to

Israel in January 2002.

The rescheduling of the debts, the official said, would open doors for credit agencies to offer credit finance for imports to Nigeria in the drive to boost the real sector of the economy.

According to Nigerian official statistics, the nation’s total external debt increased from 28.3 billion dollars in December 2001 to 30.9 billion dollars in December 2002.

The increase in the debt profile was due essentially to the fall of the dollar against other international currencies, particularly, the euro.

The jump in the nation’s debt stock was also attributable to unpaid interest and charges following the 2001 Supreme Court judgment removing debt service as a first line charge from the federation account.

MNA/Xinhua

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ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG 762/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG 762/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 11-2-2004 and will be berthing on about 12-2-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GEE HONG VOY NO (403)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG Voy No (403) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Bush’s spokesman testifies in leak probe

SPRINGFIELD (Missouri), 11 Feb—US President George W Bush’s Press secretary said on Monday he had testified before a federal grand jury investigating the leak of an undercover CIA officer’s name.

“I’m just doing my part to cooperate fully with the investigation,” Scott McClellan told reporters covering Bush’s trip to Missouri. “The President has made it clear that no one wants to get to the bottom of it more than he does.” A federal grand jury in Washington is investigating the leak of the identity of CIA officer Valerie Plame to syndicated newspaper columnist Robert Novak last year.

Plame’s husband, former diplomat Joseph Wilson, has accused administration officials of leaking her name in retaliation for his challenge to one of the reasons cited by Bush for going to war against Iraq. Wilson went to Niger early in 2002 at the CIA’s request to assess a report that Iraq had tried to buy uranium from Niger.

MNA/Reuters

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Kenya to translocate 400 elephants

NAIROBI, 11 Feb—Kenya will translocate 400 elephants from Shimba Hills to Northern Tsavo National Park in July this year to release increasing conflict between human and wildlife. Local newspaper *East African Standard* said on Monday that residents of Kilifi District in Coast Province, where the 192.5-square-kilometre Shimba Hills National Reserve is located, have blamed the acute food shortage in the area to massive invasion by elephants.—MNA/Xinhua

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China pledges utmost efforts to protect farmland

BEIJING, 11 Feb— The Chinese Government will exercise utmost efforts to protect its precious farmland for the benefits of farmers, a senior official said here Monday.

Chen Xiwen, deputy director of the office of Central Financial Work Leading Group, told a Press conference China would strictly control the acquisitions of farmland and protect the interests of farmers.

To fulfil those two major objectives, China has to implement stringent rules and regulations on the acquisition and use of farmland, especially on those used for profit-making purposes, Chen added.

The latest official statistics show that about 173,000 and 187,000 hectares of farmland will be occupied for various construction projects every year if China increases its urbanization rate by 15 to 16 percentage points by the Year 2020. Those who take over farmer's land have the responsibility to take care of the employment and social wel-

fare issues of those farmers, stressed Chen.

Sensing the urgency of raising farmers' income, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued a document on policies for boosting the growth in the income of farmers last Sunday.

According to the document, China will accelerate its reform process of the acquisition system of national soil and adopt higher compensation standards for the farmers if the acquisition is for commercial purpose.

Some policies for the reform of the land acquisition system will be promulgated within this year, he said, adding that the country's legislature has begun the amendment of the country's Land Administration Law. — MNA/Xinhua

US labour official to visit Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 11 Feb— US Deputy Undersecretary for International Labour Affairs Arnold L Levine will visit Sri Lanka this week, the US Embassy here said in a statement recently.

During his visit, Levine will discuss labour issues, including the importance of labour in international trade with Sri Lankan officials.

He will meet with government, labour and international organizations and tour various facilities to learn more about labour conditions and standards in Sri Lanka, the statement said.

Levine will also visit projects funded by the US Department of Labour.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing considers restructuring to relieve traffic jams

BEIJING, 11 Feb— Experts are prepared to draft a plan to restructure the general layout of Beijing as part of the efforts to alleviate the traffic jams that have been increasingly troubling residents, according to the *Beijing Star Daily*.

Quan Yongshen, director of the Beijing Municipal Traffic Development Research Centre, who described the current layout development of Beijing as "making a pancake", said it has become a major factor resulting in traffic problems.

Under the current city layout of Beijing, most of the businesses and government buildings are located in the central area, and the residential areas are found in the outskirts, which means people have to move into and out of the central area every day, causing a heavy burden to the traffic system.

Since last year, the municipal government has invested hugely to improve the city layout, and the central government has urged

Beijing to complete a general development programme for the city layout within this year, which will be implemented after being approved by the State Council, Quan said.

Different from the present pattern, in which there is only one large central urban area, the new layout plan aims to develop several highly independent sub-centres in the city, which have industrial plants, businesses and residential buildings as well as good public facilities, Quan said.

Under the new multi-centre layout, residents will not have to shuttle in and out in limited directions, and the rush hour jams are expected to be greatly relieved, Quan added. — MNA/Xinhua

US company says cloned cells repair mouse hearts

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb— Stem cells taken from cloned mice were able to regenerate mouse hearts damaged by heart attacks by forming tiny blood vessels and heart muscle cells, corporate researchers said on Monday.

The cloned cells repaired the damage more efficiently and more quickly than so-called adult stem cells taken from bone marrow, the team at Advanced Cell Technology (ACT) in Massachusetts reported. "We restored myocardial (heart muscle) function and replaced 40 percent of the scar tissue," Dr Robert Lanza, chief medical officer for ACT, said in a telephone interview.

"This is the first paper to show that cloned stem cells can repair damaged tissue in vivo (in a living animal)."

Lanza, whose team published its findings in the *American Heart Association Journal Circulation Research*, said the cloning process seemed to have rejuvenated the cells.

Their study will add ammunition to the argument that cloning technology offers the promise of being superior to other forms of stem cell research. Stem cells are the body's master cells, giving rise to fresh tissue. They exist in all blood and tissue but adult stem cells are rare and difficult to redirect.

For instance, it may be possible to get a blood cell to become brain tissue, but it requires many steps and much manipulation. Another avenue involves using embryonic stem cells, which have yet to differentiate into tissue. They have the potential to become any kind of cell, but many people object to using human embryonic stem

cells because it involves using cloning techniques on human cells.

Several groups have tried to repair diseased hearts in human patients by infusing stem cells into the damaged tissue, some with remarkable results. But it is not clear how long-lived the treatment is.

Lanza's team cloned mice and removed fetal liver stem cells from the embryos. They injected them into the hearts of mice given artificial heart attacks by blocking key arteries.

A "control" group of mice were also given similar heart attacks to see what would happen without treatment.

MNA/Reuters



A Russian warship, *Varyag*, comes alongside the pier as the South Korean naval soldiers prepare to welcome it at a port in Incheon, west of Seoul, on 10 Feb, 2004. Three Russian warships Admiral Tributs, Koreets, and the *Varyag*, including 875 Russian naval force personnel, arrived at South Korea's western port of Incheon on Tuesday for a five-day visit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of a battle off the Incheon port. — INTERNET

South Africa to invite tenders for AIDS drugs

CAPE TOWN, 11 Feb— South Africa will invite tenders on Friday from pharmaceutical companies providing anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) to combat HIV/AIDS as criticism grows over delays in the rollout of the programme.

South Africa has the highest number of HIV/AIDS cases in the world, with an estimated 5.3 million of its 45 million population infected with the virus.

Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang told reporters in Cape Town on Monday that notices would appear in major newspapers and a government bulletin.

President Thabo Mbeki's Government decided in November to offer public health treatment for HIV sufferers, but activists have criticized delays in starting the scheme. Tshabalala-Msimang denied the government was dragging its feet. Preliminary work needed to be done, including the training of doctors to manage provision of the medicines, she said.

"We found that out of 20,000 doctors only 2,000 can be relied on to adequately manage the provision of anti-retrovirals. So we have a huge capacity problem," she said, adding that the state would definitely be using generic drugs in its programme. South Africa's national ARV plan envisages providing drugs to about 50,000 people in 2004, rising to as many as 1.4 million people by 2009.

The total ARV budget will rise from 42.43 million US dollars this year to 631 million US dollars in 2009. — MNA/Reuters

Uganda wins award for 2003 measles immunization programme

KAMPALA, 11 Feb— Ugandan Health Minister Jim Muhwezi has said that the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations has awarded Uganda 4.3 million US dollars and a certificate for its successful 2003 measles immunization programme.

Muhwezi was quoted Tuesday by local official media as saying that the success would get more donor funds to combat other diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria.

The minister attributed the success to the teamwork by all stakeholders involved in the health sector.

MNA/Xinhua

New "Doomjuice" worm targets Microsoft

SEATTLE, 11 Feb— A new worm dubbed "Doomjuice" targeting Microsoft Corp's web site emerged on the Internet on Monday, which security experts said slowed parts of the software maker's home page.

Doomjuice, which some are describing as a variant of the MyDoom worm, spreads via email systems already infected with the first version, which became the fastest-spreading virus ever when it was unleashed on the Internet at the end of January.

"It's only looking for machines that are compromised by MyDoom A or B," said Vincent Gulletto, vice president of the anti-virus emergency response team at Network Associates Inc. He said it was not spreading as rapidly as the initial MyDoom worms.

Because Doomjuice spreads directly between in-

fecting computers, rather than via email, experts said that it would not be accurate to call it a variant of MyDoom, which accounted for as many as one in five emails at its peak in late January. But some computer security companies and Microsoft have taken to describing Doomjuice as a variant of MyDoom, naming it "MyDoomC".

The MyDoom worm, as well as its variant MyDoom B, were designed to entice email recipients to click open an attachment, which then installed malicious software on a personal computer. The worms then instructed infected PCs to flood the Web

sites of the SCO Group Inc. and Microsoft in an effort to shut them down. Doomjuice, which experts said was most likely created by the same author as MyDoom, is designed to flood Microsoft's web site for request for data in an effort to bring it down, an attack known as a distributed denial of service.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft said that "all Microsoft.com web properties are stable and available to customers." Security experts noted, however, that Microsoft's web site was slower and was intermittently unavailable over the weekend. — MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Amateurs Brive oust holders Auxerre in Cup

PARIS, 11 Feb.— Holders AJ Auxerre were dumped out of the French Cup on Tuesday after they were beaten 1-0 by fourth division side Brive in the third round.

The Ligue 1 club had not conceded a goal in their nine previous games this year, but amateur defender Manuel Debat broke through the Burgundy team's defence in the 53rd minute.

By contrast Paris St Germain, beaten by Auxerre in last year's Cup final, dismissed another fourth division team by winning 2-0 at Bayonne.

Auxerre's only previous defeat in 2004 had been in the League Cup semi-finals last week when Nantes won on penalties after the game had ended in a goalless draw following extra-time.

Impressive since the start of the season, Auxerre were uncharacteristically clumsy in front of the 14,000 Brive supporters.

Djibril Cisse, the Ligue 1 leading goalscorer, found the net two minutes before the break but his goal was disallowed for being offside.

Two minutes before the final whistle, Cisse had another goal denied. It was Auxerre's only chance in an otherwise dull second half.—MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's French forward Thierry Henry acknowledges the crowd after scoring his 100th Premier League goal against Southampton during their FA Premier League clash at Highbury in London.—INTERNET

Henry reaches century to take Arsenal five clear

LONDON, 11 Feb.— Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hailed Thierry Henry as "world class" after the prolific striker netted his 100th Premier League goal in scoring twice to help Arsenal to a 2-0 win over Southampton on Tuesday.

Henry's double to defeat spirited Southampton extended Arsenal's lead at the top of the table to five points over Manchester United.

The Frenchman, who scored his first Premier League goal against Southampton in September 1999, reached the milestone on 31 minutes before netting again in the last minute to seal the points.

Arsenal, who advanced their club record unbeaten start to the League season to 25 games, have 61 points. On Wednesday, United host League Cup finalists Middlesbrough while Chelsea, in third, visit Portsmouth.

"It was a tough game and Southampton played very well and closed us down well all over the pitch," Wenger told Sky Sports.

"Overall we kept a clean sheet and that is very positive because we know we can always score another one. It came very late but it was a relief I must say."

Wenger's side, which included Spanish striker Jose Antonio Reyes making his first League start in place of injured Dennis Bergkamp, were never allowed to dictate affairs at Highbury.

Robert Pires twice tested Antti Niemi early on but Saints forced a flurry of corners and Lauren was forced to head one off the line.

Henry made the breakthrough when, with a hint of offside, he raced on to a pass from Pires and his shot was strong enough to beat Niemi.

Arsenal keeper Jens Lehmann made two

fine saves early in the second half to deny Brett Ormerod and substitute Chris Baird as Saints took the game to the hosts.

But they could not find an equaliser and Henry made sure of the points when he controlled another Pires cross and picked his spot in the top right corner.—MNA/Reuters

Kewell scores Oceania Player of the Year hat-trick

SYDNEY, 11 Feb.— Australia and Liverpool midfielder Harry Kewell was named as Oceania's Footballer of the Year for the third time in six seasons on Monday.

The 25-year-old Kewell joined New Zealand's Wynton Rufer as the only players to win the region's most prestigious individual award three times when he topped the annual poll.

Kewell's Australian and former Leeds United teammate Mark Viduka finished second in the voting with New Zealand's Ryan Nelsen third.

"I'm proud to equal Wynton's record and would like to thank the people who voted for me," Kewell said in a statement released on the Oceania Football Confederation web site.

"I will also try my best to break it and hope to produce enough good football to keep them voting for me."

Kewell also confirmed his intention to play for Australia in this year's Oceania World Cup qualifying series, saying media reports that had refused to play were untrue.

MNA/Reuters

Bolton manager says FIFA must scrap new offside guidelines

LONDON, 11 Feb.— Bolton manager Sam Allardyce has called on world soccer's governing body FIFA to scrap new guidelines on the offside rule, despite his side profiting from them on Tuesday.

The guidelines, which were brought in late last year, in effect end offside for players who do not touch the ball or directly block the vision or movement of an opponent.

Bolton, who drew 1-1 at Leicester City in the Premier League on Tuesday, utilized the guidelines to maximum effect from set-pieces and netted their equalizer from one such move.

The English League Cup finalists employed two unmarked players standing in "offside" positions close to Leicester goalkeeper Ian Walker before running away from goal as a free kick was fired into the penalty area. The move caused enough consternation for Walker, who complained the players had got in his field of vision, to lose concentration and spill a shot from Kevin Davies, palming the ball back under his body and into the net.

"I think they (FIFA) have got it horribly wrong. There is obviously nothing I can do about it apart from try use it to my advantage," said Allardyce.

"I don't like it, I don't think it adds anything to the game whatsoever other than confusion."

"It's not the referees fault, it's FIFA's. Hopefully they may change it back."

The guidelines were issued in a circular to national football federations and while they are not a rule change, they are more precise saying that offside for "interfering with play" means "playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a team mate".

Allardyce said the guidelines could lead to chaotic scenes on the pitch.

"What we are going to get sooner or later is 22 players in the six-yard box when a free kick comes in and that is just not adding to the spirit of the game."

"I think probably the referees don't like it, The (English) FA should have a look at it and put our case forward and try and get back to some common sense."

"What we have done today doesn't look that good but it makes life very difficult for the opposition." Disappointed Leicester boss Micky Adams joined Allardyce in his condemnation.

"It's a nonsense and a mockery," he said.

"Good old Sammy (Allardyce) has found a chink in the offside law. It's cost us... a point is no good to us." — MNA/Reuters

Cameroon defy FIFA over one-piece kit

MONASTIR (Tunisia), 11 Feb.— Holders Cameroon set a collision course with FIFA on Sunday by wearing their outlawed one-piece strip for their African Nations Cup quarterfinal against Nigeria.

Cameroon had used the pioneering kit for their three group games, but were ordered by the game's governing body worldwide and local organizers not to wear it for the knockout stages as it infringed tournament rules.

However Cameroon, whose sleeveless shirts at the 2002 finals in Mali were also subsequently banned by FIFA, appeared for Sunday's kick-off still wearing the controversial kit.

Skipper Rigobert Song was quoted on the web site of German kit suppliers Puma before the game as saying the strip had been approved by the continental footballing authority, the Confederation of African Football.

"The team is quite appalled by how...FIFA can suddenly, from out of nothing, intervene and seemingly with no self-criticism overrule something that has already been approved," Song said.

MNA/Reuters

Everton to investigate alleged abuse by United players

LONDON, 11 Feb.— Everton will investigate claims by club supporters that some Manchester United players engaged in "improper conduct" following Ruud van Nistelrooy's last-gasp winner for United in a Premier League match on Saturday.

Everton fans lodged formal complaints with stewards after United players had made their way to the touchline to celebrate van Nistelrooy's header a minute from time at Goodison Park, Everton said on their web site.

An Everton spokesman confirmed that several fans also made statements to the police claiming that United players had used abusive words and gestures at the end of the match.

"Several of our supporters have made allegations of improper conduct by Manchester United players after their fourth goal," Everton's head of corporate affairs Ian Ross said. "We'll be talking to the supporters concerned, we'll be talking to the police and we'll be studying CCTV footage."

In a separate incident at Goodison Park, stewards had to restrain an Everton fan who appeared to be charging towards Cristiano Ronaldo after the Portuguese winger had fallen by the touchline shortly before he set up the winning goal.—MNA/Reuters



USA's DaMarcus Beasley, front right, lies on the field as Mexico's team celebrates at the end of their semifinal Pre-Olympic U23 soccer match celebrated at the Jalisco Stadium on 10 Feb, 2004, in Guadalajara City, Mexico. Mexico defeated USA 4-0 and won a place for Athens 2004.—INTERNET

MRTV-3



12-2-2004 (Thursday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
9:06 Unity, Peace and Pros-
perity
9:10 **Headline News**
09:12 Myanmar Custard
Apple
9:15 **National News**
9:20 International Fishery
(Taninthayi) Kyauk Ni
Maw Cold Storage
Factory
9:25 Ah-Hla-Kabya-Pan-
Pawah
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Travelogue (PyinOo-
Lwin)
9:40 Song "The Union Day
we will never forget"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

12-2-2004(Thursday) Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
15:36 Unity, Peace and Pros-
perity
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Myanmar Custard
Apple
15:45 **National News**
15:50 International Fishery
(Taninthayi) Kyauk Ni
Maw Cold Storage
Factory
15:55 Ah-Hla-Kabya-Pan-
Pawah
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Travelogue (PyinOo-
Lwin)
16:10 Song "The Union Day
we will never forget"
16:15 **National News**
16:20 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- 16:30 Sights "Mingalabar"
16:35 **National News**
Arts of Myanmar Tra-
ditional Tapestry
16:40 Myanmar Seafood
16:45 **National News**
16:50 Weaving School in
Falam
16:55 Kachin Dance
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Mandalay, A close
distance
17:08 Song "Let my first love
know"
17:15 **National News**
17:20 Extravagant Evidences
of Myanmar Culture
(Part-I)
17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36 Union of Myanmar
(Shan State)
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Moyungyi Wildlife
Sanctuary
19:45 **National News**
19:50 Yaw Clothes from
Yaw region
19:55 Dance of the Oil
Lamps
20:00 **National News**
20:05 Mokens (Sea Rovers)
Begin to Enjoy Devel-
opment
20:10 Song "Eggs Not Bro-
ken, Nest Undis-
turbed"
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Myanmar Traditional
Bronze Casting
20:25 Song On Screen
"Through My Eyes"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Myanmar Traditional
Folk Songs
20:40 Myanmar Broom
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Myanmar Jaggery
20:55 Scenic Beauty of
Tiddim & Cultural
Dance
21:00 **National News**
21:05 Rakhine State Cultural
Museum
21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Crying of the
Sarus Crane"
21:15 **National News**
21:20 A Thousand Bo-trees
from Greening Tropic
Zone
21:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
21:36 Unity, Peace and Pros-
perity

- 21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Myanmar Custard
Apple
21:45 **National News**
21:50 International Fishery
(Taninthayi) Kyauk Ni
Maw Cold Storage
Factory
21:55 Ah-Hla-Kabya-Pan-
Pawah
22:00 **National News**
22:05 Travelogue (PyinOo-
Lwin)
22:10 Song "The Union Day
we will never forget"
22:15 **National News**
22:20 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
22:25 Song "Pleasant and
Greenish Lake"
22:30 **National News**
22:35 Arts of Myanmar
Traditional Tapestry
22:40 Myanmar Seafood
22:45 **National News**
22:50 Weaving School in
Falam
22:55 Kachin Dance
22:58 How to Cook "The
Nga-paine Fish Curry"
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Mandalay, A close
distance
23:08 Song "Let my first love
know"
23:15 **National News**
23:20 Extravagant Evidences
of Myanmar Culture
(Part-I)
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

12-2-2004(Thursday) & 13-2-2004 (Friday) Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
23:36 Unity, Peace and Pros-
perity
23:40 **Headline News**
23:42 Myanmar Custard
Apple
23:45 **National News**
23:50 International Fishery
(Taninthayi) Kyauk Ni
Maw Cold Storage
Factory
23:55 Ah-Hla-Kabya-Pan-
Pawah
24:00 **National News**
00:05 Travelogue (PyinOo-
Lwin)
00:10 Song "The Union Day
we will never forget"
00:15 **National News**
00:20 Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

- Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30 **National News**
00:35 Arts of Myanmar Tra-
ditional Tapestry
00:40 Myanmar Seafood
00:45 **National News**
00:50 Weaving School in
Falam
00:55 Kachin Dance
00:58 How to Cook "The
Nga-paine Fish Curry"
01:00 **National News**
01:05 Mandalay, A close
distance
01:08 Song "Let my first love
know"
01:15 **National News**
01:20 Extravagant Evidences
of Myanmar Culture
(Part-I)
01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

13-2-2004 (Friday)

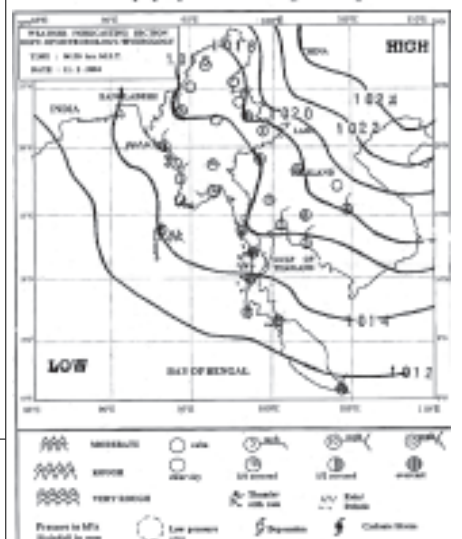
- Morning
Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**
03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 Union of Myanmar
(Shan State)
03:40 **Headline News**
03:42 Moyungyi Wildlife
Sanctuary
03:45 **National News**
03:50 Yaw Clothes from
Yaw Region
03:55 Dance of the Oil
Lamps
04:00 **National News**
04:05 Mokens (Sea Rovers)
Begin to Enjoy Devel-
opment
04:10 Song "Eggs Not Bro-
ken, Nest Undis-
turbed"
04:15 **National News**
04:20 Myanmar Traditional
Bronze Casting
04:25 Song On Screen
"Through My Eyes"
04:30 **National News**
04:35 Myanmar Traditional
Folk Songs
04:40 Myanmar Broom
04:45 **National News**
04:50 Myanmar Jaggery
04:55 Scenic Beauty of
Tiddim & Cultural
Dance
05:00 **National News**
05:05 Rakhine State Cultural
Museum
05:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Crying of the
Sarus Crane"
05:15 **National News**
05:20 A Thousand Bo-trees
from Greening Tropic
Zone
05:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-

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

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 05:36 | rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
Unity, Peace and
Prosperity | 06:30 | Greenish Lake"
National News |
| 05:40 | Headline News | 06:35 | Arts of Myanmar Tra-
ditional Tapestry |
| 05:42 | Myanmar Custard
Apple | 06:40 | Myanmar Seafood |
| 05:45 | National News | 06:45 | National News |
| 05:50 | International Fishery
(Taninthayi) Kyauk Ni
Maw Cold Storage
Factory | 06:50 | Weaving School in
Falam |
| 05:55 | Ah-Hla-Kabya-Pan-
Pawah | 06:55 | Kachin Dance |
| 06:00 | National News | 06:58 | How to Cook "The
Nga-paine Fish Curry" |
| 06:05 | Travelogue (PyinOo-
Lwin) | 07:00 | National News |
| 06:10 | Song "The Union Day
we will never forget" | 07:05 | Mandalay, A close
distance |
| 06:15 | National News | 07:08 | Song "Let my first love
know" |
| 06:20 | Welcome to Ngwe
Hsaung | 07:15 | National News |
| 06:25 | Song "Pleasant and | 07:20 | Extravagant Evidences
of Myanmar Culture
(Part-I) |
| | | 07:25 | Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar" |

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 11 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Shan, Kachin States and Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State and Mandalay Division, (6°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas.
Maximum temperature on 10-2-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 11-2-2004 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-2-2004 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 10-2-2004 was (7.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 11-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 10-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 12-2-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-2-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-2-2004: Generally fair weather.



Thursday, February 12

View today:

- 6:30 am
1. (ဂျ)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့.
အခမ်းအနား ကျင်းပပုံတိုက်ရိုက်
ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်
8:00 am
2. Morning news
8:10 am
3. (ဂျ)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့.
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
8:20 am
4. Dance of national races
8:30 am
5. International news
8:45 am
6. Let's go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to Uphold
National Spirit.

- 4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday
Use
4:45 pm
4. အထူးသတင်းထုတ်လွှင့်မှု
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်တန်းစာ
ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံသုတေသနအားလုံး)
(ဓာတုဗေဒ)
5:00 pm
5. ဘေးအန္တရာယ်အစီအစဉ်
5:15 pm
6. နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောအစွမ်းပြပွဲ
စီမံကိန်းရေးရာပွဲ
5:30 pm
7. "ရုစီသောဗျေ၊ ချစ်သောရေ"
ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်၊ နိုင်ငံရေးဝန်ထမ်း
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နီနီ)
5:35 pm
8. (ဂျ)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့.
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
5:45 pm
9. ရန်ကုန်-ရာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်မှု
5:50 pm
10. (ဂျ)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့.
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
6:05 pm
11. ဓမ္မတော်ဇာတိသုတေသန၊ နိုင်ငံတော်
အထည်ပုံတော်
- 6:15 pm
12. (ဂျ)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့.
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
6:30 pm
13. Evening news
7:00 pm
14. Weather report
7:05 pm
15. Milo success in soccer
7:10 pm
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"မိုးမြည်ဆွဲနေ တောကွယ်"
(အချိန်-၁၆)
7:45 pm
17. ပြည်ထောင်စု စိတ်ဓာတ်မြှင့်
ရန်သင်တန်းစာရင်းစာရင်းစာရင်း
"ဂုဏ်ပြုတိုက်ပေးပုံစံပြပွဲ"
18. News
19. International news
20. Weather Report
21. ပြည်ထောင်စု စိတ်ဓာတ်မြှင့်
ရန်သင်တန်းစာရင်းစာရင်းစာရင်း
"ပြည်ထောင်စုကြီးရပ်သွားရန်စာ"
အရာတစ်ချိုးစုံပြသသော
22. Teleplay:
"ညိုညိုမြင်းရဲအရာသား"
တိုက်လုံးပေးဆောင်၊ ပြတ်တောက်အောင်
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်စိုး၊ ဖောင်လှမျိုး)
23. The next day's
programme



Thursday, February 12

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.50 am National news/
Slogan
9.00 am Music
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Stronger now
(Wanant)
- Joy ride (Roxette)
Radio Play hailing the
57th Anniversary
Union Day
Article
9.10 pm
9.20 pm Pouri
- Crippling polio has
wiped out in Nepal
- More robotic
photos after Mars
landing
9.30 pm Favourite songs
chosen by music
lovers
- Especially for you
(Kylie Minogue)
- I wanna forever
tonight (Peter
Ceiera)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Union Flag arrives in Hlinethaya from Hmawby

YANGON, 11 Feb— The Union Flag that stopped over for the night on the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground in Hmawby Township yesterday was conveyed to the sports ground of Hlinethaya Township, Yangon West District, by Union Boat and the relay team this morning.

Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint planted the flag in the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Hlinethaya Township to stop over for the night.

Over 10,000 local people together with the Guard of Honour of Phugyi Station saluted the flag to the accompaniment of the military band of Phugyi Station.

At 6.50 am, Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min took out the flag from the silver bowl.

He carried the flag flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers to hand it over to Lt-Col Kyaw Tint.

Lt-Col Kyaw Tint planted the flag in the silver bowl on the Union Boat. Then, the Union Flag was conveyed from Hmawby Sports Ground to Hlinethaya Sports Ground through Yangon-Pyay Road, No 1 Highway, Khayaybin Road, Lower Mingaladon Road, Bayintnaung Road, Hlinemyit Road, Aungzeya Bridge, Nyaungdon Road, Tabinshwehti Road and Prince Kanaung Road.

Along the route through Hmawby, Mingaladon,

Shwepyitha, Insein and Hlinethaya townships, the flag was accorded a rousing welcome by local authorities, students, departmental personnel and people with dancing troupes.

At 8.30 am, the flag arrived at the archway in Hlinethaya Township where Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint took out the flag from the silver bowl and handed it over to the relay team led by District Commissioner U Soe Min of General Administration Department.

Various flag relay teams conveyed the Union Flag. At the designated place, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint accepted the flag from the relay team leader U Min Soe, chairman of Dagon Township Peace and Development Council and he took the flag flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers. Then, he planted the flag in the silver bowl at 8.50 am.

Over 8,000 people together with the Guard of Honour of Yangon Command saluted the flag and the band of Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Office played the National Anthem.

In the evening, the sports ground was crowded with local people who saluted the Union Flag and enjoyed entertainment of Features Film Division, Myawady Anyent troupe and Myanmar traditional orchestra.

MNA

Secretary-1 inspects Myitkyina Education College, Nurse & Midwifery Training School



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets local authorities and officials at Nurse and Midwifery Training School in Myitkyina.— MNA



YANGON, 11 Feb— Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, the deputy ministers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 9 February.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Brig-Gen Bo Kyi of Myitkyina Station, Col Win Myint of Northern Command members of Kachin State and District Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and local people.

The Secretary-1 and party then proceeded to Myitkyina Education College where they were welcomed by Principal Daw

Than Than Hla, faculty members and trainees.

At Nyana Sithi Hall of the college, Principal Daw Than Than Hla reported to the Secretary-1 on the brief history of the college and conducting of courses and Head of Management Department U Kha Lwam on organizational set-up, progress in construction of buildings and requirements.

The commander reported on assistance being provided for construction of buildings including women's hostel.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attended to their needs.

Next, he said that as it is knowledge age at present education is the fundamental of all the development works.

Therefore, teachers are to study themselves for gaining improvement in their respective fields and to nurture their pupils to become intellectuals and intelligentsia.

It is necessary for then to participate in carrying out the rural development tasks by the State with far-sightedness and efforts are to be made for uplift of basic education of the people in respective regions and to revitalize Union Spirit.

Then, the Secretary-1 cordially had a chat with faculty members and students.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected the computer lab, the e-education room and the language lab.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Nurse and Midwifery Training School. At the hall, Principal Daw M Nan Hkam reported to the Secretary-1 on establishment of the training school and matters related to the school.

The Secretary-1 urged the trainees to give effective health care service with goodwill to the public in their respective regions, and inspected teaching aids, the language lab and the computer room.

MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in Nyaungshwe

YANGON, 11 Feb— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, arrived at Nanthida Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm No 2 in Nanthida Village, Nyaungshwe Township, on 10 February morning.

They were welcomed there by Brig-Gen Thaung Htaik of Aungban Station and entrepreneurs.

Farm in-charge Maj Tun Thein reported on breeding of 134,000 fish and 1,100 layers and distribution of chicken. The commander gave a supplementary report. Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at No 1 Farm, Maj Maung Maung Lay reported on conducting of

the basic agriculture and livestock breeding course, cultivation of 24 acres of summer paddy, 54 acres of monsoon paddy, extension for agricultural tasks, breeding of cattle, poultry and fish. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions and then met with the trainees of the training course at Nanthida No 1 Farm. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected livestock breeding tasks.

At the agricultural farm of the local battalion, Capt Myint Han reported on nurturing of summer paddy on 14 acres of land. Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint planted two Thitsein saplings (belleric myrobalan) to mark success of growing high yield paddy strain.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe proceeded to Eikhsthan Co Family Agricultural Farm in Nanthida Village, Nyaungshwe Township.

Farm Manager U Than Soe reported on growing of grape, honey orange, sunkit, strawberry, paddy, maize and sugarcane in the farm and distribution. Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the plantations in the farm.— MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

Let's lend ourselves to national endeavours
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Article

Let's join hands firmly and in unity
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