

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 13 February, 2004

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



For perpetual existence of Union

The history of the Union of Myanmar is that of national races. In times of national solidarity, the nation was strong, and commanded a great deal of respect of neighbouring nations. At the time when Union Spirit was ebbing away and national solidarity was on the wane, not only did the political, economic and social status of the Union fall into decline, but the security and sovereignty of the nation were encroached upon as well. Therefore, the flourishing of national unity and Union Spirit is of vital importance for the perpetual existence of the Union.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From message on the 55th Anniversary Union Day.)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host 57th Anniversary Union Day reception and dinner

YANGON, 12 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a reception and dinner to mark the 57th Anniversary Union Day on the lawns of the Presidential Residence on Ahlon Road here this evening.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing arrived there at 6.30 pm. They were welcomed by State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt, member of

the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 57th Anniversary Union

Day, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and also Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, and officials.

On the occasion, Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greeted leaders of na-

tional races, cultural troupes from respective states and Taninthayi Division, Union Day delegates from Union Solidarity and Development Associations of states and divisions, and distinguished guests.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and Daw

Kyaing Kyaing hosted the dinner to those present on the occasion.

Present at the dinner were members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), (See page 10)

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Circulation

23,188



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates at the dinner.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 13 February, 2004

Let's unitedly work for long-term interest of the Union

The Union of Myanmar has existed as a sovereign nation with her own monarchs since the early period of history and her national people have been living there in unity and amity for aeons. However, in the 19th century, the colonialists annexed her using their superior and enormous firepower and ruled her for over 100 years.

It was only in 1948 that the Union of Myanmar won back her independence through the anti-colonialist spirit, Union Spirit and national spirit of her national people. The leaders of various national races showed their Union Spirit and willingness to live together in unity by signing an agreement on 12 February, 1947, at Panglong in Shan State. Thus, the day that the Panglong Agreement was signed went down into the history of our nation as the Union Day.

The Union Day is observed every year with full political essence and Head of State Senior General Than Shwe sends a message to the national brethren of the Union on that day. In his message to the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day, the Head of State reiterated that the seven-point future policy programme already declared by the State is the only way to a discipline-flourishing, modern and developed democracy. Therefore, he exhorted the national races who love the Union to walk straight along the way towards their cherished goal with full of Union Spirit and national unity.

The Government has succeeded in cementing the national unity through the adoption of the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. Realizing the genuine goodwill of the Government, a total of 17 armed groups has returned to the legal fold and has been putting their energies into their respective regional development tasks. The Government has still kept the door open for the remaining armed groups, holding out an olive branch to them.

At a time when the Government is making every endeavour for the emergence of a new democratic nation, we would like to call upon the entire national people to work together unitedly in the long-term interest of the Union as well as in their own.

59th Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

People's Desire

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

Ministers enjoy Diplomatic Htamane Festival

YANGON, 12 Feb—

In order to enhance friendship and mutual understanding with the diplomat corps in Yangon, a new harvest Htamane feast was jointly held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thantaman Street in Dagon Township today. Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife Daw San Yon, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Hla Hla, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and diplomats were present on the occasion. The month of Tabodwe which falls in February is the eleventh month of Myanmar lunar calendar. It is also the time when the first crops begin to appear. So, the Htamane



The New Harvest Htamane Feast in progress. — MNA

Festival can be regarded as sort of a new harvest festival of Myanmar nationals.

Htamane is a savoury food prepared with a special recipe of glutinous rice and other ingredients such as oil, ginger, coconut kernel, sesame seeds, pea-

nuts and salt. Htamane making is usually done outdoors collectively, mostly by young men taking turns to stir the sticky food by large wooden ladles in a concave cast-iron pot, resembling a gigantic work. The feast was held for the second time as

the first of its kind, Diplomatic Htamane Festival, was celebrated in the preceding year. This jolly fete, the New Harvest Htamane Feast, has become the second annual get-together event for the diplomatic corps in Yangon.

MNA

Joint Communique for establishment of Myanmar-Ireland diplomatic ties signed

YANGON, 12 Feb—A ceremony to sign the joint communique on establishment of diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and Ireland at the office of the Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur at 3 pm on 10 February. Present on the occasion were Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung and staff of the embassy, Ambassador of Ireland to Malaysia Mr Daniel Mulhall and Deputy Minister Counsellor Mr Michael Smith. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador U Hla Maung said that it is pleasure for establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries due to a historic undertaking. He believed that more friendly relations and cooperation would be promoted between governments and peoples of the two countries.

The Ireland Ambassador also made a speech. He said that he was pleased with establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. He hope to cooperate economic, trade, culture and other sectors between



Ambassador U Hla Maung and Ambassador Mr Daniel Mulhall sign the joint communique. — MNA



The two Ambassadors exchange the documents. — MNA

Myanmar and Ireland. Next, the two Ambassadors signed the joint communique and exchanged documents. — MNA

Korea's Mo surges into the lead in Myanmar Open



YANGON, 12 Feb— Korea's Mo Joong-kyung emerged as the surprise leader when he fired a

five-under-par 67 in the opening round of the US\$ 200,000 Myanmar Open at Yangon Golf Club today. The 32-year-old Mo, who finished 74th on the money ranking in Asia last season, enjoyed a superb start in his first tournament of the year with six birdies and a lone bogey and leads by one shot over Canadian veteran Rick Gibson, South Africa's Craig Kamps and Australian rookie Alistair Presnell. Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee, Asia's number one

in 2001, and Prayad Marksang carded identical 69s for equal the fifth place alongside China (Taipei)'s Lin Wen-ko, Akinori Tani of Japan and American duo Andrew Pitts and Gary Rusnak.

Local favourite Aung Win scored a magical hole-in-one en-route to a 71 as he led the home challenge. Win, who has contended for the Myanmar Open title in the past two years, achieved the feat with an eight iron on his second hole of the day, the 162-yard 11th. The ace sparked Win to make the turn in 32 but with high expectations from the gallery that followed his group, he doubled bogeyed the par five sixth hole and dropped another

shot on the seventh. "That was my career's fifth ace in tournament play. It took one bounce and dropped into the hole", said Win, who has finished tied third and equal sixth in the last two years.

The Pro-Am of Myanmar Open golf tour was held at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon on 11 February. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golf Federation President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing, Chairman of Rothmans Myanmar Holdings Pte Ltd Mr Fred Combe, Managing Director Mr Arend Ng and officials

of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd and golf fans.

In the evening, dinner was hosted to the participants and officials presented prizes to the winners.

MNA



Aung Win who scores the ace. — MGF

Kite-flying contest in Bagan

YANGON, 12 Feb — Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation of the Ministry of Sports will hold the traditional kite-flying contest in Bagan region in the last week of March. Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will render assistance to the organizer.

President of the federation Daw Mi Mi Khin and executives and kite-flying experts will leave Yangon for Bagan on 13 February to choose sites and make arrangements for the competitions in advance. The experts will disseminate the kite-flying techniques to the participants (under-12 school boys and girls) in accord with the rules prescribed by the federation. — MNA

Deadly attacks in Iraq since March 20

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb—Some of the deadly bombing attacks in Iraq since the war began March 20. President Bush declared major combat over 1 May.

—Feb 11: A suicide attacker blows up a car packed with explosives in a crowd of Iraqis waiting outside an army recruiting centre in Baghdad, killing 47 people.

—Feb 10: A suicide bomber explodes a truckload of explosives outside a police station in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of Baghdad, killing 53 people.

—Feb 1: Twin suicide bombers kill 109 people in two Kurdish party offices in the northern city of Irbil.

—Jan 31: At least nine killed, 45 wounded by car bomb outside police station in the northern city of Mosul.

—Jan 18: Suicide car bombing near main gate to U.S.-led coalition's headquarters in Baghdad kills at least 18 people.

—Jan 17: Roadside bomb explodes near Baghdad, killing three US soldiers and two Iraqi civil defence troops.

US death toll reaches 500 with bombing.

—Dec 31, 2003: Car bomb rips through restaurant holding New Year's Eve party, killing eight Iraqis and wounding 35.

—Dec 14: Suspected suicide bomber detonates explosives in car outside police station in Khaldiya, killing at least 17, wounding 33.

—Nov 22: Car bombs hit two police stations northeast of Baghdad, killing at least 12 Iraqis.

—Nov 20: Truck bomb explodes near Kurdish party office in northern oil city of Kirkuk, killing five people, wounding 30. Local officials blame Islamic extremists linked to al-Qaida.

—Nov 12: Suicide truck bomber attacks headquarters of Italy's paramilitary police in southern city of Nasiriyah, killing more than 30 people, including 19 Italians.

—Oct 27: Four suicide bombings target international Red Cross headquarters and four Iraqi police stations in Baghdad, killing 40 people, mostly Iraqis.

—Oct 9: Suicide bomber drives Oldsmobile into police station in Baghdad's Sadr City district, killing nine Iraqis.

—Aug 29: Car bomb explodes outside mosque in Shiite Muslim holy city of Najaf, killing more than 85 people, including Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim.

—Aug 19: Truck bomber strikes UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22, including top UN envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

—Aug 7: Car bomb explodes outside Jordanian Embassy, killing 19, including two children. —Internet

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First carrier-pigeon contest held in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb— A carrier-pigeon competition was held in Samawa, 280 kilometres south of Baghdad.

The contest was organized by those interested in raising pigeons, and about 63 birds participated in the competition, local *Azzaman* newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The pigeons were released from different parts of Iraq and their task was to head back to Samawah.

Ghassan Ali, whose bird was released from Tikrit, 160 kilometres north of Baghdad and also Saddam's hometown, claimed the first title.

The second place went to Talib Naji, who released 22 birds from Baghdad, and the third place went to Sayid Kareem, who released 11 birds from Hilla, 100 kilometres south of Baghdad. Holding such an event, though simple, was widely considered as a step toward restoring normal life in postwar Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua



Two US soldiers inspect parts of the car bomb that exploded in Baghdad on 11 Feb, 2004.
INTERNET

535 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb—As of Wednesday, 11 Feb, 535 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 163 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, 397 US soldiers have died

—257 as a result of hostile action and 140 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,621 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 408.

The latest death reported by the military: —No new deaths reported. Identifications reported by the military:

—Air Force Master Sgt. Jude C Mariano, 39, Vallejo, Calif.; died Tuesday in Doha, Qatar, of injuries from a vehicle accident; assigned to the 615th Air Mobility Operations Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

—Army Sgt. Thomas D. Robbins, 27, Schenectady, N.Y.; killed Monday in Sinjar, Iraq when munitions exploded; assigned to Troop A, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment (Stryker), Fort Lewis, Wash.

Internet

Chinese State Councillor meets Vanuatu FM

BEIJING, 12 Feb — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here Tuesday that China will make joint efforts with Vanuatu for greater development of bilateral relations.

Tang made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Foreign Minister of Vanuatu Moana Carcasses, who is here on an official visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

Tang pointed to the rapid growth of bilateral ties with remarkable achievements made since the two countries forged diplomatic ties over two decades ago.

He said China attaches great importance to its relations with Vanuatu and bilateral exchanges in economy, trade, agriculture, culture, education, health work and sports have continuously expanded. —MNA/Xinhua

Cultural relics of west China to be exhibited in Japan

XI'AN, 12 Feb — A number of precious cultural relics belonging to Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, will be exhibited in Japan later this year, sources with the Shaanxi Bureau of Cultural Heritage said Tuesday.

The exhibition is co-sponsored by the Shaanxi Bureau of Cultural Heritage, Xi'an Bureau of Gardens and Cultural Heritage and the Japanese city Niigata, 300 kilometres northwest to Tokyo.

The display, to be held at the historical museum and art gallery of Niigata, will last 40 days from September to October, according to an agreement between the two sides. —MNA/Xinhua

HK becoming ideal business platform for investors

HONG KONG, 12 Feb—Hong Kong Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Stephen Ip said Tuesday Hong Kong is an ideal business platform for both international and Mainland investors.

Officiating at the 10th Asian International Exhibition of Hospitality Equipment, Supplies and Technology, Food and Drink (HOFEX 2004) opening ceremony, Stephen Ip said Hong Kong is strategically located as the gateway to the Chinese Mainland with a

very dynamic, innovative and efficient business community.

Sharing similar culture with the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong is the ideal strategic base and testing ground for international suppliers who wish to launch products on the Mainland, according to Ip.

He said that Hong Kong will surely provide the best platform for those suppliers who are looking for business opportunities in the Mainland market and those thinking of promoting and selling Chinese products in international markets. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to hold trade expo in UAE

JAKARTA, 12 Feb— The National Agency for Export Development (BPEN) will hold a trade exhibition in the United Arab Emirates in a bid to boost the country's exports to new markets.

The exhibition, to be held from September 13-17 in the city of Sharja, will be the second Indonesian expo in the city.

"We have to be more aggressive in entering non-traditional markets. They have the potential of becoming important trade partners," chairwoman of BPEN Diah Maulida was quoted Wednesday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

Diah said Indonesia's traditional markets such as the United States, European Union and Japan had issued trade restrictions that local exporters could not easily comply with. —MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi doctor comforts a crying man after he identified the body of a relative in the parking lot of the over-flowing morgue at a hospital in central Baghdad on 11 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Brazil to reopen Baghdad embassy soon

BRASILIA (Brazil), 12 Feb — Brazil plans soon to reopen its embassy in Baghdad after a 13-year hiatus to take advantage of commercial opportunities as Iraq rebuilds from war, a Brazilian official said on Wednesday.

Brazil opposed the US-led invasion to oust Saddam Hussein, and the violence in postwar Iraq hit home when the head of the UN mission there, Brazilian Sergio Vieira de Mello, was killed in a bomb attack last August.

The official said the South American nation wanted to take advantage of the decision by the US occupying power to open up contracts to foreign bidders.

No date has been set for the embassy opening and a team will travel to Iraq, still afflicted by daily bloodshed, to assess the security situation.

Brazil closed its embassy in Baghdad after the Gulf War in 1991 and conducted relations through its mission in Jordan. — MNA/Reuters

Turkey to increase trade with Iraq to \$1.5b in 2004

ANKARA, 12 Feb — A Turkish official said Tuesday that Turkey aims to increase trade volume with neighbouring Iraq to 1.5 billion US dollars in 2004 from about 980 million dollars in 2003.

Rifat Hisarcikcioglu, the Chairman of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), made the remarks at a Press conference after his visit to Iraq on Sunday. Hisarcikcioglu listed some of their demands during talks with Iraqi officials,

such as ending fee collection in Ibrahim Al Halil Border Gate in the north of Iraq, starting construction of a second border gate to Iraq in Ovakoy as soon as possible and forming truck parks in four Iraqi cities of Mosul, Baiji, Baghdad and Kirkuk.

The two sides have reached an agreement for Turkish and Iraqi contractors and transporters to meet in Iraq on March 13-14, the TOBB chairman said.

MNA/Xinhua

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A US soldier is backed up by a Bradley fighting vehicle during a foot patrol through the streets of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, on 11 Feb, 2004. — INTERNET

Annan likely to visit Japan in late February

TOKYO, 12 Feb — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is likely to visit Japan late this month for talks on United Nations reform and Iraq, a Japanese newspaper said on Wednesday.

Annan is likely to visit Japan sometime after February 20 and meet with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi as well as Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* daily said, quoting a senior Foreign Ministry official.

Koizumi is likely to seek cooperation for UN reforms that Japan is calling for, such as increasing the number of members in the UN Security Council and reviewing the share each member country pays as dues to the United Nations, *Yomiuri* said.

Japanese officials will also urge the United Nations to play a suitable role in the planned hand over of power by the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority to Iraqis, the paper said.

Foreign Ministry officials were not immediately available to comment.

MNA/Reuters

Car bomb kills up to 25 at new Iraqi Army centre

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb — A car bomb exploded at a recruiting facility of the new Iraqi Army in central Baghdad on Wednesday, killing up to 25 people, the US military said.

"A car bomb exploded at the new Iraqi Army recruiting facility in Baghdad at around 7:40 am (0440 GMT). Between 20 to 25 people are known to have been killed," a US spokesman said.

Witnesses said US

troops cordoned off the area known as Muthana Airport, a small air facility abandoned for decades but recently used by the new Iraqi Army.

Officials of a fundamentalist Shiite Muslim group are situated nearby.

It was the second bloody car bomb attack against Iraqis working with US occupation forces in 24 hours. Around 50 people were killed in a similar attack on Tuesday outside a police station south of Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters

Pentagon says 3 months in Iraq cost \$14b

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb — The ongoing war in Iraq cost about \$4 billion in September, spiked to \$7 billion in October and hit just under \$3 billion in November, the Pentagon said Wednesday in its latest report on how much the military operation costs.

That amounted to roughly \$14 billion spent on US military operations in Iraq over the three-month period late last year, the latest figures available, said Dov Zakheim, the Pentagon's chief financial official.

He said analysts were trying to determine why the costs spiked in October.

Officials previously had said the occupation of Iraq is costing \$1 billion a week.

Zakheim also sought to allay concerns, expressed by top military chiefs to a congressional committee Tuesday, that the Pentagon would run out of money to finance the efforts.

The Iraq war and occupation, along with the ongoing operations in Afghanistan, are being paid for through supplemental spending bills that are approved by Congress outside of the regular budget process.

Already, Congress has approved \$166 billion for those operations. The Pentagon has said it does not expect the Bush administration to seek another spending bill until January 2005, but the chiefs of the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps suggested Tuesday that money will run out by the end of September.

Internet

Second Iraq bombing pushes deaths to 100

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb — A second suicide bombing in as many days killed up to 47 people Wednesday, pushing the toll in the back-to-back attacks to 100. Again, Iraqis were the targets — this time, a crowd of volunteers for Iraq's new army — in an apparent campaign to wreck US plans to transfer power by summer.

In Wednesday's attack in Baghdad, an Oldsmobile packed with 300 to 500 pounds of explosives drove up to a crowd of Iraqis waiting outside an army recruitment centre — only a few blocks from the heavily fortified Green Zone, headquarters of the US administration.

The driver detonated the explosives, killing 47 people and wounding 55, the US-led coalition said. The

Iraqi Interior Ministry put the toll at 46 dead.

The aim Wednesday was clearly to kill Iraqis working with the US-led coalition, rather than a particular religious group, because the crowd was likely a mix of Sunnis and Shiites.

But the suicide bombing Tuesday targeted a mostly Shiite town, Iskandariyah, south of the capital. A truck carrying a similar amount of explo-

sives blew up outside a police station, killing 53 Iraqis, including would-be recruits lined up to apply for jobs.

There was no claim of responsibility for the rare consecutive attacks, but Maj General Charles H Swannack Jr, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, said he saw a connection between al-Zarqawi — and his memo — and the recent bombings. — Internet

Kumaratunga appoints council for curbing crime

COLOMBO, 12 Feb — President Chandrika Kumaratunga has appointed a 13-member National Advisory Council for curbing the rising crime rate in the country, the official *Daily News* said on Wednesday.

The council will advise the government and the police on formulating anti-crime policies.

The council will establish citizens committees which will seek public co-operation for gathering information on crime and for preventing crime.

Each citizen committee will comprise 15 to 20 repre-

sentatives drawn from the area's places of worship, police stations, non-governmental organizations and professionals. At a meeting held at the Presidential Secretariat on Tuesday, President Kumaratunga explained the political and socio-economic factors behind the increasing crime rates in the country and urged police to take urgent

action to tackle the rising crime wave.

She expressed the hope that these committees would be vital for fighting crime.

The appointment of the council came after President Kumaratunga dissolved Parliament and called a snap parliamentary election on April 2 on Saturday last week.

MNA/Xinhua

China to allow money supply, credit loans in 2004

BEIJING, 12 Feb — China will allow money supply and credit loans to keep growing at an appropriate pace in 2004, according to central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan.

Zhou reiterated that China would pursue a "stable and healthy" monetary policy at an annual meeting of the People's Bank of China on Tuesday.

Both the narrow money M1, including money in circulation and demand deposits of enterprises, and the broad money M2, including money circulation and all deposits, are hoped to increase a year-on-year 17 per cent in 2004, according to Zhou.

And all financial institutions in China

are allowed to grant a combined 313.25-billion-US-dollar more loans this year than in 2003.

Zhou vowed to take various measures to make financial macro-control more scientific, farsighted and effective and control the aggregate amount of money supply and credit loans with monetary tools. The role of interest rates should be further promoted and efforts should be made to optimize the distribution of loans and mitigate credit risks, he said. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi job seekers wait to be picked up to a construction site for a one or two-day job at central market in Samawah, 370 kilometres (230 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 11 Feb, 2004. — INTERNET

Five Spanish soldiers on patrol wounded in Iraq

MADRID, 12 Feb—Five Spanish soldiers on patrol in Iraq were wounded on Wednesday when an explosive device was thrown at them, Spain's Defence Ministry said.

The soldiers were returning on foot to their base in Diwaniya, 110 miles south of Baghdad, when the device was lobbed from a building, the ministry said in a statement.

Three of the soldiers suffered shrapnel wounds while two others suffered grazes or hearing damage, it said, adding that none of the injured was in serious condition.

One soldier had already been released from hospital while the others were under observation, the statement said.

An Iraqi interpreter also suffered hearing damage.

Local police detained two Iraqi suspects, it added.

Spain, which has sent 1,300 soldiers to Iraq following last year's US-led invasion, has suffered several military casualties.

A Spanish police commander shot in the head while serving in Iraq last month died from his injuries last week.

Seven intelligence agents died in an ambush last November. Another Spanish agent was shot dead outside his Baghdad home in October and a naval captain died in the August bombing of the UN headquarters in the Iraqi capital.

Spain's Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar was a firm supporter of the US-led war, despite overwhelming public opposition.

He is not standing for reelection in the March 14 general election but recent opinion polls give his centre-right Popular Party a comfortable lead over the Socialists, who opposed the war.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi newspaper not go to press because of fire attack

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb—*Al Sabah*, an Iraqi newspaper which speaks for the US-coalition authority, was not published Wednesday morning as usual as its headquarters suffered a big fire Tuesday night.

"The newspaper will be distributed at a later time today, because the fire took place at the paper storage rooms only," a worker at the newspaper told *Xinhua*, without mentioning if the fire was caused by an attack.

The reason for the fire is not known yet, but the London Radio said in its morning Arabic bulletin on Wednesday that the building suffered an armed attack that caused damage to the building.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi girl lies in the Central Children's Hospital in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, on 11 Feb, 2004. The hospital, the largest of its kind in the capital, offers free medical treatment for the poverty-ridden children.—INTERNET

US-funded construction deals in Iraq still limited

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb—The United States has opened up six billion US dollars in prime contracts in Iraq to all countries but US-funded construction deals are still limited to nations that supported the US war effort, a US Government Web site said on Wednesday.

In a notice on an Iraq procurement Web site (www.rebuilding-iraq.net), companies from all countries were invited to apply for new non-construction contracts, with the exception of a 327-million-US-dollar contract for the Iraqi Army.

"All countries are also eligible to compete as prime and or subcontractors for the six-billion-US-dollar non-construction contract efforts," the notice said.

The new contracts, which will be rolled out over the next few months, will range from equipment and training to a range of other services.

At the end of last year, the United States alienated many allies who had opposed Washington's decision to occupy Iraq without UN approval by announcing that all prime deals to rebuild Iraq would go to

countries that supported the effort to topple Saddam Hussein.

Trading partners France, Canada, Germany and Russia, whose companies could bid only on lesser subcontracts, were particularly angered by the decision. The White House later appeared to row back on the move and said Canada could apply for future prime work.

Bidding closed last week for five billion US dollar, worth of prime construction contracts in Iraq funded by the 18.6 billion US dollars appropriated by Congress for Iraq's reconstruction.

Companies from 63 eligible countries were allowed to bid on that work, which involved 17 major construction contracts and project management deals to oversee the work.—MNA/Reuters

WTO states admit Iraq as observer

GENEVA, 12 Feb—World Trade Organization (WTO) countries on Wednesday admitted Iraq's interim administration as an observer in the body.

The Iraqi request, filed last month with warm backing from Washington, was accepted without a dissenting voice at a meeting of the 146-nation trade body's ruling General Council.

"This is an important step for Iraq towards integration into the global economy," Iraqi trade official Ahmad al-Mukhtar told the Council, according to diplomats in the meeting.

The decision, which puts the US-installed administration in Baghdad on a level with the Vatican as a non-voting observer, was welcomed by other WTO members including the European Union.—MNA/Reuters

WHO confirms no human-to human bird flu infection

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb—The World Health Organization confirmed on Wednesday that new genetic tests showed no evidence a deadly bird flu that has killed 14 people was passing from person to person.

It said DNA tests on a 23-year-old Vietnamese woman who died of the H5N1 poultry influenza virus showed no evidence she caught it from her sister, who also died. WHO originally reported the results last week but then recalled them, saying they had in fact tested a different woman.

"WHO has today received the results from a study of virus isolated from a 23-year-old woman who is part of a family cluster in Vietnam under investigation as the first possible instance of human-to-human transmission," WHO said in a statement posted on its Web site at <http://www.who.int>.

"Virus genetic material from this woman, as for the other case in this cluster, is of avian origin and contains no human influenza genes."

Experts say the bird flu virus must mutate before it can be passed easily from person to person, although people can clearly catch it from birds.—MNA/Reuters

Earthquake jolts Amman

AMMAN, 12 Feb—An earthquake occurred at about 10:15 am (GMT 0415) on Wednesday morning, hitting Jordan's capital city of Amman and some other cities.

The Jordanian Royal Geographical Centre told *Xinhua* that the quake magnitude was at 5.9 on open-ended Richter Scale.

In Sahab City, 10 kilometres east of Amman, some factories witnessed power failure because of the earthquake, a local source told *Xinhua*. Meanwhile, Israeli local TV also reported in the morning that a feeble shock raided Israel at local time 10:20 am (0820 GMT), no damage reported immediately.

The earthquake measuring 4.5 Richter Scale rumbled for several seconds throughout Israel.

Palestinian witnesses also reported that a light earthquake that lasted for five seconds hit Gaza City and other towns and villages in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday morning. It caused no injuries or damages, but created a status of fear and horror among Gaza Strip population, they said.—MNA/Xinhua

Finnish millionaire hit with record speeding fine

HELSINKI, 12 Feb—One of Finland's richest men has been fined a record 170,000 euros for speeding through the centre of the capital, police said on Tuesday.

Jussi Salonoja, 27, heir to his family's sausage business, was caught driving 50 miles per hour in a 25mph zone last Thursday, the police said.

Finnish traffic fines vary according to the offender's income and, according to tax office data, Salonoja's 2002 earnings were close to seven million euros. The final penalty could still change when the case is eventually heard by a Helsinki court, as was the

case with Nokia executive Anssi Vanjoki, whose 116,000-euro speeding fine was slashed by 95 per cent in 2002 due to a drop in income.

If Salonoja's penalty stands, it will beat a speeding fine of more than 80,000 euros paid by Internet millionaire Jaakko Rytola in 2000, and the 35,000-euro fine imposed on Nokia President Pekka Ala-Pietila in 2001 for running a red light.—MNA/Reuters



US massage therapist Elke Riester (R) tends to an elephant on the banks of the River Yamuna in New Delhi. Riester from Oakland Zoo in California, uses a technique of 'touch healing' and works on an animal for anything between 15 minutes and an hour, to assess animals' stress levels.—INTERNET

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Monthly death of US and allies forces in Iraq

US and its allies invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003. Following the invasion, armed attacks against US-led coalition forces by Iraqi guerillas increased and the invasion forces have been suffering great casualty.

US and allies military fatalities: By Month:

Period	US	UK	Other	Total
3-2003	65	27	0	92
4-2003	73	6	0	79
5-2003	37	4	0	41
6-2003	29	6	0	35
7-2003	46	1	0	47
8-2003	35	6	2	43
9-2003	31	1	1	33
10-2003	42	1	2	45
11-2003	81	1	27	109
12-2003	40	0	8	48
1- 2004	45	5	0	50
2- 2004	11	1	1	7
Total	535	59	41	635



The Italian Carabinieri base in the southern Iraqi town of Nassiriya lies destroyed by a car bomb on 12 Nov, 2003. A total of 16 Italian servicemen were killed in the attack.

Iraqi youths look at a burned out car south of Baghdad on 30 Nov, 2003, the day after a deadly attack on Spanish troops. Seven Spanish intelligence agents were killed in Iraq in an attack with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles on their unmarked vehicles south of Baghdad.

Debris lies scattered on the ground at the entrance to a US military barracks after an attack in Talafar, Iraq on 9 December, 2003. A suicide bomber wounded 41 US soldiers in an attack on the military base in northern Iraq.



Smoke billows from a US Bradley fighting vehicle following an attack near Fallujah on 9 November 2003.



US soldiers secure the area in Karbala, about 110 kms south of Baghdad, Iraq, where guerillas unleashed a massive and coordinated assault on a pair of military bases and the governor's office on 27 Dec, 2003, killing four coalition soldiers.



The scene of the incident north of Baghdad in which three US soldiers were killed on 13 November 2003.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

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



Myanmar Maritime University.



The Myanmar ICT Park in Hline Township.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Agriculture		
Irrigation facility	-	12
Water pumping station	-	18
Underground water tapping station	-	500
Tube-well	-	5000
Transport		
Tarred road (mile)	13635	18112
Gravel road	121	210
Earth road (mile)	20	182
Bridge (above 180 feet)	3	23
Bridge being built	-	5
Communication		
Post office	38	101
Telegraph office	8	48
Auto-exchange	4	37
Radio auto-exchange	-	2
Cellular telephone station	-	7
CDMA telephone station	-	8
GSM telephone station	-	18
Microwave station	9	20

The four-storey new lecture hall of Yangon Institute of Economics.



Maha Bandoool Bridge linking Pazundaung and Dawbon Townships.



The National Poison Control Centre has emerged to prevent the poisoning due to chemical and biological elements and radiation.



Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.

Development Sector	1988	2004
Industry		
Industrial zone	-	10
Factory & mill	-	5960
Electric power		
More megawatt generated	-	398
Information		
TV retransmission station	1	2
IPRD office	-	45
Library	-	45
Education		
Basic education school	2373	2644
Multimedia teaching centre	-	165
University, college	10	31
Health		
Hospital	36	65
Traditional hospital	-	1
Regional health centre	23	28

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Unity is strength

Towards a modern industrialized nation

Efforts are under way to turn the Union of Myanmar into a modern industrialized nation. In the past, the country had been reduced to ashes on account of the

tion efforts.

The ill legacy the colonialists planted had lasted from the feudal era to the 1988 unrest, causing a lot of troubles continuously.

To put back on the right track the State's

the same time, the Government also established Myanmar industrial development banks to provide capital to industrialists so as to be able to avoid the slowness of industrial growth because of insufficient capital.



A combined harvester manufactured by the Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2.

colonialists. In order to counter the invasion of the colonialists Kanaung Minthagyi, crown prince, did endeavour to establish the country as an industrialized one in Konbaung Era by constructing more than 50 factories such as coil moulding factories, arms factories, weaving factories, sugarcane mills, rice mills and so on. Taking the upper hand, the colonialists however undermined the Myanmar industrializa-

economy which was brought to a halt owing to the 1988 unrest, the Government has given priority to the infrastructural development.

At that time, what private businessmen undertook was what was called blacksmith and lathe machines. Small-scale industries were scattered all over the country and they were run without much capital and technical know-how. Knowing that the peo-

Arrangements have been made to disburse loans to them at the fair rate of interest.

Apart from these measures, the State gives encouragement to the drive for technological advancement by conducting relevant courses.

Necessary assistance is also being provided to these measures by sending trainees to foreign countries to receive advanced technologies in case local technologies are considered insufficient.

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

ple's standard of living will improve only when a modern industrialized nation can be built, the Government places emphasis on the development of State-owned as well as private-owned industrial sectors.

In the first place, the Government had scattered industries gathered and industrial zones established in respective states and divisions. As a result, there have emerged 19 industrial zones in the country. At



A tractor assembled by a factory of the Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries.

Let's march towards a new modern industrialized nation through the strength of national solidarity

As part of efforts being made to keep abreast of the fast-chang-

establishment of a modern industrialized nation.

their hearts. As a result, the industrial sector is now improving.

If the development condition of the industrial sector of the State is studied, 9.0 percent increased in the first five-year short-term plan, 10.7 percent in the second five-year short-term plan, and 15 percent in 2001-2002 of the third five-year short-term plan and of 18 percent in 2002-2003 up to the end of December.

As Myanmar is an agro-based country, it is striving for an increased production of advanced farming equipment to save time and money in producing agricultural goods. In other words, it is transforming from manual to mechanized farming.

(See page 9)

Maung Maung Soe Aung

ing science and technology development of the world, the Myanmar Maritime University and the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University in addition to technological universities, computer universities, government technological colleges, government computer colleges were opened to ensure an easy access to advanced technologies.

Only when highly-qualified and well-rounded human resources across the Union can be created will there be success in the

With this end in view, the entire national people therefore join hands with the Government to reach that goal. Hydel power projects, both completed ones and those under construction, as well as the wealth of water and land resources are of great importance for building an industrialized nation.

At a time when the Government is striving for all-round development in all sectors, State organizations and private national entrepreneurs are cooperating with the Government with all



An Ayeya-1 power-tiller manufactured by the Ministry of Industry-2.



Myanma Farm Machinery Factory in Inngon Village, Kyaukse.

(from page 8)

The gross domestic product will rise together with the development of the agricultural sector. Thus, the extended use of advanced machinery plays a key role in developing the sector.

The government has laid down and is implementing the 24-zone-development project, rural development tasks and the 30-year education promotion plan for progress of all the regions of the Union.

Nowadays, the highly-qualified human resources are in the process of development.

nized farming has become a must for the nation.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given the following guidelines for the farm mechanization task:

— to manufacture machinery that meets the requirement of the farmers;

— to assemble tractors, harrows and threshers to reduce time and cost in cultivation business;

— to successfully manufacture harrows and threshers that are actually useful for the farmers;

and farm machinery;

— and to enhance cooperation among the departments as it is a must for the national development.

In accord with the guidance, the Agricultural Mechanization Department is carrying out the task to manufacture and distribute farm machinery, to run farm machinery rental services, to reclaim more land and

2003, it manufactured 2,560 power-tillers of the Leya-16 type.

A farm machinery factory has been opened at Ingon village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division. Its target is to manufacture 10,000 power-tillers and 5,000 threshers within a one-year period.

The department has launched the mechanized land reclamation

Poem

Park of the Union

* Green and lush
Every tree is fresh
leaves cleave together
Under the cool greenery
In mother's bosom
We huddle together
To find happiness
In peace and joy
Coming from the same womb
Same kith and kin
Sharing love, we are contents
* Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin
Compete in beauty, Mon, Rakhine
Under billowing clouds, under these
Shan State also, in lovable mien
In this park, the pauk and birdies
All mingle, birdies and the pauk
In a mixture, red and green
All fluttering, is it the pauk or the birdies
All citizens, born of this Union.

Moe Kyaw Tun (Ayeyawady) (Trs)
(In honour of the village of Union Nationals in
Thaketa Township)

velop the border areas.

Agriculture is the main economy of the country. It is required to develop the agricultural sector in leaps and bounds to further strengthen the national

chinery for agricultural development in addition to assembling jeeps, farm trucks, wagons and double cabs.

The nation's industrial sector is achieving success at present.

Industrial development of the nation

Industries	1988	2004
Established industrial zones	-	19
State-owned factories	567	723
Cooperatives	139	157
Private	39159	44749
Farm industries	153	189

There is a decrease in the farm workers as the number of rural children and youths pursuing education is increasing. Thus, the transformation from manual to mecha-

— to make coordination among the ministries, entrepreneurs and technicians for availability of irrigation water, and extended use of quality strains, fertilizers

to conduct educational training courses for agricultural development.

The department has targeted to manufacture 60,000 power-tillers from its four production factories and one assembling plant. During the third four months of

project to cultivate 10 special high-yield crops including the four major crops — paddy, sugarcane, cotton and edible crops and industrial crops as targeted; to extend opium substitute-crop cultivation; and to de-

economy.

Thus, harmonious efforts are being made to transform from manual to mechanized farming. The industrial zones are manufacturing harrows, dryers, threshers, power-tillers, seeders, pumps, turbines and other ma-

Thus, it is sure that the nation will surely become a modern industrial nation if all the national races work in harmony and unison, and with Union Spirit, under the Leadership of the State.

(Translation: KTY+TMT)



The diesel engine factory in Indagaw Region, Bago Division.



A 500-ton cement plant of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyaukse Township.

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)

YANGON, Command Commander, ministers, the attorney-general, the chief justice, the auditor-general and their wives, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, chairman of Yangon City Development Committee and wife, members of the central committee and the management committee for observance of the 57th Anniversary Union Day, deputy ministers, deputy attorney-generals, deputy chief justices, deputy auditors-general, members of CSSTB, the vice mayor, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence (Army, Navy and Air), personnel of the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee for Convening of National Convention, the management committee for Convening of National Convention, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, rectors and medical superintendents from general hospitals, USDA delegates to Union Day, national cultural troupes from states and divisions, police officers of Myanmar Police Force, local authorities, responsible personnel of News and Periodicals Enterprise, representatives from foreign news agencies, Myanmar Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries Technicians Organization, Myanmar Academics of Medical Science, Myanmar Historical Commission, Myanmar Language Commission, Myanmar Academy of Technology, Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Veterinarians' Association, Myanmar Dental Association, Myanmar Nursing Association (Central), Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Child Care Association, Myanmar Health Assistants Association, Union of Myanmar Federation of

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Dealers Association, Myanmar Banks Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Engineering Society, Myanmar Archaeologists Association, Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association, Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Motion Pictures Asiayon, Myanmar Floriculturalists Association, Myanmar Florists Association, Myanmar National Work Committee for Women's Affairs, Myanmar Anti-Drug Association, Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar-Thai Cultural and Economic Cooperation Association, ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASEAN-CCI), Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association, Myanmar Goldsmiths Association, Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Fisheries Federation, and other social organizations. Before and during the dinner, Myanmar modern music troupe entertained the guests with music and songs. Union national races and vocalists also entertained with songs to the accompaniment of Myanmar modern music troupe. After the dinner, gold medalist students of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition, national traditional cultural troupes of Kachin State, Taninthayi Division, Chin State, Mon State, Kayah State, Shan State, Rakhine State and Kayah State, and those from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture also entertained with a variety of song dances.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates.— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet Union Day delegates at the dinner.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe's message ...

(from page 16)

Master of ceremonies Secretary of Yangon District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi read out the agenda of the ceremony. Those present saluted the Flag to the strains of National Anthem played by the State Band. Next, the commander read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe. At 7.50 am, the mayor took out the flag from the silver bowl on the dais and carried it. He then handed it over to YCDC Secretary Col Myint Aung.

Flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers, Union nationals and students, Col Myint Aung conveyed the flag and planted it in the silver bowl on the Union Boat. Afterwards, the Union Flag, flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers, Union nationals and students, was conveyed from the People's Square to City Hall to stop over one year period through Pyay Road, Phonegyi Road, Maha Bandoola Street and Sule Pagoda Road. The flag was accorded a rousing welcome by local people including

local authorities, social organizations, departmental personnel, students, departmental personnel and people waving miniature flags and hoisting flags at officers, shops and houses. In front of the City Hall, Col Myint Aung took out the flag from the silver bowl and handed it over to the mayor. Next, the mayor, flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers, Union nationals and USDA members, conveyed the flag and planted it in the silver bowl on the dais in the City Hall where the flag will be kept for one year. Later, they

saluted the flag.

Marking the 57th Anniversary Union Day, State Flags were hoisted at officers, parks, roads, bridges, markets and schools.—MNA

Myanmar-Bangladesh soccer match to be screened

YANGON, 12 Feb — The Myanmar Television will broadcast the first semi-final match of the first U-18 BIMST-EC Soccer Tournament between Myanmar and Bangladesh held on 7 February at Phuket, Thailand, at 1 pm tomorrow. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reads out message sent by Senior General Than Shwe to 57th Anniversary Union Flag Hoisting Ceremony.— MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects Heho-Taunglelon section of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road

YANGON, 12 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected Heho-Taunglelon section of the Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road upgrading project yesterday.

The project is being implemented by Public Works. At the project briefing hall in Taunglelon, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe heard a report on progress of work sector-wise presented by engineers and officials.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint explained section-wise implementation of the project, distribution of heavy machinery and priority

sectors.

In response to the presentations, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road has been upgraded to a facility on which cars can drive at a minimum speed of 40 miles per hour.

Thus, efforts should be made to reinforce its foundation, smoothen and widen its surface and ensures safety of the traffic. The staff of the project are required to carry out their work with goodwill and use the machinery most effectively.

Accompanied by officials, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe in-

spected tarring and the task to widen the surface at the section between mile post 97 and 98, saying the facility should meet its required standard.

He then inspected the poultry farm of the No 55 Light Infantry Division in Heho. At the briefing hall, officials reported to him on pig breeding, plans to raise chicken, digging of ponds for fish farming and paddy, beans and pulses and seasonal crops cultivation.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected crop samples of rice, beans and pulses, corn, sunflower at the hall and the poultry farm, speaking of the need to strive for the success of the farm. — MNA



Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Union Day delegates salute Union Flag. (News on page 16)— MNA

MWAF meets Magway Division Organization for Women's Affairs

YANGON, 12 Feb — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation met with Magway Division Organization for Women's Affairs in Magway on 10 February.

Vice-president of MWAF Dr Daw San May Yi said the federation was founded on 20 December 2003 with the aim of developing the womenfolk, applying the strength of the womenfolk in the nation-building task, and ensuring security for women. It is a non-governmental organization, inviting womenfolk to join hands in implementing its task in accord with the slogan — Let's join forces for the development of women. She also explained the functions of bodies working in the interest of women.

Vice-president of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe elaborated on the work of the cultural, young women's and national races affairs working bodies.

Secretary of MWAF Dr Daw San Shwe explained the organizational set-up and the application for membership.

Later, leader of Information Working Group Daw Mya Mya clarified the organizational set-ups and functions of Information, Organization, Discipline Enforcement and Finance and Management groups; leader of Educational Working Group Prof Daw Min Thet Mon, the organizational set-ups and functions of Education, Health, Economic and Environmental Conversion groups; leader of Rehabilitation group Daw Kyi Kyi Mya on the organizational set-ups and functions of Rehabilitation Group, Group for Prevention of Violence Against Women, and Human Trafficking Elimination Group.

Patron of Magway Division Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin Mi Mi presented K 500,000, donated by the organization, for the MWAF; and Commissioner U Aung Win, K 500,000, donated by Magway Division Peace and Development Council. Daw Than Than Nwe accepted the donations.

Vice-Presidents Dr Daw San May Yi and Daw Than Than Nwe and party cordially greeted the participants.

Afterwards, they visited Bagan Cultural Beikman.

MNA

Union Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 12 Feb — The 57th Anniversary Union Day commemorative Exhibition went on for the fifth day at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall here from 9 am to 5 pm today. A total of some 5,000 members of the Sangha, people, students and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association visited the booths of the exhibition.

There, various kinds of publications are available at fair prices at the shops of Sarpay Beikman Publishing House and the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information. — MNA

Information Minister tours Magway & Sagaing Divisions

YANGON, 12 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented offertories to member Sayadaws of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha and Sayadaws of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and supplicated on religious matters at Myokhintha Monastery (South) in Gangaw on 9 February morning.

Afterwards, the minister held a meeting with departmental officials, townsenders, members of social organizations, people and students. On the occasion, the minister spoke of the need for the entire people to take part in implementing the State's seven-point policy programme joining hands with the Government for building up a peaceful, modern developed democratic nation.

The minister presented K 200,000 each to Gangaw District and Township Union Solidarity and Development Associations, school textbooks and exercise books to basic education schools, publications to libraries and clothes and soap to the villages in the district. Zahaw and Pyaewa villages Peace and Development Councils donated two TV sets and Township video organization books to the village library.

Next, the minister presented offertories to Pyay village monastery Sayadaw and supplicated on religious matters. After the meeting with village elders, the minister presented K 50,000, textbooks, exercise books, publications, clothes and soap to the village. The village Peace

and Development Council donated a TV set to the library.

The minister also presented K 100,000 for construction of a new building of Nyaungpinle village basic education primary school and publications to the village library. Afterwards, the minister met with the people in Yaymyetni village, Htilin Township, and presented textbooks and exercise books to the schools and soap to the villagers.

The minister inspected construction of self-reliant building of Kyaw Station Hospital in Kyaw village, Gangaw Township, and progress in construction of the X-ray room and attended to the needs.

In the evening, the minister attended the opening of Oo Hnauk village self-reliant library in Pale Township and presented K 100,000, school textbooks and exercise books to the village BEPS, publications to the village library and clothes and soap to the village.

Next, the minister looked into progress in completion of the two-storey school building in Mindaingbin village, Pale Township, and fulfilled the needs.

On 10 February morning, the minister inspected Monywa Information and Public Relations Department. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with the service personnel and gave instructions on excellent media coverage. — MNA



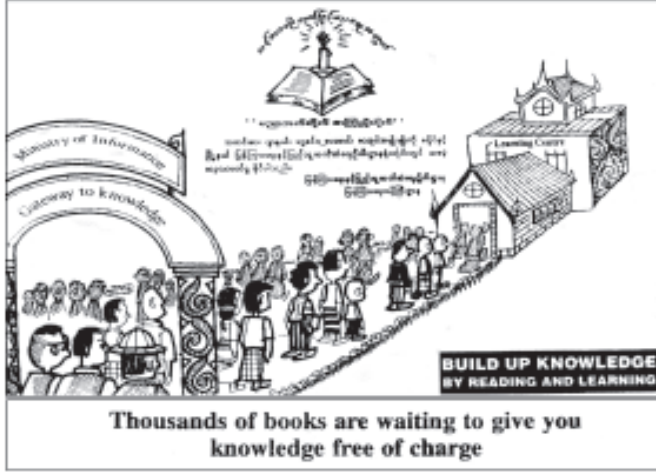
Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets with local people in Uhnauk Village, Pale Township, on 9 February.— MNA

Rural road, water supply commissioned into service

YANGON, 12 Feb — The opening of a manual water pump was held at Taloktaw village, Hinthada Township, on 10 February morning.

District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Maung Pyone, Township Chairman U Soe Thein and Executive Deputy Director U Saing Tun Tun formally opened the facility, which was provided by Township

Development Affairs Committee. Similarly, the 8,970 feet long and 20 feet wide Wayindok-Ngantzin rural earth road undertaken by Pyawbwe Township DAC and a two-inch diameter 400 PVC tube-well donated by U Kyaw Thura-Daw Aye Aye Nwe (Fire Services Department) and family were commissioned into service in the Township on 7 February morning. — MNA



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လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုနှင့် (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်)

၁။ လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုနှင့် (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်)နှင့် ဂျပန်နိုင်ငံ၊ တိုကျိုမြို့ TOPA 21st Century Language School တို့ ပူးပေါင်း၍ ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်တွင် ဂျပန်ဘာသာစကား (Basic Course)အထူးသင်တန်းအမှတ်စဉ် (၁၅)ကို ဖွင့်လှစ်ပါမည်။

(က)ဂျပန်နိုင်ငံ၊ တိုကျိုမြို့ TOPA 21st Century Language School မှ လာရောက်ပို့ချမည်။

(ခ)အချိန်ပြည့်သင်တန်းရက်အတွက် နာရီပေါင်း ၂၀၀နာရီ (၁)၂၀၀နာရီ၊ ဝေဖေါ်ဝါဒီလ(၂၁)ရက်နေ့တွင် ဖွင့်လှစ်မည်။

(ဃ)အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းစာမေးပွဲကို (က)အဆင့်မြင့်အောင်မြင်သူများ (သို့မဟုတ်) တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်းစာမေးပွဲအောင်မြင်သူများ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်။

၂။ အသေးစိတ်ကို ရန်ကုန်အတွင်း လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုနှင့် (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်)တွင် စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

မှန်း- ၅၁၄၃၁၀ လိုင်စွဲ-၁၂၃

China, IUCN to promote cooperation

BANGKOK, 12 Feb — Officials from China and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) on Tuesday signed here a memorandum of understanding to improve cooperation on China's forestry-related conservation work.

Under the document, described by both sides as a solid progress in long-term cooperation, the world largest conservation organization IUCN and China's State Forestry Authority (SFA) would meet within 90 days to specify activities to be carried out during the first year of the partnership.

Annual consultative meeting on forestry issues

will be established so as to conduct bilateral informal and technical consultation, said the MoU.

The newly-linked material also set down guidelines for the principles, areas and ways of bilateral cooperation to improve China's forestry conservation.

"The signing of the MoU is a positive step in the right direction for the two sides' cooperation on related subjects," IUCN Asia Constituency Project Director Zakir

Hussain said at the signing ceremony.

IUCN and China started cooperation some 20 years ago, focusing on forestry conservation activities, SFA's programme officials told *Xinhua*.

With the Chinese Government paying more attention to conservation issues, SFA has witnessed a boom of cooperation with international agencies and organizations in recent years, they added. —MNA/Xinhua



Vajpayee stresses country's interest above everything else

NEW DELHI, 12 Feb — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said Tuesday that the central government is important and stressed that "the country's interest has to be above everything else".

Laying the foundation stone of a rail project in politically crucial Bihar Pradesh, north India, Vajpayee said that politics should not come in the way of development, the *Press Trust of India* reported.

"Country comes above party politics and politics

should not come in the way of progress," he made the remarks while addressing a public meeting after the foundation laying ceremony.

He added that it should be borne in mind that the international community did not treat individual states separately and considered the

whole of India as a nation of which the parties and people were part and parcel.

Vajpayee urged the parties to forget their differences when it comes to the question of the nation's progress and development, *PTI* said.

MNA/Xinhua

WCF study shows Bangladesh's high infant mortality rate

DHAKA, 12 Feb — The existing infant mortality rate in Bangladesh is 57 per 1,000 live births, reported the official *Bangladesh News Agency* on Tuesday.

This was revealed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain on Tuesday at a dissemination ceremony of a survey on maternal and child health, a three-year study conducted by a British non-governmental organization Women and Children First (WCF) sup-

ported by the British Government and the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

The Health Minister further pointed out three fourths of these infant deaths are being contributed by the neonatal mortality, as every year approximately 150,000 out of 3.8 million newborns die within four weeks after their births. "Maternal mortality is also high in our country as 300 to 450 mothers died per 100,000 cases of live births," he said, especially mentioning the rate

was significantly high in the adolescents, accounting for 580 deaths per 100,000 live births. The minister said over 10,000 women die each year in the country from complications of induced abortion, ante partum and post partum hemorrhage, infection and complication in delivery, as well as other problems related to pregnancy and child bearing.

A majority of the maternal deaths were caused by unsafe abortion and deliveries in the rural areas, which

could be prevented through proper counselling and developing skilled birth attendants there, said the minister.

According to the WCF survey based on data from three western districts of the country, the issues need to be addressed to improve maternal care and infant health are antenatal care, supply of drugs to meet iron deficiency, food security during pregnancy, skilled birth attendance, and improvement of safe delivery practices. —MNA/Xinhua

Asian-Pacific govts urged to address issues of rural women

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb — Pakistani First Lady Begum Sehba Musharraf here Tuesday urged governments to address the issues of concern of rural women through effective implementation of programmes for poverty alleviation.

Speaking at the opening of the third summit of the Regional Steering Committee of Advancement of Rural and Island Women for Asia and Pacific (RSC-AP), Sehba, the current committee chairperson, called on the participants to explore innovative ways to overcome the

formidable obstacles to the empowerment of women and gender equality.

Sehba stressed that the committee endeavours to advocate for the formulation and implementation of macro-economic and social policies that ensure full development of rural areas.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who inaugurated the conference, said rural and island women are the backbone of societies and yet they are marginalized

and neglected. "We must give hope to our rural women. We must not keep them relegated to the backwaters of our societies. They should be educated, equipped with new skills and given productive employment," the President emphasized. The two-day conference attracted first ladies and woman government ministers from 17 countries including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand. MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia's school dropouts highest in S-E Asia

JAKARTA, 12 Feb — Elementary school dropouts account for 7 per cent of Indonesia's 27 million children, the highest among Southeast Asian member states, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) revealed.

According to UNESCO's education statistics 2003 report, Indonesia ranked behind Thailand, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia in the percentage of children—aged between seven years and 12 years old—enrolled in elementary school.

Quoting UNESCO Insti-

tute for Statistics' report as saying, *The Jakarta Post* said Wednesday that Indonesia fared better than fellow densely populated Asian countries Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan, China and India. Indonesia is home to 215 million people, according to the latest national census.

Most of the earlier leavers quit elementary school when they were in their fifth year, with Indonesia second in the list with 95 per cent after Iran (98 per cent). Vietnam was third with 86 per cent, followed by Bangladesh (65 per cent) and Cambodia (63 per cent).

MNA/Xinhua

India signs agreements to control spread of "AIDS", TB

NEW DELHI, 12 Feb — India Tuesday signed agreements with an international funding agency to prevent and control the spread of such diseases as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Under the two agreements with the Global Fund, it would release 33 million US dollars over the next two years, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported.

The Fund would release the amount, which is part of a total grant worth 129 million US dollars to be released over a period of five years, to help scale up preventive programmes against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in the country.

The Fund has subsequently also approved another 15 million US dollar grant for HIV/TB prevention and treatment in its third round of grants extending a commitment to India which now amounts to 153 million US dollars over a period of five years.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

DON'T SMOKE

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Thirteen-year-old actress Keisha Castle-Hughes, of New Zealand, nominated for best actress for her role in 'Whale Rider,' poses as she arrives at the annual Oscar nominees luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif, on 9 Feb, 2004. The Oscars are scheduled to be presented in Hollywood on 29 Feb.—INTERNET

Experts weigh possible autism, vaccines link

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb — An independent scientific panel weighing a possible link between autism and the mercury preservative in childhood vaccines heard suggestions on Monday that the source of the heavy metal could be fish.

The Institute of Medicine panel heard the results from more than a dozen studies on thimerosal, the preservative found in some vaccines. When it last met in 2001, it decided there was no evidence that vaccines caused autism but it also noted little research had been done.

"Clearly, there's far more information addressing this issue," said panel chair Dr Marie McCormick, a professor of maternal and child health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Autism is a mysterious disorder whose symptoms range from a lack of social skills to a profound and crippling inability to relate to others.

Because it is usually diagnosed during the toddler years when children receive many of the 18 or so early childhood shots, some advocacy groups believe vaccines are to blame.

Many parents told the panel they were anti-thimerosal, not anti-vaccine.

"Its use should be considered historic," said Lyn Redwood, president of the advocacy group Safe Minds whose youngest son is autistic. "Why take the risk when you don't have to?"

Scientists say it is possible that if it got into the brain, thimerosal could cause brain damage. Although it is no longer found in childhood vaccines in the United States, it remains in the influenza vaccine and in vaccines in other countries.

Several researchers on Monday pointed to recent studies highlighting the harmful levels of mercury found in fish and the potential brain damage caused by eating it.

Last week, an international group of researchers reported in the *Journal of Pediatrics* that children can suffer irreparable brain damage if their mothers eat seafood high in mercury while pregnant.

Dr Mady Hornig, a professor at Columbia University, told the panel future studies should address exposure to mercury through food. "This is a continued concern ... if we are not going to remove fish from our diet," she said.

Researcher H Vasken Aposhian said studies needed to look at the impact of a mother's mercury levels on her children.

"That mercury load is transferred to some extent... to the child," said Aposhian, a toxicologist and biology professor at the University of Arizona.

But Amy Carson, co-founder of Moms Against Mercury, said the government and others were trying to "shift the blame" from thimerosal to other sources.

"I think they want to be able to say those children were already damaged in utero and that it didn't have anything to do with vaccines," said Carson, whose seven-year-old son has autism. The panel said it plans to publish its report later this spring.

MNA/Reuters

Iron storage in body raises diabetes risk

CHICAGO, 12 Feb — A study has found that storing abnormal amounts of iron in the body can lead to adult onset diabetes in women, raising the possibility that a blood test earlier in life could help identify those at risk from the disease, researchers said on Tuesday.

The finding came from a look at 698 women among thousands of nurses who gave blood samples between 1989 and 1990 as part of a multiyear study. The 698 women developed diabetes over the course of the study even though they were free of it and free of heart disease as well at the start.

When their initial blood samples were compared with others who did not develop diabetes over a 10-year period, it was found that the diabetic group had significantly elevated levels of ferritin when the initial blood samples were taken.

Ferritin is an iron-protein complex in blood that is a marker for iron storage.

Women with higher ferritin levels at the start of the study had a nearly threefold increased risk of developing diabetes, the study found, even after taking into account such things as obesity and other risk factors including family history of diabetes, physical activity, alcohol use and diet.

"The results provide the strongest evidence to date that increased iron stores in the body are an independent risk factor for type 2 diabetes," said Rui Jiang of the Harvard School of Public Health, lead

author of the study appearing in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Frank Hu, a senior author, added: "The findings suggest that a simple blood test which measures ferritin levels can be used to predict the development of type 2 diabetes in otherwise healthy people. This may help in identifying high-risk people who would possibly benefit from further lifestyle or therapeutic interventions that can lower iron stores in the body."

MNA/Reuters

FBI's techniques confuse courtrooms

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb — The FBI's techniques for analyzing crime scene bullets work well but need some tweaking, a panel of scientific experts said on Tuesday.

And testimony about the chemical analysis of the lead in bullets can confuse jurors and judges alike, the National Research Council panel said. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which commissioned the report, said it would be a useful guide for improving its methods.

"Our recommended changes in the procedures used in bullet lead analysis would provide the FBI with a sound basis for determining whether crime scene bullets 'match' a suspect's bullets, but how those findings are conveyed in court and to a jury remains a critical issue," Kenneth MacFadden, an independent consultant and chairman of the committee that wrote the report, said in a statement.

The technique being scrutinized is used when ballistics fail — for instance, if a bullet is so squashed that it is impossible to tell whether it was shot from a particular gun.

In those cases, about 2,500 in the past 24

years, the FBI has to analyse the actual lead to see which batch of bullets a particular bullet came from.

The committee, part of the independent advisory National Academy of Sciences, said ballistics experts should not try to tell a court that a bullet came from a particular box of ammunition or that it was manufactured on a given date. Chemical analysis techniques are good but not that good, the report said.

"Attorneys, judges, juries, and even expert witnesses can easily and inadvertently misunderstand and misrepresent the analysis of the evidence and its importance. It is therefore essential to discuss whether and how the evidence can be used," the report reads.

"Overall this was an excellent report that is only going to improve the techniques that we currently use," Dwight Adams, assistant FBI director for the laboratory, told reporters in a telephone briefing. — MNA/Reuters

Social welfare research institutes being reformed in China

BEIJING, 12 Feb — A senior official said here Tuesday that 248 state-owned social welfare research institutes around China are undergoing restructuring.

At a work conference on the reform, Li Xueyong, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, said the state will invest much more into 89 of the institutes and run them as non-profit organizations.

Another 61, with the main business of developing applied technologies, will be transformed into enterprises while the rest will be merged into universities or science and technology intermediaries, Li said. The 248 research institutes belong to departments or equivalents in the State Council, or the Chinese Cabinet. They account for 94 per cent of the total of their kind in the country.

In addition to nearly 30 policy documents for restructuring, Li said, the state

invested a total of 750 million yuan (90 million US dollars) in the latest fiscal years covering cost of the reform.

Researchers at those institutes said they favour the competition-oriented new system.

They also said that they were much more capable of obtaining state investment as well as non-governmental resources.

Statistics showed that the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences gained 160 million yuan (19.4 million US dollars) worth of research funds in fiscal year 2003, double that of 1999. Four non-profit research institutes affiliated to the Ministry of Water Resources got approximately 800 million yuan (96.4 million US dollars) of contractual funds, three times that of 1998. — MNA/Xinhua

Microsoft warns of critical flaw in Windows

SEATTLE (San Francisco), 12 Feb — Microsoft Corp said on Tuesday a "critical" flaw in most versions of its flagship Windows operating system could allow hackers to break into personal computers and snoop on sensitive data.

Although no computers were reported to have been compromised, the world's largest software maker warned that Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 were at risk. Microsoft announced the flaw in its monthly security bulletin.

The company offered software updates to fix the software flaw, which it assigned its most severe rating of "critical."

"It does affect all (current) versions of Windows," said Stephen Toulouse, security programme manager for Microsoft's Security Response Centre. "We're not aware of anyone af-

ected by this at this time."

Marc Maiffret, co-founder of eEye Digital Security, the company that discovered the flaw, criticized Microsoft for taking more than six months to come up with a patch to fix the problem.

The flaw could allow a hacker to break into a computer running Microsoft's Windows operating system in several ways and then use the compromised machine to run malicious programmes and steal or delete key data, Maiffret and other experts said.

Last year Microsoft adopted a new monthly patch release programme, which it said would let customers more easily apply software fixes for security bugs. — MNA/Reuters



Kalina, an 18-year-old killer whale, swims with her newborn calf at SeaWorld Orlando on 9 Feb, 2004, in Orlando, Fla. Kalina gave birth to the 7-foot-long, 350-pound calf in Shamu Stadium's main pool following a seven-hour labour. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Zidane off but Real battle through to King's Cup final

MADRID, 12 Feb—Real Madrid scrambled through to the final of the King's Cup with a 2-1 aggregate victory over Sevilla on Wednesday, despite having Zinedine Zidane sent off in the first half of a 1-0 second-leg defeat.

Real, leading 2-0 after last week's first leg at the Bernabeu, were shocked when Sevilla took the lead just 45 seconds into the return with a great finish from Antonio Lopez.

Carlos Queiroz' side were in further trouble in the final minute of the first half when French international Zidane, the 2003 FIFA World Player of the Year, was red-carded for an apparent slap to the face of Sevilla defender Pablo Alfaro.

Sevilla rattled the Real defence at the start of the first half but suffered a setback after 54 minutes when Javi Navarro received his second yellow card, evening up the numbers.

Sevilla continued to press but Real held out to edge into the final.

Real Zaragoza and Alaves, level at 1-1 after the first leg, will battle it out for the right to meet Real in their semifinal, second-leg match on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Brazilian player Ronaldo, left, is tackled by Sevilla's Javi Navarro during a King's Cup semi-final, 2nd leg, soccer match in Seville, Spain, on 11 Feb, 2004. Real lost the match 1-0 but qualify for the final 2-1 on aggregate.—INTERNET

Celtic march on, but manager O'Neill slams plastic

GLASGOW, 12 Feb—Scottish Premier League leaders Celtic extended their winning run to 22 games on Wednesday with Henrik Larsson netting twice in a 4-1 thumping of Dunfermline Athletic.

Celtic fell behind to Noel Hunt's 20th-minute header at East End Park but were level three minutes later when Larsson nodded home Alan Thompson's corner.

The outstanding Thompson was the provider for further headers from Stanislav Varga on 26 minutes and Larsson again on 43 before the English midfielder netted himself on 68 minutes from a deflected free kick.

Celtic manager Martin

O'Neill was scathing in his criticism of the home side's plastic pitch despite the victory.

"There were some wonderful goals but this is not football as we know it," O'Neill told reporters. "Dunfermline are a passing side and I'm sure some of their players can't like it."

"It was an ice rink towards the end. I believe some other (Scottish) clubs are thinking about doing it but

my viewpoint is they'll get the game done away with."

"The very best players in this country will eventually want to leave because there is nobody who wants to play on it. "If this idea catches on we might as well head for Siberia."

Dunfermline played spiritedly and remain the only SPL side to have taken anything from Celtic in a 0-0 opening game draw — in their final home match on grass — in August.

Champions Rangers remain 11 points behind their Glasgow rivals in second place despite a 2-0 home win over Kilmarnock. Craig Moore scored their opener on 23 minutes before Hamed Namouchi tied up the win with a second 14 minutes from time. League Cup finalists Livingston, who made seven players redundant this week after going into administration, suffered more misery with a 5-2 loss at bottom club Partick Thistle.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy (L) tries to get the ball from Middlesbrough's Chris Riggott (R) during Premiership clash at Old Trafford in Manchester on 11 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

United's title hopes hit by Job winner

LONDON, 12 Feb—Manchester United's title hopes took a severe dent on Wednesday when the Premier League champions lost 3-2 at home to Middlesbrough.

Cameroon international Joseph-Desire Job's fine and turn and shot won the game for Boro 10 minutes from time after United had battled back after trailing by two first-half goals from Brazilian Juninho.

Arsenal, who defeated Southampton 2-0 at home on Tuesday, hold a five-point lead over United with both sides having played 25 games. Third-placed Chelsea, who won 2-0 at Portsmouth with goals from Scott Parker and Hernan Crespo, closed to one point behind United while Liverpool moved up to fourth with a 2-1 home victory over Manchester City.

Two headed goals from Juninho silenced Old Trafford and set United on their way to their second home league defeat of the season. The diminutive midfielder pounced to head home from close range after 34 minutes after a shot from distance by Boro defender Franck Queudrue bounced awkwardly in front of United keeper Tim Howard, who could only palm the ball up on to the crossbar.

The Brazilian struck again four minutes later, powerfully heading home a Stewart Downing cross before Ruud van Nistelrooy gave United a lifeline right on halftime with his 22nd goal of the season.

United upped the pressure after the break and drew level on 63 minutes when van Nistelrooy set up Giggs to stab home.

But hopes of completing a storming comeback with a third goal were ended 10

minutes from time after Job span and fired home from 18 metres. United almost rescued a point in stoppage time but substitute Diego Forlan contrived to hit the crossbar from just four metres out.

Chelsea's new signing Parker paid back a slice of his 10-million-pound transfer fee from Charlton last month, netting his first goal for the club with a crisp volley after 17 minutes at Fratton Park.

Claudio Ranieri's expensively assembled side never fully asserted their authority though and Patrick Berger went close to an equalizer for strugglers Portsmouth when he hit the post with a vicious long-range strike.

Chelsea soaked up the pressure though and substitute Crespo, back after a calf strain, sealed the points 12 minutes from time when he followed up to chest in after Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's lob bounced back off the woodwork. Liverpool's Michael Owen ended his goal drought dating back to October 25 with the first goal at Anfield to pile more pressure on Manchester City boss Kevin Keegan.

City have not won in the league for 14 games and, despite equalizing through Shaun Wright-Phillips, lost to a Steven Gerrard goal six minutes after the break.

Tottenham Hotspur were involved in another thriller, winning 4-2 at Charlton Athletic while Wales international Craig Bellamy marked his first league start since October with a goal in Newcastle United's 1-1 draw at Blackburn Rovers. — MNA/Reuters

Seongnam, Jubilo victorious in Champions League

TOKYO, 12 Feb — South Korea striker Kim Do-hoon scored twice in three minutes to spur Seongnam Ilhwa to a 2-1 victory at Persik Kediri of Indonesia in the Asian Champions League on Wednesday.

The 2003 K-League MVP pounced in the 29th and 31st minutes for the South Korean title holders in their opening Group G match.

Japanese champions Yokohama F-Marineros top the group on goal difference following their 3-0 win over Vietnamese side Binh Dinh on Tuesday.

Another J-League club, Jubilo Iwata came from behind to beat South Korea's Chonbuk Motors 2-1 on scenic Cheju Island thanks to a 68th-minute winner from striker Yasumasa Nishino.

Last year's Champions League runners-up BEC Tero went top of Group E, however, on goal difference, the Thai club thrashing China's Shanghai Shenhua 4-1 in Bangkok.

Elsewhere, Vietnamese champions Hoang Anh were indebted to Thai international Kiattisuk Senamuang, who scored a hat-trick to help his side crush PSM Makassar of Indonesia 5-1 to go top of Group F.

MNA/Reuters

Monaco, Morientes humble Lyon 4-1

PARIS, 12 Feb—A brilliant hat-trick by Fernando Morientes sank French champions Olympique Lyon 4-1 and sent Monaco into the French Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday. Lyon, seeking revenge after going down 3-0 in a Ligue 1 game in the principality a month before, had the best start, opening the scoring through Brazilian Elber in the 14th minute.

Morientes, hired by Monaco at the end of last year's transfer window, brought the principality team back into the game in the dying seconds of the first half.

Two headers by the former Real Madrid player within three minutes, in the 58th and 61st, sealed victory for Monaco.

Croatia's Dado Prso wrapped up the game with a fourth goal in the 86th minute.

The win was all the more impressive as coach Didier Deschamps, who had threatened to field his reserve team to protest at a tight schedule, had left some of his first-choice players on the bench.

Injured midfielder Ludovic Giuly as well as international defenders Patrice Evra and Sebastien Squillaci were among the unused.

MNA/Reuters



Lazio's Fabio Liverani, centre, throws his jersey to the stands at the end of the Italy's Cup soccer match between Lazio and Milan at Rome's Olympic Stadium, on 11 Feb, 2004. Liverani scored for his team, Lazio beat Milan 4-0 and qualified for the final.—INTERNET

Seminar on Introduction to Bangkok Hospital held

YANGON, 12 Feb— The Seminar on An Introduction to the Bangkok Hospital was launched at Traders Hotel at 4 pm today. Head of Department of Medicine Prof U Saw Naing of Institute of Medicine-1, Yangon, extended greetings.

Next, Managing Director Dr Win Zaw Aung of Sea Lion Co Ltd made a presentation about Introduction of Bangkok Hospital Office, Myanmar; and IMC Marketing Manager of Bangkok Hospital Mr Ralf Krewer, Introduction and Information on the Bangkok Hospital. Finally, the seminar was closed with dinner at the hotel.

Royal Physician Prof Nithi Mahanonda, Professor, Associate Director, Bangkok Heart Institute, Bangkok Hospital, together with Dr Kiertjai Bhurpanyo and Dr Sureerat Panyarachun conducted a PTCA demonstration workshop at the Sakura Medical Centre. The same afternoon, the Symposium on Advanced Cardiological and Neuro-Surgical Practices was held at the same hotel. Prof Kiertjai Bhurpanyo provided What's New and What's Next about Cardiology, followed by Dr Dittapong Boonampol, Consultant of Neuro-surgery, Bangkok Hospital provided Neuro-surgical Revolution. Dr Sureerat Panyarachun also provided Indication and Benefits of Angioplasty. Also present on the occasion were doctors from Yangon and Mandalay, persons from private clinics, old patients from Bangkok Hospital and guests.

Bangkok Hospital is currently taking care of Thai Royal Family's health care and also to the public and international patients from around the world. Bangkok Hospital Chain is the biggest private hospital group not only in Thailand but also in ASEAN countries. Those who want overseas medical check-up and treatments can contact Bangkok Hospital Office, Myanmar, at 223, Bo Myat Tun Street, Botahtaung Township, Tel: 202120 and 299576 and 300, 81st Street between 24th and 25th Streets, Mandalay, Tel: 02-32981.— MNA



The seminar on an Introduction to the Bangkok Hospital in progress. — MNA



The press conference on Made in India Show in progress. — MNA

Press conference on Made in India Show held

YANGON, 12 Feb— The press conference related to Made in India Show was held at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road at noon yesterday. The Show, co-organized by the Indian Embassy and the Confederation of Indian Industry of India, will be held at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township from 19 to 22 February.

Present were Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and staff, Deputy Director Mr S Sen and officials of Confederation of Indian Industry of India, Director (News) U Hla Tun of News and Periodicals Enterprise and chief editors of dailies, Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Htwe, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members, journalists and guests.

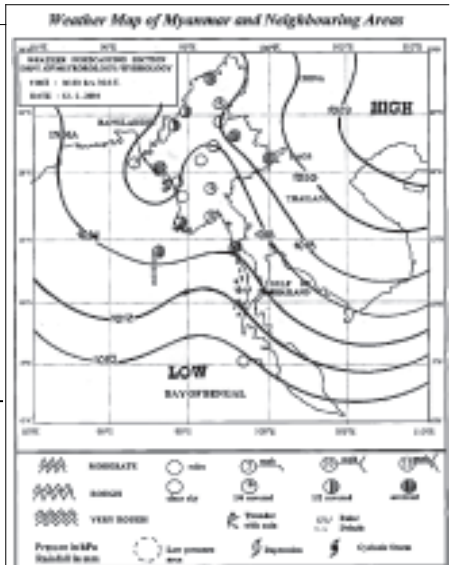
First, the Indian Ambassador made a speech, saying that the Made in India Show will be held in Yangon from 19 to 22 February. India achieves industrial and technological as well as economic development. India is practising the "look east" policy. In recent years, relationship between India and ASEAN has been renewed

and it will be promoted in the long-run. It is one of the main objectives to strengthen trade and economic cooperation. Relationship between India and Myanmar is being developed in all sectors, particularly in trade and economic sectors. With the encouragement of the Indian Government, the Made in India Show will be held and a large number of companies will participate in it.

Next, Mr S Sen explained matters related to products and companies, production technology and service. Later, the ambassador and officials replied to questions raised by journalists.

Iron and steel products, bicycle and spare parts, construction equipment, medicines and medical equipment, cosmetics, garments, handiworks, leatherwares, health service, farming equipment, rattan and furniture, kitchen items, hospital equipment, electronics and pumps will be displayed at the show between 10 am and 6 pm daily from 19 to 22 February.

MNA



WEATHER

Thursday, 12 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C above normal in Bago Division, 5°C above normal in Taninthayi Division, 3°C to 4°C below normal in Chin State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Mandalay Divisions, 5°C below normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. Maximum temperature on 11-2-2004 was 34.0°C. Minimum temperature on 12-2-2004 was 14.8°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 12-2-2004 was 60%. Total sunshine hours on 11-2-2004 was 8.3 hours approx. Rainfall on 12-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. **Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 13-2-2004:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Mon State and 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:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Southern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-2-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-2-2004:** Generally fair weather.



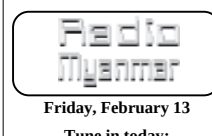
Friday, February 13

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- 8:45 am
10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:25 pm
3. Practice in reading
- 4:40 pm
4. Musical Programme
- 4:55 pm
5. အထူးသတိပြုရန် ပညာရေး ဝန်ကြီးဌာနသို့ အထူးသတိပြုရန် (ရုပ်ပုံအားဖြင့်)
- 5:10 pm
6. (၅၇)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဝတ်ပြုအခမ်းအနား
- 5:25 pm
7. နည်းစနစ်ပိုမိုဆန်းစစ်ရေး အစီအစဉ်
- 5:35 pm
8. Song of national races
- 5:45 pm
9. Song of yesteryears
- 5:55 pm
10. "ဧကန်တပျာအောင်လုပ်ရန်" အကယ်ဒမီ ဝတ်ပြုအခမ်းအနား အကယ်ဒမီ မင်းသမီးများ အကယ်ဒမီ မင်းသားများ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းဝင်း)

- 6:00 pm
11. (၅၇)နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဝတ်ပြုအခမ်းအနား
- 6:15 pm
12. Discovery
- 6:30 pm
13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
15. Milo success in soccer
- 7:10 pm
16. မြိုင်မြိုင်-စာတန်းသုံးတွဲ "မြိုင်မြိုင်-စာတန်းသုံးတွဲ" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 7:40 pm
17. ပြည်ထောင်စု စိတ်ဓာတ် မပြတ် ရှိသော မြိုင်မြိုင်-စာတန်းသုံးတွဲ "မြိုင်မြိုင်-စာတန်းသုံးတွဲ" (အပိုင်း-၁၇) ထောင်စု တိုင်းရင်းသား နေရာတွင်
- 8:00 pm
18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. Teleplay: "ဥပမာ သို့မဟုတ်" (အပိုင်း-၁) ဇော်ဝင်း၊ ဇော်ဝင်း၊ မင်းသမီးများ၊ မြိုင်မြိုင်-စာတန်းသုံးတွဲ ဖန်တီးသူ ဖန်တီးသူ ဖန်တီးသူ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးမြင့်မြင့်)
23. The next day's programme



Friday, February 13

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 - Ghost town (Cheap Trick) - Weekend (Tracy Haung)
- 9:00 pm Special Talk (Join hands together)
- 9:15 pm Article/Music
- 9:25 pm Music at your request -Morning has broken(Cat Stevens) -Thank you for the music (ABBA)
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Senior General Than Shwe's message read out at Union Day flag hoisting ceremony

YANGON, 12 Feb— The 57th Anniversary Union Flag hoisting ceremony was held with full political essence in accord with the 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives: for all national races to safeguard the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people; for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence; to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme, at People's Square on Pyay Road this morning.

The Union Flag that stopped over one night each in four Yangon districts arrived at the People's Square on Pyay Road at 7.20 am on board the Union Boat.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepted the flag from Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint. Next, the mayor, flanked by members of the panel of patrons of 57th Anniversary Union Day Flag hoisting ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, U Pe Be Yan of Kayah State representing the Union

Day delegates, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers, Union nationals and USDA members, conveyed the flag to the People's Square. At 7.30 am, the flag was planted in the silver bowl on the dais in front of emblems of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States. Then, members of the panel of chairmen took the places. The ceremony was attended by CEC members of USDA, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, head of central offices, division and district level authorities, senior military officers of the command headquarters, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, OSDs, members of YCDC and heads of department, rectors, members of 16 NGOs, local and foreign journalists, cultural troupe members of States and Divisions, representatives of State and Division USDas and representatives of peace groups, totalling over 1,200. With a view to ensuring further national consolidation and strengthening friendly relations among national races in hill and plain regions, members of traditional cultural troupe were positioned at the places together with members of the Union Day Organizing Working Committee, senior military officers, departmental heads, rectors and principals and representatives of NGOs.

Altogether over 10,700 public including 3,000 people from townships in Yangon East District, 5,000 from townships in Yangon West District, 1,000 from townships in Yangon North District, 500 from townships in Yangon South District attended the ceremony.

(See page 10)



Curriculum Vitae of Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia

YANGON, 12 Feb— His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, was born on 6 November 1939. He studied at Bertam Primary School, Kepala Batas, High School Bukit Mertajam and Methodist Boys School, Penang. He graduated with BA (Hons) in Islamic Studies from University of Malaya in 1964.

After serving in various capacities in Government Service from 1964 to 1966. His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi was appointed as a Parliamentary Secretary in the Federal Territory Ministry in 1978. He was then promoted to Deputy Minister in the same Ministry in 1980. His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi later held the post of Minister in the Prime Minister's Department from 1981 to 1984; and Minister of Education from 1984 to 1986; Minister of Defence from 1986 to 1987; and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1991 to January 1999. From January 1999 to 30 October 2003, His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi had served as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs.

His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi assumes the post of premiership and Minister of Finance after the retirement of Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad from his premiership on 31 October 2003. He retains his post as Minister of Home Affairs which he held during the previous government. His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi is married to Datin Seri Endon Bt Dato' Mahmood. They have a son and a daughter. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects production process and departments of Hepatitis-B Vaccine Factory in Hlegu.—MNA

Prime Minister inspects Hepatitis-B Vaccine Factory, Mental Health Hospital (Yangon)

YANGON, 12 Feb— Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the site of Hepatitis-B Vaccine Factory construction project of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Hlegu Township this morning.

The Prime Minister was welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads, officials of departments under the Ministry of Health, the deputy director-general of MRD (Lower Myanmar) and researchers.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Director-General Dr Soe Thein of the department reported on progress of the project, installation of machines, test-running, production of vaccines, power and telephone installation, water supply and construction of roads, greening tasks at environs of the factory, implementation of works instructed by the Prime Minister. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo gave supplementary reports.

Then, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on construction of roads and bridges connected with Dagon Myothit (East) Township. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected the vaccine production department, the vaccine quality control department and finishing departments where the minister and the deputy minister conducted the Prime Minister round there.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Mental Health Hospital (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (East) Township where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Sein Lwin, doctors and nurses.

At the hall, Dr Zaw Sein Lwin reported on history of the hospital, location and area, treatment, training and rehabilitation tasks, improvement of in-patients and out-patients, treatment duration, therapies, training programmes, progress of construction works and requirements.

Afterwards, the General gave instructions on construction of Day Care Centre, buildings, the playground and gymnasium in phases in accord with the Master Plan.

The General then donated cash for the patients. Next, he saw over the patient wards, the dining hall, construction of patient ward-5 and the Dhammayon.

Later, the Prime Minister, together with the commander and the mayor, inspected progress of Minye Kyawswa Road and Razadarit Road which connect with No 7 Highway and Pyidaungsu Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and Panglong Road in Dagon Myothit (North) by car and gave instruction to the mayor and officials on maintenance of the roads to be carried out.—MNA

Union Flag conveyed to People's Square from Hlinethaya

YANGON, 12 Feb— The Union Flag that stopped over for one night each on the silver bowl on the dais in the sports grounds in Thanlyin Township on 8 February, in Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 9 February, in Hmawby Township on 10 February and in Hlinethaya Township on 11 February was conveyed to the People's Square on board Union Boat from the sports ground of Hlinethaya Township this morning, and conveyed it again to keep it in the silver bowl on the dais of the parlour of the City Hall. The ceremony to convey Union Flag to the People's Square was held in the sports ground in Hlinethaya Township this morning, attended by more than 8,000 local people. First, they together with the Guard of Honour of Yangon Command saluted the flag to the accompaniment of the band of Tatmadaw (Air). At 6.25 am, Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers, took out the flag from the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Hlinethaya Township and conveyed it. He next handed over the flag to flag relay teams. Later, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint accepted the flag from the relay team and conveyed it onto the Union Boat. He then planted the flag into the silver bowl. Flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers, the Union Flag was conveyed on a grand scale from Prince Kanaung Road in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone to the People's Square through Yangon-Pathein Road, Bayintnaung Bridge, Bayintnaung Road, Nanattaw Road, Pyay Road. The Flag was accorded a rousing welcome by over 25,000 local people including local authorities, students, departmental personnel and people with dancing troupes. At the People's Square, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers, conveyed the flag, and handed it over to Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin. — MNA