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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosts dinner to Union Day delegates

YANGON, 15 Feb — Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosted a dinner in honour of members of traditional cultural troupes of states and divisions, Dawei traditional cultural troupe of Taninthayi Division and delegates of the Union Solidarity and Development Association from states and divisions who attended the 57th Anniversary Union Day ceremony at National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) at 6.30 pm today.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-Chairmen of the Central Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of the management committee for organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, senior military officers, members of the central committee and management committee, the director-general of the SPDC office, departmental heads, chairmen of Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon and Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, officials and special guests. After the dinner, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the Union Day delegates. Later, artistes entertained those present with songs and dances. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greets Union Day delegates at the dinner. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends inauguration of Myingyan GTI

YANGON, 15 Feb — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day with a view to ensuring human resource development, the ceremony to inaugurate the main building of Government Technical Institute (Myingyan) was held at the building in Myingyan, Mandalay Division, on 11 February morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Edu-

cation Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the

State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations, the principal and faculty members of the institute, students and local people.

First, first year mechanical power student Maung Zaw Myo Oo and first year civil student Ma Phyu Maw Maw formally opened the

building.

Next, the Prime Minister and party had photo taken together with teachers and students in front of the building.

Then, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party planted Gangaw (Mesua ferrea), Star-flower and gum-kino trees in the compound of the building to mark its opening ceremony.

emony.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt then unveiled the plaque of the building. The Prime Minister and party then sprinkled scented water on it.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected the computer hall and the e-library of the Myingyan GTI. — MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

Keep up development momentum (Page 2)

Article

They admire and highly regard the Union of Myanmar (Page 7)

Circulation

23,188



Opening ceremony of Myingyan Government Technical Institute hailing 57th Anniversary Union day in progress on 11-2-2004. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 16 February, 2004

Keep up development momentum

The State Peace and Development Council is making earnest efforts in all sectors for the nation to become a peaceful, modern and developed one. After taking up duties of the State, the Tatmadaw government has been making all-out efforts for national and regional development. Due to active cooperation of regional administrative bodies, fruitful results have been achieved in a short period of time.

Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and the law have prevailed and national reconsolidation can be built. Better foundations in economic, social and transport sectors were laid and all regions in the country have considerably developed.

The Government has been implementing the border area development projects, the 24 special development regions projects and the five rural development tasks for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the Union with a view to enabling the nation made up of 14 States and Divisions to stand tall among the world nations, to further cementing national solidarity, and to maintaining the development momentum for a long time.

There are a great deal of tasks to be carried out in building the nation into a modern and developed one and those tasks are being implemented simultaneously. Progress has been made due to unity and endeavours at different levels. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win met with members of Kachin State Peace and Development Council, Myitkyina District and Township Peace and Development Council chairmen and members, ward and village-tract chairmen and members at the town hall in Myitkyina on 9 February.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that township, ward and village administrative bodies are those that directly deal with the people and their wrongdoing can tarnish the image of the higher levels; that ward and village administrative bodies, the most basic levels, are closely dealing with the people; and that therefore special care should be taken in order not to show disregard towards the people and not burdening them with their wrongdoing. Authorities at state, division, district, township and ward and village levels are the ones that are assigned duties by the State.

They are to exchange experiences with each other and need to remove the tendency to shirk and neglect duty and responsibility. In this way, dignity of the life of the personnel serving the interest of community with goodwill can be preserved.

As fruitful results have been achieved in nation-building tasks in a short period of time, local administrative bodies are urged to keep up the development momentum.

U Ohn Pe Literary Award presentation ceremony on 22 Feb

YANGON, 15 Feb — The winners in U Ohn Pe Literary Award for 2003, scholarship and Pakokku Library Book Award have already been announced. As the prize presentation ceremony will be held at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku on 22 February morning, the winners are to contact Sarpay Beikman, 529/531, Merchant Street, Tel: 252560 and 240048, as soon as possible.

The winners are to arrive in Pakokku on 20 February evening and those in Yangon wishing to attend the ceremony are to contact in person to officials concerned not later than 11 am on 18 February. Entries for five genres for U Ohn Pe Literary Award— collected poems, novel, collected short story, treatise and research— are to be submitted to Sarpay Beikman, not later than 30 September 2004.— MNA

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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



MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains functions of the MWAF. — MNA

Organizational set-up and functions of MWAF explained at MMA

YANGON, 15 Feb — President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party explained organizational set-up and functions of MWAF to members of Myanmar Women's Medical Association (Yangon) at MMA hall on Theinbyu Street at 3 pm today.

Also present were Vice-Presidents Professor Dr Daw May May Yi and Daw Than Than Nwe, executives, Secretariat members, Chairman of MMA Prof Dr U Myo

Myint and executives, member doctors, patrons of the Myanmar Women's Medical Association (Yangon) and members. Chairman of MMA Prof Dr U Myo Myint gave a speech. Then, Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May May Yi clarified organizational set-up of the MWAF and submitting of membership applications.

Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explained functions of the federation. — MNA

Narcotic drugs seized in Myeik, Muse

YANGON, 15 Feb — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force members and Kawthoung Special Anti-drug Squad, Bureau of Special Investigation and Special Investigation Department and Criminal Investigation Department, acting on information, searched a suspect, Ma San San Wai, at Nguwa-2 Street, Satwin Ward, Myeiktaung Region, on 30 December 2003 and seized her together with 70 grams of speciosa.

According to further investigations, 32 packets of speciosa weighing 2.24 kilos were seized from her house, Pale (2) Street in Myothit (2) Ward, Myeiktaung Region.

Similarly, a combined team including members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force members and Muse Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched a car with the number plates Hsa/7964 of Shwe Raza Motor Vehicle Association en route from Muse to Namkham at the entrance to Kaungsa Village in Nankham Township on 21 January, and arrested Ma Laphai Jar Ein on board along with 26 grams of heroin hidden in two soap cases from her bag.

Action is being taken against the culprits by the police stations concerned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA



Ma San San Wai with seized drugs. — MNA



Ma Laphai Jar Ein with seized drugs. — MNA

Iraq resistance may have inside information

BAGHDAD, 15 Feb—Pentagon officials have expressed concern that resistance fighters may be staging attacks in Iraq based on inside information about US operations.

The concerns were raised on Thursday after recent strikes against three high-profile Americans.

General John Abizaid, who commands US troops in the Gulf, came under attack in Falluja on Thursday when fighters shot rocket-propelled grenades at his convoy. Abizaid and his party were unharmed.

Defence officials said the Pentagon was aware that the Iraqi resistance might seek to infiltrate security forces created by the United States or to place a "mole" inside US-led civilian operations in the country.

"If you ask anyone, they'll all say, 'Yeah, it's a concern.' There's no two ways about it," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Certainly we monitor the situation very closely," another said. "It's something that we've always been aware of and have taken steps to prevent."

On 26 October, rockets struck the Baghdad hotel where Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying.

And on 6 December, a motorcade carrying US occupation administrator Paul Bremer was ambushed near Baghdad International Airport.

Defence analyst Charles Pena of the Cato Institute said

the number of times fighters have been able to target high-profile Americans is disturbing.

"That's something you cannot do that many times, I would argue, simply through sheer luck and coincidence. They have to be getting some kind of information," Pena said.—*Internet*

Gunmen open fire on Iraqi police station

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 15 Feb— Gunmen opened fire on a police station and a local government building in the volatile Iraqi town of Fallujah on Saturday, witnesses said.

A hospital official said several people had been brought in for treatment, but reports of deaths could not be immediately confirmed.

Guerillas in Fallujah, a hotbed of anti-American activity 32 miles west of Baghdad, have frequently attacked US troops and Iraqis who cooperate with them, especially police. Witnesses said parts of the city were cordoned off.

MNA/Reuters

Two island soldiers wounded in Iraq

HONOLULU, 15 Feb — Two members of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) were wounded in separate incidents this week in the area around the northern Iraqi city of Al Huwajah.

The Schofield Barracks soldiers were transported to Landstuhl, Germany, for medical treatment.

Captain Nathan Minami says Staff Sergeant Christopher Hendry suffered an eye injury when a bomb exploded Wednesday in front of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle he was riding in.

Minami says Private First Class Chris Tenayuca was shot in the arm Tuesday during a search in Al Huwajah.

The 35-year-old Hendry is from Fort Worth, Texas, while the 21-year-old Tenayuca is from San Antonio. They are among about four-thousand Schofield Barracks soldiers who deployed in January. —*Internet*



The CIA, under fire over its intelligence about Iraq's arms programmes, has posted a notice on its web site offering rewards for information on the elusive weapons. A file photo of a Danish soldier examining a mortar shell unearthed near Basra, in a photo released recently. —*INTERNET*

Assembly of Digital Solidarity Fund Initiators set up in Dakar

KIGALI, 15 Feb — The Assembly of the Digital Solidarity Fund Initiators was established in Dakar, capital of Senegal, on Friday following a meeting between the Senegalese President and the mayors of the cities of Geneva, Lyon, Turin and Dakar.

The idea is to extend this initiative to the cities of Asia, Canada, the United States, Africa and Latin America, according to a progress report on the digital solidarity fund issued here on Saturday during the summit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) held here on February 13-14.

The city of Lyon is going to contact them with proposals and ask them whether they agree to participate in the fund as founding members, said the report.

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade is responsible for initiating contacts with the states pending the establishment of a committee of sponsors comprising some African, Asian, European and Latin American countries as well as Canada and the United States.

Furthermore, the fund initiators will work concomitantly with the United Nations, which is going to conduct the feasibility study of the fund, said the report.

During the summit, both Wade and Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore proposed to establish an institute of good governance to ensure that the good governance eventually becomes a reality in every African country.

"For this reason, we

propose to establish an Institute of Good Governance whose main objective would be to train Africans of all walks of life, from the private or public sector, with a view to familiarizing them with good governance."

Over 10 heads of state and government from African countries that have signed up to NEPAD attended the annual summit here on Friday over the economic plan for the continent. —*MNA/Xinhua*

China boasts 425,000 associations for senior citizens

BEIJING, 15 Feb— China has set up 425,000 associations for its elderly people, whose number grows about 3 per cent yearly, according to sources with a relevant government office on aging on Thursday.

About 66 per cent of urban communities and 56 per cent of rural villages have founded such associations,

said sources, noting that China will pay more attention to the aging problem in vast rural areas.

In the Year 2000, China already had 130 million elderly people over 60 years old, and the number of those in the age group over 80 increases by 5 per cent annually, the figures showed.

MNA/Xinhua

Secret US study raised possibility that weapons would not be found

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb— A classified US intelligence study done three months before the invasion of Iraq predicted that weapons of mass destruction might never be found there, the USA Today newspaper said.

The newspaper said the study by a team of US intelligence analysts, military officers and Pentagon civilians warned that US tactics, guerrilla warfare, looting and lying by Iraqi officials would undermine the search for banned Iraqi weapons.

The document was described to the daily by three high-ranking US intelligence officials. USA Today said it had also obtained portions of the study.

"Locating a program that ... has been driven by denial and deception imperatives is no small task," the paper quotes the De-

cember 2002 report as saying.

"Prolonged insecurity with factional violence and guerrilla forces still at large would be the worst outcome for finding Saddam's WMD arsenal."

Officials said the report went to the National Security Council but was not specifically shown to President George W Bush, the paper said.

The findings diverge from pre-war statements by US officials saying that caches of banned weapons would be found in Iraq.

Internet



Protesters shout slogans as they march towards the gates of the US-controlled Abu Ghraib prison, 20 kilometres west of Baghdad, Iraq on 14 Feb, 2004 for a rally demanding the release of prisoners captured by US forces during the war on Iraq.

INTERNET

US hotel giant enters China market

HANGZHOU, 15 Feb— US-based Carlson Hotels Worldwide, together with Scott Wilson from Britain, signed an agreement Wednesday with a Chinese company to build its first hotel in China.

The hotel, to be built in Ningbo, a booming port city in east China's Zhejiang Province, will cost over 500 million yuan (60 million US

dollars) and will be a five-star hotel, sources with the developers said.

Carlson has been in talks with partner companies in Beijing and Shanghai, and it expected to open eight more hotels in major cities of China, company sources said. An international leading hotel group, Carlson Hotels Worldwide owns about 1,700 hotels, inns and

restaurants in 82 countries and regions with a total employment of 200,000.

Scott Wilson specializes in engineering and designing. It has five branch companies and 300 technicians and experts in China. China Yuanwang Huaxia Co Ltd, their Chinese partner based in Ningbo, is a leading local house developer.

MNA/Xinhua

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

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb—As of Friday, 537 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 373 died as a result of hostile action and 164 died of other causes, the department said.

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

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 399 US soldiers have died 258 as a result of hostile action and 141 of other causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,629 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Nonhostile injured numbered 410.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A 16th Military Police Brigade soldier was killed Thursday evening in an attack in Baghdad.

Identifications reported by the military:

Army Sgt Patrick Tainsh, 33, Oceanside, Calif.; killed Wednesday by an explosive while on patrol in Baghdad; assigned to Troop E, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armoured Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La.

Army Pfc William Ramirez, 19, Portland, Ore.; killed Wednesday by an explosive while on patrol in Baghdad; assigned to Troop E, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armoured Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La.

Internet



An Iraqi woman, whose relative is detained in Abu Ghraib prison, weeps as hundreds of protesters march towards the prison's gates, 20 kilometres west of Baghdad, Iraq on 14 Feb, 2004 demanding the release of prisoners captured by US forces during the war on Iraq.

INTERNET

New Zealand scientists to join study on world climate

WELLINGTON, 15 Feb — A New Zealand research ship will set sail from Wellington for Chile on Sunday as part of a major international project to understand and predict world climate phenomena.

Oceanographer Philip Sutton, from New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (Niwa), said in a statement Friday that the ship *Kaharoa* will deploy 61 high-tech drifting floats, worth about 13,800 US dollars each into the ocean.

Over the next five years, the floats will provide real-time measurements of the temperatures and salinity of the upper ocean that will help forecast long-term climate change and events like El Nino and tropical cyclones.

"The float sinks to a depth of between 1,600 and 2,000 metres where it remains for nine or 10 days carried by ocean currents," Dr Sutton said.

"It then rises to the surface, measuring the temperature and salinity through the water column as it ascends."

"Once on the surface, the float transmits this information and its location via a satellite," he said.

"We don't have much information on the temperature and salinity of the South Pacific, so these floats will play a very important role in helping to fill this gap," he said.

The voyage — the first of three planned by Niwa this year — is a joint collaboration with the University of Washington and Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego.

The global programme, which is called Argo, aims to deploy and maintain 3,000 drifting floats in the world's oceans by 2006.

There are currently 1,029 active floats deployed by 17 countries throughout the world.

"Information from all the floats is shared internationally, and will be invaluable for monitoring the state of the ocean, predicting weather and cyclones, and studying global climate," Sutton said. — MNA/Xinhua

ATHENS, 15 Feb— The Greek capital shut down on Friday when one of the worst snow storms in decades grounded planes, closed ports and highways and stranded thousands of people at bus stops and train stations.

The Acropolis, symbol of the city, was closed because guards said it would be too dangerous to climb up the slippery marble stairway to the temple site.

Meteorologists had warned in advance about the storm, that started on Thursday evening and has already coated Athens with up to 50 centimetres of snow. "It is still too early to say how heavy this storm is but it certainly is one of the heaviest snow falls in decades," a national weather centre official told Reuters.

The blizzard even paralysed Greek political life. Foreign Minister George Papandreou called off a ceremony where he was scheduled to formally resign to lead the governing socialists in the campaign for March 7 general elections. — MNA/Reuters

Greece paralysed by worst snow in decades

Three killed in avalanche in western Canada

OTTAWA, 15 Feb— Three ice climbers were killed after being caught in an avalanche Thursday in Banff National Park in Canada's western province of Alberta, reports reaching here said Friday.

Their names and hometowns were not released pending notification of next of kin but early reports indicated they were from the United States, an official of the national parks said.

The three, part of two climbing parties, were on Mount Wilson north of Lake Louise when the avalanche apparently knocked them off their climbing route Thursday.

Two were found Thursday while the third was located Friday morning after a dozen park wardens using avalanche dogs and probes combed the avalanche debris at the bottom of an ice waterfall where the trio had been ice climbing. Last year was the worst year for avalanche deaths in Canada. According to the Canadian Avalanche Association there were 29 deaths due to avalanches.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed, nine wounded in Afghan attack

KHOST (Afghanistan), 15 Feb— At least two Afghans and a US soldier were killed and 15 people wounded on Friday in separate incidents in Afghanistan, police and the US military said.

The US Central Command said a US soldier was killed and nine others wounded by a mine near Ghazni. The incident was under investigation and no further details were available. In Khost, at least two Afghans were killed and six wounded in an explosion at a government military post near the former Taliban stronghold in southeastern Afghanistan, police said.

The blast came hours after more than 20 rockets landed near Khost's airport, where US-led forces are based, they said. It was the biggest single rocket attack since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001, but US military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Hiltferty reported no casualties.

"There were no coalition casualties," he said in a statement. — MNA/Reuters

British soldiers face new charges of Iraq brutality

LONDON, 15 Feb—British soldiers called hooded Iraqi detainees by footballers' names as they kicked and beat them, *The Independent* on Sunday has been told. One of the Iraqis subsequently died.

Kifah Taha, a hotel worker who suffered acute renal failure after being kicked by soldiers during questioning, said each of the Iraqis was given a nickname.

"They called us by the names of footballers," he said, "and kept telling us to repeat them, so we would remember who we were."

One of Mr Taha's hotel colleagues, Baha Mousa, a 26-year-old receptionist, died in custody after being arrested with seven of his colleagues in Basra last September by troops from the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, based in Catterick in North Yorkshire. The Ministry of Defence said last week that reports of a possible manslaughter charge were "speculation". The MoD is investigating the previously unreported death in British custody of Ather Karen al-Mowafakiaon 29 April last year. Officials say his death was listed separately from six other deaths in custody because it occurred before the end of the Iraq war.

Adam Price, a Plaid Cymru MP, said he had been warned off visiting Basra next month to make further inquiries.

"I will be given no protection and my safety cannot be guaranteed," he said. "The Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, has told me that if I do go I 'will be killed'."

There seems to be a deliberate attempt to prevent the information reaching the public domain - because these are embarrassing headlines. — Internet



World Press Photo of the year 2003 and first prize People in the News singles category by French photographer Jean-Marc Bouju of The Associated Press, showing an Iraqi man comforting his 4-year-old son at a regroupment center for POW's in Najaf, Iraq, March 31, 2003. — INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Protesters shout slogans as they march towards the gates of the US-controlled Abu Ghraib prison, 20 kilometres west of Baghdad, Iraq on Saturday 14 Feb, 2004 for a rally demanding the release of prisoners captured by US forces during the war on Iraq.—INTERNET



An armed Iraqi man takes cover on the streets of Falluja, 35 miles south of Baghdad, on Saturday 14 Feb, 2004 in this image taken from video. —INTERNET



US soldiers take positions near the explosion site south of Baghdad on 10, Feb, 2004.—INTERNET



A crowd of Iraqis look over the scene of an explosion at a police station in Iskandariyah, south of Baghdad, on Tuesday, 10 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET



Scores of gunmen firing mortars and grenades stormed Iraqi security posts in Falluja on 14 Feb, killing 22 people including 14 police in the latest audacious strike. The picture shows a group of US soldiers securing an attacked police station in Falluja.

INTERNET

A US soldier inspects the site where a suicide car bomb exploded on 10 Feb. At least 55 people were killed and 65 wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a pick-up truck packed with explosives outside a police station south of Baghdad.

INTERNET



Dozens of anti-American guerillas storm Iraqi security compounds in Falluja

FALLUJA, 15 Feb—Dozens of anti-American guerillas stormed Iraqi security compounds in the volatile town of Falluja on Saturday in a bold attack that left at least 22 people dead and freed a number of prisoners.

Falluja police chief Aboud al-Dulaimi said about 70 guerillas firing rockets, mortars and machineguns launched the closely coordinated attack on a police headquarters as well as on a compound for the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) and the mayor's office.

Police and hospital officials said 14 policemen, four insurgents and four civilians were killed in the attack, the latest in a series of assaults on Iraqi security forces seen by the insurgents as supporting the US occupation.

At least 35 others were wounded in the attack.

An Iraqi police officer said the guerillas outgunned the policemen at the station. A government building situated several hundred metres (yards) away was assaulted at

the same time.

"Unknown men fired mortars, explosives and light machineguns from four directions. Their weapons were more powerful than our *Kalashnikovs*," said police officer Earazan Abu Issa, who was outside the police station when it was attacked.

The attack signalled a growing boldness on the part of insurgents fighting US-led forces and Iraqis they regard as supporting the occupiers.

US planes circled overhead and dropped heat balloons to divert heat-seeking anti-aircraft missiles, witnesses said.

Guerillas have killed more than 600 security and police forces since April in an attempt to undermine US efforts to prepare Iraqis to take over security of the country.

Internet



Iraqi men take cover on the streets of Falluja, 35 miles south of Baghdad, on 14 Feb, 2004 in this image taken from video. Guerillas stormed an Iraqi security compound and a government building on Saturday in an attack that left 20 people dead, hospital officials said.—INTERNET

Study says maternal love affects brain like romance

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — Love may indeed be blind, whether it is love for a new born or its father, British researchers reported on Friday.

Scanners showed the brains of young mothers lit up in the same way when they looked at their babies as the brains of people who looked at images of their lovers.

And the region activated told an important story, too. It was an area known as the reward system.

Parts of the brain also turned off when looking at a lover, spouse or child—and that was the system involved in making negative judgments, the team at University College London said.

Writing in the journal *NeuroImage*, they said their finding suggests that to some degree, love really is blind to faults.

"Both romantic and maternal love are highly rewarding experiences that are linked to the perpetuation

of the species, and consequently have a closely linked biological function of crucial evolutionary importance," said Andreas Bartels of UCL's Wellcome Department of Imaging Neuroscience, who led the study.

His team scanned the brains of 20 young mothers using functional magnetic resonance imaging, which can show brain activity as it happens.

They had already documented how the brain responds when people see images of their lovers.

The young women were shown pictures of their own children, children they knew and adult friends, to make sure that feelings of familiarity and friendship were not interfering.

There was a special pat-

tern when the mothers saw their babies, and much of it overlapped with the pattern seen when people look at their lovers, Bartels and colleague Semir Zeki found.

The areas activated were brain cells known to be sensitive to oxytocin, a message-carrying chemical associated with sensations such as euphoria, pleasure and love.

This explains the "power of love to motivate and exhilarate", the researchers wrote.

The deactivated areas included those involved in negative judgments and critical thinking.

"Our research enables us to conclude that human attachment employs a push-pull mechanism," they wrote.

MNA/Reuters

မြန်မာ့သတင်းစာ

Report says BBC could lose independence

LONDON, 15 Feb—The UK government is contemplating breaking up the BBC and stripping the broadcaster of its independent status, a British newspaper has reported.

The *Sunday Times* said government papers prepared by senior civil servants propose to split the BBC into separate regional entities for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It has also been proposed that the job of ensuring the BBC's impartiality be taken away from the corporation's board of governors.

The newspaper report comes as the BBC negotiates an uncertain future in the wake of the Hutton inquiry, which castigated it for misreporting on British pre-war intelligence on Iraq.

The inquiry by Lord Brian Hutton, following the death of weapons expert David Kelly, concluded last month that the BBC story alleging the government had "sexed

up" intelligence to justify the invasion was unfounded.

According to *The Sunday Times*, the new plans for the BBC will bring accusations that "the government is gearing up to exploit the fall-out from the Hutton inquiry."

Plans being considered include giving a government media watchdog greater control over the BBC's output, closing BBC outlets which are not considered public services and even forcing the corporation to share some of its licence fee revenue with other broadcasters.

Opinion polls after the Hutton inquiry showed that many people considered its verdict a "whitewash," and that they trusted the BBC far more than they did Prime Minister Tony Blair and his ministers.—Internet

Spring soldier headed to Iraq dies in crash

GATESVILLE, 15 Feb—An Army reserve soldier preparing for deployment to Iraq was killed in a one-vehicle accident, military officials said today.

Spc Jeremy R Smith of Spring died Friday morning when his personal vehicle went off the road and ran into a tree near Gatesville, Fort Hood officials said.

Gatesville is located a few miles north of Fort Hood. Smith, 22, was assigned to the 961st Quartermaster Company, a US Army

Reserve unit based in McAllen.

The unit was mobilized in early December and has been training at Fort Hood since 10 Dec. The unit's soldiers are scheduled to depart for Iraq within the next few days.

The accident is under investigation.

Internet

Arab FM's to meet on postwar Iraq

KUWAIT, 15 Feb—Iraq's neighbours are gathering in Kuwait City for top-level talks on the post-war situation and the effects on the region of the war-ravaged country.

Iraqi interim Foreign Minister Hushyar Zebari, meeting his regional counterparts for the first time, arrived in the Kuwait capital on Saturday, refusing to talk to reporters after being received by his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaikh Muhammad al-Sabah.

The two-day conference, the fifth of its kind, is scheduled to kick off at 6.00 pm (1500 GMT) on Saturday,

grouping the foreign ministers of Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Bahrain and Egypt.

"Iraq, which is attending this meeting for the first time, will request from its neighbours proof of goodwill on the level of security and co-operation," an Arab official in Kuwait told AFP.

A senior Arab official earlier said the forum "will allow Iraq to air its concerns and enable its neighbours to explain theirs".

"It is important to work together for a situation where the Iraqi people regain their full sovereignty, and this should pave the way for sta-

bility," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Mahir told *al-Qabas* daily before his arrival. "I believe that the key issue that may achieve normality is to arrive at a settlement among Iraqis that guarantees they regain practicing full sovereignty over their united territories," Mahir said.

"The meeting will discuss the means of helping the Iraqi people in the political construction of their state and recovering their sovereignty, as well as helping with the reconstruction itself," Mahir also said in Cairo before leaving for Kuwait.—Internet



This colour image taken by the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit's panoramic camera shows a flakey rock called Mimi, centre, in this image released by NASA on 13 Feb, 2004. Mimi's flakey appearance leads scientists to a number of hypotheses. Mimi could have been subjected to pressure either through burial or impact, or may have once been a dune that was cemented into flakey layers, a process that sometimes involves the action of water, according to NASA officials.—INTERNET

They admire and highly regard the Union of Myanmar

U Maung Maung Soe Tint (Retired Ambassador)

Those professors PhD degree holders, researchers and observers were from famous universities of Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore, Thailand, UK, the US, Vanuatu and Vietnam and so on. With best regards and admiring and adoring Myanmar's traditions, customs and culture, they paid a visit to Myanmar under their own arrangements to observe as well as to discuss points about Myanmar.

Some big powers would not like their plan to visit Myanmar. Disregarding that, they did come here. Their affection for Myanmar outweighed their governments' attitude. It indicates that no one can isolate Myanmar with own fine traditions and culture.

They willingly attended the Conference on Traditions of Knowledge of Southeast Asia held in Yangon last December. A total of 45 papers were submitted at the conference. Among them, 34 were related to facts about Myanmar — 22 by foreign nations and 12 by the host. They had to come to Myanmar for several times to complete their papers and so it showed how much they took interest in Myanmar's culture, traditions and customs.

Their papers dealt with various subjects such as religion, culture, literature, Kayin and Shan national races, traditional medical science, Myanmar's history and civilization, worshipping in nats, and Myanmar-Thai duet fights with lances riding elephants. They took interest in and knew more about Myanmar than I did and thus I acknowledged their affection for Myanmar. I would like to present some of their papers.

With regard to the religion of Myanmar, the paper "A country modeled by Buddhist Traditions" was presented by French researcher Dr Guy Lutreigt, and When the "Thread doesn't snap": "Lineage, Continuity and Tradition From a Shwegyin Perspective" by researcher of Chicago University Mr Jason Andrew Carbinen.

Concerning Myanmar's culture and literature, Lecturer of Cornell University Daw San San Hnin Tun presented the paper "The Role of Knowledge in Myanmar Language Instruction"; researcher of Denison University

in the US Ms. Alexandra Green, "The Denison University Collection of Myanmar Art "Acquisition and Analysis"; researcher of the Stadner & Associates of the US Mr Donald M. Stadner, "The Fallacy of Pyu Art" Dr Annemrie Esche of Humboldt University of Germany, "The Tradition of Reference Books in Myanmar and the Challenges of The Present Time; and Professor Dr Takahito Onishi of Kinki University of Japan, "Harp of Myanmar" and the "Southeast Asian influence on the modern Japanese minds".

In connection with Myanmar national races, Professor Dr Takatani Michio of Hiroshima University of Japan presented the paper "Ethnic Identity and Knowledge of Shan"; researcher Mr Ikeda Kazuto of Tokyo University of Japan, "Various Versions of the Kayin History knowledge of the Part among the Buddhist and Christian Kayin"; and researcher Dr Sun Laichen of Singapore National University, "Histories of Gwe, Gueo, Kui Peoples in Mainland Southeast Asia". Professor Dr Chowdhury Anwar Husain of Dhaka University, Bangladesh, reported on Myanmar traditional medicine in his paper "Indigenous Medical Knowledge: Myanmar".

In connection with Myanmar history, Dr Aurore Candier of Eoole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in France submitted paper on "Imagination and Knowledge: Some Comments on Rumours in the Mid-nineteenth Century Konbaung Court, Dr Wil O Dijk of Leiden University of the Netherlands on "Life in Seventeenth Century Myanmar through Dutch Eyes" and Dr Sunait Chutintaranond of Chulalongkorn University on "The Rite of Elephant Duel in Thai-Myanmar Military History".

Dr Elizabeth Moore of London University reported on construction of ancient city structure in her paper on "Ancient Knowledge and Use of Landscape in Walled Settlements in Lower Myanmar", researcher Mr Bob Hudson of Sydney University on "Myanmar's Early Urban Centres: Some Proposals for Computer Mapping and Analysis of Archaeological Data". He told me to observe the ancient site of the city in Hsinshin Village near Mintoingbin Village after I had informed him about it.

In connection with worshipping of Nat, Dr Benedicte Brac dela Perriere of CNRS department in France submitted paper on "Ritual as Knowledge and its Transmission Concerning the Cult of Thirty-Seven Lords."

Researchers and scholars from various countries talked to each other during the tea and lunch break. They really love and respect Myanmar. They told me they would come to Myanmar again. They are good friends who have given lectures on Myanmar history and high cultural tradition in their respective countries. They will love Myanmar whatever the respective government's policy is.

I write this article to present this point. The citizens of the Union of Myanmar too should be proud of their country. We, Myanmar people study more about our own country and write on it after loving and cherishing her more.

Retired ambassador U Thet Tun, Dr Thaw Kaung, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, Professor U Tun Aung Chein, Daw Ni Ni Myint, Daw Kyawt Kyawt, U Aung Than Tun, Dr Khin Aye, Dr Tin Soe, U Tin Win, U Kyaw Win Oo and U Sein Myint submitted 12 research papers. The researchers are in their old age now. New generation researchers are to be nurtured.

In honour of the Union Day I wrote an article "The Union we love and cherish" in 13-2-2003 issue of *Myanma Alin* last year. The Union Spirit of national races is not the same as that of other countries. No one created it politically, religiously and militarily. The spirit has emerged based on the love for the country formed in the hearts of the people.

Therefore, our Union Spirit is like the earth. It cannot be destroyed. It is like the open sky. It cannot be tarnished with inharmonious colours. It is like River Ayeyawady that flows forever. It cannot be burnt. I believe nothing can destroy the Union Spirit. I urged all of us to make endeavours for prosperity of the Union in unity.

This is our spirit and determination to love and cherish the Union forever.

(Translation MS+ NY)
(*Myanma Alin* 13-2-2004)

Information Minister inspects Thongwa Township Information and Public Relations Department

YANGON, 15 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this morning inspected Information and Public Relations Department in Thongwa Township and gave necessary instructions.

Accompanied by officials of IPRD (Head Office), Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan arrived at Thongwa Township IPRD where they were welcomed by departmental officials and staff.

First, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected the wall magazine, documentary photos of township activities, the TV hall and

the reading room and gave necessary instructions.

At the reading room, Head of Township IPRD U Nyunt Swe reported on tasks being carried out.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave instructions on showing of the wall magazine not only in front of the office but also at the public places, efforts to be made for opening the libraries in every village, development of self-reliant libraries, sending of mobile libraries to every village to give knowledge to the people, arrangements to be made for sending one

newspaper or journal to every village, dissemination of information tasks to border areas and far-flung rural regions and improvement of media coverage.

Next, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted K 100,000 for Thongwa Township IPRD library donated by U Myint Oo-Daw Thit Thit Oo and family of Kamayut Township; and K 50,000 by U Hla Aye-Daw Myint Yi and family of 14th Street, Ward 3 in Thakayta Township.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets staff at the MEB branch in Myeik. — MNA

F&R Minister inspects departmental tasks

YANGON, 15 Feb — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Customs Department Director General Col Khin Maung Lin

and officials arrived at Myeik on 13 February and inspected Myanma Economic Bank (District Branch) in Myeik Township. Myanma Economic Bank Managing Director U Soe Tin, General Manager U Aung Myint and the manager of MEB (District Branch) reported on conditions of the bank building and banking services. The minister next gave necessary instructions.

At the meeting hall

of the bank, the minister met with personnel of Myeik District under the ministry, and officials reported on their respective tasks. Next, the minister gave necessary instructions.

The minister also inspected the office of the Head of Divisional Revenue Department.

The minister today met departmental staff of the ministry at Kawthoung Township Hall and made a speech. — MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Thongwa Township IPRD. — MNA

U Ohn Pe scholarships announced

YANGON, 15 Feb — Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Fund Supervisory Committee announced winners of scholarship to University of Culture for 2003. They were first year music major student Ma Naw Thu Lay Phaw Wai of UC (Yangon) and first year student Ma Thet Mar Soe majoring in drama of UC (Mandalay). Prizes will be presented to the two students at the U Ohn Pe Literary Award presentation ceremony in Pakokku on 22 February. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the main building of Myingyan GTI on 11-2-2004.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt plants a Gangaw tree (*Mesua ferrea*) in the compound of the main building at Myingyan GTI on 11-2-2004.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveils bronze plaque of the main building of Myingyan Government Technical Institute on 11-2-2004.— MNA



MBA students visit factories

YANGON, 15 Feb — The students of first year (evening class) of MBA (Master of Business Administration) led by Professor Daw Nu Nu Yin of Management Department of Yangon Institute of Economics yesterday visited Maple garment factory in Pale Myothit and Seinle Myay Foodstuff Industry in Hlinethaya industrial zone here.

Responsible officials concerned welcomed them and explained about the factories. The students were then conducted round the factories.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for documentary photo with teachers and students in front of Myingyan GTI on 11-2-2004.— MNA

Minister inspects development tasks in Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 15 Feb — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint donated provisions to Htupayon Shwekyauing Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Nanobhava in Sagaing, Agga Maha Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Samvara bhivamsa at Shwe hintha Taikthit in Sagaing and Agga Maha Pandita Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Agga Maha Sad-dhammaj otikadhaja Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda vamsa at Hanthathiri Monastery in Sagaing on 13 February morning.

Yesterday morning, the minister attended the ceremony to put into service the rural development base camp and the entrance road to Buta Village, ChaungU Township and explained seven-step road map for future programmes of the State. Then, the minister presented K 100,000, sports gears and periodicals to the base camp. The base camp was built at a cost of K 1.2 million and the road is 15 feet wide and one mile long.

In Kyaukse, the minister inspected construction of new gymnasium and renovation of the sports ground.

This morning, the minister saw over upgrading of the sports ground in Mahaangmye Township in Mandalay and Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) and fulfilled the requirements.— MNA

စောနာရှင်ပြည်သူများခင်ဗျား

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသော ကျေးလက်ဒေသများတွင် သန့်ရှင်းသော သောက်သုံးရေရရှိစေရန် ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ရေလျှော့ချနိုင်ခြင်းဖြင့် မတောင်းဘဲနှင့် ပြည့်စုံနိုင်သော အကျိုးဆယ်ပါးရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါးမှာ—

- (၁) လျင်မြန်ခြင်း၊
- (၂) သန့်ရှင်းစင်ကြယ်ခြင်း၊
- (၃) ကျွေးကြားလူသိများခြင်း၊
- (၄) ဆာလောင်မွတ်သိပ်မှုကင်းခြင်း၊
- (၅) အခြေအရာများခြင်း၊
- (၆) အသက်ရှည်ခြင်း၊
- (၇) အဆင်းလျခြင်း၊
- (၈) ချမ်းသာကြီးခြင်း၊
- (၉) ရွှံ့အားဗလကြီးမားခြင်း၊
- (၁၀) ဉာဏ်ပညာကြီးမားခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသော ဒေသများတွင် သန့်ရှင်းသောရေရရှိရန် စီမံချက်များချမှတ်ပြီး အင်တိုက်အားတိုက် ဆောင်ရွက်နေပါသည်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါးရရှိစေရန်၊

ရေ ရှားပါးသည့် ကျေးလက်ဒေသများသို့ စက်ရေတွင်းများ လှူဒါန်းလိုပါက အောက်ပါ နှုတ်ထား အတိုင်း လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်—

- * ၂လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစု) ကျပ် ၂၅သိန်း၊
- * ၂လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၄၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစု) ကျပ် ၅၀သိန်းနှင့်
- * ၄လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစု)ကျပ်၅၀သိန်း၊

မည်သည့်မြို့နယ်တွင်မဆို စောနာရှင်များအနေနှင့် ပါဝင် လှူဒါန်းလိုပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြောင်း အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (၁) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၅၄၂၀၊ ၂၅၃၀၈၈။
- (၂) ဒုတိယညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၅၄၂၀။
- (၃) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (အင်ဂျင်နီယာ)၊ ၀၁-၂၄၅၄၂၇။
- (၄) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းစည်ပင်အဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၇၁-၂၃၁၆၄။
- (၅) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မကွေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်အဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၆၃-၂၃၁၆၄။
- (၆) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မန္တလေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်အဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၂-၅၄၆၅၇။



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Shan State (East) Special Region-4 Chairman U Sai Lin and party at Zeyathiri Beikman. (News on page 16)—MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects regional development tasks in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 15 Feb—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, left here by air on 13 February and arrived in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, at 1 pm.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Commander Col Hong Ngaing, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo together with the commander, the deputy minister and departmental officials inspected Myeik bypass on Myeik-Dawei road.

After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed summer paddy

plantations in Sandawut Village, Myeik Township, where they were briefed by the farmers on farming undertakings.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung and General Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service Dr Min Maung gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department and entrepreneurs, arrived in Kawthoung airport by air via Myeik at 9.30 am on 14 February.

They were welcomed there by Col Myint Tun of Kawthoung Station, Chairman of Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Soe and

departmental officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at the 30-ton crude edible oil mill construction project site of Yuzana Co Ltd.

First, Chairman of the company U Htay Myint reported on cultivation of oil palm and arrangements made for construction of the mill.

Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung gave supplementary reports.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions to officials.

Afterwards, the stake-driving ceremony for construction of the mill was held at the site chosen.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Col Myint Tun of Kawthoung Station and Co Chairman U Htay Myint drove the stakes according to the programme at the auspicious time and sprinkled scented water.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party performed

rituals of silver and golden showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

After that, the cornerstone laying ceremony for construction of the main office of Yuzana Co Ltd was held at the site chosen.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party laid the cornerstones and sprinkled scented water.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party performed rituals of silver and golden showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected the 30-ton crude edible oil mill project site.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with officers and other ranks and their families of Khamaukgyi Station at Khamaukgyi Basic Education High School and gave instructions on farming, education and health.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo greeted officers and other ranks and their families.

After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived back in Kawthoung.—MNA

Minister inspects roads and bridges

YANGON, 15 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials inspected Mandalay-Sagaing-Shwebo Road on 7 February and gave necessary instructions to engineers. On 8 February, the minister inspected Shwebo-Myitkyina Road by car and construction progress of Mohnyin Bridge and gave instructions on timely completion of the bridge.

On 10 February, the minister and party went to the briefing hall of Namitanaing road construction project special group-6. Officials reported on construction works and the minister gave necessary instructions. Next, he inspected Myitkyina road section. The minister and party looked into Myitkyina-Sumprabum road section on Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Road on 11 February. On 12 February, the minister paid homage to the

Sumprabum Theravada Missionary Monastery Sayadaw and donated offertories. Next, the minister inspected Sumprabum-Putao road section.

The minister and party on 13 February saw over Putao-Machanbaw road and proceeded to Malikha suspension bridge and gave instructions to officials on maintenance of the bridge. They then went to Machanbaw. At the Township Administration Officer's office, engineers reported on construction of Machanbaw-Nagmon road, Nagmon-Pannandin Street and Machanbaw suspension bridge. The minister left instructions.

The minister and party later inspected the site chosen for construction of the suspension bridge, and paid homage to Kaungmulon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw U Ohhassa and presented offertories.

MNA

Union Day Exhibition continues for eighth day

YANGON, 15 Feb—The 57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition, organized by the

57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition Sub-committee, continued for the eighth day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall from 9 am to 5 pm today. Photos, pictures and maps were displayed at the booths of the Ministry of Construction and the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise and Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy. Students participated in the Computer Quiz.

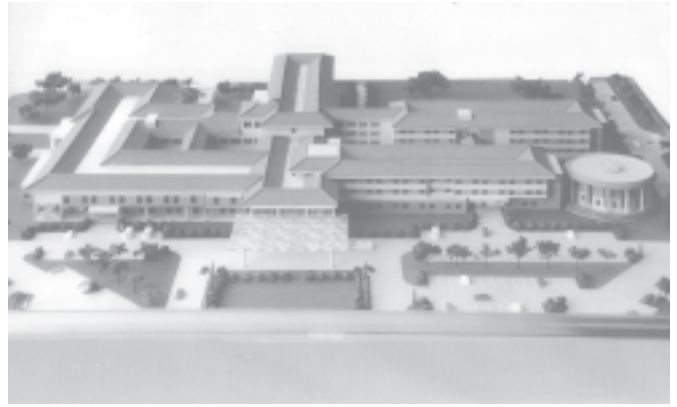
A total of 4,353 students, Red Cross members, members of the Sangha and people visited the exhibition. Book stalls of News and Periodicals Enterprise and Sarpay Beikman sold books to the visitors. The exhibition will be kept open till 16 February. Admission is free.—MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets with officers, Tatmadawmen and families of Khamaukgyi Station in Kawthoung Township.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views small scale model of Shwepinlon Housing Project on 14-2-2004.— MNA



Small scale model of the hospital to be built in Shwepinlon Housing Project in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the site for construction of hospital in Shwepinlon Housing Project in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.— MNA

City becoming more and more pleasant ...

(from page 16)

In the past in Yangon, he said, there were no systematic residential quarters and buildings in conformity with the characteristics of a city. There was insufficiency of clean drinking water and were weaknesses in sanitation and sewerage system. People could not live in hygienic and pleasant environment, he said.

Therefore, he said, the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee is systematically implementing the housing projects for construction of modern buildings and creation of pleasant environment in accord with urban projects. The committee is also mak-

ing Yangon City clean and pleasant, he added.

He stressed the importance of systematic layout for making Yangon pleasant. He spoke of the need to renovate old buildings and remove the ones that are in danger of collapsing according to the rules and regulations as the city is now over 100 years old.

He said there are now green and pleasant gardens in almost all cities in South East Asia and Asia regions. That is why strenuous efforts are being made to enable Yangon to become a green and pleasant garden city, he added.

He said Kandawgyi and its environs are being

upgraded to become a recreation centre and a garden of high standard for city dwellers.

Moreover, beautiful banks were built near Inya Lake. City dwellers can take physical exercises in the mornings, he said.

He spoke at length on upgrading of major roads in the downtown, extending of the main roads, putting up lamp-posts and upgrading of roundabouts and islands with greater momentum.

He said the city is becoming more and more pleasant day after day due to systematic and harmonious efforts of the committee. He called on departmental officials and entre-

preneurs to hold coordination and cooperation for realization and completion of the project in scheduled time in accord with the objectives of the city housing projects.

He said the committee is systematically handling the housing projects for emergence of modern buildings in the city with characteristics of the modern ones and for gaining fair profits for national construction entrepreneurs.

The Prime Minister called for cooperation in unity.

Next, the committee members and officials reported to the Prime Minister on matters related to land, housing, housing project, city development

tasks including construction of railway overpass, progress of work, work being carried and future tasks.

After that, Secretary of the High-rise Building Supervisory Committee U Than Myint reported on matters related to construction of quality high-rise building and designs and inspection of high-rise building. This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister together with Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the commander and officials inspected Dagon Yeikmon overpass that have already been built in Dagon Mythit (North). The overpass is linking Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships.

Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Shwepinlon Housing project site.

First, Director-General of DHSDD U Amt Kyaw reported on implementation of the housing project in Dagon Myothit (North) by Shwekyia Byan Construction and Tosta Construction Group, construction of commercial zone to be completed with schools, the three-storey market, public zone with football grounds, cinema, shops, business offices and department store

and residential zone to be facilitated with apartments.

Next, Managing Director of Shwekyia Byan Construction Dr Zaw Tun reported on location and area of Shwepinlon housing project, arrangements being made for construction of bazaar, school, hospital, sports grounds, gymnasium and department store and paving of concrete roads.

Next, Project Director of TMW Construction Group U Banya Lwin reported on matters related to Mya Yamon Sanyekmon housing project being implemented in Dagon Myothit (South).

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt give instructions, saying that progress has been made in Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships, adding that there has been better transport in the region with the emergence of Dagon Yeikmon overpass linking Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North). The emergence of the overpass also contributes to development of Dagon Myothit, he disclosed.

A hub of Yangon will soon emerge as Shwepinlon Housing Estate will complete with schools, hospital, department store, gymnasium, sports grounds, business centre, houses and apartments and other facilities, he stressed.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected the construction project.—MNA



Dagon Yeikmon Overpass seen to link among Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), (South) and (North) townships.— MNA

Rules announced for Painting and Sculpture Contests

YANGON, 14 Feb— The Sub-committee for Organizing the Painting and Sculpture Contest has announced rules for the painting and sculpture contests. The painting contest comprises six categories— pre-primary level (primary, first and second standards), senior primary level (third and fourth), middle school level (fifth to seventh standards), high school level (eight to tenth standards and technical and agricultural high schools) and open division. There will be only one category in the sculpture contest with wood sculpture category and plaster sculpture in open division. Anyone may take part in both.

In the pre-primary level to high school levels, the size of the entry must be 15" x 20". The entry must be endorsed by respective principals with name, standard, school, township, date of birth, father's name, full address and two passport-size photos. The entries are to be sent to the Education Planning and Training Department at 123, Natmauk Street, Bahan Township, by 23 February 2004. Entries for the open division painting contest must be 20" x 30". Name, NRC No, date of birth, father's name, occupation and full address must be expressed with two passport-size photos attached. The entries for the wood sculpture and the plaster sculpture contests must not be higher than 36 inches high and circumference not longer than 24 inches. At the foot of the works, name, NRC No, date of birth, father's name, full address must be shown with two passport-size photos attached, and they must be sent to Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road between 1 and 3 March. All the entries must reflect the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Entries for open division painting and sculpture contests are to be sent to Secretary, Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans

Asiayon (Central), Pabedan Township, Yangon, by 1 March to Secretary of the Sub-committee for Organizing the painting and sculpture contests at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall between 1 and 3 March. Apart from the entries, other paintings and sculptures may be sent to be displayed at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day exhibition. They must also reflect the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw and should be sent directly to Tatmadaw Convention Hall between 1 and 5 March.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosts dinner in honour of delegates to the 57th Anniversary Union Day Reception. (News on page 1) — MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo formally unveils the signboard of the Myanmar Economic Bank branch in Myeik. (News on page 16) — MNA

Chongqing to move 108,000 people from Three Gorges in 2004

CHONGQING, 15 February — Southwest China's Chongqing Municipality plans to relocate 108,000 residents to make way for the Three Gorges Reservoir this year, a local resettlement official said.

Among the 108,000 people to be resettled, 23,400 peasants will be relocated to other parts of China this year while 130 industrial and mining enterprises will be moved from the reservoir areas, said Liu Fuyin, director of Chongqing municipal resettlement department.

Liu said the municipality would build about 2.75 million square metres of houses this year for

the resettlement.

To date, more than 800,000 residents have been moved from Chongqing and neighbouring Hubei Province to clear the way for the Three Gorges Reservoir and the world's biggest hydroelectric project.

The municipal government will concentrate on developing key projects like transport, energy and water resources in the reservoir areas to create jobs for migrants.

About 1.13 million people, most of whom are Chongqing residents, will have to move for the dam project on its completion in 2009.

MNA/Xinhua

Schools introduce new methods of legal education in N-W China

URUMQI, 15 Feb — Primary and high schools in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have engaged people from legal circles to be associate headmasters, intensifying legal education.

Sun Dongsheng, an official with the autonomous region's department of justice, said that Xinjiang encourages schools to hire officials from justice departments, lawyers and policemen as

associate headmasters, giving pupils a high quality legal education.

Apart from the legal education materials issued by the state, Xinjiang had compiled a set of teaching materials based on its special regional and ethnic situation in the languages of the Han, Uygur, Kazak and Mongolian ethnic groups, said the official.

Wang Guoyou, hired by a high school in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang, is the police sta-

tion head of the city's Dongsan District.

He made up legal education materials by selecting criminal cases he had handled, giving lessons to the pupils with his own experiences.

Sun said that 80 per cent of Xinjiang's 8,071 primary and high schools had associate headmasters responsible for legal education, and as a result, juvenile delinquency had been remarkably reduced in the past year.

MNA/Xinhua

Marijuana seized in Dagon Myothit (South) Township

YANGON, 15 Feb — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Myanmar Police Force and Special Anti-drug Squad, acting on information searched the house of Kyaw Win Htu (a) Kyaw Htu, son of U Kyaw Nyein of No 408, Myatlay (5) Street in Ward-22, Dagon Myothit (South)

Township, on 10 February. The authorities arrested Kyaw Win Htu and his accomplices, U Thein Dan, son of U Ohn Shwe of No 10, 7-Market Road in Ward-6 (West), Thakayta Township, Ye Lwin Oo, son of U Hlaing Aye of No 1045, Myaindawtha Street in Ward-1, Thakayta Township, and Thein Oo, son of

U Tun Hla of No 909, Htupayon (1) Street, Ward-1, Thakayta Township, together with 30.77 kilos of marijuana.

Action is being taken against the culprits by the police station concerned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA



Kyaw Win Htu (a) Kyaw Htu, U Thein Dan, Ye Lwin Oo and Thein Oo seen with seized marijuana. — MNA

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Asia's biggest EPS producer branches into north China port city

TIJIN, 15 Feb—Asia's biggest Expandable Polystyrene (EPS) producer, Loyal Group from Taiwan Province, has been branching into north China's port city Tianjin, the group's eighth company in China's Mainland.

With 29.98 million US dollars of investment, Tianjin Longqiao Chemical will have 12 million US dollars of registered capital and 180,000 tons of annual production capacity.

The company plans to start production within this year.

Loyal Group was set up in Kaoshiung County of Taiwan in 1974. At first, the factory only manufactured EPS for plastics, packaging and construction industries and then started manufacturing Phenolic Resins (PF) and Furan Resin (FR) for foundry industry two years later.

China's Mainland started its economic

reforms around 20 years ago and the demand for plastics has been increasing. Statistics show demand for EPS will grow by 10 per cent each year and hit one million tons in 2010 in the Mainland.

The launching of Tianjin Longqiao Chemical will make Loyal Group the top EPS producer in the world with 750,000 tons of annual production, said Y C Liao, chairman of Loyal Group.

Loyal Group has chosen Tianjin because the municipality is home to joint ventures of several multinationals such as Motorola, Samsung and Toyota, Liao said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to cancel car import quota in 2005

GUILIN, 15 Feb—From January 1, 2005, China will cancel its auto import quota, which still remains 10.49 billion US dollars this year, said Vice-Minister of Commerce Wei Jianguo here Friday.

According to promises upon China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), China should end the period for protection of the domestic car industry by the end of 2004, and China's tariff rate for imported car units should drop to 25 per cent by July 1, 2006, said Wei.

Since China's WTO accession in late 2001, China has been decreasing its car import tariff rate remarkably, he noted, and managing its import quota orderly and transparently.

In 2003, China imported cars and related products worth 14.45 billion US dollars, up 84 per cent year on year, Customs figures showed. China has become the fourth auto manufacturing country in the world after the United States, Japan and Germany.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese expert stresses role of technology in food security

Chinese expert stresses role of technology in food security

ROME, 15 Feb—Yuan Longping, agricultural expert and "father of hybrid rice" in China, said here on Friday that increasing grain yield by way of technology is an effective way to solve the global issue of food shortage.

Addressing an international grain conference at the headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Yuan said that rice feeds more than half of the world population and therefore increasing grain yield will play an extremely important role in assuring food security and reducing the number of population in poverty.

Yuan pointed out that there are, in theory, many ways to increase grain yield, including building irrigation projects, improving soil, applying more fertilizer, bettering growing technology and cultivating high-yield strains.

However, in face of the severe situations of rising population and falling hectares of land across the world, the most effective and economical way is to grow the Chinese hybrid rice, he stressed.

The Chinese expert said that the hybrid rice, which has been grown in China for a

long period, has an average of 20 per cent more yield than other strains, and is already playing a significant role in guaranteeing food security in China.

He added that the hybrid rice has also helped other Asian countries to increase grain yield. By way of extensive growing of the rice, Vietnam has become the second largest grain exporter in Asia, he said.

The two-day conference is part of the activities of international grain year 2004 initiated by the United Nations. It was attended by officials and experts from China, Italy, the United States, Indonesia and some other countries.

Yuan is famous for his outstanding achievements in breeding high-yield hybrid rice, which has substantially increased China's grain output. He was the first in the world to have successfully cultivated hybrid rice in the 1960s.

MNA/Xinhua

Continuation of surgery on conjoined Iranian twins a consensus

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb—Keith Goh, lead surgeon in last year's fatal attempt to separate conjoined Iranian twins Ladan and Laleh Bijani, said here Friday that the continuation of the surgery after previously undetected blood vessels were found was a consensus from the doctors involved.

The Bijani sisters died from massive loss of blood as the doctors were unable to stop the bleeding from these blood vessels, which were found only when the twins' brains were already 90 per cent separated.

Now Hong Kong-based Goh, who flew in to give testimony at a three-day coroner's hearing probing the case, said on Wednesday when he took stand on the first day of the inquiry that the surgeons felt they were "at the point of no return".

However, US-based

Benjamin Carson, one of the key surgeons involved in the unprecedented operation, told the hearing through video link on Friday that the operating team had the option to stop the surgery when the twin sisters began to suffer massive blood loss.

Following Carson's testimony, Goh told reporters that their contrasting statements were only "a minor difference in perspective".

The doctors were free to go at the moment, said Goh, but "nobody dropped their instruments or walked out

of the room".

Ladan and Laleh, who were determined to go separate ways after 29 years of conjoined life, caught world attention when they underwent a highly risky operation, the first ever attempt to separate adult twins conjoined at the head, in July last year.

They could have become a lawyer and a journalist as they wished had the operation been a success.

Unfortunately, they died within 90 minutes of each other.

MNA/Xinhua

Blizzards bring life to a halt in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 15 Feb—Heavy snowstorms in Turkey cut off thousands of villages, blocked major roads and kept air and sea routes closed on Friday, bringing life to a halt for the second time in a month.

Five people died from breathing fumes from faulty stoves as they tried to keep warm in the western city of Bursa, where snow reached a depth of 17 inches.

One ship was grounded near Istanbul, the country's sprawling commercial capital, and flights at the city's airport were suspended because of blizzards.

Turkish Maritime officials said Istanbul's Bosphorus and the Dardanelles straits, the only outlet to the world's oceans for Black Sea states, remained closed after a decision to shut them on Thursday as visibility dropped to near zero.

A total of 42 tankers were awaiting transit at the entrances to the two straits.

Schools in Istanbul were shut on both Thursday and Friday. The city's top transport Rafet Bozdogan, was quoted by the state-run Anatolian news agency as saying only main roads were open to traffic.

Turkish Airlines said if the blizzards continued throughout the day there would be no flights from Istanbul until midnight (2200 GMT) at the earliest.

MNA/Reuters

Some 400 houses destroyed by large fire in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 15 Feb—Some 400 small wooden houses along Bassac River, southeast of the capital Phnom Penh, were destroyed by a large fire Friday afternoon, municipal police said.

The fire left more than 1,000 families homeless. So far, there were no casualties reported.

Police said the fire started from a motorcycle repairing workshop. Some 10 fire trucks and many firefighters spent more than three hours to control the large fire.

Most of the victims are Vietnamese emigrants. Officials of the municipal authorities said the urgent work is to help the people find a place to live.

MNA/Xinhua

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Women discuss solutions for domestic violence, poverty

HONG KONG, 15 Feb — Women representatives from Chinese Mainland, Macao and Hong Kong discussed on Saturday the problems and solutions for women to combat domestic violence and poverty at the 2004 Women's Conference.

Chairwoman of Guangdong Provincial Women's Federation said that, although women's status has been enhanced in the fields of politics, economics, culture and family, family violence still exists in some households. She said grievous domestic violence does not only jeopardize women's safety, damage the reins between husband and wife, but also lead to family conflicts and social problems. Therefore, there is a need to work out solutions to the problem.

Social Worker of Macao Good Shepherd Centre Debbie Lai shared her experience of domestic violence. She said that, inspired by traditional thoughts, women usually tend not to report violence that happened in their family. They think it is a shame to let a third person to know they are facing such a family problem. Lai suggested that, public education is one of the effective ways to combat domestic violence.

Executive Director of Hong Kong Har-

mony House Margaret Wong pointed out that, domestic violence is a global social problem with women being the prime victims. She said that, progress in terms of public education and victims support has been made in the last decade in Hong Kong. She suggested that, resources and input have to be allocated to treatment for batterers and child witness to domestic violence.

Wong also said that, prevention of domestic violence has ultimately to be linked with education for younger generation to promote gender equality and mutual respect for all human beings, men and women.

At the session of Women and Eradication of Poverty, Niu Lihua, Vice-Director of Women's Development Department of All-China Women's Federation, believed that, elimination of women's poverty is the important contents of improvement of women's status and promotion of the sustained development. — MNA/Xinhua

China to train 200 million migrant workers by 2010

BEIJING, 15 Feb — The Chinese Government plans to provide professional skills training to over 200 million migrant rural workers from 2003 to 2010.

In recent years, rural migrant workers have flocked to cities in search of jobs. Their numbers have exceeded 100 million and continued to grow.

The majority of workers find jobs in the housekeeping, catering, hotels, construction and manufacturing industries, but only 9.1 per cent of labourers in rural areas have received formal occupational training, officials with the Ministry of Labour and Social

Security say. The lack of professional skills not only prevented these labourers from many employment opportunities, but also led directly to many accidents during their work.

Statistics show that 90 per cent of construction accidents involved migrant workers, 70 per cent of which were caused by substandard operations due to low educational levels and poor professional skills.

MNA/Xinhua

Canada condemns Conan O'Brien TV show

OTTAWA, 15 Feb — Canada's government on Friday condemned a show by US late-night television host Conan O'Brien that insulted people in French-speaking Quebec.

Ottawa and the province of Ontario paid one million Canadian dollars (760,000 US dollars) to help O'Brien — who appears on the NBC television network — bring his show to Toronto for a week to boost the city's profile after a deadly SARS outbreak last year.

But the federal government said O'Brien had gone too far with the show broadcast on Thursday in which he went to Quebec, a province which has had separatist governments for much of the last 20 years and is a delicate political topic in Canada.

"We want to disassociate ourselves from the comments which were broadcast last night because we do not support them in any way," junior government minister Mauril Belanger told Parliament.

At one point in the show, Triumph the Insult Comic Dog — a hand puppet that is a regular on the show — said to a Quebecer: "You're French, you're obnoxious and you no speakay English." It told another: "I can smell your crotch from here".

O'Brien's team were also shown replacing street signs

in the province with those that read "Quebecqueer Street" and "Rue des Pus-sies".

Alexa McDonough, a legislator for the left-leaning New Democrats, described the programme as "racist filth" and "utterly vile" and demanded the government seek the return of the one-million-Can-

dian-dollar subsidy.

"There may be those who would say, 'Isn't this interfering with freedom of expression?' It's not interfering to say we will not publicly fund this kind of vile, vicious hate-mongering," McDonough told reporters.

Belanger did not commit to asking for the money back. — MNA/Reuters

Oil rises as world fuel stock worries persist

LONDON, 15 Feb — Oil prices firmed on Friday as concerns persisted about low global fuel stocks following oil cartel OPEC's pledge this week to cut crude production.

US light crude futures rose 12 cents to 34.10 US dollars a barrel, while in London benchmark Brent crude was 15 cents higher at 30.12 US dollars a barrel.

The West's energy watchdog, the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the US Government's Energy Information Administration (EIA) have both warned OPEC's promised output cut would keep global inventories low and push prices higher.

Analysts said that on Friday, a shortened trading session ahead of a public holiday in the United States on Monday, would add to the upward pressure as investment funds avoided taking short positions.

"A lot of speculators who might have been taking some profits are running shy of that now," David Thomas, analyst at Commerzbank, said.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries, which controls half of world's oil export trade, pledged on Tuesday to cut its official supply limits by one million barrels per day to 23.5 million BPD from April 1. It also said it would act immediately to cut about 1.5 million BPD in output by its members above self-imposed limits.

Traders have said there was no sign so far of any OPEC members reducing supplies, with March crude allocations to key customers unchanged from those for February. Oil producers typically must give customers about 20 days notice of monthly supplies. March volumes are now being set.

Some in OPEC have already signalled that the proposed April 1 output cut could be reversed if prices stayed high, but experts remain worried about future supply tightness. "We are afraid that the oil will fail to come exactly at the time when the driving season begins and demand increases," Claude Mandil, head of the IEA, told Reuters in an interview.

The head of the US Energy Information Administration Guy Caruso also voiced concern. He told a congressional panel that less OPEC oil output would "keep inventories on the low side and keep upward pressure on prices".

EIA data released earlier this week showed crude stocks in the United States had fallen by 2.7 million barrels to 268.9 million barrels. The level was 3.6 million barrels lower than the same time a year ago.

MNA/Reuters

Moscow pool roof collapse kills 15, 97 hurt

Moscow, 15 Feb — A glass roof at a popular Moscow swimming complex collapsed under the weight of snow late on Saturday, killing at least 15 people and injuring nearly 100 others as shards of glass crashed down onto the bathers.

ITAR-TASS news agency said early on Sunday rescue workers were still hearing cries for help from under the wreckage of the giant aqua park, popular with children and their families.

An Emergencies Ministry spokesman said the death toll early Sunday morning had reached 15, including three children, with 97 hurt, TASS reported.

"The rescuers are guided by people's voices and their calls for help sounding from these spots. Periodically, once in half an hour, 'minutes of silence'

are observed in order to locate the victims under the wreckage," the news agency quoted an official from an emergency crisis centre set up after the incident as saying.

"Please save my mum!" a small boy, aged about six, cried as rescuers carried him into the street wrapped in a huge towel.

Panicking swimmers, some in bathing suits, rushed outside into freezing temperatures shortly after the glass dome caved in at 7:20 p.m. Moscow Time.

More than 420 people were in the area where the roof caved in, and a total of 1,300 visitors were in the entire complex, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said. It was unclear how many people remained unaccounted for.

"It has been definitely confirmed it was not an act of terror," the mayor told reporters outside the complex in southwestern Moscow.

"The moment when the roof caved in was recorded by video cameras."

MNA/Reuters

Sri Lankan gov't appeals for int'l assistance to fight drought

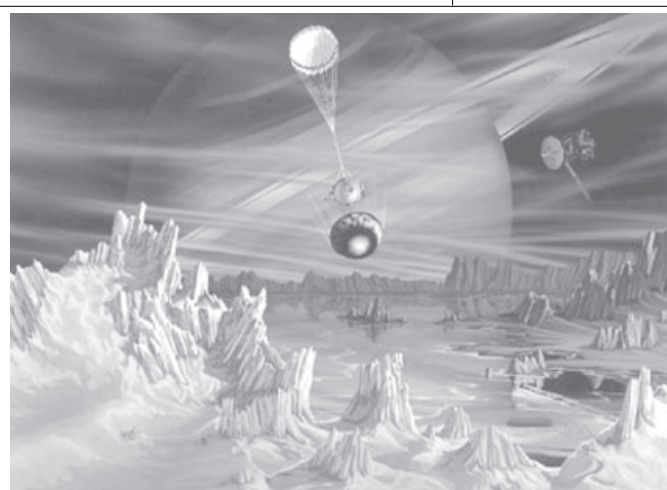
COLOMBO, 15 Feb — Sri Lanka's caretaker government on Friday made an appeal to the international community to assist in its efforts to overcome the difficulties faced by the people affected by the drought currently prevailing the country.

Briefing the Colombo-based diplomatic corps on "drought relief assistance", the Minister of Power and Energy and the chairman of the Cabinet Subcommittee for Disaster Management, Karu Jayasuriya, said that much of the country is now in the grip of a severe and prolonged drought causing tremendous hardships to the people and their livelihood.

He said that more than 231,000 families consisting of nearly 1.04 million people out of some 19 million in total in seven districts of the

country have been severely affected by the continuous drought.

He said that the lack of rainfalls since October last year has caused significant failure of the paddy crops in these districts and the drought has also affected the water level in the hydropower reservoirs and major irrigation tanks in the country. "The government will therefore make a general appeal to the international community of donors to provide assistance both in kind and cash," he said. — MNA/Xinhua



A space probe falls towards the surface of Titan in this artist's conception of one of Saturn's moons. Space scientists hope that in the upcoming generations probes can be sent to explore the oceans of the large, icy satellites orbiting outer planets. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Klinsmann to advise LA Galaxy

NEW YORK, 15 Feb— Former German international striker Juergen Klinsmann is to work as a technical adviser for Los Angeles Galaxy, according to US Major League Soccer.

Galaxy will tap into Klinsmann's experience of winning the World Cup with West Germany in 1990 and playing for leading European club sides, MLS said on its website.

"Juergen can give the Galaxy organization a unique perspective on what it takes to succeed at the highest levels of the game," Galaxy president and general manager Doug Hamilton told MLS.

"He understands how top clubs in the world operate. He has won championships at every level with some of the world's most respected coaches."

Klinsmann, who played for VfB Stuttgart, Inter Milan, Monaco, Tottenham Hotspur and Bayern Munich, moved to the United States after retiring from soccer in 1998 and is a partner in a sports marketing consultancy SoccerSolutions.

"I'm very pleased to be invited to work with the Galaxy and to be able to share some of the patterns of excellence I learned while playing in four of the world's most competitive professional leagues as well as worldwide with the German national team," said Klinsmann, 39. — MNA/Reuters



AS Monaco's Patrice Evra, in the air, fights for the ball with Mathieu Chalmes, right, and goalkeeper Gregory Winbee of Lille during their French League One soccer match, on 14 Feb, 2004, in the Monaco stadium.—INTERNET

Kipchoge wins but Masai beaten in Kenyan championships

NAIROBI, 15 Feb— World 5,000m champion Eliud Kipchoge beat a strong field to win the 12km title at the Kenyan cross country championships on Friday.

But there was a surprise defeat for double world cross country short course champion Edith Masai in the women's 4km race.

Masai, 34, was beaten into third place by Beatrice Jepchumba (12:42) and Jane Gakunyi (12:45).

"This was just part of the training," Masai said. "Don't think I am finished. The real work starts at the (training) camp."

Kipchoge, world junior cross country champion, clocked 35 minutes, 19 seconds at the Ngony race

course.

"I am happy to win this race because it was too tough. More so, it was my first time in the 12km race and it thrills me that I emerged the winner," Kipchoge told reporters.

Outgoing champion John Korir finished in second place in 35:26 while 2002 world cross country bronze medalist Wilberforce Tabei was third (35:34) and former 5,000 metres world champion Richard Limo fourth (35:39).

Qatar's Kenyan-born

world 3,000 metres steeplechase champion Saif Saeed Shaheen dropped out of the race on the fifth lap.

Shaheen, formerly known as Stephen Cherono before switching nationality last year, had been allowed to take part in the championships because it was also an International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Permit Meeting.

MNA/Reuters

Webster takes lead in ANZ C'ship

MELBOURNE, 15 Feb — Briton Steve Webster fired another six-under-par 66 to lead the ANZ Championship by one point on Friday after his compatriot Laura Davies missed the cut on her European men's tour debut.

England's Webster carded +13 points on Friday with seven birdies and one bogey at the Horizons Golf Resort near Newcastle, about 200 kilometres north of Sydney. The 29-year-old, seeking his maiden win on the European Tour, was on +27 points in the modified stableford system that rewards attacking golf.— MNA/Reuters

Strachan stands down as Southampton manager

LONDON, 15 Feb— Gordon Strachan has stepped down as Southampton manager with immediate effect, the English Premier League club said on their website on Friday.

The 47-year-old Scot, who joined Southampton from Coventry City in October 2001, said last month he was quitting at the end of the season to take a break from top-flight football but has now agreed to go three months early.

"Following the recent disclosure in January that Gordon Strachan will not be renewing his contract beyond the end of this season for personal reasons, the club has become the focus of a great deal of Press speculation about his likely successor," Southampton chairman Rupert Lowe said in a statement.

"Gordon and I met yesterday and have both concluded that it is in the best interests of the club for him to step down as manager with effect from today.

"Gordon has done a great job for us during his two-and-a-half-years tenure and, unusually in football, leaves us on the very best of terms."

Steve Wigley has been put in charge of the first team until the end of the season.

Ex-England manager Glenn Hoddle has been strongly linked with a return to Southampton, the club he left three years ago in acrimonious circumstances to take over at Tottenham Hotspur.

Lowe issued a statement on Thursday in response to the angry reaction of many Southampton fans to rumours that Hoddle, sacked by Spurs in September, was coming back.

"My job, in league with the board, is to interview everybody who is capable of taking the club forward," Lowe said.

"Glenn is an option and my job is to look at all the options. We haven't done a U-turn. Glenn Hoddle might still be appointed as our manager. He has not been ruled out, but at this stage nobody is ruled in and nobody is ruled out.

"What we have to concentrate on now is winning the next 13 football matches and finishing as high up the league as we can which will provide us with more money to invest in our squad and take the club forwards." — MNA/Reuters

Keane warns United's young guns to start firing

MANCHESTER (England), 15 Feb — Manchester United captain Roy Keane has warned the club's young players not to take things for granted at Old Trafford.

"We have worked extremely hard to get to the top but it is a lot harder to stay there," the 32-year-old midfielder said on Friday.

"We have one or two young players who have done very little in the game. They need to remember that and not slacken off.

"They need to remember just how lucky we all are to play for Manchester United and show that out on the pitch."

Manager Alex Ferguson has made signing young players a priority this season as he looks to maintain United's domestic dominance.

But the Premier League champions have stuttered in recent weeks to fall five points behind Arsenal in the title race.

Keane will return to lead United in Saturday's FA Cup derby with Manchester City after being rested for their mid-week 3-2 home league defeat by Middlesbrough.

The former Republic of Ireland international is a three times winner of the Cup with United and is determined to get past visiting City and into the quarterfinals.

"The fact there will be 9,000 City fans there should ensure a brilliant atmosphere," Keane added.

MNA/Reuters

English referees ordered to tighten up on offside law

LONDON, 15 Feb— English referees have been ordered to take a firmer line on players trying to flout recent FIFA guidelines on the offside law.

The meeting was called following a number of controversial incidents in recent Premier League matches, particularly one between Leicester City and Bolton Wanderers on Tuesday.

Bolton manager Sam Allardyce instructed two of his players to stand several metres offside at attacking free kicks with the aim of distracting Leicester goalkeeper Ian Walker.

Although Bolton scored their equaliser to earn a 1-1 draw following a mistake by Walker, Allardyce called on FIFA after the match to scrap the guidelines issued last October with the aim of improving the game by allowing more attacking play.

Football Association (FA), Premier League and Football League representatives met on Friday and agreed to instruct referees that if they think the actions of a player in an offside position deceive or distract an opponent, that player must be given offside.

"It was generally felt that a decision needed to be taken on how to apply this interpretation to the type of situations we have seen during the past week, particularly in relation to attacking free kicks," the FA's head of refereeing John Baker told the ruling body's web site.—MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday's Corss Puzzle

Peter Madsen (L) of VfL Bochum scores a goal against FC Bayern Munich's keeper Oliver Kahn during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Bochum on 14 Feb, 2004. VfL Bochum won the match 1-0.—INTERNET

MRTV-3
**16-2-2004 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Around Bagan by Pony
Cart (Ananda Temple)
9:10 Headline News
09:12 Chaungtha Beach
Resort
9:15 National News
9:20 All Lives Under The
Sky: "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
9:30 National News
9:40 Song "Dear Myanmar"
9:42 Shwe Nan Daw Cul-
tural Museum
9:45 National News
9:50 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake
(Part-I)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**16-2-2004 (Monday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
15:36 Around Bagan by Pony
Cart (Ananda Temple)
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Chaungtha Beach
Resort
15:45 National News
15:50 All Lives Under The
Sky: "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
16:00 National News

- 16:10 Song "Dear Myanmar"
16:12 Shwe Nan Daw Cul-
tural Museum
16:15 National News
16:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake
(Part-I)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30 National News
16:35 Myanmar Orchestra
(Thichinkhant)
16:40 Myanmar Profile
"Book Store"
16:45 National News
16:50 Recreation at Inlay
Lake
16:55 Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
16:57 Let's meet at the cafe!
17:00 National News
17:05 How to make Chinlone
17:10 Songs "What love is?"
17:15 National News
17:20 Spirulina (or) Blue
Green Algae
17:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36 Unity of Myanmar Na-
tional Races
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Myanmar Traditional
Marionette (The Al-
chemist Dance)
19:45 National News
19:50 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victoria
20:00 National News
20:10 Song
"Blessed Myanmar"
20:12 Second Expedition to
observe the crocodiles
nest
20:15 National News
20:20 Novitiation Ceremony
20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Ngwe Hsaung
Beach Resort"
20:30 National News
20:35 Golden Mandalay Hill
20:40 Travelogue (Kalaw)
20:45 National News

- 20:50 Deaf School
20:55 Myuu-Kywa-Thanzin
Kagyo Sin
21:00 National News
21:05 Myanmar Eretes
Sticticus
21:10 Songs On Screen
"Where does love be-
gin?"
21:15 National News
21:20 Citrus Products of
Shwe Kyin
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
21:35 Around Bagan by
Pony Cart (Ananda
Temple)
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Chaungtha Beach
Resort
21:45 National News
21:50 All Lives Under The
Sky: "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
22:00 National News
22:10 Song "Dear Myanmar"
22:12 Shwe Nan Daw Cul-
tural Museum
22:15 National News
22:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake
(Part-I)
22:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Loving Smile"
22:30 National News
22:35 Myanmar Orchestra
(Thichinkhant)
22:40 Myanmar Profile
"Book Store"
22:45 National News
22:50 Recreation at Inlay
Lake
22:55 Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
22:57 Let's meet at the cafe!
23:00 National News
23:05 How to make Chinlone
23:10 Songs "What love is?"
23:15 National News
23:20 Spirulina (or) Blue
Green Algae
23:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**16-2-2004 (Monday) &
17-2-2004 (Tuesday)
Evening & Morning**

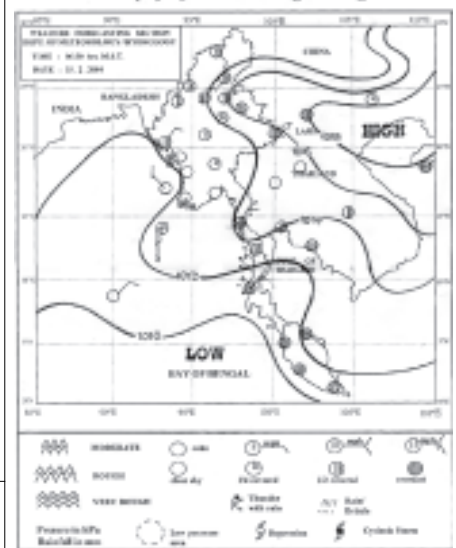
- Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**
23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
23:36 Around Bagan by Pony
Cart (Ananda Temple)
23:40 Headline News
23:42 Chaungtha Beach
Resort
23:45 National News
23:50 All Lives Under The
Sky: "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
24:00 National News
00:10 Song "Dear Myanmar"
00:12 Shwe Nan Daw Cul-
tural Museum
00:15 National News
00:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake
(Part-I)
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30 National News
00:35 Myanmar Orchestra
(Thichinkhant)
00:40 Myanmar Profile
"Book Store"
00:45 National News
00:50 Recreation at Inlay
Lake
00:55 Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
00:57 Let's meet at the cafe!
01:00 National News
01:05 How to make Chinlone
01:10 Songs "What love is?"
01:15 National News
01:20 Spirulina (or) Blue
Green Algae
01:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**17-2-2004 (Tuesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 Unity of Myanmar Na-
tional Races
03:40 Headline News

- 03:42 Myanmar Traditional
Marionette (The Al-
chemist Dance)
03:45 National News
03:50 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victoria
04:00 National News
04:10 Song
"Blessed Myanmar"
04:12 Second Expedition to
observe the crocodiles
nest
04:15 National News
04:20 Novitiation Ceremony
04:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Ngwe Hsaung
Beach Resort"
04:30 National News
04:35 Golden Mandalay Hill
04:40 Travelogue (Kalaw)
04:45 National News
04:50 Deaf School
04:55 Myuu-Kywa-Thanzin
Kagyo Sin
05:00 National News
05:05 Myanmar Eretes
Sticticus
05:10 Songs On Screen
"Where does love be-
gin?"
05:15 National News
05:20 Citrus Products of
Shwe Kyin
05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
05:35 Around Bagan by Pony
Cart (Ananda Temple)

- 05:40 Headline News**
05:42 Chaungtha Beach
Resort
05:45 National News
05:50 All Lives Under The
Sky: "Catch of Fish by
Cooperation of Fisher-
man and Dolphin"
06:00 National News
06:10 Song "Dear Myanmar"
06:12 Shwe Nan Daw Cul-
tural Museum
06:15 National News
06:20 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake
(Part-I)
06:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Loving Smile"
06:30 National News
06:35 Myanmar Orchestra
(Thichinkhant)
06:40 Myanmar Profile
"Book Store"
06:45 National News
06:50 Recreation at Inlay
Lake
06:55 Lon Yuu Festival
Dance
06:57 Let's meet at the cafe!
07:00 National News
07:05 How to make Chinlone
07:10 Songs "What love is?"
07:15 National News
07:20 Spirulina (or) Blue
Green Algae
07:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas
**WEATHER**
Sunday, 15 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) to (4°C) above normal in Kayah State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 14-2-2004 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 15-2-2004 was 16.5°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-2-2004 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 14-2-2004 was (9.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 15-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 14-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-2-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin, Northern Shan State, upper Sagaing Division and 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 extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-2-2004: Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-2-2004:** Fair weather.


Monday, February 16
View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. Songs of national races
8:05 am
6. အမေရိကန်
8:10 am
7. Cute little dancers
8:20 am
8. ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားစဉ်း နှစ်ပတ်တော်
8:30 am
9. International News

- 8:45 am**
10. Let's Go
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to Uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading
4:45 pm
4. Musical Programme
5:00 pm
5. အဆင်သင့်တရားရှိစွာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားစဉ်း
တော်လှန် (ရုက္ခသေအသွယ်)
(ရုက္ခသေ)
5:15 pm
6. (ဂျာ)နှစ်မြှောင် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့
ပုထိုးပြအခမ်း
5:30 pm
7. Musical Programme (The
Radio Myanmar Modern
Music Troupe)
5:40 pm
8. Song and dance of
national races
5:45 pm
9. (ဂျာ)နှစ်မြှောင် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့

- ပုထိုးပြအခမ်း
မင်းသား- အောင်ကိုဝင်း၊
မင်းသမီး- မိမိနိုးလန်း၊ တင်မိုးဝါ၊
လှိုင်စတင်-ဇော်မိုး၊ ဇော်စတင်-ဇော်မိုး၊
ဇော်စတင်-ဇော်မိုး၊ ဇော်စတင်-ဇော်မိုး
6:20 pm
10. Discovery
6:30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. Milo Success in soccer
7:10 pm
14. ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားစဉ်း စာတိုလမ်းရုပ်မြင်
(အပိုင်း-၁)
7:30 pm
15. Industrial Achievement
7:40 pm
16. Musical Programme
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းရုပ်
"တုံ့မယူ" (အပိုင်း-၂၇)
17. The next day's
programme


Monday, February 16
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
- If we are only
friends (Tracy
Huang)
- If (Bread)
9.00 pm Spotlight on the star
(Jennifer Paige)
9.15 pm Article
9.25 pm Drugs Elimination
- Myanmar's all out
anti narcotic drive
Golden Land's
Melody (အောင်မိုးမိုး)
"ကမ်းသာယာ"
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders of Shan State (East) Special Region-4

YANGON, 15 Feb — Chairman of the Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Chairman of Shan State (East) Special Region-4 U Sai Lin and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General U Soe Tint of Government Office and senior military officers of the Office of the Chief of Military Intelligence.

At the meeting, the national race leaders promised that they support seven-point policy programme (roadmap) of the State, adding that they will participate in conscientiously discharging the duty in their sector together with the entire people under the leadership of the Government for ensuring implementation of the roadmap.

Next, the national race leaders reported on assistance of the State to be provided for development of education, health, agriculture and tourism industries.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Shan State (East) Special Region-4 Chairman U Sai Lin and party at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

City becoming more and more pleasant day by day due to systematic and harmonious efforts of the committee

Prime Minister addresses meeting of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee

YANGON, 15 Feb—The City Housing Project Supervisory Committee held its Meeting No 1/2004 at the meeting hall of Department for Human Settlement and Housing Development on Bogyoke Aung San Street here yesterday, with an address by Chairman of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe,

ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor, the committee members, officials of the State

Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department and responsible officials. First, Chairman of

the committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said the City Housing Project Super-

visory Committee is implementing its housing projects with the aims of possessing characteristics of interna-

tional cities, hygienic living of the people and raising their social standard.

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses Meeting No 1/2004 of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee on 14-2-2004.— MNA

New building of Myanma Economic Bank opened in Myeik

YANGON, 15 Feb—The opening ceremony of the new building of Myanma Economic Bank of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held in Kanphya Myoma Ward in Myeik on 14 February, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence.

Present on the occasion

were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Commander of Coastal Region Command Col Hong Ngaing and sen-

ior military officers, the director-general of Customs Department, managing director and general manager of MEB, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, social organizations and local people.

Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint spoke on the occasion. He said the State Peace and Development

Council is implementing the tasks for harmonious development of the Union including border areas in all-round sectors. Development plans are being undertaken in the State after designating 24 development regions including Dawei and Myeik in Taninthayi Division.

The government spent K 49,701.13 million on development of border areas.

Moreover, it is carrying out five rural development tasks in the rural areas where majority of the population live.

He went on to say that MEB is taking charge of monetary services and it is the main important development for economic development. He said banking is a kind of service and bank personnel are to provide

customers with speedy service for progress. Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun also spoke on the occasion.

Next, Managing Director of MEB U Soe Tin presented documentary photos to Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and the minister. Lt-Gen Maung Bo formally unveiled the signboard of the building.

Next, Chairman of Myeik District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Kywe and Managing Director U Soe Tin formally opened the building.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party attended a ceremony to start operation of Hi-Fi speedboat-8 of TZK Co Ltd at Seiknge jetty in Myeik.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected the speedboat. Director of TZK Co Ltd explained about the boat.

The speedboat will run on Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung trip.—MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint cut the ribbon to start operation of Hi-Fi Speedboat.— MNA