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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials for holding discussions on promotion of Myanmar sports standard. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected construction of multi-purpose hall

YANGON, 2 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrived at the construction site of the multi-purpose hall on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township here this morning, where he was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the YCDC.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected construction of the multi-purpose hall. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin conducted him around the building.

At the briefing hall there, the Yangon Mayor and Head of Engineering Department (Buildings) U Zaw Win reported on completion of construction tasks and future tasks, arrangements for installation of power line and audio equipment and landscaping. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions on making efforts for early completion of the multi-purpose hall. — MNA

Raising of Myanmar sports standard discussed

YANGON, 2 Feb — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office arrived at Thuwunna youth training centre in Thingangyun Township this afternoon. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Patron of Myanmar Football Federation Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials reported on selection of athletes for various sports sectors including football and camping training. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered a speech. He said some sports including football, a national sport, have gained success in international competitions. He said he met with the minister and sports officials to give instructions to make preparations for making more success in South-East Asia.

(See page 11)
Success of sectorwise objectives through collective efforts

The leadership of the State laid down national plans to ensure harmonious development in all parts of the Union and to enhance the social status. Responsible personnel at the central level made frequent tours of all the states and divisions down to rural areas and fulfilled whatever necessary for regional development.

Through the exposure to the contact with rural people, responsible personnel at the central level themselves made field trips down to grass-roots level and rendered assistance to development measures for better economic security of national people, promotion of education and health standards, and smooth and secure transportation.

On 31 January morning, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of YeMyint District and Township Peace and Development Councils and departmental officials at the hall of Pyinmana People’s Hospital.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended to the education and health needs and spoke of the need for departmental officials to have a deep sense of duty that the materialisation of all objectives being implemented by the responsible personnel at central level for higher living standard of the people was also their concern. Officials at different levels should tour rural areas, meet with the local people, seek their necessity and provide them so as to ensure better transport; the success of agriculture, livestock breeding and business transactions; and the promotion of education and health infrastructure through the comfortable living of the public.

Officers in-charge of departments at township level are most responsible for rural development. Only when they are close to the general public and provide public requirements will rural areas develop.

Departmental officials should play a leading role actively and in taking measures for rural development. Harmonious efforts are to be exerted to successfully implement sectorwise objectives through cooperation and collective leadership.

Yangon Trade Fair-2004 concludes

Yangon, 2 Feb — Yangon Trade Fair—2004, organised by Quartz International Co Ltd, continued for the last day today at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Street here. It was packed with business entrepreneurs and public.

Under the lucky draw programme, the winner, Ma Haym Aung of No 4 Kyauk Street in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township was presented K 100,000 and pickled tea by Managing Director of Quartz International Co. Baskets of flowers were presented to companies that participated in the fair.

The 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives — for all national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people — for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence — to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and — for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Effective 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

Ovada sought from Sayadaws for reconstruction of prayer hall

Yangon, 2 Feb — The ceremony to seek Ovada from the Ovadacariya Sayadaws to reconstruc

Phayabya monastery in the town

Sayadaws viewed the construction of the Koehsu prayer hall which was already renovated. The minister and officials reported on renovation tasks. The minister, the deputy minister and departmental heads offered room to Ovadacariya Sayadaws.

The coordination meeting to reconstruct Koehsu prayer hall was held at Dhammayon Thit in the afternoon. The minister made an opening speech. Officials of sub-committees reported on tasks of the respective sub-committees. The minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Myanmar Forestry School concludes its course on forestry

Yangon, 2 Feb — The Forest Department’s Myanmar Forestry School concluded its 98th course on forestry today at the parade ground of the school yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Commander of Pyin Oo Lwin Station Brig-Gen Min Aung Hhine, departmental officials, advisers and others. Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung presented outstanding awards to winning trainees. Speaking on the occasion, the minister urged the trainees to uphold our three main national causes, to collectively implement the seven-point future programme of the State, to make the six forest policies known to the public, and to carry out the five directives of the Head of State.

Forest Department

Director-General U Soe Win Hline also spoke on the occasion. Later, the minister and directors-general presented awards to outstanding trainees. A total of 162 trainees completed the course, which lasted for one year and half. — MNA

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 every household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

The coordination meeting to reconstruct Koehsu prayer hall was held at Dhammayon Thit in the afternoon. The minister made an opening speech. Officials of sub-committees reported on tasks of the respective sub-committees. The minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA
At least 56 dead in Iraq suicide bombing

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — Two suicide bombers with explosives wired to their bodies struck the offices of the country’s two main Kurdish parties in nearly simultaneous attacks Sunday, killing at least 56 people and wounding more than 235 in the deadliest assault in Iraq in six months.

The attacks struck in the Kurdish heartland and took a heavy toll among senior leaders of Iraq’s most pro-American ethnic group.

The attackers slipped into the offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan along with hundreds of well-wishers gathering for the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice.

Kurdish television said both bombers were dressed as Muslim clerics.

Leaders of both parties, whose militias fought alongside US soldiers during the invasion of Iraq last year, were receiving hundreds of visitors to mark

Kay questions US preemptive strike doctrine

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — The former top US weapons hunter in Iraq David Kay said on Sunday flaws in US intelligence brought into question President George W Bush’s policy of preemptive strike against countries deemed a threat to the United States.

Bush based his decision to invade Iraq on what he called a “grave and gathering danger” posed by Iraq’s biological and chemical weapons and warranted assertion of his military action to guard US interests.

“If you cannot rely on good, accurate intelligence that is credible to the American people and to others abroad, you certainly can’t have a policy of preemption,” Kay said on Fox News.

“Pristine intelligence — good, accurate intelligence — is a fundamental cornerstone of any sort of policy of preemption to even be thought about.”

The Bush administration was still reeling last week, concluded Iraq had no stockpiles of biological or chemical weapons, and the White House has said it will review its prewar intelligence.

Until the investigation is complete, Kay said, it would be difficult for the Bush Administration to make a convincing case to allies for action in the next security crisis.

It is necessary, he said, that “they understand that we’ve taken the steps to be sure that we’re correct and, in fact, we’re honest about what we’re talking about,” he said.

Democratic Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware, a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, warned of damage to US credibility around the world as a result of the intelligence failures.

Recalling former President Charles De Gaulle’s statement that he so trusted President John F Kennedy’s word he did not need to see satellite photos of Soviet missiles near Cuba, Biden told CNN: “No leader in the world would respond to President Bush that way today.”

Senator Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican, agreed the faulty intelligence needed to be addressed to prevent future miscalculations that damage US credibility. “It’s not just the intelligence capability... the credibility of who we are around the world and the trust of our government and our leaders,” Hagel told CNN — MNA/Reuters

Tragic accident kills British soldier in southern Iraq

LONDON, 2 Feb — The British Ministry of Defence announced Sunday that another British soldier has been killed in a “tragic accident” in Iraq.

Robert Thomson, 22, Iron West Lothen in Scotland, a upper with the 3rd Helicopter Regiment which was mor- nalised in Germany, was killed in Iraq’s southern city of Basra on Saturday, the ministry said.

“The death was engineering-related, and was not as a result of a road crash, or enemy fire,” a spokesman for the ministry said.

“Our thoughts are very much with his family at this difficult time,” the spokesman added.

An inquiry into the accident has been launched.

Transatlantic flights cancelled, airport security tightened over terror risks

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — Security remained tight at airports across the United States, sparked by the fear that al-Qaeda is trying to smuggle a chemical, biological or radiological weapon aboard a US-bound commercial airliner.

Security concerns forced the cancella-
tion of 10 flights between Britain and France and the United States, which airline officials feared could be used to repeat the deadly September 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

“There was specific credible threat infor-

mation that was shared with some foreign governments, including the British and French governments, and the decisions were made to cancel these flights,” said a US Homeland Security Department source, who asked not to be named.

“We remain concerned about al-Qaeda’s desire to target international aviation.”

The official said there were no plans to

raise the nation’s threat level, which has been at “elevated” since January 9.

The Washington Post, citing unnamed senior administration officials, reported Sun-

day that the flight cancellations were prompted in part by intelligence indicating al-Qaeda was seeking to release a chemical or biological agent aboard an airliner, or transport a radiological device in a cargo hold.

Three airlines — Air France, British Airways and Continental Airlines — took the decision to ground transatlantic flights which had been scheduled to depart Sunday and Monday.

“We have cancelled the ... flights ... for security reasons, so as a result, the return flights on those same days ... have also been cancelled,” Marie-Joseph Male, vice president and general manager of Air France USA, said.

The British carrier said on its website the flights had been halted “for security rea-
sions.” In Washington Sunday, top US law-

makers said the cancellations were the proper course.

“They can’t be ignored, when you’ve got information or some intelligence that some individual or group of individuals may be trying to sabotage or commandeer an air-
craft,” US Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi told Fox News.

Another lawmaker, US Senator Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, told the Post, “They can’t be ignored, when you’ve got information or some intelligence that some individual or group of individuals may be trying to sabotage or commandeer an air-
craft.”

The US command in Baghdad put the casualty toll at 56 dead and more than 200 injured.

Irbil city morgue director Tawana Kareem told the AP last week that 57 bodies were brought to the morgue and “figures are increasing.”

At least 235 people were admitted to the city’s three hospitals with injuries, officials said.

“Officials said the death toll may be far higher, with some bodies bur-
ed in the rubble or taken away by relatives.”

All evacuees return to
town of Xinjiang flood areas

Urumqi, 2 Feb — All the people evacuated from areas flooded during a breach of the Bayi Reservoir dyke, in northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, had returned to their hometown by Friday.

Most people returned to their homes, but 4,000 are still in temporary accommodation awaiting repairs to their houses. They had been given daily necessities, said Li Jiefeng, commander of the 102 Regiment of the Xinjiang Production and Construc-
tion Corporation. “We have coal, flour, edible oil and bedding,” said Zhu Dingsong, of the fourth company of the regiment, whose family of four was accommodated in a temporary home of 25 square metres.

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“Officials said the death toll may be far higher, with some bodies bur-
ed in the rubble or taken away by relatives.”

Road accident leaves 7 dead

in western Canada

OTTAWA, 2 Feb — Seven people were dead following a multi-car collision on the Sea-to-Sky Highway in Canada’s western province of British Columbia on Saturday, according to reports reaching here Sunday.

Police said a minivan and a car were involved in a head-on collision near the town of Squamish, about 50 kilometres from the city of Vancouver.

The narrow and twisting Sea-to-Sky Highway runs between Vancouver and the ski resort of Whistler.

Upgrade of the road is planned as part of Vancouver’s 2010 Olympic Winter Games project.

The accident occurred on a narrow but straight stretch.

Six of the victims died at the scene while the seventh was pronounced dead at the Squamish General Hospital.

Polish soldiers patrol a road in Iraq on 2 Feb. A Polish spokesman for the multi-national force in Iraq revealed that at least five people were killed when a large munitions dump exploded in a desert area 180 kilometres southwest of Karbala. — MNA/Xinhua
BBC staff furious, Iraq suspicions dog Blair

**London**, 2 Feb — Indignant BBC staff defended their ex-boss on Saturday and there were renewed demands for an inquiry into Britain’s case for war in Iraq as the fallout from an explosive report showed no sign of abating.

Dismayed by judge Lord Hutton’s strong censure of the BBC and near-total exoneration of the government over the suicide of Iraq weapons expert David Kelly, hundreds of BBC employees paid for a full-page newspaper ad to vent their feelings.

“Greg Dyke stood for brave, independent and rigorous BBC journalism that was fearless in its search for the truth,” said Dyke’s former director-general who resigned a day after Wednesday’s Hutton report.

In a remarkable implosion at one of the world’s best-known media, BBC chairman of the board of governors Gavyn Davies also stepped down on Wednesday and the investigative reporter at the centre of the storm, Andrew Gilligan, resigned on Friday.

“We are resolved that the BBC should not step back from its determination to investigate the facts in pursuit of the truth,” added the BBC staff, some of whom walked out in protest at offices across the country on Thursday.

Gilligan’s broadcast last year claimed Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government had “sexed up” the threat from former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in an intelligence dossier.

Government scientist Kelly was the anonymous source for Gilligan’s story and committed suicide when his name came out.

The BBC accepted Gilligan’s report had errors. But many were shocked by the severity of Hutton’s criticism of the BBC, versus his lightness with the government. Critics say Blair officials’ involvement in the outting of Kelly was papered over, while the underlying question of Blair’s case for war was ignored.

“If Lord Hutton had fairly considered the evidence he heard, he would have concluded that most of my story was right. The government did sex up the dossier, transforming possibilities and probabilities into certainties, removing vital caveats,” Gilligan said in his resignation statement.

“Some of my story was wrong... But the BBC collectively has been the victim of a grave injustice.”

Such suspicions are likely to dog Blair for some time, despite his survival of a week that some had predicted might be his last in office.

US Senator blasts Bush

**Kansas City** (Missouri), 2 Feb — Running strong in Missouri, the prize in next week’s seven Democratic state contests, US Senator John Kerry blasted US President George W Bush on Saturday for a “reckless and ideological” foreign policy and vowed to turn him from office.

Kerry took his energized campaign to the pivotal Midwest with the latest polls giving him a whopping lead in Missouri three days before a crucial round of voting.

He was met by a crowd of about 1,000 supporters who roared approval as he blasted Bush.

“I think they can hear you all the way in the White House,” said Kerry. “They are scared. They are worried.”

He criticized Bush for pandering to “lobbyists and special interests” he said came and went at the White House, and said the president had alienated the rest of the world with the US-led invasion of Iraq.

“I believe President Bush has run the most arrogant, inept, reckless and ideologically foreign policy in modern American history,” said Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran.

“We’re here today to mark the beginning of the end of the Bush presidency,” he said. “We are going to send George Bush back to Texas.”

BBC employees paid for a full-page newspaper ad to vent BBC and near-total exoneration of the government over the inquiry into Britain’s case for war in Iraq as the fallout from an explosive report showed no sign of abating.

**British** Virgin plane turns back after burning smell

**London**, 2 Feb — A Virgin Atlantic flight from London to New York turned back on Sunday when a burning smell was detected in the cabin, the British airline said.

“There was no threat to security,” a Virgin spokesman said, adding that the plane had landed safely back in London. “This looks like a small technical fault.”

The Flight VS45, with 181 passengers on board, was two-and-a-half hours away from London’s Heathrow Airport, on the way to John F Kennedy airport in New York, when the captain smelled something burning in the cabin.

“He decided to turn back as a safety precaution. We don’t know exactly what it was, it is being investigated,” the spokesman added.

MENA/Reuters
Pressure builds for Bush decision on Iraq WMD probe

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — The White House and key congressional leaders on Sunday negotiated details of an independent commission to investigate intelligence failures before the Iraq war and a senior Democrat said the probe should include whether decision-makers misused information.

President George W Bush, who had earlier opposed such a commission, was under strong pressure from members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, to support an independent probe into intelligence that said Iraq possessed chemical and biological weapons when in fact none have been found.

The weapons issue was the main reason cited by Bush for the war, in which more than 500 US troops have now died.

“I understand that they are looking at the situation and want to get the whole story,” Mississippi Republican Senator Trent Lott, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told Fox News Sunday.

Bush was expected to make a final decision soon on the intelligence inquiry, according to sources familiar with discussions the White House has been having with congressional officials. An announcement was expected soon.

Democratic Senator Jay Rockefeller, the Senate Intelligence Committee’s vice-chairman, said the probe had to get under way before the November election and should include finding out “how the intelligence was used by those who decided to go to war. “It has to have that included. And that is still not settled,” he said.

Senators Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, and Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican, said it is essential to have an independent probe.

“I don’t think there is any way way around it,” said Hagel, appearing with Biden on CNN’s “Late Edition.” Biden said, “America’s credibility is at stake.”

Bush said he had no intelligence evidence analysts had been pressured into tailoring their findings, but said it should be determined if the administration had properly used the information that these analysts provided.

A Democratic candidate for President, Howard Dean, who has been sharply critical of the Iraq war, accused Bush of not being truthful with the American people.

“The President was not truthful with the American people about why we went into Iraq. We don’t know why he was not truthful,” he told NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Democratic Senator Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, and Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican, said it is essential to have an independent probe.

They mirrored growing pressure across the Atlantic for US President George W Bush to authorize a similar probe.

Two surveys published in The Mail on Sunday and the Sunday Times showed 61 per cent and 54 per cent respectively in favour of an investigation into London’s much-criticized evidence of Saddam Hussein’s supposed weapons of mass destruction.

The polls add momentum to calls from British opposition politicians and anti-war protesters for an inquiry.

“Howard, in an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, said he would this week table a parliamentary motion urging an inquiry,” he said.

One newspaper summed that up with a cartoon showing a gleeful Blair exclaiming “I’m off the hook!” as he freed himself from a small fish-hook marked “Hutton”—aware of a vast anchor-like hook hulding him from behind marked “WMD”.

Hutton’s report into the death of scientist David Kelly, who slashed his wrists after being outing as the source for a BBC report that Blair’s officials “sexed up” intelligence over Iraq, was widely attacked at the weekend.

Critics said it ignored government officials’ role in the leaking of Kelly’s name, side-stepped the underlying controversy over the British case for war, and was over-harsh on the BBC for the report by investigative journalist Andrew Gilligan.

Shanghai reports 62 new patent applications every day

SHANGHAI, 2 Feb—Shanghai, the leading technology research centre in China, saw an average 62 new patent applications every day in 2003, an all-time high.

The city received 22,374 patent applications last year, a rise of 12 per cent over the previous year. Applications from universities and colleges, as well as 1,794, exceeding all other institutes of higher learning in China. Applicants from industrial enterprises came to 15,289, up by 7 per cent over a year ago.

Meanwhile, Shanghai has built ties with 16 provinces and regions to enhance an inter-regional crackdown on patent infringement.

An expert with the Shanghai Municipal Intellectual Property Rights Bureau said a big rise in patent applications showed that local technicians had a stronger sense of property rights protection.

Guerrillas killed nine people in a car bomb blast outside a police station in the Iraqi city of Mosul on 31 January, 2004, and a separate bomb attack on a US convoy north of Baghdad killed three American soldiers.

Police and hospital officials in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, said 44 people were wounded in the car bomb attack, which sent debris flying more than 300 metres (yards) and left body parts littering the scorched ground.

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Iraq under US and allies’ occupation
Rebuilding of Iraq faces difficulties

Rebuilding of Iraq will cost between US$ 50,000 million and US$ 100,000 million, said Paul Bremer, the US administrator in Iraq. The earnings from sale of oil will not be sufficient to cover the reconstruction cost.

The US was criticized for taking control on Iraq, a country with second largest oil deposit in the world. During the war against Iraq, many oil facilities were bombed and as a result reconstruction for Iraq’s economy has faced many difficulties.

Iraqi’s houses were destroyed during the US bombing of the town of Rahmadi in Iraq.

After the war against Iraq, there increased unemployment. The photo shows jobless people submitting their applications.

Local administration and civil society $313m
Health, education, employment $7,190m
Infrastructure $24,204m
Agriculture, water resources $3,027m
Other $855m
Total $35,589m

Security and police $5,000m
Oil $8,000m
Culture, religious affairs $1,540m
Other $4900m
Total $19,440m

Communication centre of Iraq in Baghdad seen in flames during the US missile strike against Baghdad.

Oil spill from a pipeline destroyed during the US bombing against Iraq in northern part of the country.
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Development images of Mon State in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

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Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) under construction on Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Kawthoung road. On completion, it will be the longest bridge in Myanmar with 26,466 feet in length.

Ye river crossing bridge in Ye Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State. The 857.5-foot-long facility was opened on 25-11-2003.

The Zaikkaye Sluice Gate near Aungkantha Village in Thaton Township, Mon State. It benefits 20,000 acres of farmland.

The three-storey library of Mawlamyine University in Mawlamyine, Mon State, which was opened on 25 January 2004.

No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory of Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2 in Thaton, Mon State.
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Unity is strength

Myanmar faced armed conflicts soon after regaining the independence. The Burma Communist Party (BCP) holding the extreme left dogmatism launched armed opposition against the AFPFL government on 28 March 1948. Later, some national race groups followed the armed struggle line based on extreme racism and under the instigation of the colonialists in the early 1949.

The armed conflicts broke out in many parts of the nation, disrupting the social lives of the people and claiming many civilian lives.

The armed insurgency hampered the national development drive, and put the State and the national races onto the rough road to face hardships. In this regard, the AFPFL government, the Pahta-sa (Union) and the Burma Socialist Programme Party Governments issued general amnesty and held meetings with the armed groups to end the internal insurgency. But the nation experienced continued internal armed insurgency. Peace was away even in the dreams of the people.

The BCP had to leave its headquarters on Bago Yoma when its chairman and secretary were killed in March 1975. The BCP later moved its headquarters to the north-east region of the nation. After 1980, the BCP shamelessly resorted to heroin refining and trafficking business as it did not receive foreign assistance anymore. And because of the offensives of the Tatmadaw, it became weak in military strength and manpower.

The BCP was in a state of decline as it did not receive any foreign assistance and lacked a firm policy. In that situation, the leaders of the Kokang race, who were deceived by the BCP, began to realize that their people would benefit nothing if they continued to join forces of the BCP.

Thus, the Kokang leaders tried to break away from the communist insurgents. When the BCP began to learn that the Kokang people were going to leave, it tried to reorganize them, but in vain. The Kokang group broke away from the BCP on 12 March 1989. On 21 March, the Kokang armed group reformed the Tatmadaw through the peace negotiators that it ceased fire and that it would like to make peace.

The Tatmadaw representatives went to the Kokang region and met with the Kokang leaders there on 13 April. Since then, the Government has been carrying out the Kokang regional development task. The Government has designated the Shan State (North) Special Region 1 after making peace with the Kokang armed group, and rendered assistance for its progress.

Similarly, the Wa armed group broke away from the BCP and met the representatives of the Tatmadaw. The Wa armed group returned to the legal fold on 9 May 1989. The State is launching the project to totally wipe out narcotic drugs from the Wa region. The Government designated Wa region as the Shan State (North) Special Region 2.

The Wa people are building infrastructures including power stations and roads with the Government's assistance.

They are also launching land reclamation and opiumsubstitute crops programmes hand in hand with the Government.

Supporting the Shan State Liberation Army that was under the command of the BCP north-east region tried to break away from the BCP. The group announced on 19 April 1989 that it broke away from the BCP. Later it reached the ceasefire agreement with the Tatmadaw and expressed its desire to hold the peace negotiations. The Tatmadaw representatives met with its leaders on 30 May and 7 June. The group returned to the legal fold on 30 June 1989.

With the assistance of the Government, the group has been carrying out regional development tasks and long-term and short-term cultivation projects, running factories and building infrastructures. Mongla region was declared as an opium free zone on 22 April 1997. The regions has restored peace and stability and achieved rapid progress.

The Shan State Army (SSA) which had also left BCP informed the Tatmadaw about its desire to hold peace negotiations through the peace negotiators on 4 September 1989. The representatives of the Tatmadaw met with SSA leader U Hse Htin in Lashio on 20 September 1989. The SSA returned to the legal fold on 24 September 1989.

After realizing the goodwill and deeds of the government, members of BCP (Rakhine State) returned to the legal fold. (See page 9)
As national race leaders are taking part in regional development tasks hand in hand with the government, Mongla of Shan State (East) has developed significantly.

From unity to development

- Maikha and Malikha
  Beginning of Ayeyawady River.
  Continue journey to the plains
  How satisfying.
  It likes Sittaung
  Than'win feels elated
  When the wind blows gently
  It sings a song.
- Let the forests meander if they must
  Or the hills go steep.
  River Ayeyar gathers strength
  And flows downward on them.
- No matter how different the lay of the land
  The people are real kin.
  Where the wide expanse flows into the ocean
  We will surely meet.
  Let the storm be fierce
  And the wind play as it likes.
  The sea water never dries up
  It’s cool as ever.
- With this stream and the stream as example
  Unity is strengthened.
  For development of our land Myanmar
  We should be thinking.
  Nationals all of us
  Harmoniously joining hands.
  With ten Suns and ten Moons shining
  It shall be magnificent.

Soe Moe (Pathein)
(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)

The Tatmadaw Government since assumption of the State duties has been launching the national re-consolidation programme on a wider scale. Thus, the 17 armed groups understanding its goodwill have returned to the legal fold and are working in the interest of the State and the people together with the Government and the national races.

Realizing the genuine goodwill of the government, members of MTA have returned to the legal fold.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects cultivation of summer paddy in Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 2 Feb.—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Com-mander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko and officials, on 1 February morning, met with Tatmadawmen and their families of local battalion in Pyay Station and gave instructions on farming, staff welfare and health and education.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than greeted the Tatmadawmen and their families.

On arrival at the summer paddy field of Thetvyong Village-tract in Gyobingauk Township, Thayawady Dis-trict, officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party on cultivation of summer paddy and arrange-ments being made for culti-vation of summer paddy.

After speaking words of encouragement to local peo-ple, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected arrange-ments being made for culti-vation of summer paddy with the use of water from the main canal of Bawbin Dam.

Next, they arrived at the Dam Yeiktha in Gyobinguk where Director U Tin Maung Ohn of Irrigation Depart-ment and officials reported on construction of canals of Bawbin Dam, water supply for summer paddy cultivation, arrangements made for meeting the target in ex-tended cultivation of sum-mer paddy and cultivation of quality paddy strains.

Next, Chairman of Bago Division (West Branch) Peace and Development Council Col Hla Min gave a supplementary report.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions to officials.

At the meeting hall of the 250 ton Rice Mill in Letpadan, Thayawady Dis-trict, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, social organiza-tions, townswelders and local people and gave instructions on regional develop-ment.

At the meeting, Chairman of Letpadan Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Than reported on geographical con-ditions of the township, cul-tivation of project crops and progress in cultivation of summer paddy.

Responding to the re-port, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that community peace and prevalence of law and order is of utmost im-portance for the emergence of a new modern and devel-oped nation. To ensure the emergence of a new modern and developed nation eco-nomic development as well as development of human resources play a pivotal role.

As peace and tranquillity prevails in the nation, ef-forts are being made for de-velopment of human re-sources and economic de-velopment. Bago Division has exceeded the target in monsoon paddy cultivation and efforts are to be made to meet the target in summer paddy cultivation, he said.

As Letpadan Township is in Bago Division, strenu-ous efforts are to be made to meet the target in cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy in the township, he noted.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at the temporary briefing hall of Farmer Training Centre No. 1 of MAS in Chantagon, Letpadan Township where he heard a report by officials on test-cultivation of sum-mer paddy, progress in culti-vation of summer paddy in 2003-2004 and gave instructions on exceeding the target areces of summer paddy in the township and boosting the per acre yield up to 100 bas-kets.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party ar-rived at the test-paddy field in Ngayugayal Village, Thayawady District where Deputy Supervisor Daw Ma Ma Aung reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on culti-vation of summer paddy in the test-paddy field and progress in cultivation of summer paddy in 2003-2004 in the township.

Next, he inspected culti-vation of summer paddy.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Thayawady and arrived back here in the evening.

Runway expansion project inspected at Kengtung Airport

YANGON, 2 Feb.—Member of the State Peace and Development Council and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council and Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, arrived at the run-way expansion project at Kengtung Airport in Kengtung on 31 January morning.

At the briefing hall of the project, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on tasks being carried out to expand the run-way of the airport and gave instructions on speedily imple-mentation of the project, timely completion of the project, supervision of fuel use for machinery, and meas-ures for worksite safety. Af-ter inspecting the construc-tion site, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party left there.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party ar-rived at Mongphyat Station, where he met with officers and other ranks and their fami-lies at the hall of the station and gave instructions on meas-ures for smooth and secure transport.

This morning at Kengtung Station, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also met with officers and other ranks and their families and gave instructions on suc-cessful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State. He also greeted them cordially.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the construction of new school buildings at Kengtung No-6 BEMS and the construction site of the governmentcomputercollege and gave instructions.—MNA

Minister inspects MSLE, IRD in Magway Division

YANGON, 2 Feb.—Minis-ter for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun together with General Manager of Myanmar Economic Bank (Head Office) Lt-Col Maung Maung Win and members met with departmental offi-cials of the ministry in Nyangshwe Township at the office of Myanmar Economic Bank in Nyangshwe on 31 Janu-

ary.

In Chauk he inspected the Township Myanma Eco-nomic Bank.

Inspecting the new build-ing for the Township Myanma Economic Bank, the Minister was briefed by officials on progress in construction of the building.

Afterwards, the minister and party looked into Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise and Internal Revenues Depart-ment in Chauk and left neces-sary instructions.

The minister and party this afternoon met with depart-mental officials of the Minis-try of Finance and Revenue in Kyaukpadaung Township at the Township Myanma Economic Bank in Kyauk-padaung and gave instructions.

Next, the minister and party inspected Myanmar Small Loans Enterprise and Internal Revenues Depart-ment in Kyaukpadaung and left necessary instructions.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Nyaunggai Dam Project in Padaung Township, Bago Division. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Nyaunggai Dam Project in Padaung Township, Bago Division. — MNA

Raising of Myanmar sports…

(from page 14)

He said the government is giving encouragement to raising of Myanmar sports standard. He spoke of the need to concentrate on raising of sports standard including football to become the top in South-East Asia. He said football U-16, U-18 and U-23 selected teams and women selected football team gained success. But their success has halted. He said continued efforts are to be made for achievement of success in those fields. He said Myanmar Football Association and systematic arrangements are to be made for selection and training of football players. He spoke of the need to make arrangements for construction of training grounds and upgrading of existing grounds. Similarly, duties are to be assigned to qualified coaches with high efficiency in every selected football team. Selected footballers are to be chosen correctly with the coordination of officials of MFF, he said.

To be fit and strong, systematic camp training is needed for athletes. He also spoke at length on close supervision of accommodations for athletes, supply of enriched food to them and medical check-up.

He said the government would provide financial assistance, track suits and sports equipment to the athletes.

Officials concerned are to make arrangements for accommodations, health care services and systematic training of the footballers and other athletes, he added.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected hostel-1 for U-17 and U-18 football teams, mess hall and hostels for women selected athletes and cordially greeted the athletes.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Sports and Physical Education Institute in Kyaukpyu Grounds.

The Prime Minister inspected sports equipment and arrangements for construction of training grounds.

The Prime Minister and party inspected training of athletes chosen by the institute.

MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein…

(from page 16)

Brig-Gen Tin Swe, officials from Maubin District and Nyaungdonkyaung Township, in-charge of the camp Major Lyan Khant Kyin and officials.

Major Lyan Khant Kyin reported to Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein on breeding of fish, netting of fish for distribution and construction of road in the camp. The Secretary-2 gave instructions and viewed netting of fish at pond No C-7.

Afterwards, the Secretary-2 and party visited the 1,000 acre fish breeding project of MWVO (Head Office) in Myitkyina, Maubin Township. In-charge officer reported the fish breeding project.

The Secretary-2 briefed the need to drive in the interests of the organization, the region and the country.

In 2003-2004 fiscal year, the MWVO fish breeding camp distributed 100,000 visc of fish to Yangonites.

The Secretary-2 and party arrived at Nyaungdonkyaung wetland recreation project for agriculture and livestock breeding being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Irrigation and Wa Wa Win International Co Ltd. Company Chairman U Shwe Kyaw and Project Manager Daw San San Myint reported on completion of land recla-

mation and agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

The Secretary-2 gave instructions on meeting the set target and distribution of fish at reasonable prices. He also spoke of the need to strive for regional development tasks.

Wa Wa Win Co Ltd has reclaimed 500 acres for paddies fields and 5,000 acres for fish breeding tasks out of 10,000 acres of land in the Nyaungdonkyaung wetland. Recla-

mation tasks for more paddy fields and fish ponds are underway.

After signing in the visitors’ book of the project, the Secretary-2 inspected growing of summer paddy and other crops in the region and left necessary instructions there. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than…

(from page 16)

to medical battalion of the station.

The farm raises 721 Babcock poultry, 250 domestic poultry, 10 CP pigs, 39 domestic pigs and 29 goats.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with Tatmadawmen and their families at the hall of medical battalion and gave instructions on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, convenience tasks, health and education matters.

He arrived at the local battalion in Taungyoo Station and met with Tatmadawmen and families at the hall there. He gave instructions on education, health, convenience and convenience tasks.

On 30 January morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended opening of the Tagara-Koebin mountain pass at Phokyar Mountain Resort of Myanmar Timber Enterprise 10 miles from Tagara Vil-
WHO sending drugs to protect Asian chicken cullers

Geneva, 2 Feb — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday it would send supplies of anti-influenza drug Tamiflu to Thailand and Vietnam to help protect workers culling chickens infected with bird flu.

There is still no vaccine to protect humans against the virus, which jumped the species barrier from poultry, but the UN health agency believes that taking the antiviral medicine may stave off infection.

Eight people have died so far in the outbreak, six in Vietnam and two in Thailand, which are amongst 10 Asian countries where the virus has led to the slaughter of millions of poultry.

"In theory if Tamiflu works against influenza A, then it would work against bird flu," said WHO spokes-

The New Light of Myanmar

Trade Mark Caution

Trade Mark Caution
STREET ONE GmbH, a company incorporated under the laws of GERMANY, car-
rying on business as manufac-
turers and merchants and having its principal office at HuanusstraBe 5, 29227, Celle, Germany is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademark:-

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In respect of:—
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tions; writing cases; paper; printed matter; handbags; bags; carrier bags; rucksacks; leather and imita-
tions of leather; goods made of leather and imitations of leather, namely cases of the products to which they are adapted; accessories for clothing, namely handbags; small arti-
tles of leather, in particular purses, pocket wallets and key cases, trunks; travelling bags; travelling sets (leatherwear); umbrellas; parasols; walking sticks; clothing, headgear and foot-
wear, accessories for clothing, namely belts, sleeve bands, scarves, shawl, gloves, braces, stockings, socks, headbands; ornaments for hair, namely hair bands and hair slides; accessories for clothing, namely buttons, belt buckles, badges.

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INCOME

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In respect of:—
"Inner and outer articles of clothing; both woolen and knitted, headgear, excluding foot-
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25

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other in-
fringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U KYI WIN, B Com., B.L., for gir Shan S., B.P. No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 2nd March 2004

Oil regains footing after five-day slide

LONDON, 2 Feb — Oil prices steadied on Friday after a weeklong sell off as traders covered shorts ahead of the weekend on suspicion prices could yet bounce.

London Brent crude, which has fallen 1.75 US dollars since last Thursday, regained its footing to sit 23 cents up at 29.36 US dollars a barrel. US light crude for March rose 27 cents to 33.08 US dollars a barrel.

With much of the northern hemisphere winter over, traders and analysts said the longer term view pointed to a downward correction to end oil’s four-month rally, which has seen prices gain 15 per cent to date since September.

But they added that the fund led sell-off of the week may have gone too far, too fast, and that prices could rebound slightly before con-
tinuing on a path lower.

Whales flee harsh winter for Mexican waters

MEXICO CITY, 2 Feb — Gray whales are turning up in record numbers at their breed-
ing beaches is due to a change in Mexico this year as they flee harsh winter temperatures in the north Pa-
cific, Mexico’s Environment Ministry said on Friday.

Initial surveys show that more than 1,200 gray whales have already completed their annual 6,250 miles migration from the icy Bering Sea off Alaska to their breeding grounds off Mexico’s west coast — the highest number recorded in 10 years.

The surge comes as Arctic winds and record low tem-
peratures sweep the northern United States and Alaska was suffering severe weather con-
ditions and freezing rain.

“The rise in the numbers of this marine mammal off our shores is partly due to the harshness of the winter in the north which prompted a ma-
jor migration of whales seek-
ing the warmth of Mexican waters,” the ministry said in a statement.

Actor Russell Crowe hurt while training for boxing film

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb — He fought off tigers without a scratch in “Gladiator” and hardly got his feet wet as a naval captain in “Master and Commander.”

But actor Russell Crowe got a scratch in filming a single frame of boxing film “Cinderella Man.”

The Oscar-winning star suffered a dislocated shoul-
der while training in the ring for his upcoming role as 1935 world heavyweight cham-
pion James Braddock. Uni-

versal Pictures studio said on Friday.

The mishap, which oc-
curred in Sydney, Australia, is expected to delay the start of production on the film by about a month, with prin-
cipal photography now set to begin in early April, the stu-
dio said.

MNA/Reuters

Adviser denies drug allegation against Michael Jackson

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb — Michael Jackson’s spiritual adviser Firpo Carr on Friday called the claims made by an author in an upcoming Van-

ity Fair article “false.”

“The problem is not hav-
ing been addicted to drugs, the problem is getting off of drugs,” he stressed.

Supporters and family members said they could say little due to a gag order in the Jackson molestation case, but Jermaine Jackson has already called the article “slander-
ous.”

The author of the article in Vanity Fair, Maureen Orth, has raised more allegations about Michael Jackson se-
ducing boys by giving them soda cans filled with wine.

In February’s edition of the magazine, the article’s author cites an old interview with one of Jackson’s former business advisers. “The young man who made the allegations said he was given wine in soda pop cans,” said Orth.

Orth added that Jackson allegedly showed the boy and his brother pornography on the Internet and it was just another incident in what Orth claims is Jackson’s history of abuse with other boys.

“In 1998, in Japan, Jackson allegedly gave another 13-year-old boy cans of white wine. The boy’s fa-
thad just announced a big business deal with Jackson, and Jackson took the boy to an amusement park in Japan and the boy came back sick and the deal went sour,” said Orth.—MNA/Xinhua
Counter-trade scheme saves Philippines $204m in two years

MANN, 2 Feb — The Philippine Government saved 204 million US dollars in expenditures in 2002 and 2003 by counter-trading goods and services, a newspaper reported.

The savings were results of the government’s aggressive efforts to integrate counter-trade in major imports of government agencies and offices, The Philippine Star quoted a report of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as saying. In the report, the DTI-attached agency, the Philippine International Trading Corp. said the savings in the past two years were much higher compared to the 300 million dollars saved from counter-trade over a 12-year period up to 2001.

The agency believes the savings could still rise in the medium-term with the decision of various government agencies to tender international transactions. Of the 204 million dollars in savings, 133.6 million dollars were from the government’s importation of commodities from Vietnam, China and Thailand; search and rescue vessels from Australia; weapons and ammunition from Canada, Belgium and Italy; coal from Indonesia; and patrol cars from Japan.

One out of every four GSM mobile phone users comes from China

BEIJING, 2 Feb — China has registered 240 million GSM mobile phone users, accounting for a quarter of the one billion GSM mobile phone users worldwide, according to an industry source. Statistics from China Mobile Communication Co Ltd showed that the company has landed 177 million GSM mobile phone clients, becoming the world’s biggest mobile communication operator in terms of customers and GSM network capacity.

Another big telecommunication operator, China United Telecommunications Corp has 70 million GSM mobile phone users. It also operates CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) network as the core technology for its competition against China Mobile.

India asks Nepal to act as transit link between India, China

KATHMANDU, 2 Feb — India, which has been importing Chinese goods directly from Hong Kong and Shanghai mainly through sea routes, has proposed to Nepal to act as a transit link between it and China.

“We have made the offer to Nepal Government and the Nepali side has responded positively, Commerce Secretary Dipak Chatterjee, who was here to participate in the Indo-Nepali Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting, told PTI. At the conclusion of the three-day meeting today, India and Nepal agreed to set up a mechanism on self-certifi- cation for traded goods. India and Nepal food products meant for export to In- dia to ensure the quality. The two countries also agreed to enhance and upgrade facilities and infrastructure in the four major Customs points along Indo-Nepali border. Chatterjee said if Nepal plays a role in a transit link between India and China, the two economic giants of Asia, it would not only help India lower its transport cost but also help develop trading business in Nepal. After reaching an understanding both India and Nepal would have to work out procedures and modalities for this, the minister said. A courtesy call on Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa at his residence in Baluwatar on Saturday, elaborating on the issues taken up during IGC meeting, he said “we discussed matters relating to bilateral trade and expand- ing investment opportunities between the two countries.”

Gold and silver coins issued in Brazil, which is a five-time World Cup soccer champion nation, and commemorate the 100th anniversary of FIFA are displayed during a ceremony in Rio de Janeiro, on 30 Jan, 2004. France, Switzerland and Uruguay will also launch their coins today.— PTI

Russian supply craft docks with Space Station

MOSCOW, 2 Feb — A Russian supply spacecraft docked with the Interna- tional Space Station on Sat- urday, bringing food, water, equipment and two experi- mental dummies for the two- man crew aboard, a mission control spokesman said.

With Russia still provid- ing the sole link to the 16- nation platform after the Columbia shuttle disaster a year ago, the Progress 47 cargo ship blasted off from Russia’s Baikonur cosmodrome in the Karakh steppe on Thursday.

"Progress successfully docked with the station at 16.13 Moscow Time (1313 GMT)," the spokesman said from mission control outside Moscow. “It has brought to the ISS fuel, oxygen, water, letters, food and various other things.” Among the items brought aboard were two dummies, shown wrapped in protective cover- ing on Russian television and intended to simulate the effect of radiation on hu- mans.

Several of the results of the experiment will be used to pave the way for human travel to Mars — one of the goals set out by US President George W Bush in space plans announced this month.

S Korea to establish emergency health care system over bird flu virus

SEOUL, 2 Feb — South Korea Friday decided to establish an emergency health care system to prepare for possible human infections of bird flu, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare said that the setup of the contingency sys- tem is in line with warnings from the World Health Organization (WHO) that a possible mutation of the H5N1 virus may cause infection in humans. “In hospitals located in affected areas, the government will closely monitor whether humans are in- fected and it will strengthen quarantine measures to prevent the spread of the vi- rus,” said the ministry in a meeting attended by local government officials.

The poultry disease has spread in South Korea since it was first detected in last December. But so far, there have been no reports that it has crossed to humans. “We will continue to examine the health records of those engaged in spraying disin- fectants and slaughtering birds,” a ministry official was quoted by Yonhap as saying.

The Health Ministry will also step up efforts to develop test medicine to determine bird flu infection and plan to simulate quarantined infected people, if any. South Korea has culled more than 2.4 million chickens and other fowl to stop spread of the disease. A total of 17 poultry farms have been hit by the disease ever since late last year. Some South Korean experts said the lo- cal outbreak of avian flu was a different variant of H5N1 from the one which has surfaced in Vietnam.

Chinese send 9.8 billion mobile phone messages around New Year

BEIJING, 2 Feb — Chinese people sent 9.8 billion Lunar New Year greeting messages through their mobile phones in the New Year’s Eve and week-long holiday from January 22 to January 28, 3 billion more than last year.

Chinese send 9.8 billion mobile phone messages around New Year

Subscribers with China Mobile sent 7.8 billion short messages, while China Unicom clients sent over two billion pieces.

With the popularity of camera handsets, the number of multimedia mes- sages also climbed during the festival.

The Health Ministry will also step up efforts to develop test medicine to determine bird flu infection and plan to simulate quarantined infected people, if any. South Korea has culled more than 2.4 million chickens and other fowl to stop spread of the disease. A total of 17 poultry farms have been hit by the disease ever since late last year. Some South Korean experts said the local outbreak of avian flu was a different variant of H5N1 from the one which has surfaced in Vietnam.

With the popularity of camera handsets, the number of multimedia mes- sages also climbed during the festival.

Paying 0.1 yuan for each message on the average, subscribers spent around one billion yuan (120 million US dollars) over the holiday.

"Any individual who refuses to circulate the bank notes issued by the State Bank of Vietnam will be named as a lawbreaker and will face tough punish- ments,” deputy governor Nguyen Thi Kim Phung said in December.

In addition to a new 500,000-dong (32-US-dol- lar) note, Vietnam also cir- culated a new design of its 50,000-dong note.

India asks Nepal to act as transit link between India, China

KATHMANDU, 2 Feb — India, which has been importing Chinese goods directly from Hong Kong and Shanghai mainly through sea routes, has proposed to Nepal to act as a transit link between it and China.

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Vietnam’s new coins being gobbled up

HANOI, 2 Feb — New coins introduced by Vietnam’s Central Bank have been gobbled up — not by collectors, but rather by children who swallowed them after mistak- ing them for sweets.

Since three coins were made available in mid-Dec- ember after a two-decade ab- sence, doctors have treated at least 17 children for swallowing them.

Over the recent Lunar New Year holidays, six chil- dren aged between two and 10 were treated in the cen- tral province of Quang Nam after swallowing coins, the Two Tre (Youth) newspa- per reported recently.

Money is a traditional good luck gift for children during the festival. The misadventures are an unfor- given scene for headache for Vietnam’s central bank, which had hoped the coins would promote the use of vending machines and other conveniences.

The launch of Vietnam’s new money has faced other glitches. Polymer-based counterfeit proof banknotes that were also introduced last month were hit by rumours that the bills would be with- drawn because they had no year of issue printed on them. Then jewellery shops complained that their coun- ting machines could not read the new notes.

The central bank has been forced to issue stern admoni- tions. "Any individual who refuses to circulate the bank notes issued by the State Bank of Vietnam will be named as a lawbreaker and will face tough punish- ments,” deputy governor Nguyen Thi Kim Phung said in December.

In addition to a new 500,000-dong (32-US-dol- lar) note, Vietnam also cir- culated a new design of its 50,000-dong note.

Elephants participate in a game of soccer at the second Elephant Festival held at Rangamati National Park, 267 km (166 miles) east of Gauhati, capital of the northeastern Indian state of Assam, on 30 January, 2004. The festival is being held to generate awareness in the local population on the need to cohabit with local wild elephants and to reduce conflicts arising from herds damaging crops.— PTI

(approvingly)
Celtic crush Kilmarnock 5-1, go 14 points clear

Glasgow, 2 Feb — Celtic’s John Hartson scored twice as the unbeaten Scottish Premier League leaders scored five second-half goals against Kilmarnock in a 5-1 win on Saturday that takes them 14 points clear at the top.

Second-placed Rangers can cut the deficit to 11 points again if they win at bottom club Partick Thistle on Sunday.

Celtic’s French winger Didier Agathe tormented Kilmarnock after the break and opened the scoring 10 minutes into the second-half before goals from Hartson, Henrik Larsson and Stephen Pearson wrapped up the points for Martin O’Neill’s side.

“Didier Agathe really picked up the tempo of the game in the second half, scoring the important first, which was a great strike, and was involved in a few others after we never looked like breaking them down in the first half,” said O’Neill.

After Agathe had slammed home Celtic’s opener the speedy French winger glided over for a cross which Welshman Hartson headed home.

Kilmarnock were not finished and Hartson’s 89th minute great strike, and was involved in a few games as the champions beat Southampton 3-2 at Old Trafford to go top of the league on 53 points.

Banned Cisse takes out on Bordeaux

PARIS, 2 Feb — France striker Djibril Cisse bounced back from his Euro 2004 ban by scoring twice and setting up another goal as AJ Aixerre demolished Girondins Bordeaux 5-0 in their Ligue 1 clash on Saturday.

The Liverpool-bound player, who will miss the European Championship after failing to overturn a five-match international ban for kicking an opponent in an Under 21 match, inspired Auxerre as they killed off the game with four first-half goals.

The Burgundy side are now third in the table with 41 points from 22 games, seven adrift of leaders AS Roma and four behind second-placed Lyon.

Morocco punish comedic Benin defence

SOAN/Tunisia, 2 Feb — Morocco took advantage of a comedy of errors by the Benin defence to beat the African Nations Cup debutants 4-0 on Saturday and maintain their perfect record in Group D.

Striker Marouane Chamakh was gifted the opener in the 17th minute after Benin goalkeeper Rachid Chotouan completely missed a cross.

Benin then held out and produced some good attacks of their own until their defence fell apart again in the game allowing substitute Youssef Mokhtari and defenders Abdelslam Oudaoou and Talal El Karkouri to score in a seven-minute spell.

Morocco, who have yet to concede a goal, lead Group D with six points and need to draw with South Africa to make sure of a quarterfinal place. Benin have lost both their games.

“We had a lot of difficulties in the first half when we were up against a very solid team,” said Morocco coach Badou Ezaki. “In the second half, we scored three quick goals and won the match.”

El Karkouri and midfielder Houcine Khajar both went close for Morocco in the opening five minutes and it was no surprise when they went ahead.

AS Roma’s Francesco Totti (L) and Luigi Di Biagio of Brescia challenge for the ball during their Serie A soccer match at Rigamonti Stadium, in Brescia, on 31 Jan.—INTERNET

Midfielder Stankovic moves to Inter from Lazio

Rome, 2 Feb — Serbia and Montenegro midfielder Dejan Stankovic signed for Inter Milan from Serie A rivals Lazio on Saturday just before the January transfer window closed.

The 25-year-old’s transfer was for four million euros (4.96 million US dollars).

“The midfielder has put pen to paper on a contract which will expire on June 30, 2008,” Inter Milan said on their website.

Stankovic’s future at Rome-based Lazio had been in doubt since talks over a new contract broke down.

His Inter deal was set to expire in June and the cash-strapped club hoped to sell during the January transfer window rather than lose one of its top players for nothing at the end of the season.

“At Inter at last!” were Stankovic’s first words after donning the blue-and-black striped No 11 Inter shirt.

 cpu

United beat spirited Saints 3-2 to go top

LONDON, 2 Feb — French striker Louis Saha scored on his debut and Ruud van Nistelrooy struck the winner as Manchester United beat Southampton 3-2 at Old Trafford to go top of the Premier League on Saturday.

S Saints striker Kevin Phillips scored his side’s goals either side of the break to put Southampton level before Paul Scholes had given United a two-goal lead in the 37th minute.

Van Nistelrooy then pounced in a goalmouth scramble to turn home the winner just after the hour of an exciting match in front of a record Premier League crowd of 67,758 that Saints twice came close to levelling in the final minutes.

It was the Dutchman’s 99th goal for the club and ensured that United, who have not lost at home to Southampton since 1988, moved one point ahead of Arsenal, who meet Manchester City at home on Sunday.

Saha, signed from Fulham for 12.3 million (23.2 million US dollars) eight days ago, opened the scoring with a free kick, which deflected off Scholes’ head.

In the 18th minute after Portuguese midfielder Fabricio Ronaldal had been brought down.

In the 37th, Antti Niemi failed to hold the Frenchman’s low shot from outside the box and Scholes pounced to shoot under the Finnish keeper and put United further ahead.

Southampton struck back 61 seconds later when Phillips’ shot from outside the penalty area took a slight deflection off fellow striker Howard.

The referee awarded a free kick on the edge of the box but then van Nistelrooy was not ruled offside when he clearly strayed forward at the kick.

Play continued and the ball came back to the Dutchman, now onside, for what proved to be the winner.

The visitors had two late chances to level the match when in the 82nd minute, Howard superbly tipped the ball over defender Danny Higginbotham’s overhead kick while Phillips missed a low cross into the sixth-yard box a minute later.
Health Minister inspects construction of Institute of Dental Medicine

YANGON, 2 Feb — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials, inspected the construction project of an Institute of dental medicine and new hospital on Thanlinna Road in Thingangyun Township this morning.

At the briefing hall, the head manager of Myanmar Industrial Construction Services under the Ministry of Industry-2, U Ye Tun reported to the minister and party on progress of construction of the main building of the university and school buildings, and financial matters.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions and attended to the requirements.

Next, the minister and party inspected round the construction site and gave instructions on the building of food shops and hostels.

The minister also urged the officials to take measures for keeping school buildings clean and attractive. They also filled the requirements.

Deputy Foreign Minister leaves for Indonesia

YANGON, 2 Feb — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win left here this afternoon to attend Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism to be held in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 and 5 February.

Third Specialized Training on the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature for Trade Facilitation held

YANGON, 2 Feb — The Third Specialized Training on the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature for Trade Facilitation jointly sponsored by ASEAN General Secretariat and Customs Department of Myanmar was held at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon.

The training course is being attended by 30 trainees—18 from ASEAN member nations and 12 from Myanmar.

Eight killed in Philippine bus collision

MANILA, 2 Feb — Eight people, including a boy, were killed and 14 others injured after two passenger buses collided early Saturday in the northern Philippines, police said. The accident occurred when a Manila-bound bus collided head-on with an incoming bus as it tried to overtake a tricycle on the highway in Botolan Town in the province of Zambales, the Philippines News Agency quoted a police report as saying.

WEATHER

Monday, 2 February 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rains have been isolated in Tanintharyi Division. Weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Mon State. Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 1-2 January was 16.0°C (97°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-2 January was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 1-2 January was 9.1 hours approx. Rainfall on 2-2 January was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1 January was 3mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from north at (11:10) hours MST on 1-2 January.

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

Forecast valid until 10 a.m. 3-2 January: Possibility of isolated light rain in southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast valid until 6 p.m. 3-2 January: Partly cloudy.

Forecasts for 3-2 January: Mostly cloudy. Forecasts for 3-2 January: Mostly cloudy.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects all-round construction of Mindhamma Hill. — MNA

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, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township this morning.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offered flowers and water and paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Image. At the chamber hall, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko reported on holding of the third Buddha Pujaniya of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Image and all-round construction of Mindhamma Hill.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister inspected all-round construction of religious edifices on Mindhamma Hill. After giving necessary instructions, the Prime Minister left the Mindhamma Hill.

MNA

Htamane-donation ceremony to be held

YANKON, 2 Feb — The Htaman will be donated to the public at Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township at 3 pm on 4 February. — MNA

Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Nyangmyokun Wetland reclamation and Livestock breeding project. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development projects, agriculture tasks in Bago Division

YANKON, 2 Feb — State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials from the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by air on 29 January morning and arrived at Toungoo airport in Bago Division at 8 am.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were welcomed there by Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Thura Maung Ni, senior military officers from Toungoo Station and departmental officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party together with Brig-Gen Ko Ko and officials proceeded (See page 11)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Khawa Dam Project in Bago Division. — MNA

Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with MWVOCOC Vice-Chairman Lt-Gen Kyi Min (Retd), member Defence Services Records Office Commandant Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, arrived at Thazin Yay Kyaw fish breeding camp of MWVO (Head Office) in Nyangmyokun Township, Ayeyawady Division, where they were welcomed by South-West Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and officials proceeded (See page 11)

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects fish-breeding tasks of MWVO

YANKON, 2 Feb — Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein this morning inspected fish-breeding camps, fish-breeding project and land reclamation tasks in Ayeyawady Division.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects all-round construction of Mindhamma Hill.

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Prime Minister Khin Nyunt inspects all-round construction of religious edifices on Mindhamma Hill. — MNA

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