The success achieved in political, economic and social sectors can be ascribed to the concerted efforts exerted by the national people with Union Spirit under the leadership of the government and the strong national force. The entire national people are required to, with constant vigil, ward off the danger to the stability, peace and tranquillity and development of the State where Union Spirit is flowering and the national force is strong.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 54th Anniversary Union Day.)

Senior General Than Shwe
sends felicitations to
Sri Lankan President

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Thai Ambassador
YANGON, 3 Feb — Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, newly accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha at 10 am today. Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. — MNA

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

Final rites of Konlon Sayadawgyi on 9 Feb

YANGON, 3 Feb — Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotiika Konlon Sayadawgyi, State Ovadacarya Presiding Nayaka of Konlon Monastery in Pindaya, Shan State (South), passed away on 30 January 2004. The remains will be kept in the casket for public obsequies on 7 February. The ceremony to open white umbrella over the remains of the Sayadaw will be held on 8 February.

The final rites and entombment ceremony of the Sayadaw will be held at 1 pm on 9 February. On 8 February, Chancellor of Thitagu World Buddhist University in Sagaing Hill Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Maha Gandhavasaca Pandita Maha Dhammakathikha Bahu-janahitadha Dr Nanisara will deliver a sermon.—MNA

Press conference on “Preference for Things Myanmar” held

YANGON, 3 Feb — A press conference on “Preference for Things Myanmar” of Myanmar Brewery Co took place at Karaweik Palace here at 10 am today.

It was attended by Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, Director (News) U Hla Tun and officials, Chairman of Myanmar Brewery Co Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye, General Manager Mr David Teng and officials, journalists, distributors and guests.

First, General Manager Mr David Teng extended greetings and Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye explained the purpose of holding the press conference.

Next, Trade Mark In-Charge U Myint Swe clarified matters related to sale promotion and lucky draws of the company and programmes for cash donations to social welfare tasks.

Afterwards, Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye replied to queries raised by those present.—MNA

Course on diplomatic skills opened

ANGON, 3 Feb — The inauguration ceremony of the certificate course in basic diplomatic skills (BDS) (02/04) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzinzinayar Hall of the ministry at 8 am today, with an address delivered by U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Present on the occasion were directors-general of the departments under the ministry, departmental officials, Myanmar ambassadors, senior diplomats, professors of universities and institutes concerned, and trainees.

Various subjects including international conferencing, international etiquette, protocol, international correspondence, international law, negotiation techniques are included in the course. A total of 160 trainees are attending the 12-week course.— MNA

PM sends felicitations to Sri Lankan counterpart

ANGON, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4 February 2004, His Excellency U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency, Honourable Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.— MNA

FM sends felicitations to Sri Lankan counterpart

ANGON, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4 February 2004, His Excellency U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency, Honourable Tyrone Fernando, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.— MNA

People’s Desire

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

Chairman of Myanmar Brewery Co Lt-Col Maung Maung Aye speaks at the press conference.—MNA

Township MCWA’s new building opened

YANGON, 3 Feb — The opening of the newly-constructed building of Thingangyun Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Yangon East District took place at the building in Ward 25, Thwunna, Thingangyun Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Patron of Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Hnay, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, local authorities, officials and guests.

The patron delivered a speech in honour of the opening of the building and dealt with the tasks to be carried out by MCWA members. Next, Daw Khin Thet Hnay, Township MCWA Patron Daw Khin Thet Hnay and President Daw Nan Nwe formally opened the building. The commander pressed the button to unveil the stone inscriptions of the building and sprinkled scented water on it. Then, the commander and wife, and officials viewed the building.—MNA

Cash donated to MMCWA

YANGON, 3 Feb — Wellwishers donated cash and kind to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at a ceremony held at the association held at the Thanthuma and Parami roads in South Okkalapa Township here this morning.

It was attended by MMCWA President Dr Dawkhun Win Shwe and CEC members, wellwishers and guests.

At the ceremony, the women’s association of Chinese Embassy to Myanmar presented K 500,000; U Aung Soe Thu and U Aung Zaw Ye Myint, intercoms worth K 600,000; and U Ko Lat Daw Htay Htay and family, K 100,000 to the MMCWA president, who then presented certificates of honour to them and expressed words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the MMCWA president, the guests and the wellwishers viewed photos of activities of the association and the Early-childhood Development Centre.— MNA

MMCW President Dr Dawkhun Win Shwe accepts the cash donation.— MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 4 February, 2004

Strive for speedy completion of projects implemented by the State

The State Peace and Development Council, enlisting the strength of internal forces, is making every endeavour on self-reliance basis to enable the Union to keep abreast with the progress of other nations in the world. For this, it is striving for the development of all sectors of the economy with agriculture as the base.

While efforts are being made to boost the productivity of the agriculture sector, measures are being taken for the development of the industrial sector as well as for the extension of agro-based industries. Not only that, 18 industrial zones and branch industrial zones have been established in order to encourage the private industrial sector.

Development of the energy sector plays a vital role in trying to increase the productivity of the agriculture and the industrial sectors. To meet the energy need in everyday life of the people and the manufacturing industries, new energy projects are being exploited. Oil, gas and natural gas deposits were struck at Nyayunung in 1999, at Tharjgyi-taung and Sabai-taung in 2001, at Inndaw in August, 2002 and in Rakhine State in December, 2003. At the same time, electrical power plants and one steam power plant under construction will generate a total of 1910 megawatts. Out of those under construction, Paunglaung, Mone-chan and Tkyit power plants are nearing completion.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 31 January visited the site of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project and exhorted all those responsible to make sure that all the irrigation work, power generation work and water distribution work are completed according to schedule, durable and meet the set standards. The Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project is situated 11 miles east of Pyinmana and on completion, it will be able to irrigate 35,000 acres of farmland and generate 911 million kilowatt hours.

Therefore, we would like to urge all those responsible to try as hard as they can to be able to finish the projects according to schedule.

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Therefore, we would like to urge all those responsible to try as hard as they can to be able to finish the projects according to schedule.
China to establish 225 wetland reserves in seven years

Beijing, 3 Feb—China will establish 225 wetland reserves from 2004 to 2010, according to a national wetland protection plan released by the State Forestry Administration.

The plan, jointly formulated by 10 departments under the State Council, proposes to establish 225 new wetland reserves in seven years, which will restore 715,000 hectares of wetlands and 17,000 hectares of desertification wetlands and 80 international wetland reserves.

By 2030, China will restore 1.4 million hectares of wetland establishment 53 national natural wetland and 80 international wetland reserves. The number of new reserves will reach 713 in 2030, covering 90 per cent of the wetlands in China, the plan said.

Dubbed "kidneys of the Earth", wetlands are extension areas of land and water, including lakes, swamps and tidal flats. They play a crucial role in storing water, adjusting climate, alleviating pollution and preventing and controlling soil erosion and flooding. — MNA/Xinhua

Spain seize 150 migrants off Canary Islands

Muces, 3 Feb—Spanish authorities on Sunday seized a boat off the Canary Islands carrying 150 African migrants, some of them sick and weak from a 1,250-mile journey from Cape Verde, a government spokesman said.

The Navy and police intercepted the 81-yard boat with a Senegalese captain and a 14-strong Ghanaian crew some 80 nautical miles south of Gran Canaria.

"The boat was really in a sorry state... it had run out of petrol," said the spokeswoman for the central government’s representative in the Canary Islands.—MNA/Reuters

Attackers fire grenade at army vehicle

Mosul, 3 Feb—Attackers fired a rocket-propelled grenade at an army vehicle Monday as Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz met with local officials across Iraq.

No one was hurt and the Stryker infantry carrier vehicle was only slightly damaged, said Brig. General Carter Ham, commanders of an army base near the site of the attack.

Wolfowitz, who was on an official visit to Baghdad, made the remark in the light of the recent terrorist acts in Iraq.

"Unfortunately, the terrorist acts show that it is premature to speak about settlement in Iraq since the situation there remains extremely complicated," Wolfowitz was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

He pledged that Russia, along with many other countries, would be able to take part in the political and economic rehabilitation of Iraq under the aegis of the UN after the war-torn country resumes its sovereignty.

Belarussian Foreign Minister Sergei Martynov echoed Ivanov’s statement by expressing the hope that the sovereign right of the Iraq people to decide on their own fate will be realized as soon as possible. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia calls for earliest restoration of sovereignty in Iraq

MOSCOW, 3 Feb—Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov on Monday expressed concern about the “complicated” situation in Iraq, calling for soonest possible restoration of Iraq’s sovereignty.

Ivanov, who is on an official visit to Belarus, made the remark in the light of the recent terrorist attacks in Iraq.

"Unfortunately, the terrorist acts show that it is premature to speak about settlement in Iraq since the situation there remains extremely complicated," Ivanov was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

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

Baghdad, 3 Feb—As of Monday, 2 February, 522 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 363 died as a result of hostile action and 159 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

Since the start of military operations, 2,500 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures as of Monday. Non-hostile injured numbered 402.

The latest identifications reported by the military: the following soldiers were killed last Thursday when their vehicle was hit by an explosive in Kirkuk. Iraq: all were assigned to Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Hood, Texas: Army Sgt Elia A. Miensadovol, 27, San Clemente, Calif. — Army Cpl Juan C Cabralbanuelos, 25, Emporia, Kan. — Army Pfc Holly J McGeogh, 19, Taylor, Mich. — Internet

Death toll rises in Iraq bombings

Irbil, 3 Feb—American military officials raised the death toll in suicide bombings at two Kurdish party offices to 67 on Monday.

No group claimed responsibility for Sunday’s attacks, the bloodiest in Iraq in six months.

The casualty figure — up from the earlier estimate of 56 dead — was released by military officials meeting with US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who was visiting troops in Mosul on Monday after spending a day in Baghdad. The officials said 267 people were injured in the attacks.

The near-simultaneous attacks Sunday killed many of the top leaders of the two parties, who were gathered to greet hundreds of ordinary Kurds on the first day of the four-day Eid-al-Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice, holiday.

The two party offices were eight miles apart in the heartland of Iraq’s minority Kurds, who have been the most supportive of the US invasion and occupation.

The US-installed Iraqi Governing Council declared a three-day period of national mourning beginning Monday during which flags will fly at half-staff and Quranic verses will be recited.

Also Sunday, a rocket attack on a US supplies base in Balad north of the capital Baghdad killed one American soldier and wounded 12, including two seriously. Another soldier was killed Sunday and two others were hurt when their Humvee overturned near the town of Haditha.

The two deaths mean 524 US service members have been killed since the Iraq conflict began in March. — MNA/Reuters

Internet

Both countries condemned the growth of terrorism and religious extremism, which threatened international national peace and security. They shared the view that terrorism could not be justified on any ground, whether political, ethnic, religious or others.

India and Pakistan agreed that every state has the duty to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in another country or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts.

They felt that countries must refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entitle or passivity to persons in terrorist acts.

They also agreed that the recent settlement in Iraq under the aegis of the UN after the war-torn country resumes its sovereignty would be able to take part in the political and economic rehabilitation of Iraq under the aegis of the UN after the war-torn country resumes its sovereignty.

"Romania has invited India to cooperate in regional matters and, in line with the 1967 UN convention, to work towards the prevention of armed conflict," the joint statement said.

According to a joint statement issued after talks between Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu Saturday.

"Romania also considers India an important player at the regional level," according to a joint statement issued after talks between Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu Saturday.

In the context of Indo-Pakistani relations, Romania welcomed the recent events that have reshaped the overall ties between the two neighbours, observing that this has created the ground for a bilateral dialogue, which will help in regional and global stability, the statement said.

In the presence of the two leaders, the two sides signed four agreements, including one on exemption of visa requirement for the holders of diplomatic passports.
**CPJ condemns Iraq Council limiting Al Jazeera cover**

**NEW YORK, 3 Feb—** The Committee to Protect Journalists on Monday condemned the Iraqi Governing Council’s decision to ban the Arabic television station Al Jazeera from covering official Council events for a month.

Council spokesperson Marouj Haider on Saturday said Al Jazeera would be barred over broadcasting remarks during a recent phone-in show that showed “disrespect to Iraq and its people and harmed prominent religious and national figures.” The figures included Mohsen al-Hakim, the son of Iraqi Shi’ite leader and Council member Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, and his sons as well as Mustafa Barzani, the late father of Kurdish Democratic Party leader Massoud Barzani, she said.

The Council has in the past temporarily limited operations of the Qatar-based satellite television station and its competitor Dubai-based Al Arabiya, accusing them of inciting violence.

“The IGC (Iraqi Governing Council) should welcome an open debate about Iraq’s future, even if it includes views that the IGC finds objectionable or distasteful,” said the committee’s Executive Director Ann Cooper. “By continuing to penalize media in Iraq, the IGC discredits its professed support of a free press.”

**Four Fort Hood soldiers killed in Iraq**

**Fort Hood, (Texas), 3 Feb—** Four soldiers stationed at Fort Hood were killed over the weekend when their vehicle struck a homemade explosive device near the northern Iraq city of Kirkuk, the Defence Department reported Monday.

The soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division were identified as Sgt Eliu Miersandoval, 27, of San Clemente, Calif.; Cpl Juan Cabralbuenos, 25, of Riverdale, Utah; and Pfc. Holly McGeogh, 19, of Taylor, Mich. All three were light-truck mechanics assigned to the Army’s 4th Forward Support Battalion, officials at Fort Hood said. Their vehicle hit the improvised mine while traveling as part of a convoy about 27 miles south of Kirkuk.

Dan Hassett, a Fort Hood spokesman, said Monday that another soldier from the post near Kileen was killed Sunday in a separate incident, but that person’s identity has not been released.

Counting the yet-unnamed casualty, 54 soldiers from Fort Hood have been killed in Iraq since the war started nearly a year ago, Hassett said.

Miersandoval, born in Mexico, joined the Army in 1998 and spent nearly all of his military career at Fort Hood. Cabralbuenos, also born in Mexico, enlisted in 1996 and had been at Fort Hood since 1999.

McGeogh became a soldier in 2002 and was assigned to Fort Hood last March. The Army provided no other details about the fatal blast, but it said the incident was still being investigated.

**US forces plan to reduce presence inside Baghdad**

**BAGHDAD, 3 Feb—** US forces plan to reduce their visible presence inside Baghdad in the coming months by moving to the perimeter of the city, leaving the main responsibility for security to Iraqi forces, officials said on Sunday.

US occupying forces come under daily attack in Iraq and the compound housing the US-led administration in Baghdad has come under mortar attack on several occasions. A suicide bomber killed at least 25 people at a gate to the compound last month.

Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who arrived in Iraq on Sunday, met military commanders on his third postwar visit to the country to see the situation on the ground and be briefed on plans for a massive rotation of forces in and out of Iraq.

By May there was expected to be a complete turnover of US troops, but the numbers will be similar at about 110,000. The 1st Armoured Division is building six base camps along the edges of the city which will be taken over by the 1st Cavalry Division, “so that when our successors come in behind us they will be on the outside looking in. We were very much on the inside looking out,” Brigadier-General Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armoured Division, told reporters with Wolfowitz.

When he took command in July there were 60 base camps across the city. “It comes along with sandbags, concrete barriers, concertina wire, and it just causes a lot of disruption that we are beyond now,” he said.

“So we’ll be on the perimeter of the city.”

Currently there are 24 base camps in Baghdad and that will be reduced to eight by May 2004, which will still be in the Green Zone, a sprawling and heavily fortified area inside Baghdad including one of Saddam Hussein’s former palaces.

The United States plans to hand over sovereignty to Iraqs by the end of June, but security continues to be a major issue.

One senior military officer said that back in early November it was believed that there were six to eight guerrilla cells in Baghdad but there were now thought to be 14 cells involving around 250 to 300 people. — MNA/Reuters

**UN wants rules for bioprospecting in Antarctica**

**JOHANNESBURG, 3 Feb—** The United Nations said on Sunday rules were needed to prevent a free-for-all search for unique Antarctic organisms that could be used for pharmaceutical and other commercial purposes.

“Bioprospectors are starting to turn their attention to many of the world’s last frontiers, such as hydrothermal vents, the deep seabed, the water column of the high seas and polar ice caps,” said a report by UN University, headquartered in Tokyo. Bioprospecting is the search for commercially valuable and exploitable organisms.

Work should be stepped up on international agreements to oversee pros- pecting efforts in Antarctica by research institutions... and pharmaceutical companies to discover and stake owner- ship to promising organisms,” the report said.

Isolating and extracting the substances that allow or- ganisms to survive in one of the earth’s harshest environ- ments could lead to new cancer treatment drugs, antibiotics and industrial compounds, it said.

“But in fragile Antarcti- ca this optimism is offset by warnings of significant consequences if an unregu- larized international “free-for- all” is allowed to develop,” it said. Such organisms are known as “extremophiles” because of their ability to thrive in tough environmen- tal conditions.

One valuable substance is glycoprotein, which func- tions as an “antifreeze” in some Antarctic fish and pre- vents them from freezing in their sub-zero conditions. Potential applications include raising the freeze-tol- erance of commercial plants, improving farm fish produc- tion in cold climates and improving farm fish produc- tion in cold climates and extending the shelf life of frozen food. —MNA/Reuters

**India, Romania share tradition of supporting each other**

**NEW DELHI, 3 Feb—** Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam recently said India and Romania have a tradition of supporting each other on multi-issues and working in tandem at the United Nations.

“Our cooperation at the United Nations provides us with an opportunity to share perceptions on issues of importance to both our countries,” he said at a banquet in honour of visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu here.

Stating that the interaction between the two countries over the years have led to a symbiotic relationship that has brought cultural vitality to their traditions, he said the recent upsurge of interest among Romanians in Indian literature, dance, music, cinema and philosophy testified to the strong roots and vitality of the multifaceted ties.

“Now that membership of the European Union is on the horizon, Romania offers even more attractive trade and investment opportunities for Indian business,” Kalam said.

The President said India-Romania trade which declined in the early 1990s is again on the upswing.

“We are conscious that considerable untapped opportu- nities remain and it is heartening that both our countries are seriously working at exploiting this potential for further growth. We would like to see at least a five-fold increase in our bilateral trade by 2005,” he said. — MNA/PTI
US still sees Saddam loyalists as main enemy

Baghdad, 3 Feb — Saddam Hussein loyalists are still the main enemy fighting US occupiers in Baghdad, but big attacks like the suicide bombs in Arbil bear the hallmark of a different foe, a top US commander said on Monday. Brigadier-General Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armoured Division which is in charge of security in the Baghdad region, told a news conference only a handful of foreign guerrillas had been picked up in the capital.

"Until three days ago we had captured 19 foreigners in Baghdad out of several thousand individuals captured who were former regime loyalists," he said, adding that earlier on Monday two men believed to be Afghan and Iranian had been picked up while planting a roadside bomb in Baghdad.

"We are clearly still fighting as the principal enemy the former regime," he said. But Dempsey said the twin suicide bombs in Arbil, which killed at least 67 people on Sunday, and a major bomb in Baghdad on January 18 that killed at least 25 people, could have been carried out by other guerrillas.

"The characterization or the quality of those attacks are different from the sort of hit-and-run style of the former regime," he said.

"It concerns us that it could be another enemy, a different enemy, a foreign-influenced enemy, a terrorist network enemy," he said. Dempsey said intelligence units were trying to work out whether foreign fighters were cooperating with Saddam loyalists, or whether the foreign influence had maybe overtaken the Iraqi guerrillas.

He said that in recent operations his soldiers had disrupted eight of a suspected 14 cells of insurgents in Baghdad. "The insurgency in Baghdad is much less organized than it was a month ago and much more fearful," he said.

"But the thing is it's a living organism, the act of defeating a piece of it one day, well it could regenerate itself."

River protection project launched in Tanzania

Dar-es-Salaam, 3 Feb — The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) will launch a protection project to increase water in central Tanzania's Ruaha River, whose ecological environment has been severely disturbed in the past decade.

The programme, financed by the United States and Britain, aims to improve the river's water system so as to achieve a virtuous circle, local newspaper Daily News reported Monday. The Ruaha River covers 84,000 square kilometres and is of great ecological significance to its nearby eight districts.

IOC to buy Premier Oil in Assam block

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb — Pursuing vertical integration, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) recently said it will buy British energy firm Premier Oil's 35 per cent stake in an oil and gas block in northeastern state of Assam and will bid to buy British Petroleum's retail business in Malaysia and Singapore.

"The Board of IOC today cleared a proposal to buy Premier Oil's 35 per cent stake in Cachar block in Assam-Arakan basin that is estimated to hold 3-5 trillion cubic feet of gas and 175 million barrels of oil reserves," IOC chairman M.S. Ramachandran told reporters here. IOC, the country's largest oil refiner and marketing firm with almost no equity in upstream exploration, will pay Premier Oil 0.95 million dollars including its share of the past.

Ramachandran said his company will also bid for buying BP Plc's entire holding of 70 per cent in the Malaysia Bhd which owns 272 petrol stations and a 50 million litres terminal and has 10 per cent of Malaysia's fuel market and 13 per cent of LPG sales.

IOC will also bid to buy BP Singapore that owns 30 petrol stations with 12 per cent market share and LPG business.

"Our investment in buying BP's Malaysia and Singapore operations would be in excess of two billion rupees," he said adding IOC would next month submit an initial expression of interest and would submit price bid after it is shortlisted from amongst a host of international firms.

The company, which has already begun fuel retailing in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, is also keen on venturing into petrol and diesel marketing in Indonesia.

China takes action against junk e-mails

Beijing, 3 Feb — China has launched a campaign to fight junk e-mails, or "spams", during the first half of 2004, reported the China Police Daily last Saturday.

According to the circular jointly issued by the Ministries of Public Security, Education, and Information Industry, and the Information Office of the State Council, the campaign will focus on e-mail service providers and institutions with over 1,000 e-mail subscribers, including colleges, universities, institutions, and enterprises.

Statistics show that last year, about 70 million junk e-mails went to domestic e-mail boxes every day, including many which were pornographic, reactionary, or promoted gambling or spread computer viruses, said the China Police Daily.

Over 80 per cent of the country's e-mail boxes and over 90 per cent of the e-mail servers are to have taken preventive measures against spam by the end of June, said the circular.

It urged prosecution of those involved in criminal behaviour such as spreading illicit material and viruses.

Average working hours of Japanese rise in 2003

Tokyo, 3 Feb — The average monthly working time of Japanese wage earners in 2003 rose for the first time in three years to 152.3 hours, backed by a mild pickup in economic activity, the Labour Ministry said Monday.

The average working time on-year increase came to 0.1 per cent mainly due to a 10.2 per cent jump in overtime at the manufacturing sector, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said in a preliminary report. These increases at companies with five or more employees appeared to reflect a moderate improvement in the state of the Japanese economy.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now. — MNA/Reuters

China to start astronaut training for "Shenzhou VI" in March

Beijing, 3 Feb — China's astronaut team is to start training in March for the nation's second manned space flight on Shenzhou VI, reported the Beijing Youth Daily on Monday.

The 14 astronauts have been resting since Yang Liwei, a member of the team, completed China's first manned space flight in October last year. They have done only light physical training and reviewed flight operations.

The training for Shenzhou VI would be mainly based on the training courses of Shenzhou V, said Huang Weiwen, director in charge of selection and training of astronauts in China. However, some changes would be made as two astronauts were expected to fly in Shenzhou VI, the Beijing Youth Daily quoted Huang as saying.

The 14 astronauts, including Yang Liwei, will be divided into seven pairs according to their characteristics and cooperation. Three pairs will form a new team for China's second manned space flight and, finally, one pair will fly Shenzhou VI.

China has made plans to select and train new astronauts as the 14 astronauts are all over 30.

China Police Daily

Homeless Iraqi families demonstrate in the southern city of Basra on 27 Jan, 2004 after the British military had said they would be evicted from abandoned government houses, where they have been squatting since the war ended, according to protesters. — MNA/IPS

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now. — MNA/Reuters

The average monthly working time of Japanese wage earners in 2003 rose for the first time in three years to 152.3 hours, backed by a mild pickup in economic activity, the Labour Ministry said Monday.

The scope of the year-on-year increase came to 0.1 per cent mainly due to a 10.2 per cent jump in overtime at the manufacturing sector, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said in a preliminary report. These increases at companies with five or more employees appeared to reflect a moderate improvement in the state of the Japanese economy.

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Iraq under US and allies’ occupation

Civilian deaths resulting from indiscriminate shooting of US troops in Iraq

The US military was criticized for firing on demonstrators indiscriminately in Iraq. They enter people’s homes by force and answer people’s demonstrations with bullets. This is their democracy, mercy and compromise. US-led troops in Iraq faced tougher times after the war when missiles and planes do not have much use. Bloodshed in Iraq is not a trivial matter. It makes Iraqis more angry and Americans more violent.

Indiscriminate shooting of US troops in Iraq

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Victims</th>
<th>Death toll</th>
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<tr>
<td>4-4-2003</td>
<td>US checkpoint in Baghdad</td>
<td>civilians</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-4-2003</td>
<td>Highway-1, Baghdad</td>
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<td>11-4-2003</td>
<td>US checkpoint, Baghdad</td>
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<td>28-4-2003</td>
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<td>Baghdad</td>
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<td>US checkpoint in Baghdad</td>
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<td>protesters</td>
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</table>

Total 112

US troops opened fire on demonstrators in Fallujah, Iraq, on 30 April, 2003. The city’s mayor said two people were killed and 14 wounded.

An Iraqi man lies dead in the street as others, some injured, scramble for safety in Fallujah, Iraq, on 30 April, 2003. US troops opened fire on demonstrators for the second time during the week as Iraqis marched on 30 April to protest the previous shooting.

Iraqi youth Abbas Abed Ageel, 20, lies in his hospital bed as a doctor looks at the bullet holes on his shirt after he was allegedly shot by British soldiers in unclear circumstances, at the Basra, on 5 May, 2003.

Protesters march in the street in Fallujah, Iraq, on 30 April, 2003; minutes before US soldiers in a convoy opened fire on them.
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

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

The Energy Searcher Drilling Machine at work at the Shwe-1 test well in Block No A-1, offshore Rakhine coast. According to the geological condition, the deposit may yield from 4.2 trillion to 5.8 trillion cubic feet of gas.

To promote the tourism industry, new hotels are being built while the old ones renovated. The photo shows Sittway Hotel in Sittway of Rakhine State.

To the left:

The Energy Searcher Drilling Machine at work at the Shwe-1 test well in Block No A-1, offshore Rakhine coast. According to the geological condition, the deposit may yield from 4.2 trillion to 5.8 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Sanepauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Road in An Township, Rakhine State.

Kissapanadi Bridge in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

Kinpom Bridge on Gwa-Thandwe Road in Rakhine State.

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

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<thead>
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<th>Development Sector</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>Sown acreage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meat &amp; fish</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh &amp; sea water prawn breeding pond (acres)</td>
<td>60000</td>
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<td>Union highways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thandwe-Taungup-Yangon</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Above 180 feet</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>Information</td>
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Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address at the conclusion of the Special Refresher Course No 4 for University and College Teachers at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Yangon Division on 30 January 2004.

He said, "It is encouraging to see the fruits of success as Myanmar is promoting constructive relations and cooperation with the international community, neighbouring countries and regional countries. However, some big western countries are still putting pressure on Myanmar on various pretexts. Previously, they accused Myanmar of violating human rights, and forced labour. Now, it is found that they have changed their course and start to open a new page on the accusation of child soldiers. Myanmar is trying to refute their accusations by providing accurate data systematically."

The national brethren have achieved success in building foundations to develop the nation with Union Spirit since the Tatmadaw Government’s assumption of the State power.

But the road that the Tatmadaw had marched to achieve the sound foundations was not smooth. It had to face a lot of hardships and difficulties to reach this point. It had to face the pressures and oppressions from inside and outside the nation. The media of neo-colonialist countries have been airing lies and slanderous accusations against Myanmar to transgress her independence and sovereignty.

The BBC and the VOA aired slanders with sinister schemes for the breaking out of the 1988 unrest in which the so-called students cried and sobbed most emotionally while answering the questions of the interviewer. The programme was aired by the BBC at 8.45 pm on 6 August 1988. It was a big lie and an instigation to destroy the unity between the State and the national people.

But the girl who took part in the sham interview in which the so-called students cried and sobbed most emotionally while answering the questions of the interviewer. The programme was aired by the BBC at 8.45 pm on 6 August 1988. It was a big lie and an instigation to destroy the unity between the State and the national people.

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Those who were deceived by foreign radio stations to fled the country hold a news conference soon after arriving back to the motherland.
Foreign broadcasting stations harming the national unity

Later, they continued to float slanderous news reports to discredit and ostracize Myanmar. They are still trying to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar. The BBC, the VOA and the AIR are airing almost daily the news reports and articles and interviews with the so-called academics to prevent foreign businesses and investment from coming to Myanmar. They are also floating slanders to disturb the international aids for the Tatmadaw Government’s anti-narcotic drive, while exaggerating the nation’s drug problem.

Everyday, they went on floating instigative colonialists attempting to cause doubts among the national races and destroy the national unity, using the radio stations under their control as tools to realize their sinister aims. We all must have firm Union Spirit and political awareness. We can prove with a lot of evidence that the radio stations are airing news reports and articles that are against our national development. They are trying to destroy the peace and understanding and drive a wedge between the Government and the armed groups that have returned to the legal fold.

Time and again, the radio stations are distributing false information concerning the womenfolk of Myanmar to divide their unity and discredit them. The team led by Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe of the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs and the Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs have been touring the states and divisions to organize and educate the local women from being deceived into accepting the wrong vision and believing the instigation. These radio stations are also trying to destroy the friendly relations between Myanmar and her neighbours and to break up the ASEAN unity. They are working in accordance with the wish of their colonial masters who do not want to see flourishing of friendship among the nations and who want to destroy regional peace and unity.

The acts of the BBC Chairman of the Board of Governors Mr Gavyn Davies and BBC Director-General Greg Dyke to broadcast false information on the death of armed inspector David Kelly and the Iraqi WMD were revealed. So, they had to resign from their posts in embarrassment. The radio station is still trying to manipulate the nations with its big lies. It is not strange that they are trying to transgress Myanmar’s independence and sovereignty with its lies. Thus the acts of the radio stations are against the endeavours for the flourishing of democracy. Their perpetration will make a nation further away from the course of democracy.

However, the slanderous news reports, articles, interviews and letters to the editor are not able to destroy the consolidated unity and strong Union Spirit of the Myanmar people and disturb the nation’s march towards a peaceful, modern and developed democratic society in the future.

*****

(Translation: TMT)
State spending large amount... (from page 16)

In the health sector, priority has been given to the health research and development. In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, three Health Research Departments — one in the lower Myanmar, another in the upper Myanmar, and the other in the central Myanmar.

At present, the Government is striving for the nations to keep abreast with the global nations in terms of development. It is also making arrangements for all the people of Myanmar to fully enjoy the good results of progress and to further raise their economic and social standards. With the hope of extending the public health care cover and capability, efforts are being made in all sectors for progress of the medical science in accord with the changing situation for the health sector to apply the advanced technologies, and diagnosis, treatment and hospital equipment of the international level brands, and continuous emergence of the academicians in the health field.

The health research sector plays a key role in development and success of the lofty national objectives, goals, national-scale health promotion programmes, and broader and delicate health care promotion projects in accord with the vision of the nation.

The health research sector will have to play a leading role for progress of all the branches of the health profession on common interest, harmonious development of the entire sector in line with the advancing international medical science, and enabling the health sector apply the most advanced equipment.

The researchers are required to make preparations in advance to address all the matters ranging from the national development and the raising of the social living standard to facing and solving delicate health problems and challenges resulting from global changes and the globalization process. In addition, systematic arrangements are also needed for the national health research work to meet the international level, the progress of the health research programmes that will effectively help promote the national health status, and the development of the health research programmes to address all the health hazards and programmes of the future. The State has been extending the special centres including the National Blood Research Centre, the National Poison Control Centre and the Hepatitis B vaccine factory to deal with the increasing number of health challenges.

Spending a large amount of capital, the State has been providing the advanced equipment for the research sector. And using advanced equipment including Capillary Electrophoresis or Automatic Micro-Deg Analyser, Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer, High Performance Liquid Chromatography, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, Fluorescent Spectrophotometer, Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer and Microfuge 22 K, the Government is conducting advanced research programmes. Similarly, other sophisticated equipment like Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrophotometer, High Performance Liquid Chromatography, Infrared Gas Monitor, Near Infrared Analyzer and Infrared Gas Monitor are being used in the research programmes.

He said the government spent nearly US $ 700,000 for purchase of modern equipment used in research work in 2001 and 2002. He said modern equipment used in research were installed with the assistance of JICA, KOICA and IAEA. Therefore, Myanmar researchers can now conduct research on health. Moreover, he said, hepatitis-B vaccine factory is being built at a cost of US$ 12.6 million. The hepatitis-B produced from blood serum and other DNA-technology-used vaccine can be manufactured soon.

He said now Myanmar researchers can do research on vaccine, blood and poison as the government has provided them with equipment used in research and other facilities.

In 2003 a significant achievement was made. Recently, the World Health Organization has acknowledged Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) as a WHO-Collaboration Centre for Malaria. He said during the past ten years the department successfully and widely conducted over 400 research works relating to malaria, one of the priorities of the health problem in Myanmar. It was a honourable success both for the State and for respective researchers, he added. He said it was found that the department widely carried out various research works on dengue fever, reproductive health, elimination of leprosy, its research works effectively contribute towards the health and fitness of the people, he said. He said the government is promoting traditional medicine research with high standard in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. With the aim of giving effective treatment to six major diseases, traditional research works were conducted. Arrangements are being made for systematic production of potent medicines for those cases, he said.

At a time when health research works are successful, with the combination of the encouragement of the government, efforts of the researchers, all researchers and officials are to make continued efforts in development of health research, prevention of health problems from outbreak among the people and conducting regular research for prosperity of the nation and its people and health and fitness of the entire nation, he said.

He said the government has built necessary infrastructures and better foundations for keeping abreast with the international technology in health, fitness and education, turning out brilliant intellectuals and intelligentsia and high efficiency in various development sectors. It will continue to build them in accord with future requirements, he added. He said it is a national duty for all the researchers and intellectuals and intelligentsia gathering here to endeavour for development, employing the better foundations effectively for national interest in accord with national objectives. He called on all the researchers who are Myanmar citizens with patriotism, national—state interest, national-honour to them. Afterwards, Col Myint Maung handed over the Prime Minister presents for photographic documentation to Col Myint Maung and Director U Aye Ko presented documents relating to the congress.

Ambulances donated

YANGON, 3 Jan — The SOS Daechan Motors Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea donated two ambulances to the Defence Service Medical Unit at the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Director of the Directorate of Medical Services Col Myint Maung, Commandant of No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed) Brig-Gen Min Naing, Commandant of the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) Lt-Col Tun Tun, officials, specialists, physicians and medical officers. Managing Director of the company Mr Kim Sun In and Director U Aye Ko presented documents related to the donations to Col Myint Maung, who next presented a certificate of honour to them. Afterwards, Col Myint Maung handed over an ambulance each to two hospitals. — MNA
Hailing the Leprosy Elimination Commemorative Day: 6-2-2004

Future programmes to be done after elimination of leprosy at country-level

Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein

Introduction

Among nations of the world, Myanmar was once listed as one of the endemic countries. Anti-leprosy Campaigns had been marked as a prioritized programme and implemented after regaining independence since the initiation of National Health Plan. The plan launched in 1950-51 found out hyper-endemic nature of leprosy in the country. Since then, national anti-leprosy surveys were done in 1973, the total patient outnumbered the expected one even up to 700,000 cases. (1973 LAT Results)

Reaching Objective Prior to the Schedule

In the Yangon Declaration issued at the Third Meeting of the Global Alliance for the Elimination of Leprosy, the World Health Organization and Union of Myanmar declared Myanmar want Leprosy Elimination at the National Level. In the paragraph 6 of the Yangon Declaration issued at that GAEL meeting, it was stated unanimously: Congratulate the Government of the Union of Myanmar for setting a shining example by effectively applying the global strategy and reaching the national goal of elimination in a most cost-effective manner.

Current Situation

At the end of year 2002, the target rate has become 0.6 to 10,000 only. 255,152 patients were free from leprosy after taking MDT.

Benefit of MDT

According to the continent nature of leprosy, and according to the activities of patients, the environment, communications, regional customary practices, commencement of elimination tasks, inaccessible to some of the remaining patients, occurrence of new patients from previous latent nature, and re-emergence of the disease, for elimination of leprosy in State and Division levels and township levels and to contain it, there are still tasks to be done: This separation care for the disabled persons is to be carried out.

Of a total of 324 townships in Myanmar, there are more than one patient per 10,000 in only 50 township. Elimination activities are accelerated in those townships. But the remaining townships reach a rate of less than 1 to 10,000 by the year 2005. It is necessary to take care of the remaining patients and the annual incident cases.

Elimination and Eradication

Some might think that elimination of leprosy means there are no more leprosy patients in the society. But eradication of a certain disease means all the diseased have been cured and germs causing the disease have been wiped out totally. Elimination of a disease means by re-duction of the number of the diseased to an extent, contagion or infection of that disease amongst people has been contained and health, social and economic problems of the community caused by that disease have been prevented. In every country including Myanmar which has achieved and sustained elimination, few leprosy patients could be seen and it can be assumed that the sustained control measures would have been taken against the disease, as leprosy has been a chronic infectious disease, the quantity of patient would increase again.

Exposing and giving Treatment to the Remainer

We would like to present the nature of the remaining patients, here. Leprosy is being a contagious disease, the people with whom the patients have probability to contract the disease. On the other hand, as there have been wrong assumptions and superstition on leprosy contagion, the patient and the family stay away from the community and hide themselves. Only after organizing and educating them again and again, they come out to have medical treatment. Since some have no obvious symptom and as they have been casual labour, only when the symptom get worse, they rush to the health services. Some have gone back to their respective native places.

Not only physical structures and provide leprosy services to all communities through the existing general health services, but as Union of Myanmar advanced one step forward hand in hand with health services staff and friendly organizations to the world.

Achievement of Myanmar and Congratulations of the World

To fight leprosy, the efforts had been made by Anti-Leprosy Campaign in 1950-51, and after 1970, integration with the basic health services staff, under the leadership of the regional authorities in 1997; with the participation and assistance of the social organizations and the media, more elimination tasks were: Undergoing commencement from 1999, and rate of endingness was gradually decreasing.

In 1988, the target rate of leprosy patients in the country’s population (39 to 10,000) and at the end of 2002, the rate became 1.04 to 10,000, dropping in a short time. At the end of January 2003, it was less than 1 to 10,000 and it means Myanmar has achieved the set leprosy elimination target. Therefore, at the Third Meeting of the Global Alliance for the Elimination of Leprosy, the World Health Organization and Union of Myanmar declared Myanmar want Leprosy Elimination at the National Level.

Hale-ni, -gyi.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY (077)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY (077) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Lawyer says Belgian police detain Bahraini royal

BRUSSELS, 3 Feb — Belgian police pulled a member of the Bahraini royal family on a business trip off an airliner, detained and questioned him, his lawyer said on Sunday. French lawyer Sylvain Maier told Reuters that Fawaz Abdullah Mohammed al Khalifa, head of the private office of the King of Bahrain, had been in Belgium to meet local authorities and business officials about investments when the incident occurred.

Shortly before he was due to fly to Berlin last Thursday, two policemen asked him to leave the plane to check his identity and searched his personal belongings, the lawyer said.

He said al Khalifa, 53, who was carrying a special passport identifying him as a member of the royal family, was interrogated “like a criminal” for several hours before being allowed to continue his journey.

The Kortrijk public prosecutor’s office said an investigation was underway and he could not comment.

The Belgian Foreign Ministry denied there had been any incident involving a Bahraini official. “We can therefore not give any indication of an incident with a diplomat, senior civil servant or politician from Bahrain,” a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

According to France’s Le Journal du Dimanche news paper, Sarkozy — who has run a successful anti-crime campaign — turned up at the sprawling Les Halles station to discuss public transport security measures with regional police.

The atmosphere turned tense when some youths started hissing and hurling insults as his bodyguards rallied around.

The minister and his team then tried to sneak out of the station, but some 30 youths spotted them and gave chase. The officials had to sprint to their cars.

MyDoom net worm scores hit, knocks out SCO site

LONDON, 3 Feb — The MyDoom Internet worm claimed its first scalp on Sunday, paralyzing the web site of American software firm SCO Group <SCO.O> with a massive data blit.

In a statement issued on Sunday morning, the Utah-based company confirmed the worm had shut down its site, http://www.sco.com, out of commission.

“Irrespective of the creation and distribution of this worm, SCO is committed to providing a commercially-responsible business model,” said Mike Barrett, president at SCO.

“With a virus of this magnitude, we need to ensure that our customers and the wider Internet community are protected.”

Internet traffic began building momentum on Saturday evening and by midnight Eastern Time the SCO site was flooded with requests beyond its capacity,” the statement read.

The site was back on line on Monday morning, company officials said.

As intended, Sco.com was the only discernible victim on Sunday. There were no other reports of outages or slowdowns elsewhere online due to the worm.

MyDoom, also known as Novarg or Shimagpi, emerged on Monday in the form of a spam e-mail message that contained a well-disguised virus attachment.

It was programmed to take control of unsuspecting computer users’ PCs from which it would launch a debilitating denial-of-service attack on SCO on Sunday.

SCO has drawn the ire of the so-called “open source” programming community who object to SCO’s claims they have copyright control over key pieces of the Linux operating system.

France’s “tough cop” Sarkozy bolts from hecklers

PARIS, 3 Feb — A Saturday visit to a Paris subway turned nasty for France’s tough Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy when youths besieged his entourage, heckling and hissing at him, French newspapers reported on Sunday.

According to France’s Le Journal du Dimanche news paper, Sarkozy — who has run a successful anti-crime campaign — turned up at the sprawling Les Halles station to discuss public transport security measures with regional police.

The atmosphere turned tense when some youths started hissing and hurling insults as his bodyguards rallied around.

The minister and his team then tried to sneak out of the station, but some 30 youths spotted them and gave chase. The officials had to sprint to their cars.

Donate blood
**Mars rover “Spirit” declared healthy again by NASA**

**Los Angeles, 3 Feb—** NASA’s Mars rover Spirit was up and running again on Sunday for the first time since it developed communications problems 10 days ago, and just a day after its twin Opportunity rolled onto martian soil on the other side of the planet.

With Spirit declared “healthy” again, NASA said it was the first time in history that two mobile robots were exploring the surface of another planet at the same time.

“We have confirmed that Spirit is booting up normally. Tomorrow we’ll be doing some preventive maintenance,” said Dr Mark Adler, mission manager at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. NASA scientists were able to restore Spirit’s working order by deleting thousands of files, many left over from its seven-month flight to Mars, from its flash memory — a type of re-writable electronic memory that retains information even when power is off.

Spirit had trouble managing its flash memory, triggering its computer to reset itself about once an hour. Two days after Spirit’s problems arose on January 22, engineers began sending commands to the rover every day that avoided use of its flash memory.

Now, however, Spirit’s computer is stable even when operating in the normal mode, which utilizes its flash memory, NASA scientists said.

But to be safe, NASA will reformat Spirit’s flash memory on Monday and pair it again with a clean slate,” Adler said. Everything stored in Spirit’s flash file system will be erased and a clean version of the flight software will be installed.

**Spirit, which landed in Mars’ Gusev Crater on January 3, will over the next few days complete its examination of the surface of a football-shaped rock known as Endurance, which was perplexing when it first shut-circuit, NASA said.**

The rover will then make its way toward a crater nicknamed Botniville about 800 feet away, taking time to investigate two nearby pale rocks dubbed Cake and Blanco.

The golf cart-sized Spirit and Opportunity are each equipped with a mobile laboratory of geologic tools designed to search for evidence that there was once potentially life-sustaining water on the barren martian surface.

**MNA/Reuters**

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**US, Europe deadlocked over satellite navigation**

**Washington, 3 Feb—** US and European negotiators have failed to break a deadlock over signal structure for Europe’s planned multi-billion-dollar Galileo satellite navigation system network. The EU welcomed signs that the US is overcoming its position both in the growth rate and the trade volume of software exports, which accounted for 37 per cent of the total from 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in the country.

Exports to Japan, a key receiver, reached 94.9 million US dollars, or 68.8 per cent of its total last year, when software exports to South Korea also increased.

Foreign-funded enterprises were the main exporters, accounting for 90 per cent, while the state-owned companies exported 8.48 million US dollars of software, rising by 64.3 per cent from 2002.**—MNA/Reuters**

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**Thai Royal project wins global prize for crop substitution**

**Bangkok, 3 Feb—** A project sponsored by the King of Thailand has shown over 300 agencies from around the world to win the prestigous Colombo Plan award for solving the problem of opium poppy cultivation, according to the Thai News Agency Sunday.

Announcing the award Saturday, Pornnan Phusawang, head of the Royal Project Foundation, said the project had received the Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) award in Sri Lanka last December.

The Royal Project Foundation, which works on crop substitution, is a part of the government’s efforts to develop the economy and society in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The DAP was set up as a result of an entry to the World Trade Organization in late 2001, with support from the United States Government.

The Royal Project Foundation was selected from among over 300 organizations from the Colombo Plan’s 24 member states.

Other awards were won by projects in Sri Lanka and India, the report said.

**MNA/Xinhua**

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**Guangdong-France trade surged 13.7% in 2003**

**Guangzhou, 3 Feb—** Trade between China’s Guangdong Province and France surged 13.7 per cent per year-on-year to reach 2.89 billion US dollars last year, accounting for 21.6 per cent of the total trade volume between China and France.

Among European countries, France is the fourth biggest trade partner of Guangdong.


Benefiting from China’s entry to the World Trade Organization in late 2001, Guangdong’s exports to France expanded, with its trade surplus surging to 540 million US dollars in 2002 and 1.33 billion US dollars last year.

**MNA/Xinhua**

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**Beijing reported record software exports in 2003**

**Beijing, 3 Feb—** China’s capital saw a 48.2 per cent increase in software exports worth 138 million US dollars in 2003, up 48.2 per cent from the previous year, according to Customs statistics.

Beijing took the leading position both in the growth rate and the trade volume of software exports, which accounted for 37 per cent of the total from 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in the country.

Exports to Japan, a key receiver, reached 94.9 million US dollars, or 68.8 per cent of its total last year, when software exports to South Korea also increased.

Foreign-funded enterprises were the main exporters, accounting for 90 per cent, while the state-owned companies exported 8.48 million US dollars of software, rising by 64.3 per cent from 2002.**—MNA/Reuters**

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**Malaysia allocates funds for youth development programme**

**Kuala Lumpur, 3 Feb—** The government has allocated 368.42 million US dollars for youth development programmes this year and next year, a senior official said on Monday.

The sum was part of the total allocation of 5.2 billion ringgit (1.36 billion US dollars) set aside for the youth development under the Eighth Malaysia Plan (2001-2005), Deputy Finance Minister Shafie Salleh said at a gathering in Batu, central Malaysia.

For the 2001-2003 period, one billion US dollars was spent for running 624 courses in industrial, business and management training, benefiting 27,646 youths, he said.

Among the programmes planned for 2004 and 2005 were entrepreneur development, healthy lifestyle, re-habilitation, sports, social and leadership courses, the official said.

Also under the Eighth Plan, a total of 6.68 billion US dollars had been allocated for family and community development programmes to benefit women, children and youths, he said.

According to the 2003 statistics, of the 4.7 million youths between the ages of 15 and 24, about 52.1 per cent were working while the rest had either just completed their education or undergoing training.

**MNA/Xinhua**

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**Navigation tool, a European spokesman said Sunday night.**

The United States has offered to share its satellite know-how if the Europeans accept a US-proposed technical standard.

But some critics say the offer is designed to serve US commercial interests under the guise of promoting national security.

“We agree it would be good that we both use the same frequency,” said Anthony Gooch, a spokesman in Washington for the European Commission, which is negotiating on behalf of the 15-nation European Union.

But in talks that wound up here Friday, the EC stuck to its preferred option — known as Binary Offset Carrier or BOC (1.5, 1.5) — rather than accepting the US-backed structure known as BOC 1.1, Gooch said.

“And we hope the US will see the merits of adopting 1.5” for the civilian signal on its own next generation of Global Positioning System satellites, he said.

Both the United States and the EU want Galileo and GPS — a dual-use system to support both civil and military users — to mesh as seamlessly as possible for the benefit of users, manufacturers and service providers.

Any harmonization agreement could unleash vast private-sector investments in the so-called Open Service of Europe’s planned 30-satellite Galileo system, which is scheduled to begin operations in 2008.

The EC holds that the 1.5 signal would support both civil and military users — to mesh as seamlessly as possible for the benefit of users, manufacturers and service providers.

**MNA/Reuters**
**S P O R T S**

**Int’m Materazzi in trouble after punch-up**

**MELBOURNE, 3 Feb—** Inter Milan defender Marco Materazzi faces a fine from his club and a possible suspension from soccer authorities after hitting Siena defender Bruno Cirillo at the end of a Serie A match at the San Siro Stadium.

Materazzi, who is out injured, did not feature in the Inter team which beat Siena 4-0 on Sunday but clashed with Cirillo in the tunnel of the stadium after the final whistle.

Cirillo later appeared on Italian television with a thick lip and a cut face. "This is what Materazzi did to me," said Cirillo. "I want to say it to everyone so that the people know who that person is."

He said Materazzi had been taunting him from the sideline throughout the game and then hit him in the tunnel.

Inter president Giacinto Facchetti, who was attending his first game since taking over as club president from Massimino Moratti, said Materazzi would face sanction.

"I am not interested in knowing who was in the right. I know only that certain things should not happen and for that reason the player will be punished," said Facchetti.

**Italian Serie A match reports**

**Rome, 3 Feb—** Reports of Serie A matches played on Sunday:

**Ancona 0 — Lecce 2**

Giovanni Galante’s first game in charge at winless Ancona started poorly when Uru-
guayan international Ernesto Chevanton scored just 47 seconds into the match.

Lecce doubled their lead when Cedric Konan added a second on the hour mark as the visitors came away with a vital victory in their fight to avoid the drop.

**Juventus 1 — Chievo Verona 0**

Mauro Camoranesi’s 10th-minute vol-
ley was enough to give defending champi-
nons Juventus all three points against Chievo Verona, which remains without a win this season, and their first under John Toshack.

**Inter 1 — Napoli 0**

Materazzi would face sanction.

"I am not interested in knowing who was in the right. I know only that certain things should not happen and for that reason the player will be punished," said Facchetti.

"We parted company with Obiorah then but kept close tabs on him since then... he is a talented player and when we found out that he wouldn’t mind coming back here we decided to give him another chance."

Obiorah is eligible to play for the Russians in the Champions League this season when Lokomotiv faces Monaco in the first knockout round on February 24 and March 10.

**Nigerian Obiorah re-joins Lokomotiv Moscow**

**MOSCOW, 3 Feb—** Nigerian striker James Obiorah left Spanish Second Division side Cadiz to re-sign with Lokomotiv Moscow for a two-year contract, the Russian Premier Soccer League club said on Sunday.

Obiorah, 25, who played for Lokomotiv from 2001 to 2003, was the club’s leading scorer in his first season. During his stay in Moscow, he had run-ins with the Lokomotiv management before being axed in May 2003.

Lokomotiv coach Yuri Syomin said: "We parted company with Obiorah then but kept close tabs on him since then... he is a talented player and when we found out that he wouldn’t mind coming back here we decided to give him another chance."

Obiorah is eligible to play for the Russians in the Champions League this season when Lokomotiv faces Monaco in the first knockout round on February 24 and March 10.

**Wimbledon champion Federer celebrated his ascent to the top of the world rankings with a second grand slam title, outclassing Safin in an awe-inspiring display on Rod Laver Arena.**

"What a great start to the year for me to win this Australian Open and to become number one in the world. Now to fulfill my dream," said Federer.

"Second seed Federer as-
ured he will become the first
Swiss man to reach number
one in the world by thrash-
ing Juan Carlos Ferrero in the
semifinals.

Former number one
Safin, who has slumped to
86th in the rankings after an
injury-plagued 2003, had
beaten top seed Andy
Roddick and defending
champion Andre Agassi on
his way to the final.

However, the 2002 tun-
er-up simply had no an-
swer to Federer’s power and
precision.

Federer won a seesaw
first set on a tiebreak, taking it 7-3 with a pounding
forehand down the line.

He then broke Safin in the fifth game of the second
closed out the set with a
big serve down the middle to
take a stranglehold on the
match.

Federer seized a double
break in the third set with a
whipped forehand pass to
take a 4-1 lead and the 22-
year-old put an exasperated
Safin out of his misery on his
first matchpoint, forcing
him into a wild forehand after
two hours, 15 minutes.

"Congratulations to Roger. First of all becoming number one in the world and beating me today... (it) was really impressive tennis," said Safin.

"Not very glad to be in the finals again and play my best tennis after the injuries last year. I’m really sorry I just ran out of gas today."

Safin, the 2002 US Open champion, was bidding to become the first unseeded player to win the Melbourne 1 title since Australian Mark Edmondson in 1976.

**Primera Liga reports**

**Madrid, 3 Feb—Brief reports of matches played in the Primera Liga during their Spanish first division match in Barcelona on 1 Feb, 2004. Barcelona won 5-0.**

**Barcelona 5 — Albacete 0**

Barca bounced back from the disappoint-
ment of their midweek exit from the
King’s Cup with their biggest win of the season.

Midfielder Xavi put them ahead with a
deflected shot on 16 minutes and the Catalans
put the result beyond doubt with four more goals in the second half.

Argentine striker Javier Saviola, winner
of the Copa del Rey earlier this month, put
Barcelona 3-0 up before half-time. Asturian
Diego Tristano scored their third of the match
from a deflected shot on 40 minutes.

**Deportivo Coruna 1 — Sevilla 0**

Deportivo stayed in touch with the top
two thanks to this narrow home win over a
determined Sevilla, who have now lost three in a row.

**Juventus 1 — Chievo Verona 0**

Federer seized a double
break in the third set with a
whipped forehand pass to
take a 4-1 lead and the 22-
year-old put an exasperated
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Safin, the 2002 US Open champion, was bidding to become the first unseeded player to win the Melbourne 1 title since Australian Mark Edmondson in 1976.

**Dario Hubner giving them an eighth-minute lead but the score was level after 35 minutes when Alberto Gilardino dribbled past two defenders and lifted the ball over sliding keeper Zeljko Kalac.**

**Unai Emery’s side have lost all six
games in the area by Sevilla defender Pablo Alfaro.**

**Juventus 1 — Real Zaragoza 0**

Murcia recorded their second win of the season, and their first under John Toshack, against fellow strugglers Zaragoza, but it

**Federer celebrates his ascent to the top of the world rankings with a second grand slam title, outclassing Safin in an awe-inspiring display on Rod Laver Arena.**

"What a great start to the year for me to win this Australian Open and to become number one in the world. Now to fulfill my dream... is

**Bilbao went ahead again when Joseba Etxeberria headed in at the near post on 58 minutes after good work from fellow midfielder Santi Eizkuru and victory was ensured late on when Franco scored an own goal after missing a clearance.**
**Minister attends meetings on energy in India and Malaysia**

YANGON, 3 Feb — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the meeting on the Prospects of Cooperation between India and Myanmar in Energy and Gas sectors held in India and the meeting on Promotion of Myanmar Offshore Gas Production held in Malaysia.

On 29 January morning in India, the minister met with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India Mr Ram Naik, State Minister Mdm Mahajan and officials and discussed with them matters related to cooperation in gas production between the two countries and the exploitation of gas found at Rakhine offshore in Myanmar.

The minister also met with officials of Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) that produces and sells gas most in India and Anglophone International Ltd that will sell gas pipes to Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and discussed the more exploitation of oil and gas in Rakhine offshore and the early shipment of the gas pipes. During his stay in India, the minister also met with staff and families of Myanmar Embassy in India and explained to them the economic and political developments in Myanmar.

The minister also met with officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India Mr Ram Naik, State Minister Mdm Mahajan and officials and discussed with them matters related to cooperation in gas production between the two countries and the exploitation of gas found at Rakhine offshore in Myanmar.

The minister also attended the meeting on the Prospects of Cooperation between India and Myanmar in Energy and Gas sectors held in India.

**Entry photos invited for Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo competition**

YANGON, 3 Feb — The work committee for 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 Commemorative Colour Photo Competition will organize colour photo competitions. Two titles for the photo competition are ‘Preserve and Enhance Myanmar’ and ‘Preserve cultural heritage’. Any photo enthusiasts can send up to four entries for each title.

The size of the print photo entry should measure 10" by 12" and above. As those who had won first, second and third prizes in previous similar competitions will be categorized into separate groups, it means that there are many chances of winning prizes for those who have not yet won any prizes.

The negative must be presented together with the print. The entry photo must be a never-before-published work and prize-winning work of local and foreign photo competitions. The entry photos taken by digital camera will not be considered.

 Winners standing first, second and third will be awarded in Yangon on 27 March 2004, when the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day will be observed.

Consolation prizes will also be given to winners at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremonies to be held at the military command and LID concerned. The entry photos should be sent to U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, No 22/24, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Ministry of Defence, before 29 February. — MNA

**Weather Forecast**

**WEATHER**

Tuesday, 3 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night-time temperatures were 3°C to 4°C above normal in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions. 5°C above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 2-2-2004 was 36.0°C. Minimum temperature on 1-2-2004 was 16.0°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-2-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 2-2-2004 was 7.6 hours approx. Rainfall on 3-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3mm at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from East at 14-30 hours MST on 2-2-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until 7.00 pm on 4-2-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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: Partly cloudy in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-2-2004: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-2-2004: Partly cloudy.
### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

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**State spending large amount of capital, providing advanced equipment for health research programmes**

Myanmar Health Research Congress opens

YANGON, 3 Feb — The Myanmar Health Research Congress of the Ministry of Health began at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Chairmen of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the NHC members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the chairman and members of the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science, directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Health, deputy directors-general, advisors, rectors, professors, medical superintendent, members of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Nurses Association, Myanmar Dental Association, Myanmar Health Research Congress, Department of Health Research, and members of the Myanmar Academy of Science.

The Prime Minister said that at present, the objective — health and fitness of the entire nation — has been laid down and efforts are being made in all sectors to raise the national health standard.

At this juncture, the holding of the annual congress in which the researchers of multi branches of the health sector are the participants will contribute much to their professional skills and the national interest. Holding of the congress annually will produce many sound results including the opportunity to share and exchange the research finds and effectively apply them in the respective fields of the health care sector.

The research and development sector plays a vital role in helping develop a nation. Thus, the sector is not only important for researchers, but also for the State officials and management officials. The countries of the world are striving in competition to conduct advanced research programmes in the interest of the nation and the people. The Union of Myanmar is giving encouragement to the progress of the well-developed research work in harmony with the science and technological advancement in all the development sectors.

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**Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japanese guests**

YANGON, 3 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Emeritus Professor Komosuke Odaka, leader of Task Force of the Japan-Myanmar Cooperation for Economic Structural Adjustment, and party at Zeyathiri Beikman at 4.45 pm today. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Japan’s Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto. — MNA

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**Myanmar pledges K 1,546,635 for UNICEF activities**

YANGON, 3 Feb — At the 2003 UN Pledging Conference for UNICEF held on 21 January 2004 in New York, Myanmar pledged a sum of Kyats 1,546,635 for UNICEF activities, it is learnt. — MNA

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**Cruise-liner “Thanlwin” to leave for Kawthoung**

YANGON, 3 Feb — With the sponsorship of the Ministry of Transport, the cruise-liner “Thanlwin” of the Myanmar Five Star Line will leave Thakataya Jetty at 3 pm on 12 February 2004 for Kawthoung. The trip covers Thahtay Island and Salone Island. Ten per cent discount is offered to those who were on a trip to the Coco Island.

Available on board are Chinese, Myanmar and European foods with Karaoke and entertainment programmes. Ship fare (ordinary class) is K 50,000 per head (native) and children are admitted half-price, and 300 units for a foreigner. Companies and organizations can enjoy special rate.

Tickets are available at Yamonna Co Ltd, No 11/A, Myaynu Street, Myenigon (Tel: 526722), Shwe Ein Gabar Co Ltd, No 251, first floor (right), 57th Street (Upper), Kyauktada (Tel: 09-99-26131, 249118, OCEANWIDE International Myanmar, No 277, Bo Gyoke Aung San Street, Aisa Plaza, room No 23, 7th floor, (Tel: 240875) and U Myint Soe (Tel: 224489). — MNA