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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Homein region national race group

YANGON, 4 Feb — Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received the national race group of Homein region led by U Maha Ja at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha, here at 5 pm today.

Also present were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and senior officials of the Military Intelligence.

Leaders of the group said that their group would make harmonious efforts with the leadership of the State. They then presented plans for the State to render assistance in the education, health, agricultural, transport and economic sectors for regional development. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets U Maha Ja of the national race group of Homein region. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets U Maha Ja and party of Homein region national race group. — MNA

National policy that must always be safeguarded

National policies to be embraced and implemented by successive generations of all the national people of the Union have already been laid down with aims of perpetuating of the future Union and promoting of the interests of the Union by the entire national people of the Union. Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty are national conviction and national concepts of all national races of the Union, and accordingly these conviction and concepts are the most important national policy that must always be safeguarded by all Union nationals.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 52nd Anniversary Union Day.)

Puja ca pujaneyyanam, to honour those worthy of honour; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Established 1914

Volume XI, Number 295
Fullmoon Day of Tabodwe 1365 ME
Thursday, 5 February, 2004

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Homein region national race group

Perspectives
For development of medical science and health research (Page 2)
Poem
Let these be new energies (Page 9)
Article
We will work to the best of our ability together with the State (Page 8+9)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets U Maha Ja of the national race group of Homein region. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets U Maha Ja and party of Homein region national race group. — MNA

Circulation
23,085
PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 February, 2004

For development of medical science and health research

It hardly need be emphasized that research and development plays a pivotal role in bringing about the development of a nation. This is true to every nation in the world: tries to serve the best interest of their people by focusing their attention on research and development. The Union of Myanmar is also encouraging research and development work in every sector.

The opening ceremony of the Myanmar Health Research Congress of the Ministry of Health took place at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in Yangon on the morning of 3 February. Prime Minister and President of the National Health Committee delivered a speech on the occasion. The Prime Minister, in his address, said that, at a time when the Government was expending its efforts to raise the health standard of people by laying down the noble objective, viz, health and fitness of the entire nation, the annual holding of the Congress with full participation of researchers from all areas of medical science would contribute a lot to the professional skills of the researchers as well as to the national interests. Moreover, the Congress will enable the researchers to exchange experiences and to apply the findings of their research effectively in the health care services.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, health research departments were opened not only in the City of Yangon but also in the Upper and the Lower Myanmar. Moreover, the Government has opened the National Blood Research Centre, the National Poison Control Centre and the Hepatitis B Vaccine Factory to deal with various health challenges and spent a lot of money on health research facilities, about US$ 700,000 in the years 2001 and 2002 to say exactly. Researches on Myanmar traditional medicines are being encouraged to be able to treat the six major diseases with traditional medicines and production of traditional medicines are well under way.

We would like to call upon all those responsible and researchers to try to the best of their abilities for the development of medical science and health research.

57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

— for all national races to safeguard the national political unification 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

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

Japanese delegation calls on UMFFCCI General Secretary

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

Shwe Naing-Ngan Journal comes out

* Use the least possible amount of electricity

Efficient use of electricity

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity for all national races to safeguard the national political unification of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty

The delegation seen before departure for Japan at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Delegation leaves for Japan

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* The amount, US$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity

Don’t smoke
Death toll in Iraq blasts soars to 101

Iraq, 4 Feb — A video camera captured images of a man shaking hands with a Kurdish official seconds before blowing himself up in one of the two suicide bombings during holiday celebrations. The death toll soared to 101, the US-led coalition said Tuesday.

Meanwhile Tuesday, an American soldier was killed and a second was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded during an operation to clear such weapons, the US military said. The explosion occurred near Iskanadaryah, 35 miles south Baghdad, the statement said.

Kurdish blamed Anser al-Islam, a militant group allegedly linked to al-Qaeda, for the weekend attacks.

The video shows the suicide bomber mingling with hundreds of well-wishers greeting officials of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, or PUK, on Sunday, the first day of the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha. A second attacker slipped into a gathering of the Kurdish Democratic Party across town.

In Baghdad, Brig General Mark Kimmitt said Tuesday the US investigation has not determined who was behind the Sunday attack, although he said it could have been carried out by Anser al-Islam or al-Qaeda. Kimmitt also said there were an average of 23 engagements a day between US soldiers and Iraqi insurgents over the past week, compared with 18 the week before.

On Monday, the two main Kurdish parties — both US allies but often at odds with each other — held a joint memorial at the largest mosque in Irbil, in the heartland of the Kurdish self-ruled region. US military officials said Tuesday that 101 people were killed in the two blasts, up from 67 deaths reported earlier.

British teenager sentenced for hacking US research lab

London, 4 Feb — A London teenager was sentenced on Monday to 280 hours of community service for hacking into a computer system of a US physics research laboratory to store his personal collection of music and film files.

Joseph James McElroy, 18, of Woodford Green, told Southwark Crown Court in London that he hacked into 17 computer systems at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago over a two-week period in June 2002 to store and exchange hundreds of gigabytes worth of computer files with his friends. The US Department of Energy had sought 21,000 pounds in compensation for the breach, which forced technicians to shut down a portion of the computer network for three days, the court was told.

Chinese Vice-Premier meets Citigroup CEO

Beijing, 4 Feb — China plans to build a railway linking the port of Dalian with Russia, the latest project to help pump new life into its dilapidated northeast, the China Daily said on Wednesday.

The 480-mile railway will hug the coastline of Liaoning Province before ending at Suifenhe, not far from the Russian port city of Vladivostok, the newspaper said.

“Most of the places the railway runs through boast quite rich and varied resources, such as lumber and minerals, but with lagging economies,” it said.

China is trying to revive the downtrodden region, dubbed the “rust belt” for its run-down factories, by pumping in funds to set up new industries and tap natural resources.

Local industry, once the crown jewel of China’s centrally planned economy, collapsed during more than two decades of market reforms.

On Tuesday, state media said the area, home to 110 million people, would receive around 7.4 billion US dollars for dozens of projects including petrochemicals and raw materials ventures as well as a new bank.

The shortage of efficient transportation lines to the outside world has been a long-existing problem for those inland and remote areas which have long needed a shot in the arm to boost trade and economic lustre,” the newspaper said.

China has also been seeking stronger trade ties with Russia. In January to November of 2003, the last period for which data is available, China exported 5.4 billion US dollars worth of goods to Russia, up 66 per cent from a year earlier.

Imports from Russia rose an annual 16.5 per cent in the period to 8.9 billion US dollars.

Russia’s state-owned railways company said last month it would be able to ship 240,000 barrels, or 12 million tons, a day of crude from oil giant YUKOS to China by 2006.

YUKOS has been seeking to build a pipeline to China but the Russian Government has yet to make a final decision.

The planned railway would take 15 years to complete and would link 10 major cities and bring improved transport to 18 million people, the newspaper said.

Malaysian police hunt baby-selling gang

Kuala Lumpur, 4 Feb — Malaysian police are hunting for a suspected Indonesian baby-selling gang after a two-week-old girl was snatched at gun-point from her Indonesian mother, a newspaper said on Tuesday.

The five men who abducted the infant on Friday in Johor, Malaysia’s southern state neighbouring Singapore, also took cash and jewellery worth around 950 US dollars from her mother. The Star daily reported.

The mother, who went to report the abduction to police, was arrested after being found to be an illegal immigrant.

Russia, Spain to hold first joint manoeuvres in 2004

Moscow, 4 Feb — Russia and Spain plan to hold their first joint military exercise this year, Spanish Defence Minister Federico Trillo said in an interview published by Russian newspaper Ekvesta on Monday.

The agreement to launch the drill was made during Trillo’s six-day visit to Russia. The paper said. Trillo stressed that they also reached agreement on other measures that will scale up military cooperation including using Russian military transport planes for relocating Spanish forces and equipment during international operations, joint development of new weapons and communications, and visits by Russian and Spanish warships to each other’s ports.

Russian military transport planes for relocating Spanish forces and equipment during international operations, joint development of new weapons and communications, and visits by Russian and Spanish warships to each other’s ports. — MNA/Xinhua

An Andalusian horseman rides in the bullring during the opening ceremony at the World Bull Fair in Seville, on 3 Feb, 2004. The show pays homage to the bulls used in traditional bullfights around Spain, and the fair will run from February 3 to 8. — Vea/Reuters
Roadside bombs create major Iraq threat

TOKYO, 4 Feb — Silent and thoughtful, the soldiers were returning to their base this week after a memorial service for three comrades killed by a roadside bomb. Just outside the gate, they nearly became the next victims.

As the convoy was leaving the service, troops in a guard tower at the 4th Infantry Division headquarters spotted an Iraqi depositing something close to bushes in the central tower at the 4th Infantry Division headquarters on Sunday, 1 Feb. 2004 in Irbil, northern Iraq.

"It would have been very deadly had it exploded," said Maj Josslyn Aberle, a spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division.

Lt Col Steven Russell of Del City, Okla., who was among the soldiers in that convoy Monday.

Roadside bombs, which the military calls Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, are among the most dangerous threats to American troops in Iraq.

In January, 23 American soldiers were killed by IEDs, according to figures from the U.S. military command. That was more than half the 39 U.S. soldiers killed in action here last month.

"Going from point A to point B in a convoy is like Russian roulette," said Staff Sgt. Temu Gibson of Schenectady, N.Y. "I’d rather go into a gunfight than worry about an IED."

Some roadside bombs are detonated by timers or by wire. Iraqis have proven adept at disguising the bombs — using soft-drink cans, hiding them in mounds of trash or in the carcasses of dead animals along the side of the road.

Many of the explosives are believed to have come from Iraqi military depots looted during last year’s U.S.-led invasion.

"It’s easier for an Iraqi to get the materials needed for an IED than it is for him to get a can of Coca-Cola," said Maj Josslyn Aberle, a spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division.

As the convoy was leaving the service, troops in a guard tower at the 4th Infantry Division headquarters spotted an Iraqi depositing something close to bushes in the central tower at the 4th Infantry Division headquarters on Sunday, 1 Feb. 2004 in Irbil, northern Iraq.

Howard says Iraq weapons intelligence may be wrong

CANBERRA, 4 Feb — Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Tuesday that the intelligence on Iraq’s banned weapons could prove to be wrong.

He made the remarks after Washington launched an inquiry into its intelligence on Iraq which was used to justify the coalition forces’ attack on the Middle East country last year.

"It might be demonstrated that the advice was inaccurate," he told Perth radio 6PR.

But the Prime Minister said it was also wrong to suggest the intelligence was bogus, or that intelligence agencies made up material in their pre-war assessments on Iraq.

Howard’s government has been facing criticism from the opposition and the public that it misled the public when sending troops to the Iraq War.

Howard said he was waiting for a parliamentary report of inquiry into the country’s intelligence late this month.

He explained that most of Australia’s intelligence on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction “was of course from British and American sources.”

— MNA/Xinhua

Oil up as gasoline gains on refinery fire

LONDON, 4 Feb — Oil prices rose on Monday, as the gasoline market took strength from a refinery fire in the United States and selling from speculative hedge funds ran out of steam ahead of an OPEC meeting.

Light crude futures traded in New York gained 42 cents to 33.47 US dollars, although London Brent crude futures lagged behind, showing only a seven-cent gain to 29.25 US dollars.

US gasoline futures prices rose sharply following news of a “large fire” at ConocoPhillips’s 310,000 barrel-per-day (bpd) Wood River, Illinois, refinery on Sunday.

A fire department official said on Monday that three municipal fire departments had been called to the scene to help the ConocoPhillips internal fire brigade extinguish the blaze.

Market players said crude selling had also run out of steam ahead of an OPEC meeting next week.

Although OPEC producers have given signals they will not cut supply at their February 10 ministerial meeting, market players suspect the cartel’s output decision, and analysts said few players would want to be short ahead of the meeting.

— MNA/Reuters

Cuba blames US policy for situation in Latin America

Havana, 4 Feb — The policy of the United States — and not that of Cuba or Venezuela — is responsible for the present situation of Latin America, the local daily Granma claimed on Tuesday.

The daily’s editorial was referring to an article published on February 1 by US newspaper, The Wall Street Journal.

The Cuban paper said: "If Latin America is an unstable region today the reason is not to be found in imaginary and macabre plans by Cuba and Venezuela".

The reason, it said, lays in the real results of the "imperialistic policy" to impose a "perverse model of the most savage capitalism" on the Latin American and Caribbean people.

The article published by The Wall Street Journal said the Venezuelan Government had become Cuba’s main financial supporter, and the latter had accumulated in the last three years a debt of $325 million dollars for oil sent by the Venezuelan state-run oil company, PDVSA.

The US paper said: "Washington believes that the combination of the thousands of millions coming from Venezuelan oil and Castro’s refined skills could give problems to the United States in an uneasy Latin America”.

It quoted the White House special envoy for the Western Hemisphere, Otto Reich, as saying: “The Cuban-Venezuelan axis is getting deeper and bigger.”

In response, the Cuban paper said both Reich and the US Assistant Secretary of State Roger Noriega sought to create a climate of artificial hysteria that justified, for US public opinion, a military adventure against the island, including the physical elimination of President Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders.

— MNA/Xinhua

India to purchase multiple launch rocket systems from Russia

Moscow, 4 Feb — India intends to purchase the Smerch and Grad multiple launch rocket systems from Russia, the manufacturers said on Monday.

"At present, the parties are discussing the price terms of the contract for the delivery of these systems to the Indian Army," a spokesman for Rosoboronexport Enterprises was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS news agency.

In 2002, the Smerch rocket system was tested in India and its performance found satisfactory, he added.

The multiple launch rocket systems manufactured in Russia are the most powerful and highly effective at a distance of 40 to 90 kilometres.

The systems will feature prominently in the Russian exposition at the international arms exhibition ‘Def Expo India 2004’ that opens in New Delhi on Wednesday, the agency reported.

— MNA/PTI

China unveils plans to better protect wetlands

Beijing, 4 Feb — China plans to restore 1.4 million hectares of wetlands and put 90 per cent of its total wetlands, covering 6.6 million hectares, under effective protection by 2030, according to the State Forestry Administration.

The Project Plan for National Wetlands Protection, newly approved by the State Council, requires the realization of the sustainable use of wetlands, which are important for the conservation of biological diversity and for sustaining life through ecological and hydrological functions.

The plan defines eight categories of protection zones for wetlands across the country with adjustments for local conditions.

Under the plan, the government will set up 53 national demonstration zones for wetland protection and use, increase the total number of national wetland reserves to 713 and designate 80 wetlands of international importance.

China will also establish an improved system for integrating laws, policies and scientific research on wetland protection, administration and use.

To date, 40 per cent of the natural wetlands of the country have been protected while 21 wetlands of international importance were designated by the Convention on Wetlands.

— MNA/Xinhua
525 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

Baghdad, 4 Feb—As of Tuesday, 3 Feb, 525 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 366 died as a result of hostile action and 159 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

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

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 387 US soldiers have died — 251 as a result of hostile action and 136 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,594 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department’s figures as of Tuesday. Non-hostile injuries numbered 402.

The latest deaths reported by the military:
— A US soldier was killed Tuesday when a roadside bomb exploded during an operation to clear such weapons. The explosion occurred near Iskandariyah, 35 miles south Baghdad.
— Army Pfc Armando Soriano, 20, Houston; died Sunday in Haditha, Iraq, when weather conditions caused his vehicle to slide off the road and roll over; assigned to the Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.

The latest identifications reported by the military:
— Army Staff Sgt Roger C Turner Jr, 37, Parkersburg, W Va; killed Sunday by a mortar attack in Anaconda, Iraq; assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division; Fort Hood, Texas.
— Army Pfc Arminio Soriano, 20, Houston; died Sunday in Haditha, Iraq, when weather conditions caused his vehicle to slide off the road and roll over; assigned to the Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.

Russia calls for swift UN clarification of Iraq’s WMD issue

Moscow, 4 Feb — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov on Tuesday called on the United Nations to make a speedy and final conclusion on whether Iraq has weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

“We have an ambiguous situation where the sanctions have been removed from Iraq and the disarmament process has not been completed formally,” Interfax quoted Fedotov as saying prior to a meeting with Demetrios Petritis, acting chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC).

It’s time to put an end to the lingering issue and it is necessary to decide now how UNMOVIC can complete its work in Iraq, Fedotov said.

He also urged the UN inspectors, who withdrew in March just before the US-led war was staged, to return to the war-ravaged country. If no WMD could be found in Iraq, the UNMOVIC should report to the UN Security Council so a corresponding decision can be made, he said.

“If the coalition forces find any materials or types of weapons, these finds must be certified and confirmed by independent international experts,” Fedotov insisted, saying the issue must be clarified as soon as possible. As an alternative, Fedotov also proposed that the coalition provide the UN commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency with the appropriate materials and results of their search for WMD. “In any case, we are waiting for the UN Security Council report on this issue,” Fedotov said.

Shanghai vows fewer papers, more concrete work

Shanghai, 4 Feb — China’s commercial centre Shanghai has vowed to cut back on official documents and do more concrete work in a new regulation designed to reform government administration and its excessive reliance on papers.

The regulation, which will go into effect on 1 May, has raised the requirements for the issuance of official documents that regulate individual and corporate behaviour in social, economic and cultural affairs, and demands closer scrutiny to ensure they are legitimate and impartial.

It has authorized government offices at city, district, county, township levels to do so, it says. As an alternative, Fedotov also proposed that the coalition provide the UN commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency with the appropriate materials and results of their search for WMD. “In any case, we are waiting for the UN Security Council report on this issue,” Fedotov said.

Shanghai said it will reform the administration and improve efficiency, said Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng when he announced the regulation to the media on Monday.

Excessive papers in government administration have posed problems in Shanghai, as some organizations and individuals abused their power by using papers for personal gain.

In 2001, departments of the Shanghai municipal government issued 1.610 regulatory documents, three times the number in Beijing and ten times as many as that of neighbouring Zhejiang Province.

Cambodia agrees to lend Japan artifacts for touring exhibition

PHNOM PENH, 4 Feb — The Cambodian Government has agreed to lend more than 100 Angkor artifacts to a Japanese company for a touring exhibition, the Cambodia Daily reported Tuesday.

“Through the exhibition, we hope that those artifacts can draw more tourists to visit Cambodia,” said Chuck Phoeurng, undersecretary of State for Tourism and Arts Ministry.

Japanese film production company Toey will take 130 artifacts on a 14-month tour of eight Japanese cities.

The bulk of the exhibition will consist of artifacts from the warehouses of the National Museum and the Siem Reap Museum, items not currently on display.

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts is still compiling the list of artifacts to be lent to Japan, before presenting it to Prime Minister Hun Sen for his approval.

The Angkorian exhibition is scheduled to begin its tour of Japan in July 2005.

Gold shops in Macao experience “golden month”

MACAO, 4 Feb—Gold shops in the Macao Special Administrative Region have experienced a “golden month” since the last Christmas holidays, with some famous shops’ sales growing by 30 per cent.

According to Lai Zi Fong, director of the Association of Gold Shops of Macao, good business is expected to last until mid-February, mainly due to the large number of individual tourists from China’s Mainland.

Lai added that the gold industry in Macao will also benefit from the full implementation of the mainland/Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and the establishment of the cross-border industrial park.

On the recent upsurge of gold price, Lai said that the current gold price, 108 Hong Kong dollars per gramme, up 20 per cent to 30 per cent over the same period of last year, is far less than the record price of nearly 130 Hong Kong dollars per gramme.
Great cost of rebuilding Iraq

Everywhere in the capital city of Iraq there are ample evidences US air raid missile strikes were incredibly devastating and the country’s environment was largely damaged by US-led war against Iraq. The use of Uranium coated ammunitions in the war against Iraq has contaminated the water resources and agricultural lands since there is no practical way to eliminate the negative and harmful effects of uranium contamination.

Cost of rebuilding Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost (bn)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity system</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and sanitation</td>
<td>$6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecoms and transport</td>
<td>$3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and urban development</td>
<td>$1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>$1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>$3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil industry</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$49.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Iraqis drive by a house reportedly destroyed in an overnight missile attack in Baghdad, on 30 March, 2003.

An Iraqi woman cries as she walks in front of a bakery that was destroyed in Baghdad on 6 April, 2003.

Fire and black smoke rise from the gas-oil plant in Rumeila oil fields outside Baghdad, on 1 May, 2003.

The taps in Iraq’s major cities are dry and residents have no choice but to tap whatever source they can to quench their thirst, like this puddle that formed from a burst pipe on the outskirts of Basra.

Picture, released on 30 March, 2003, of families continuing to leave Basra in southern Iraq across a bridge of the town manned by British soldiers.

An oil well fire burns out of control in Rumaila, Iraq. Smoke from oil well fires and burning oil trenches had caused local air pollution and soil contamination.
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

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

### Development Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sown acreage (paddy)</td>
<td>326079</td>
<td>361574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation facility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water pumping station</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sluice gate</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road &amp; bridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles of road</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (above 180 feet)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (under 180 feet)</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post office</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegraph office</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto telephone</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>3003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual telephone</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microwave station</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Thanlwin river crossing bridge (Hpa-an) was opened on 5 August 1997. The bridge is linking Myainggalay with Hpa-an in Kayin State.*

*The Government is continuing its efforts to build new roads and bridges. The photo shows Gyaing Bridge (Zathabyin) that links Kayin and Mon States across the Gyaing River.*

*For promoting the health care services of rural people, ways and means are sought for providing health care services by specialists to the public right down to the grassroots level. The photo shows the modern medical equipment installed at Kayin State People's Hospital in Hpa-an.*

*Tayokehla river water pumping project is being implemented in Tayokehla village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric power</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel-fired power plant</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV retransmission station</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information &amp; Public Relations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (basic)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle school</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>1064</td>
<td>1142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (higher)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station hospital</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural health care centre</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural health care centre (branch)</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Repair of uphill and downhill roads in Thandaunggyi, Kayin State, was carried out with might and main. The photo shows the repair of 12 miles long and 18 feet wide old road in Thandaunggyi which will become a hill resort.*
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Interviewer: Maung Maung Kja. Photographer: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

The new buildings in the village stand proof to the development of the Pa-O region in all aspects.

The Government has given priority to the national consolidation in laying down and implementing the national policy, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes. Seventeen armed groups have returned to the legal fold, after understanding the State’s goodwill and building mutual trust with it.

After paying special attention to the national solidarity, the Government has been able to effectively carry out the task to develop the border areas and national races. In addition, the people of the nation are also enjoying the fruits of peace to an unprecedented degree.

In an interview with the Myanma Alin daily, Pa-O leader U Aung Hkam Hti of Shan State (South) Special Region 6 explained the fruits of peace the national races are enjoying and the regional development tasks being carried out with firm Union Spirit.

Hti: The present regional development is self-evident. Because of the lack of peace in the past, we could not do anything for regional development, however strong our desire was for ensuring peace and prosperity for our people. The people are enjoying a better life. They become richer as they can effectively use the land. Our advantage is the flowing of the large Tabet Creek in our region. In the past, there were only monastic education schools. But now, our region has primary, middle and high schools. The root cause of the development is the State’s goodwill and love for the people.

Hti: All sectors are in the process of development at present. Because of the goodwill of the State, the people are able to do things in accord with the degree of their will, desire and perseverance. But we cannot say everything is complete. We are now on the threshold of progress. Gradually we will achieve progress. Let alone Mandalay and other major cities, the people aged 60 and above of the region had never been even to Taunggyi in the past. Later, there emerged motor roads and railroads, so we can transport our products to Taunggyi. Our people now have extra money to save, and spend in the major towns. As they are familiar with urban life, their knowledge becomes richer. People can travel by rail or by car.

Hti: What’s your opinion of the development?

Alin: All sectors are developing fast, especially in the health, education, economic, and transport sectors. Let alone hospitals and station hospitals, even the running of a delivery centre was difficult then.

Alin: What’s the present situation?

Hti: The main thing is enjoying the fruits of peace to an unprecedented degree. Our people now have extra money to save, and spend in the major towns. As they are familiar with urban life, their knowledge becomes richer.

Hti: All the national races have the duty to forge Union Spirit. Ours is a home to various national races. Our nation is like a garden where various species of flowers grow and blossom. There may be different types of literature and languages. But in general, we all are the same. We are standing in unity, and the Pali word for it is Samaggaman tapo sukho. Peace and happiness is there if all work in cooperation. We should not be narrow-minded. We must have the wide vision. We, the national races, must live in unity.

(See page 9)
We will work to the best of our ability together with the State

(From page 8) under the administration of the Government.

Alin: Could you tell us the role of the entire national races in developing the nation?

Hti: We suffered the same fate during the World War II.

We, the national brethren, are its branches. The branches will grow well and the fruits and buds thrive only if the stem is strong.

Alin: Please explain the difference between the wrong opinion and the right one. We all are brethren as we resemble one another in feature. Since the time of our forefathers, we have been living together on this same land sharing joys and sorrows from what the mother nature and our nation demands unity and collective intellectual and physical efforts for its progress. If the situation stand witness to the regional development. Regional peace and stability and tranquility are the results of the valuable land and water resources of the nation, the sincere efforts of the local people, and the good deeds and goodwill of the State.

Local Pa-O boys and girls are attending classes at the affiliated high school in Pinya Model Village in Kyauktalone region.

Poem

Let these be new energies

* River Ayeyawady
  Sweet splashing sounds as if in music
  Listen and let it sink in, Union Citizens... Let these be new energies...

* Along Yoma Range are forests
  As if they’re gold, these paddy stalks
  Myanmar’s economy, Union Citizens...
  Let these be new energies...

* Roads and bridges, plenty as they be
  To east and west, north, south they stretch
  Wherever you go, Union Citizens
  Let these be new energies...

* Union’s beauty, in all regions
  Blooms of smiles, spread out all anew
  They beautify, Union Citizens
  Let these be new energies...

* From Panglong land, it was conceived
  In unity, we won victory
  Born of Motherland, Union Citizens
  Let these be new energies...

* This great Union, continues its journey
  Hands held firmly, with a vow
  Strong and proud, Union Citizens
  Let these be new energies...

* From the religious point of view, I can say that we are like villages.
  The villages in the region, they looked great.
  From what the forefathers, we have been living.
  Wherever you go, Union Citizens
  Let these be new energies.

* We, the national brethren.
  The national races, are predesigned to live together in unity.
  We lagged behind in development, as we had been reckless daredevils believing the foreigners because of the political disagreements that appeared soon after regaining the independence in 1948. Otherwise, we would be enjoying greater progress than we are at present.

Alin: Let us know the future programmes for the national development.

Hti: We will have to take the lessons of the past. We must totally accept and follow the State’s leadership, work in unity, with clear vision, while discarding the old racial suspicions. Soon, our nation will be able to catch up with the nations of the region. We can see with our own eyes that even now, we are more developed than the past. I am sure young persons will see this point even better.

What U Aung Htamin Hti told us in the interview reflects the nation’s objective conditions. All in all, he said that due to the instigation of the colonialists, the national brethren came to conceive the wrong thoughts that led to hampering the national development. And when we listened to him explaining the consolidated national unity and peace and prosperity the regional people were enjoying, we were eager to have a firsthand knowledge of the region.

During our visit to the villages in the region, they looked great in many aspects. They were not like villages. The brick houses have TV antennas, and electricity generated by mini-hydel power stations. They were like urban areas with hospitals and schools where the students are pursuing education happily and peacefully. It would be unbelievable to ears, but all the facilities and and prosperity are the results of the valuable land and water resources of the nation, the sincere efforts of the local people, and the good deeds and goodwill of the State.

"I have been cultivating crops for ten years. I grow garlic, mustard and beans. The increase in the crop per acre yield has made me prosperous.

Daw Nang Aung, a Pa-O race of Pinya Model Village, explains the writer.

The Government’s rural water supply project ensures potable water for Pa-O people of the Pinya Model Village.
Tailoring and fruit arrangement courses conclude

**YANGON, 4 Feb** — The closing ceremony of tailoring course No 31/2003 and fruit arrangement course No 2/2004 organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association took place at the association at the corner of Thanthumar and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and CEC members, members of the course supervisory committee, course instructors and guests. The MMCWA president gave a speech. The MMCWA president and the MMCWA Secretary and officials presented completion certificates to the trainees, and prizes to outstanding trainees. Altogether 25 trainees are attending the 2-month tailoring course. — MNA

Myanmar's participation in China-ASEAN Expo discussed

**YANGON, 4 Feb** — A coordination meeting on Myanmar’s participation in China-ASEAN Expo to be held in Nanning, Quanxijuan region in China, from 3 to 7 November was held at the Ministry of Commerce this evening.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone spoke of the need to build booths in Myanmar style. Location of Myanmar and its economic data are to be presented at the exposition.

Next, Director-General of Trade U Nyunt Aye reported on China-ASEAN Expo.

Those present took part in the discussions. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remark by the minister. — MNA

Htamane Festival held

**YANGON, 4 Feb** — The Htamane making festival of the Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda of Pazundaung Township here was held at 3.30 p.m. today at the pagoda.

Pagoda Trustee Board Chairman U Ko Ko Gyi spoke about the Htamane making ceremony on the occasion.

Later those present on the occasion were served with Htamane. — MNA

Myanmar and India tie goalless draw in U-18 soccer tournament

**YANGON, 4 Feb** — The first under 18 BIMST-EC soccer tournament (2004) continued at Phuket, Thailand, this afternoon.

In group B, Myanmar held goalless draw with India. — MNA

Commander inspects development projects in Yangon South District

**YANGON, 4 Feb** — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, together with No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Division Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi and officials, inspected agricultural and regional development projects in Yangon South District yesterday afternoon.

The commander and party inspected thriving paddies in the irrigated area of Zamani Dam near the Maritime University in Thanlyin Township. Officials reported on extended cultivation of summer paddy in the irrigated area. The commander gave instructions on systematic supervision for water supply.

The commander and party proceeded to Thilawa Dam in the township and inspected summer paddies and left instructions. They also inspected the damming of Alwansut Creek for cultivation of summer paddy.

Next, they looked into the auto-exchange and post office in the town and gave instructions to the officials.

Afterwards, the commander inspected the Myanmar Police Force station and gave instructions on discharge of duties with heart and soul in conformity with police code of conduct for ensuring prevalence of law and order and crime reduction. — MNA

Minister inspects drill of fire brigade parade column

**YANGON, 4 Feb** — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa arrived at Nawady Sports Ground in Mayangon Township, here, this morning.

The minister, together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung, the director-general of the Fire Services Department and senior officials, inspected the drill of the fire brigade parade column that will take part in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

The minister gave necessary instructions to the members of the column that are undergoing training and officials. — MNA
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

All brethren shall continue to march together for peace, progress and prosperity

Min Kyaw Min

Remember the story grandmother used to tell us again and again when we were young? We liked it, and when we grew up we tried to do the same to our children. In their turn, they will tell it to the next generation.

It is the story of the old man who got his sons together and asked each to break a bundle of sticks. They couldn’t. He untied it, split it, and in disarray, the sons could pick up the sticks one by one and break them. Together, they were strong. Separated, they were weak. Alone, each could be broken easily.

Fable, it may be, but there is a ringing truth, the moral being strength in unity and weakness in disunity. This moral applies everywhere, specially when the virtue is to be emphasized.

This nation offers a good example of unity in diversity. Ours is a Union of nationalities, national groups numbering over 100 comprising the main races and the sub-races each of which have their distinctive features — dress, language, folklore, tradition and culture — which form a colourful array of diversity. Yet, we brethren who share this great Union, in times of both weal and woe, have been able to find unity, especially when it is most needed.

We were a sovereign nation. We were independent. When foreigners tried to take our land, deprive us of sovereignty and independence, we fought back with whatever arm we could lay our hands on. We fought three major wars with plenty of skirmishes in between, and, many times, we came out the victor.

Despite our invincible spirit, they eventually took possession of our land and usurped our freedom. Our national pride was eroded and our will to win through peace and development, and, with it, another foreign intrusion.

In the closing chapter of colonial rule over Myanmar, there was a decisive period when, much as we had expected, the colonialists, true to their divide-and-rule policy, strove to leave our brethren in disarray, talking of separate independence for what they then called the Frontier Areas. This meant they would still keep us disunited.

That was not to be, for the patriots of the plains and the hills got together, as they always did in times of adversity, and charted out a united stand.

The newly-won independence meant we won our sovereignty, together with greater responsibilities to stay united in newnationhood.

This was to be the test. We were a sovereign nation. We were independent. We were a sovereign nation.

Fable, it may be, but there is a ringing truth, the moral being strength in unity and weakness in disunity. This moral applies everywhere, specially when the virtue is to be emphasized.

This nation offers a good example of unity in diversity. Ours is a Union of nationalities, national groups numbering over 100 comprising the main races and the sub-races each of which have their distinctive features — dress, language, folklore, tradition and culture — which form a colourful array of diversity. Yet, we brethren who share this great Union, in times of both weal and woe, have been able to find unity, especially when it is most needed.

We were a sovereign nation. We were independent. When foreigners tried to take our land, deprive us of sovereignty and independence, we fought back with whatever arm we could lay our hands on. We fought three major wars with plenty of skirmishes in between, and, many times, we came out the victor.

Despite our invincible spirit, they eventually took possession of our land and usurped our freedom. Our national pride was eroded and our will to win through peace and development, and, with it, another foreign intrusion.

In the closing chapter of colonial rule over Myamar, there was a decisive period when, much as we had expected, the colonialists, true to their divide-and-rule policy, strove to leave our brethren in disarray, talking of separate independence for what they then called the Frontier Areas. This meant they would still keep us disunited.

That was not to be, for the patriots of the plains and the hills got together, as they always did in times of adversity, and charted out a united stand.

The newly-won independence meant we won our sovereignty, together with greater responsibilities to stay united in newnationhood.

This was to be the test. We were a sovereign nation. We were independent. We were a sovereign nation.

Entries invited for Armed Forces Day colour photo competition

YANGON, 4 Feb — The work committee for 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 Commerative Literary and Colour Photo Competition will organize colour photo competitions. Two titles for the colour photo competition are ‘Prosperous and pleasant 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 should the entry win a prize in the competition. Data and caption regarding the photo should be provided on a separate sheet of paper and enclosed. If there are any models in the photo, their consent will be needed.

The entry photo must be a never-before-published work and prize-winning work in 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, Pansodan Street, Yangon, before 29 February.

MNA
Europe joins race to put man on Mars

London, 4 Feb — A European country could step out onto the surface of Mars within three decades, under European Space Agency (ESA) plans spelled out on Tuesday.

The plans are more precise than the broad US goals — all of whom have Martian goals — to be in contact with each other.

Under ESA plans, there will be a mission in 2007 to test a vehicle that can stand high re-entry speeds and experience by those returning from the moon.

This will be followed two years later by ExoMars, a robot mission to Mars in search of life — past and present — and in 2014 by a mission to bring Martian material back to earth.

Colin Pillinger, the chief scientist behind the missing Beagle 2 Mars probe that was supposed to land on the planet on Christmas Day but was never heard from, said it was crucial to find out if there was life there before a human arrives.

"We need to go back to the moon within this century, and then to Mars," he said. Ongaro denied there was any competition with the US space agency NASA, and he expected the Americans — all of whom have Martian goals — to be in contact with each other.

Rules: 8-55/1988 in respect of "antifoaming compositions, anticorrosive and decorative marine paints".

Fraudulent imitation or fraudulent alteration of a Trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Notice is hereby given that action will be taken according to the existing law against those who fail to observe the above warning.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Hempel A/S, a Company incorporated in Denmark of Lundtoftevej 150, 2800 Kongens Lyngby Denmark, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

Reg. No. 855/1988

Macau’s new border-gate building opens for service

Macau, 4 Feb — Macao’s new border-gate building, the largest land checkpoint that is adjacent to Gongbei Customs in Zhuhai City in south China’s Guangdong Province, began service on Monday.

The new building’s two halls for entry and exit, respectively can handle 300,000 passengers per day, said a Customs staff at the bordergate.

Macao’s old bordergate was under heavy pressure of festival goers during China’s week-long vacation of the Lunar New Year in January with a daily passenger flow of 190,000 during the vacation, compared with its normal handling capacity of 140,000. It left thousands of people waiting out of the entry hall in rush hours.

Claims Day Notice

MV MAS SUTRA VOY NO (052)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAS SUTRA VOY No (052) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from Yangon.

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

Agent for: M/S Premier Spectrum

Job Appointment For (Foreign General Manager) Post at Bagam Hotel, at Bagam. (Between One Week) salary, USS: Phone: Contact

JESSICA AWE (DAW AYE MYAT NWE (DIRECTOR) MYANMAR LIVESTOCK BREEDING & FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BANK, MERCHANT STREET YANGON. Ph: 99 5005319 E mail jessica @ baganmail . net . mm

---
Chinese, Gabonese presidents meet on bilateral, global issues

LISEVILLE (Gabon), 4 Feb — Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday held talks with his Gabonese counterpart El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba on bilateral relations and other issues of common concern.

Hu said China highly values the development of China-Gabon relationship since the two countries established diplomatic relations 30 years ago.

The smooth and stable development, said Hu, has been witnessed by frequent exchange of visits of leaders, fruitful cooperation in economy, trade, culture, education and public health, as well as close consultations and coordination in international affairs. The Chinese leader expressed his appreciation for Gabon’s adherence to the One-China policy and support for China’s reunification, noting China values the traditional friendship with Gabon.

Hu made suggestions for promoting the bilateral friendly cooperation by keeping the momentum of high-level exchanges, and enhancing economic and trade cooperation with emphasis on agriculture, infrastructure, resources development and human resources.

He said the two countries should strengthen consultation and cooperation in international affairs, make joint efforts to meet challenges brought about by changes in international situation, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries as well as make contribution to peace and development of Africa and the whole world.

Economic and trade cooperation between China and Gabon, said Hu, has been mutually beneficial and fruitful, noting the Chinese government would continue to encourage and support various forms of cooperation between Chinese and Gabonese enterprises.

He said China is willing to work closely with all African countries to promote the new partnership characterized by comprehensive cooperation and mutual development.

The Chinese President said China’s fundamental policy towards Africa is to consolidate and develop traditional friendship between the two peoples, respect the model for development chosen by the African people, support each other in international and regional affairs, as well as defend the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

He also vowed to continue to aid the African countries within China’s capacity on the basis of mutual respect, learning from each other, mutual benefit and equality.

Philippines, Czech Republic to enhance defence cooperation

MANILA, 4 Feb — The Philippines and the Czech Republic Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation between the two governments, the Philippine Presidential Palace said.

The MoU is centred on eight areas of cooperation in defence and military matters, containing eight specific activities and projects aimed at enhancing defence cooperation and consolidation of defence capabilities of the two countries, the palace said in a statement.

The MoU is also seen as a significant factor in paving the way for a Philippines-Czech partnership in the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The document was signed by visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Jan Kubicek and his Philippine counterpart Raul S. Romualdez.

The Philippines, the Czech Republic, had conducted joint military exercises and exchanged training visits of leaders, fruitful cooperation in intelligence sharing, aviation safety standards, and assisting the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam (CAAV) in training personnel in the next few months, deputy ambassador for the US Federal Aviation Administration Robert A. Sturgell said in a Press briefing.

“It is important for Vietnam to invest in CAAV so it can meet required international standards... Developing the aviation capability of Vietnam will bring greater trade, tourism and direct investment to Vietnam,” he stated.

To date, a number of US and Vietnamese carriers, including American Airlines, United Airlines, Continental Airlines and Vietnam Airlines, have shown their interest in direct and code-sharing flights between the two countries, said Sturgell.

The US Department of Transportation is reviewing the MoU, which is expected to start conducting a technical review on Vietnam’s scores.

Thousand-year-old stone tablet recovered in Liaoning

SHENYANG, 4 Feb — A stone tablet that is nearly 1,000 years old and inscribed in different periods of history, 208 years apart from each other, has come to light in the northeastern China province of Liao-ning.

The mammoth tablet, bearing some 5,000 Chinese characters, was first inscribed in the Liao Dynasty (916-1125) in commemoration of disastrous floods in Yizhou Town, today’s Tayingzi Town in Fuxin Mongolian Autonomous County, and the local residents’ building of bridges and embankments to fight the floods. The tablet was inscribed on four sides, including names of ancient villages, officials and civilians, but inscriptions on one side were removed and a head portrait — probably of Liu Hong, the last magistrate serving in Yizhou Town in the Liao Dynasty — was carved in its place.

Archaeologists say they assume the portrait was carved in the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234) because the epigraph next to it was done by Wang Ji, a Jin citizen.

The tablet was first discovered and carried on a horse cart to the county government by a local farmer in the 1960s, but was almost forgotten after it was buried by officials to protect it from being damaged or stolen.

No one knew the whereabouts of the tablet, though the local government tried several times to find it out in the 1980s. In 2002, local archaeologists started to see it and, after years of research, that a huge tablet was spotted in 1994 at the construction site of a major department store but unaware of its value, no one took the trouble to dig it out.

Early in January 2004, archaeologists were finally able to retrieve the tablet close to the Global Shopping Centre in the central areas of the old town. Archaeologists say inscriptions are still largely legible, though some characters have blurred over the years.

The tablet has been turned over to the Art Museum.

Chinese, Gabonese presidents meet on bilateral, global issues

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 3 February, 2004

United States, Vietnam to strengthen aviation ties

HANOI, Feb — The United States will review safety issues of Vietnam’s aviation industry and offer relevant training shortly, in a move to fully implement the recently-approved Air Services Agreement, top US aviation official said here on Monday.

The US Department of Transportation has approved the United States plan to start conducting a technical review on Vietnam’s scores on aviation safety standards, and assisting the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam (CAAV) in training personnel in the next few months, deputy ambassador for the US Federal Aviation Administration Robert A. Sturgell said in a Press briefing.

“It is important for Vietnam to invest in CAAV so it can meet required international standards... Developing the aviation capability of Vietnam will bring greater trade, tourism and direct investment to Vietnam,” he stated.

To date, a number of US and Vietnamese carriers, including American Airlines, United Airlines, Continental Airlines and Vietnam Airlines, have shown their interest in direct and code-sharing flights between the two countries, said Sturgell.

The US Department of Transportation is reviewing the MoU, which is expected to start conducting a technical review on Vietnam’s scores.

Interpol to establish anti-doping database in France

PARIS, 4 Feb — France’s Sports Minister Jean-Francois Lamour announced the establishment of an anti-doping database in France on Monday.

Lamour, who has intensified his government’s anti-doping fight following the arrest of people connected with French cycling team Cofidis for dop- ing offences, met Interpol’s Chief Ronald Noble at the global policing agency’s headquarters in Lyon on Monday.

The database will contain eight specific activities and projects aimed at enhancing defence cooperation and consolidation of defence capabilities of the two countries, the palace said in a statement.

The MoU is also seen as a significant factor in paving the way for a Philippines-Czech partnership in the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The document was signed by visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Jan Kubicek and his Philippine counterpart Raul S. Romualdez.

The Philippines, the Czech Republic, had conducted joint military exercises and exchanged training visits of leaders, fruitful cooperation in intelligence sharing, aviation safety standards, and assisting the Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam (CAAV) in training personnel in the next few months, deputy ambassador for the US Federal Aviation Administration Robert A. Sturgell said in a Press briefing.

“It is important for Vietnam to invest in CAAV so it can meet required international standards... Developing the aviation capability of Vietnam will bring greater trade, tourism and direct investment to Vietnam,” he stated.

To date, a number of US and Vietnamese carriers, including American Airlines, United Airlines, Continental Airlines and Vietnam Airlines, have shown their interest in direct and code-sharing flights between the two countries, said Sturgell.

The US Department of Transportation is reviewing the MoU, which is expected to start conducting a technical review on Vietnam’s scores.

Indian Govt may consider charges for ground water use

NEW DELHI, 4 Feb — Indian Government may soon take up the terms of charging for ground water use and others for extracting ground water and using it for commercial and industrial purposes.

At present, the only charges companies pay for using ground water in soft drinks, bottled water and other products is an insignificant “water cess” which is being levied by the State Pollution Control Boards under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, sources said in Delhi on Monday.

In its presentation before the Joint Parliamentary Committee probing allegations of pesticides in soft drinks, the Environment and Forests Minister has assured the panel that “in future perhaps the water, if used for commercial and industrial purposes, will have to be charged.” While lambasting the Central Government for the companies which use water for commercial purposes for their respective lack of sensitivity, the Minister has asked the Ministry of Water Resources to pursue the matter of charging for commercial use of water and regulate its use.

Indonesian Defence Chief conferred Singapore’s highest sily award

SINGAPORE, 4 Feb — Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian National Defence Forces, General Endarto Sutarto, was conferred Singapore’s highest military award, the Distinguished Service Order by Singapore President S R Nathan on Tuesday.

The Distinguished Service Order was awarded to Sutarto for his role in forging closer ties between the Singapore Armed Forces and the Indonesian Defence Forces, said Singapore’s Ministry of Defence on Tuesday.

Sutarto also called on Singapore Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong later in the day. — MNA/Xinhua

Actress Drew Barrymore smiles as she is honoured with a star in Hollywood’s Walk of Fame, on 3 Feb, 2004, in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles. Amy Pascal, Song Pictures vice chairman, is behind Barrymore — Internet

The tablet has been turned over to the Art Museum.
**Baptista in Brazil squad for Ireland game, Rivaldo absent**

Rio de Janeiro, 4 Feb— Sevilla midfielder Julio Baptista was called up by Brazil for the first time on Tuesday for the friendly against Ireland in Dublin on February 18.

However, striker Rivaldo has been left out of the squad as he will be playing in the Libertadores Cup for his Brazilian club Cruzeiro.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira picked 20 European-based players and only two playing in Brazil— World Cup-winning goalkeeper Marcos of Palmeiras and forward Luis Fabiano of Sao Paulo.

The absence of Rivaldo, the former world player of the year who recently returned to play in Brazil for the first time in seven years after being released by AC Milan, will disappoint Irish fans.

The squad does include midfielders Kaka of AC Milan and Kleberson of Manchester United, Barcelona forward Ronaldinho and Real Madrid striker Ronaldo.

The game in Dublin is part of Brazil’s preparations for the World Cup qualifier against Paraguay on March 30.

**Middlesbrough edge through to League Cup final**

London, 4 Feb—An own goal from Arsenal's new Spanish signing Jose Antonio Reyes helped Middlesbrough through to the League Cup final with a tense 2-1 victory in their semi-final, second leg match on Tuesday.

The victory at the Riverside gave 'Boro, who have never won a major trophy, a 3-1 aggregate win and they will play Bolton Wanderers in the final at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on February 27.

Premier league leaders Arsenal fielded a weakened team and had defender Martin Keown sent off just before halftime for a professional foul.

Dutchman Boudewijn Zenden gave Middlesbrough the lead after 69 minutes. Bra- zilian Edu equalized for Arsenal with a header but Reyes' own goal secured Mid- dlesbrough's long-suffering fans their ticket to Cardiff.

Thomas Hesp, who lost in the League Cup final in 1997 and 1998, has waited 12 years for a piece of silverware.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger left Thierry Henry, Dennis Bergkamp, Robert Pires and Freddie Ljungberg, although captain Patrick Vieira returned to stifle the midfield.

However, Middlesbrough dominated the second half, Italian striker Massimo Maccarone fired one chance wastefully wide and was then denied by a fine reaction save from Arsenal’s reserve goalkeeper Graham Stack.

On the stroke of halftime Arsenal did their cause no good when Keown clumsily pulled down the Italian to earn a straight red card, the 54th Arsenal dismissal in Wenger’s seven-and-a-half-year reign.

Reyes only claimed a penalty straight after halftime when he went down under a challenge from ‘Boro keeper Mark Schwarzer.

Schwarzer then blocked a Kolo Toure shot on the line but Arsenal went behind when Gaizka Mendieta touched a deflected ball for Zenden who dinked the ball over Stack.

The visitors, whose last League Cup tri- umph was in 1993, hit back quickly, with Edu netting after Vieira’s header rebounded off the post minutes later.

However, ‘Boro killed the Londoners off five minutes from the end when Reyes tried to tackle Stuart Parnaby but succeeded only in diverting the ball out for an unfortunate first goal for his new club.

**Zaragosa snap up former Barcelona striker Dani**

Madrid, 4 Feb— Zaragosa have signed former Spanish and Barcelona inter- national striker Dani, the club announced on Monday.

Dani rescinded his contract with Barca last week, after hardly figuring in the first team for three-and-a-half years.

The 29-year-old played for Zaragosa from 1995 to 1997 before making his name with 12 league goals for Real Mallorca in 1996-97 season.

He won the first of five Spanish caps in November 1998 and secured a 15.5 million US dollars move to Barcelona at the end of the season.

He responded with 11 goals in 27 League appearances in his first season at the Nou Camp but was then virtually ignored by successive coaches, playing just 23 League games from 2000-01 before leaving the club by mutual consent last week.

Zaragosa are third from bottom in the Primera Liga after a 1-0 defeat away to fellow relegation candidates Murcia.

**Wales lose bid to remove Russia from Euro 2004**

London, 4 Feb— Wales have failed in their bid to have Russia removed from the finals of Euro 2004 because of Yegor Titov’s failed drug test, European soccer’s governing body UEFA said on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old Spartak player, on loan in Portugal, but the Football Association of Wales (FAW) complained they should have been awarded a 3-0 win because Titov, who was an unused substitute in the first leg, should not have been eligible to play.

He won the second leg 1-0 a week later in Car- diff to qualify for the tourna-

**Landreal heroes send Nantes into first League Cup final**

Nantes (France), 4 Feb— A remarkable performance by goalkeeper Mickael Landreau and a tense penalty shootout sent Nantes into their first League Cup final on Tuesday at the expense of AJ Auxerre.

After a goalless 120 minutes the 25-year-old French international saved three penalties, with the referee twice allowing Auxerre strikers a second attempt, before scor- ing the winner himself as Nantes won the shootout 5-4.

Nantes were unbeaten in 10 games before the clash while Auxerre had won their six matches this year without conceding a goal. Their last defeat had been in the same La Beaujoire stadium in a Ligue 1 match in De-

**Soccer legend Best banned over drink-drive charge**

London, 4 Feb— Soccer legend George Best was fined and banned from driving for 20 months on Monday after pleading guilty to a drink-driving charge.

The former Manchester United great was found to be two-and-a-half times over the legal alcohol limit when he was arrested in the early hours of last Friday in Merton, southwest London.

Best, 57, who underwent a liver trans- plant in July 2002 after years of alcohol abuse, had rowed with his son in a restaurant and had been on his way to a health farm for treatment when he was stopped, his lawyer told Wimbledon magistrates’ court.

“Alcoholism is disease. He has struggled with it and at times he has had it under control,” Best’s lawyer Pippa McAussey said.

“He has had a liver transplant, but he has lost the support of his wife...”

In addition to the driving ban, which could be rescinded if Best agrees to attend a rehabilitation course, he was fined 1,500 pounds.

**Two late goals seal Cup win for 10-man Werder**

Berlin, 4 Feb— Bundesliga leaders Werder Bremen scored twice in added time for a 3-2 away win at second division SpVgg Greuther Fuern in a quarter-final on Tuesday.

The northerners were trailing 2-1 and down to 10 men when German playmaker Johan Micoud kept their hopes alive by scoring from close range in the first minute of stoppage time. However, striker Ivica Olic, who has scored a lot of goals for the team, scored in the second half with a neat finish from a free kick.

Werde manager Thomas Schaaf said: “We really should have lost that game. We were not aggressive enough. We can and we must play much better than we did tonight.

“Surely we had some luck involved but that’s football.”

Arsenal midfielder Freddie Ljungberg (L) stretches to push the ball past Manchester City goalkeeper David James. Ljungberg could be out for three weeks with a rib injury he sustained in Arsenal’s 2-1 victory over Man- chester City.—INTERVIEW

**Djibril Cisse of Auxerre, centre, and Jeremy Toulalan of Nantes, right, struggle for the ball as Emerce Fae of Nantes, left, looks on during their semi-final French league cup match played in Nantes, western France, on 3 Feb, 2004.—Ivistravan**

**A.remeheroes send Nantes into first League Cup final**

Nantes (France), 4 Feb— A remarkable performance by goalkeeper Mickael Landreau in a tense penalty shootout sent Nantes into their first League Cup final on Tuesday at the expense of AJ Auxerre.

After a goalless 120 minutes the 25-year-old French international saved three penalties, with the referee twice allowing Auxerre strikers a second attempt, before scoring the winner himself as Nantes won the shootout 5-4.

Nantes were unbeaten in 10 games before the clash while Auxerre had won their six matches this year without conceding a goal. Their last defeat had been in the same La Beaujoire stadium in a Ligue 1 match in December.

Chances were scarce but Nantes had a goal disallowed in the 32nd minute when Nicolas Gillet was judged off-side.

Auxerre took the upper hand in the second half with some swift counter-attacks led by Djibril Cisse and Ivory Coast’s Bonaventure Kalou.

But as extra time progressed a shootout looked inevitable. Landreau, a penalty shootout specialist, stopped attempts by Cisse, Yohan Radet and Philippe Violeau before scoring the winner.

In the final Nantes will meet the winners of the other semi-final between St Etienne and Sochaux, to be played on Wednesday.

The League Cup is the only domestic competition both Nantes and Auxerre have yet to win.

**Soccer legend Best banned over drink-drive charge**

London, 4 Feb— Soccer legend George Best was fined and banned from driving for 20 months on Monday after pleading guilty to a drink-driving charge.

The former Manchester United great was found to be two-and-a-half times over the legal alcohol limit when he was arrested in the early hours of last Friday in Merton, southwest London.

Best, 57, who underwent a liver trans- plant in July 2002 after years of alcohol abuse, had rowed with his son in a restaurant and had been on his way to a health farm for treatment when he was stopped, his lawyer told Wimbledon magistrates’ court.

“Alcoholism is disease. He has struggled with it and at times he has had it under control,” Best’s lawyer Pippa McAussey said.

“He has had a liver transplant, but he has lost the support of his wife...”

In addition to the driving ban, which could be rescinded if Best agrees to attend a rehabilitation course, he was fined 1,500 pounds.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Tuesday, 3 February, 2004  15

WEATHER

Wednesday, 4 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Shan, Mon, Kayin, Kayah States, Yangon and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State and upper Sagain Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin State and Ayeyarwady Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night precipitation was Habuka (0.5°C). Maximum temperatures on 2-2004 was 36.5°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 4-2004 was 19.8°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:00am MST on 4-2004 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 3-2004 was 7.5 hours.)

Rainfall on 4-2004 was nil at Yangon, Mawlamyine, Kale Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kal-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed was 9.6 mph at Thanlyin and 3.4 mph at Mawlamyine, Mawlamyine Airfield and at Kyaing Tong.

The next day's weather is cloudy and partly cloudy in the whole country.

R.485. Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon, Cable Newlight, PO Box No 43, Telephone: Editors 296115, Manager 296664, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Publication 297032 (Office)/297028 (Press).
PM receives Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to the Netherlands

YANGON, 4 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to the Netherlands Mr Herman Johan Stevens at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall this evening.

Present on the occasion together with the Prime Minister were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

Buddha Pujaniya Festival held

YANGON, 4 Feb — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay attended the 19th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Maha Wirzaya Pagoda and visited the Human-making Contest held at the southern archway of the pagoda at 4 pm today.

Present on the occasion were military region commanders and their wives, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council members and their wives, District Peace and Development Council chairmen and their wives, invited guests, members of religious associations and contestants.

Chairman of the committee for building the pagoda Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Phone Kyaw formally opened the festival and the contest.

The commander and his wife and party viewed competing of 38 groups at the contest. At night, Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and officials presented prizes to winners at the contest. The Maha Wirzaya Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival continues till 6 February. — MNA

Course on dental, oral health opens

YANGON, 4 Feb — A township-level multiplier course on primary dental and oral health care service for rural people jointly organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Dental and Oral Section of Health Department was opened at hall of Kayan Township USDA Office yesterday.

CEC member of the

Ministry of Labour holds second and third four-monthly coord meeting

YANGON, 4 Feb — The second and third four-monthly coordination meeting of departments and committees of the Ministry of Labour continued for the second day at Main Medical Warehouse of Social Security Board in Ahlon Township this morning.

Present were Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, the directors-general, medical superintendent-s, workers’ Hospital and officials.

Officials of the department reported on work done, cultivation of vegetables and livestock breeding. Directors-General U Tin Win and U Soe Nyunt took part in the discussions.

Deputy Director of the Office of Central Trade Disputes Committee U Han Nyunt discussed work done.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein reviewed the report of States and Divisions and laid down future tasks.

Minister U Tin Winn assigned duties for 2004 to heads of departments.

The meeting ended with the concluding remark by the minister. — MNA

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards announced

YANGON, 4 Feb — Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library introduced ‘Library Book Awards’ in 2001. The award-winning books are chosen from the books published in the previous year. The list of books chosen for ‘Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards’ for the year 2002 were announced yesterday. The award-winning books are ‘Nwee hmai-thoh-thoh-ho-kau-pawn-jon’ (Buckwheat in a silver mist) written by Ni Min Swe, ‘Sa-tat-pho Win ngwe-kau-pho Ah-thet-she-pho’ (Education, good income and longer life) written by Aung Si Hein, and ‘Pua-tho-sundan Ta-oo El Buaw Khuye’ (The life of a law officer) written by U Han Nyunt (Law). The prizes will be given to winners in Pakokku on 22 February. — MNA

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspections No 21 well of Nyaungdon oil and gas field

YANGON, 4 Feb — Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected Nyaungdon oil and gas field in Nyaungdon region, Ayeawady Division, this afternoon.

Chief Engineer (Drilling) U Ye Khaung reported on running of Nyaungdon well No 21. Managing Director U San Lwin gave a supplementary report. The minister gave instructions on drilling new oil wells in Maubin, Pantanaw and Nyaungdon (middle) that are geographically contiguous with Nyaungdon oil field, extended production of oil and natural gas and timely laying of 14-inch Nyaungdon-Ywama natural gas pipeline, and attended to the needs.

Next, the minister presented cash awards to the staff, and inspected gas well No 21, which produces 6,974 million cubic feet of natural gas and 72 barrels of condensate a day.

Now, the 16 wells in the field produce around 83 million cubic feet of natural gas and 1,184 barrels of condensate a day. The products are piped to the factories of Yangon. — MNA

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Four economic objectives

* 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