The three nation-building forces, namely, the national people, the Tatmadaw and the government, join hands in implementing in earnest the basic objectives laid down by the government to bring about marked and rapid development in political, economic and social spheres. As a result, success has been achieved in various sectors.
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.

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 5 Feb — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Appointment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Dr U Soe Naung</td>
<td>Rector Primary Health University (Mogway)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Dr U Myat Moe</td>
<td>Rector Traditional Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, together with responsible personnel, visited the Nyaungdon oil and natural gas field in Ayeyawady Division on 4 February and gave necessary instructions and attended to the requirements to be able to explore and produce more and more oil and natural gas in Maubin, Pantanaw and Nyaungdon (Middle).

The Ministry of Energy is now trying to produce more and more oil and natural gas for domestic consumption by extending the exploitation work at inland oil and natural gas deposits and offshore oil fields.

Due to constant exploration of energy deposits by the Ministry of Energy, new oil and natural gas deposits were struck at Nyaungdon in 1999, at Thargyi-tnaung in 2001, at Inndaw in 2002 and in offshore Rakhine in December, 2003.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Tha, with responsible personnel, visited the Nyaungdon oil and natural gas field in Ayeyawady Division on 4 February and gave necessary instructions and attended to the requirements to be able to explore and produce more and more oil and natural gas in Maubin, Pantanaw and Nyaungdon (Middle).

Then, the minister also inspected the production work at Well No. 21, which can produce 6,974 million cubic feet of natural gas and 72 barrels of condensate daily.

Moreover, 16 wells at Nyaungdon Oil and Natural Gas Field can produce 83 million cubic feet of natural gas and 1,184 barrels of condensate, which are being distributed to factories in Yangon region through the Nyaungdon-Yangon natural gas pipeline.

We believe that all the responsible personnel and technicians will try to the best of their abilities to exploit more and more oil and natural gas deposits to be able to meet the energy needs of the nation.

Don’t smoke
Deadly attacks on US soldiers on the rise in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb—Nearly two months have passed since Saddam Hussein’s capture, yet American soldiers still are dying at a rate of more than one a day. Forty-five soldiers died in January and three more in the first three days of February. The January toll was five more than in December, despite hopes that Saddam’s Dec. 13 capture would weaken the Iraqi insurgency and slow the killings from roadside bombs and other attacks.

The number of deaths in January will rise to 47 when the Pentagon changes the status of two soldiers who are missing and believed to have died in the Tigris River on Jan. 25. That would make the second highest monthly total since last April when daily combat from the invasion was still under way.

The worst month was November, when 82 died. In October there were 43, Septem-

US army apologizes for killing Iraqi child, FBI track terror groups

BAGHDAD, 5 Feb—The US army apologized for killing an Iraqi child, as the death toll from double suicide bombings, the deadliest post-war attacks in Iraq, climbed to more than 100.

Colonel William Mayville acknowledged that his forces were responsible Tuesday for mortaring a fire that killed an Iraqi boy during a major Muslim holiday as his family picnicked in the northern oil region of Kirkuk.

Mayville told a meeting with local government officials, attended by an AFP correspondent, that he had ordered an investigation into the shelling that also wounded the boy’s mother and two brothers.

He said his troops had opened fire because they suspected insurgents were in the area, but that those responsible for the deadly error would be held accountable.

Mayville added that he ordered the payment of 2,500 dollars in compensation for the family of the nine-year-old boy, Basssam Sami Awwad, and 1,500 dollars for each of the three injured. —Internet

Journalists welcome to cover upcoming NPC, CPPCC sessions

BEIJING, 5 Feb—Chinese and foreign journalists are welcome to cover the upcoming annual sessions of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in Beijing, it was announced here Wednesday.

The Second Session of the 10th NPC opens on March 5 and the Second Session of the 10th National Committee of the CPPCC will begin on March 3, according to the general office of the NPC Standing Committee and the CPPCC National Committee.

The NPC is the top legislative body in China, while the CPPCC is a broad-based national advisory organization consisting of experts and citizens from all walks of life. The CPPCC plays a supervisory role and accepts suggestions and criticisms which relate to major state affairs and policies and other important issues.

A Press centre will be set up at the China Great Hall Hotel, No. 19 Xijuamianxiang Street, Beijing. It will be responsible for arranging for Chinese and foreign correspondents to cover the two meetings. Chinese correspondents from Beijing-based state media, who want to cover the meetings are required to send their applications to the Press centre, local correspondents who want to come to Beijing to cover the meetings, should first send their applications to the local delegations who will deliver those applications to the Press centre.

MNA/Xinhua

Cyprus, Greece, Lebanon to launch business cooperation

NICOSIA, 5 Feb—Cyprus, Greece and Lebanon will soon launch business cooperation on issues that concern business, industry and tourism, Cyprus Finance Minister Marcos Kyriakou declared here Tuesday.

The three-party cooperation was initiated by Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Andreas Loverdos, Kyriakou said.

Kyriakou said the relevant ministry departments are working on holding in Nicosia the first business council between the three countries, to be held around end of spring. He said there was clear interest from both Cyprus and Greece for such cooperation while Lebanon was chosen because it is considered the gateway to the Arab world. The three-party council that will be organized in Nicosia will provide an initial forum for business people of all three countries to get to know one another.

Kyriakou described the cooperation as “very interesting”, noting that it will help the countries and their business people to further develop economically.

MNA/Xinhua
**Poll finds Democratic candidate leading Bush**

**London, 5 Feb**—The war in Iraq is the “greatest blunder” in British foreign policy since the 1956 Anglo-French expedition in Suez, Egypt, former foreign secretary Robin Cook warned.

“The war is proving the greatest blunder in British foreign and security policy since Suez,” he said in Wednesday’s edition of the Independent.

“The war has neither disarmed a single weapon of mass destruction nor diminished the threat to British interests.”

“It has, though, undermined the authority of the UN, divided us from our major partners in Europe and damaged our status in the Third World, especially Muslim countries,” added Cook, who resigned his post as a government minister last month in protest at British involvement in the Iraq conflict without UN approval.

**Iraq accident claims Houston soldier**

**Baghdad, 5 Feb**—Armando Soriano’s dark brown eyes and stoic expression captured in an Army photographer’s posit in front of a cake in his parents’ living room suggest he had a lot on his mind.

He joined the Army two months after graduating from South Houston High School in 2002 to help his financially struggling parents, Clotilde and Enrique.

On Sunday, they learned that Soriano, 20, the oldest of their five children, died that day in Haditha, Iraq. His vehicle, travelling with another on a supply route, slid off a road and rolled over during bad weather.

**Philipine President confident on strong economy**

**Manila, 5 Feb**—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Wednesday insisted the economy was “sound and strong” despite the peso’s continued drop against the dollar.

“We can all help by staying calm and focusing in constructive economic endeavours and dealing with the effects of the oil price hike in the spirit of sacrifice and solidarity,” Arroyo said in a statement.

“The transient pressure on the peso is coming from perceptions of instability fuelled by isolated military adventurism and excessive politicking,” she added, referring to an alleged destabilization plot by a small band of junior officers and civilian leaders against her government, who are facing sedition charges before military and local courts.

Meanwhile, Arroyo warned currency speculators as well as dollar buyers and profiteers who might take advantage of the situation after the peso closed at a record low of 56.20 to the dollar on Tuesday. Earlier this week, the policy-making Monetary Board has instructed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP, the Philippine central bank) to impose fines and administrative sanctions against currency market players found repeatedly violating foreign exchange rules.

**ASEAN+3 to continue cooperation in tourism**

**Bangkok, 5 Feb**—Ministers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations and China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3) vowed to continue cooperation in developing the region’s tourism, according to a media statement issued by a relevant meeting on Tuesday night in Vientiane, Laos.

“The ministers expressed their support for the implementation of decisions of the ASEAN+3 Summit to further boost the tourism industry,” the statement said.

They were “pleased to note recent trends in the tourist arrivals between ASEAN with China, Japan and South Korea, which reached 20 per cent of international tourist arrivals in ASEAN in 2003,” said the document.

It noted that the ministers agreed to intensify their cooperation in tourism, especially in the fields of joint promotion and marketing, tourism investment and manpower development.

**China’s volcanic island listed as national geological park**

**Nanning, 5 Feb**—China’s biggest volcanic island and a group of ancient sink holes, both located in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, have been listed as national geological parks.

The Ministry of Land and Resources announced on Tuesday 41 new geological parks, bringing the total number to 85. Weizhou Island, a 25-square-kilometre volcanic island, is 26 nautical miles off Beihai, a scenic port city facing Beibu Gulf.

The island is known as “Museum of Volcanics” and is thought to be the youngest volcanic island in China as geologists believe its latest eruption dates back about 7,000 to 8,000 years. It is surrounded by a large area of coral reef and is inhabited by 15,000 people. Each year, the island receives hundreds of thousands of sightseers, who come to view the remains of volcanic eruptions such as craters, pozzolana, lava and unique scenic spots formed by marine abrasion.

China’s second contribution to the national list of geological parks is its doline group, the oldest and largest group of ancient sink holes in the world, located in Leye County, 460 kilometres from the regional capital Nanning. The doline group was formed 65 million years ago, and “Dashiwai”, the largest hole of the group, is 613 metres deep and 42 metres wide. The virgin forest at the bottom of the dolines covers nearly 100,000 square metres. It is home to over 1,000 varieties of plants and animals, including rare species such as blind fish and flying squirrels, as well as crabs and shrimp.

The dolines were discovered in 1998 and opened as a tourist destination in October 2003. As a special geological landscape found in karst regions, dolines were formed by repeated cave-ins of the top of underground caves and are mainly seen in China, Mexico and Papua New Guinea.

Listed on the new 41 geological parks announced Tuesday are the scenic resorts of Juzhaigou, in the southwestern Sichuan Province, Yangshang Mountain, in the eastern Zhangjia Jie Province, Wuzhishan Mountain, in the central Hennan Province, and the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River.

The Stone Forest in the southwestern Yunnan Province was among the first 11 geological parks named in 2000.
Guerilla group claims Iraq bombings

Baghdad, 5 Feb — An Iraq guerilla group claimed responsibility Wednesday for twin suicide attacks on the offices of two Kurdish political parties, saying they were targeted because of the Kurds’ ties to the United States.

"Two of our martyrs...died fighting for the liberation of the homeland of the Arab nation to revive the sun of the Prophet Muhammad," said the statement by "Jaish Ansar al-Sunnah." "They were attacking us because of the Kurds’ ties to the United States, and their women and children." The statement said US and Kurdish forces "pummeled them with tens of US rockets, shelled them with aircraft and for eight days, nonstop, whole villages with their mosques were obliterated from the face of the Earth." The statement was signed by Abu Abdullah al-Hassan bin Mahmoud, identified as the leader of Jaish Ansar al-Sunnah.  

Also in Iraq:

Iraq’s military said Wednesday that five ships and planes are searching for the bodies of 253 US soldiers and 137 Iraqi civilians that the US military said were killed in two suicide bombings in Ramadi and Fallujah.

The statement by the Army of the Protectors of the Sunna condemned the PUK for the crackdown on Ansar al-Islam. It said PUK leader Jalal Talabani was "coordinating with the crusaders (Americans) to attack our mujahedeen brothers from Ansar al-Islam and their women and children." The statement said US and Kurdish forces "pummeled them with tens of US rockets, shelled them with aircraft and for eight days, nonstop, whole villages with their mosques were obliterated from the face of the Earth." The statement was signed by Abu Abdullah al-Hassan bin Mahmoud, identified as the leader of Jaish Ansar al-Sunnah.  

Seven missing after fishing boat sinks in South China

Guangzhou, 5 Feb — Ships and planes are searching for seven missing fishermen aboard a boat which sunk Tuesday in the southern sea area of Guangdong Province. 

The accident occurred at 40 sea miles to the southeast of Huihua County in Jieyang City at 3:00 p.m. and seven fishermen aboard fell into the sea, according to the South China Sea rescue centre under the Ministry of Communications.

One ship from the centre and a warship from the South China Sea Fleet immediately took part in the rescue. Two planes with heat-detecting devices have also been scouring the sea areas. — MNA/Xinhua

Nepal, India agree to strengthen border surveillance

KATHMANDU, 5 Feb — Nepal and India have agreed to form a border district coordinating committee to sort out border related issues and strengthen security to check terrorism and trans-border crimes.

During the two-day Home Secretary-level talks between Indian Home Secretary N. Gopalaswami and his Nepali counterpart Ananta Raj Pandey, which ended Tuesday, the two sides agreed to increase vigilance along the border and strengthen security mechanism to check cross-border terrorism and crimes.

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Blair’s debate on Hutton Report suspended by demonstrators

LONDON, 5 Feb — The British Parliament’s House of Commons was suspended Wednesday after a group of protesters in the public gallery continually interrupted the debate on the Hutton report on the deaths of arms expert David Kelly.

Anti-war protesters shouted “murderer” and “no whitewashes” shortly after Prime Minister Tony Blair opened the debate. Amid the interruption, Blair joked “I somehow feel I am not being entirely persuasive in certain quarters.”

He said the best defence against claims of a whitewash was the Hutton Report, which cleared the government of embellishing its Iraq weapons dossier.

Commons Speaker Michael Martin suspended the debate until 1130 GMT for the public gallery to be cleared. On Wednesday morning, five demonstrators were arrested for throwing white paint at the gates of Downing Street and were later released.

Blair told the lawmakers Wednesday that the inquiry into the prewar Iraq intelligence will not examine "whether it was right to go to war or not," saying the issue was a question for the government, Parliament and ultimately the people to decide. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian trade surplus up 45% in 2003

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Feb — Malaysia recorded a big trade surplus of 19.74 billion US dollars in 2003, up 45 per cent over the previous year, an official release said on Wednesday.

Driven by the surge in exports, especially in electrical and electronic products, to a total exports for the whole year reached an all-time high of 100.6 billion US dollars, an increase of 23 per cent from 2002's 80.86 billion US dollars. On the import side, imports surged 19.37 billion US dollars in 2002, Ministry of International Trade and Industry said in its preliminary release of the Malaysia External Trade Statistics. Imports, meanwhile, increased by 1.6 per cent to 80.86 billion US dollars from the 2002 volume, the release indicated.

During the year, the exports to most markets registered increases, it said, adding exports to other ASEAN members increased by 7 per cent, the European Union by 9.4 per cent, Japan by 5.3 per cent, China by 22.6 per cent, Hong Kong by 35.4 per cent, and India by 42.6 per cent.

Malaysian major export products in 2003 included electrical and electronic products, palm oil, chemicals and chemical products, crude petroleum, liquefied natural gas, machinery, ap- plication and parts as well as wood products. — MNA/Xinhua
Iraq under US and allies’ occupation

Sufferings of Iraqi people resulting from US-led war against Iraq

During the US-led war against Iraq, the lack of adequate clean water and electricity supplies in much of the city of Baghdad was hampering efforts to treat the wounded. The situation overall was extremely problematic in terms of clean water supply and sewage evacuation.

An Iraqi girl leaves the city of Basra in southern Iraq across one of the town’s bridges manned by British soldiers, on 30 March, 2003.

Eleven-month-old Iraqi girl Rosslal cries in a Baghdad children’s hospital near her two-year-old sister Aya as both suffer from gastroenteritis due to poor drinking water, on 18 April, 2003. Iraq’s collapsed infrastructure means the re-establishment of basic services and civil authorities are more urgent priorities than food aid, humanitarian workers said on 19 April.

An Iraqi man holds his daughter, wounded during an airstrike according to hospital sources, in a hospital in Baghdad on 6 April, 2003.

Iraqi Munthir Sabir, who lost six members of his immediate family when an American ammunition dump exploded and destroyed his home, walks through the remains of the site on Saturday 26 April, 2003.

Iraqis pass a US-led forces checkpoint at an area known as Bridge Four outside Basra in southern Iraq, on 29 March, 2003. Explosions have been heard around the southern Iraqi city of Basra, a correspondent for Qatar-based al-Jazeera television reported on 30 March, 2003.

Debris litters the inside of a maternity hospital hit by coalition forces in Baghdad on 1 April, 2003.

Iraqi deaths up to 29 January 2004

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Iraqi side</th>
<th>Death toll</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Iraqi service personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>9896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
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Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Development images of Shan State (East) in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Sector</th>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>Information &amp; Public Relations Department</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The photo taken on 20 May, 2003 shows the 200-bed General Hospital in Kengtung, Shan State (East).

The 300 feet long and 12 feet wide Nantmwe creek bridge in Shan State (East) which was opened on 15 September 2003.

The Government has been striving for uplift of health and fitness of the people in border areas. Photo shows the Nursing and Midwifery Training School in Kengtung, Shan State (East).

Mongpan Hydel Power Station constructed on the east of Monghsat Township in Shan State (East).

An aerial view of developing Mongla in Shan State (East).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Development Sector</th>
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<td>Transport</td>
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<td>Earth road (mile)</td>
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<td>Rural health care centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Border clinic</td>
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<td>20</td>
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</table>
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

As the saying “Seeing is believing” goes, it was amazing to see the development of the border areas.

I frequently visited Lashio and Kengtung. Every time I visited the regions in eastern and northern Shan State I noticed more and more progress. The towns in the border areas are much like those of foreign countries.

After the government had taken up State duties in 1988, it restored peace and tranquillity in the country. The government made peace with 17 armed groups. National race leaders who have returned to the legal fold are participating in the regional and national development tasks hand in hand with the people.

The government has also made efforts for development of border areas and national races and national races that lagged behind in development for various reasons after regaining the independence.

In order to implement the project for development of border areas and national races effectively and widely, the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on 30 January 1994 for raising the momentum of the tasks being undertaken and implemented urban and rural development projects. After formation of the ministry, efforts were made for progress of border areas that lagged behind in development. The ministry undertook the tasks for development of border areas and national races and national races that lagged behind in development for various reasons after regaining the independence.

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I frequently visited Lashio and Kengtung. Every time I visited the regions in eastern and northern Shan State I noticed more and more progress. The towns in the border areas are much like those of foreign countries.

After the government had taken up State duties in 1988, it restored peace and tranquillity in the country. The government made peace with 17 armed groups. National race leaders who have returned to the legal fold are participating in the regional and national development tasks hand in hand with the people. The government has also made efforts for development of border areas and national races and national races that lagged behind in development for various reasons after regaining the independence.

In order to implement the project for development of border areas and national races effectively and widely, the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman-in-Chief of Defence Services Senator General Than Shwe was formed on 25 May 1989.

The Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races comprising Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt (now Prime Minister) as chairman was also formed in order to carry out the tasks for development of border areas and national races and national races that lagged behind in development for various reasons after regaining the independence.
Developing border areas

(From page 8) In accord with the guidance of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, the Panglong University was opened on 11 February 2003 for all-round development of the Panglong region, the heart of national people where the Union Spirit was conceived. The first courses of the university started on 18 December 2003. Students from eleven townships in Loilem and other three townships are attending the courses on Myanmar, English, Geography, History, Philosophy, Law, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Zoology, Botany and Geology at the university. The university situated in the north of old Nankyinpu town near Panglong-Leikha is 206 acres wide. Construction of Computer College started on 1 June 2002 and Technological College on 1 July 2002. The 200-bed special hospital was constructed on 27 May 2002. The facilities were opened on 11 February 2003. Transport for the people living in Panglong area is now smooth and new generation youths who are human resources can learn higher education living in their own region. An opportunity to pursue higher education had never been provided in the past. Border areas development tasks cover seven states and two divisions, 18 regions and 68 townships. The total areas of the project with a population of over 5.3 million are approximately 83,415 square miles. Earth roads stretching over 2,793 miles, gravel roads over 1,640 miles, tar roads 306 miles were constructed and over 2,971 miles of roads were upgraded in the border areas under the development project. A total of 42 large and 659 small bridges and 16 suspension bridges were built. The total cost of roads and bridges was K 2,719.11 million. Endeavours were made for education, health, communications, agriculture, livestock breeding, mineral exploration, forest conservation and energy sectors.

Poem

Panglong Chronicle

Panglong land will stand witness All citizens born of the Union Put all their strength together and did it There’s no change in historic trend It emerged strong, practically new Hands held together, we made a historic vow For pride and benefit of nation Ever striving, we continue on our journey Myanmar people’s abode, start an era For emergence of one, we are building A new dawn brightness the horizon.

Panglong’s history, strong as the storm With violence, the foreign intruders We drove out, from the states and mainland Unitedly, and Myanmar’s freedom We built together blood brothers Born of the Union, citizens all Proudly we proclaim, trusted chronicle We call witness, till eternity Long enduring, vibrant and alert Strength within nation.

The time machine, changes what is Era alters, lines of history We hold a witness, our land, this Union To be perpetuated, looking ahead Along the route, exert all energies And defend the land, we make this vow The earth shall stand witness Panglong Chronicle, we use as vow, We implore, what you call Myanmar Shall be permanent, as long as the world exists.

Kaytu Nilar (Trs)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)

The government is implementing the 15-year plan for elimination of narcotic drugs which causes hindrance to border areas development. Up to 15 December 2003, the government spent over K 49,701.13 million on the project. Now everybody can witness unprecedented development of border areas with high-rise buildings and modern communication facilities. In the past, these regions lagged behind in development due to lack of peace. Now the border areas are enjoying fruitful results of development thanks to the efforts of national race leaders who have returned to the legal fold and participation of the entire people fully equipped with the Union Spirit.

Translations: NY

Newly built Tachilek airport seen magnificently in Tachilek, Shan State (East).

Thriving paddy fields in Mongla region of Special Region-4 in Shan State (East).
Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend Buddha Pujaniya of ...  

(from page 1)  

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented robes and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Phahinduabivamsa.  

Daw Khin Than Nwe presented robes and offertories to State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Naninda.  


Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe presented robes and offertories to State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa.  

Members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Yangon Command commander, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the chairman of CSSTB, the Yangon mayor and deputy ministers presented robes and offertories to Sayadaws.  

Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared the merits gained.  

Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing and the congregation offered 'soon' to 500 Sayadaws led by State Ovadacariya Sayadaws and Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. The artists of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture sang the religious songs.  

Staff of the Ministry of Defence, the Prime Minister's Office, the Military Intelligence, the SPDC Office, the Adjutant-General's Office, the Quartermaster-General's Office, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), ministries, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the CSSTB, the Yangon City Development Committee and the Township Peace and Development Councils in Yangon Division and donors presented offertories to Sayadaws on the pagoda platform and at the northern stairway.  

Thin Thudhamma Manija Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijota Teingya U Than Hla, on behalf of the congregation, shared the merits gained.  

Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party inspected the all-round development project of the Mindhamma Hill and viewed the religious buildings on it.  

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, presents offertories to a Sayadaw.  

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.  

The second best time is now.

Greening of Yangon International Airport, environs ...  

(from page 16)  

Next, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on assistance to be rendered for betterment of transportation in the zones. Officials of the zones also reported on progress of cultivating various kinds of crops and vegetables and conditions of irrigation facilities for supply of irrigation water.  

Later, Deputy Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw presented progress reports on measures being taken for efficient supply of irrigation water and prospects of draining water from Moyunghi Lake and Deputy Director-General of Water Resources Utilization Department U Hla Myint Maung on river-water pumping projects.  

In response to the reports, the commander gave instructions and attended to the requirements. Afterwards, the commander and party inspected tasks being undertaken for supply of irrigation water for summer paddy fields and fish ponds being conducted by Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters.  

Departmental officials conducted the commander and party round the paddy fields. After inspecting the paddy fields, the commander urged the officials to render assistance to farmers to be able to conduct the double cropping on a broader scale. The commander and party also looked into the thriving summer paddy fields of the battalions and units under the No 11 LID. After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions on strict supervision for supply of irrigation water for success of summer paddy.  

Next, the commander and party oversaw the progress of the tarring of the circular road linking No 1 Trunk Road with No 3 Trunk Road in Mingaladon Township and heard reports on construction of the road and tasks left to be done. After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standard.  

The commander also inspected the thriving summer paddy cultivated by the battalions and units under Yangon Command on both sides of No 3 Trunk Road in Mingaladon Township. After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions on efforts to obtain the targeted yield of summer paddy and attended to the requirements. — MNA
Buddha Pujaniya of Lawka Chantha
Abhaya Labha Muni
Buddha Image held
German beer sales fall for fourth straight year

BERLIN, 5 Feb — Germany’s biggest brewer in this year for fourth straight year in 2003 as new government officials and a aging population were outselling a falling 100th anniversary of the brewery’s establishment, a constant 1.12 per cent of the previous year, the eighth decline in the past decade, to 105.5 million hectoliters, from 107.8 million in 2002, the Federal Statistics Office said.

A hectolitre is 100 litres (22 Imperial gallons). Last year’s sales were enough to fill about 10,560 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

German beer production has been declining steadily since the mid-1990s, when breweries produced more than 115 million hectolitres a year. The country’s data on the biggest consumers is on a per capita basis, behind the Czech Republic and Ireland.

Brewers have said changing demographics are partly to blame for the drop they say has fewer younger people in the German population means fewer beer drinkers. They also blame the slide on the fact that smokers must pay a 25-cent tax per stick. They must have 80 per cent of their retail sales on low alcohol content.

The Russian oil giant Yukos signed a merger agreement with Sibneft last April, a move expected to create Russia’s No. 1 and the world’s No. 7. A private oil company.

However, the merger was suspended in November reportedly due to Yukos core shareholders’ rejection of Sibneft’s demand for the control of the merged company. In a letter sent on October 25 on seven charges ranging from fraud to tax evasion, Yukos will be divided into two separate legal entities, one of them being a new company that will own the assets.

MNA/Reuters

Russia’s Yukos, Sibneft agree to halt merger

Moscow, 5Feb — Shareholders with Russia’s oil firms Yukos and Sibneft signed a protocol Monday to cancel an agreement signed two weeks ago which was aimed at creating a giant oil company.

Yukos and Sibneft agreed to merge their businesses in the hope of creating a new market leader, but the deal was blocked by Moscow’s financial regulators.

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The new company, Yukos, would have owned 65% of the merged entity, while Sibneft would have owned 35%.

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MNA/Reuters

Soros says US under Bush is danger to world

BERLIN, 5 Feb — Billionaire fund manager George Soros said on Wednesday the United States under President George W Bush was “a danger to the world” and renewed a pledge to open his wallet to Democratic Party candidates.

In an interview with Germany’s Stern magazine, he said he had donated 12.5 million US dollars to back Democratic candidates in 2002.

“Bush is moving the country in an ominous direction,” he said.

“Bush was not comparing Saddam with the Bush to the Nazis but something happening in this country that I never thought possible: the open society is fundamentally endangered,” Soros said. He said he had warned the government was exploiting the events of September 11, 2001, to pursue its aims.

Soros said his campaign contributions were a response to the Bush administration’s failure to understand the threat.

“America is a danger for the world.”

Soros, 73, “broke” the British pound in 1992 and in May 2003 helped push the US dollar to near record lows against the euro by announcing he was selling greenbacks. He said he had lived in totalitarian systems in Hungary under both the Nazis and Communists.

The US dollar will be admitted after the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

In 1992, the Government of Myanmar, under the leadership of President Aung San Suu Kyi, declared as the Port of Yangon.

The Paramount Pictures In-


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The Paramount Pictures In-
Beijing police crack down on fireworks

Beijing, 5 Feb— Beijing police have continued a major crackdown on the illegal manufacture, sale and igniting of fireworks.

Local police smashed 720 cases of illegal fireworks dealing from October 2003 to February 2, said Yu Hongyuan, deputy director of the city public security bureau on Wednesday. To improve public awareness of the fireworks ban, police officers distributed over four million copies of publicity materials and over 30,000 posters from 1 January to the Spring Festival, a traditional time of family gatherings, which fell on 22 January this year.

Beijing’s eight urban districts and some suburban areas have banned fireworks since 1993, but some Beijing residents are still reluctant to farewell a traditional method of celebration. At midnight of January 21, the eve of the Chinese Lunar New Year, many Beijing residents welcomed the Year of the Monkey with fireworks.

Bright flashes and loud booms have been heard and seen around the city proper even in recent days as it is traditionally regarded that the festival concludes on Thursday, the 15th day of the first month on the Chinese lunar calendar or the festival of lanterns.

Illegally-sold firecrackers claimed four lives and injured 307 during the festival period, according to statistics from the city health bureau. Beijing’s fire control department received reports of 871 fires from January 21 to 26, a 157-per-cent rise from the figure for the corresponding period last year. Two people died in fires. Over 210,000 police officers and security guards were patrolling the streets from January 22 to 26.—MNA/Xinhua

Prosecutors say Newark security staff had crime records

NEWARK (NEW JERSEY), 5 Feb— A New Jersey company charged with corruption could have jeopardized security at Newark Airport outside New York City by employing 27 people with criminal records there, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

A grand jury indicted Haynes Security Company, its President John D’Agostino, 50, and his wife and company CEO Carol D’Agostino, 48, on corruption charges involving bribery, theft and conspiracy over five years starting in 1999.

The outcome of the alleged illegal activity had the potential to jeopardize security at Newark Airport,” State Attorney General Peter Harvey said.

He said there was no direct connection between the case and any security lapse at the airport on 11 September, 2001. “A few of these workers did overlap on September 11 but we cannot tie at this point any conduct by these individuals to any of the September 11 events,” Harvey said.

The indictment said Haynes had more than 12 million US dollars in contracts with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Continental Airlines for Newark airport security. It said there was a pattern of bribes, theft and conspiracy by company officers in security contracts. They were previously charged with accepting bribes from airline companies.

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Benfica honour memory of Feher in league victory

LONDON, 5 Feb — Benfica beat Academica 2-0 in an emotional Portuguese league match late on Tuesday, their first game since striker Miklos Feher died on the pitch last month.

Feher, a 24-year-old Hungarian international, collapsed and died during a league game at Vitoria Guimaraes on January 25. The cause of his death has yet to be determined.

Players and officials gathered in a circle at midfield for a minute of silence before the game, which was played in front of a capacity crowd of 56,000 at Benfica's Stadium of Light.

Giants screens showed images of Feher's career and the Benfica players carried his name on the back of their shirts. Feher's own number 29 shirt has been retired by the club.

Midfielder Zlatko Zahovic put Benfica ahead with a header from a free kick in the 28th minute, his team mates gathered in an embrace and knelt, fingers pointing to the sky, to dedicate the goal to Feher.

"Feher will always be with us in the locker room and at Benfica," coach Jose Antonio Camacho told Record sports newspaper.

City come back from dead to win Cup replay

LONDON, 5 Feb — Kevin Keegan's luck finally turned at White Hart Lane on Wednesday as his Manchester City side pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in FA Cup history to beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-3 in a fourth-round replay.

Eight-times Cup winners Tottenham appeared to have booked a fifth-round trip to Manchester United by halftime, thanks to superb goals by Ledley King, Robbie Keane and Christian Ziege.

But City, reduced to 10 men when midfielder Joey Barton was sent off for dissent seconds after referee Rob Styles had blown his whistle for halftime, roared back.

Sylvain Distain headed in Michael Tarnat's clever free kick three minutes after the break and, when Paul Bosvelt's shot deflected into the net off Spurs defender Anthony Gardner in the 61st, Spurs were suddenly rocking.

City goalkeeper Arni Arason pulled off some great saves as Tottenham tried to kill the tie, but the home side were stunned when Shaun Wright-Phillips lobbed an 80th-minute equalizer.

With the pulsating game heading for extra time, there was one final twist when John Macken, who replaced injured Nicolas Anelka midway through the first half, rose to head home a last-gasp winner.

Keegan, whose reign at City is under threat after a run of 11 Premier League games without a win has left them just above the relegation zone, could only watch a nightmare first half in stunned silence as his side were torn to shreds.

Central midfielder midfielder curled in a delicate ball on the left and working it across for an unmarked Raul to smash high and wide.

Bayern fall to second division Aachen in Cup

BERLIN, 5 Feb — Second Division Alemanian Aachen knocked holders Bayern Munich out of the German Cup quarterfinals with a spirited 2-1 win on Wednesday.

Dutch striker Erik Meijer hit the winner with a headed goal nine minutes from time after the home side had showed more initiative throughout.

It was the second dismal performance in recent days by the German champions after they were held to a 1-1 draw by strugglers Leganes in the first match which went against the run of play, courtesy of a diving header from Germany midfielder Michael Ballack in first-half added time.

Bayern, lying third in the Bundesliga six points behind leaders Werder Bremen, will have to face up to the difficult situation in which the club now finds itself.

Defender Stefan Blanka opened the scoring on 27 minutes and when Ziege, playing his last match, turned inside one defender on the edge of the box, he would have levelled the scoring on the half.

Raul Gonzales, centre, after he scored a goal against Sevilla during a King's Cup semifinal first leg soccer match in Madrid, Spain, on 4 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Pekerman agrees to leave cash-strapped Leganes

MEXICO, 5 Feb — Former Argentine youth coach Jose Pekerman has given up his position as sporting director of Spanish second division side Leganes in the wake of the economic crisis facing the club.

"Pekerman has realised that a small club like Leganes cannot permit itself the luxury of having a sporting director," club president Jesus Polo told sports daily Marca on Wednesday.

"We have to cut costs to see if we can face up to the difficult situation in which the club now finds itself." Pekerman, who steered Argentina to three World Youth Cup victories between 1995 and 2001, was appointed to the post in August following the planned purchase of the club by Argentine music tycoon Daniel Grünberg. —INTERNET

Real take handy Cup advantage over Sevilla

MADRID, 5 Feb — Real Madrid edged towards a place in the King's Cup final as Santigo Solari and Raul earned them a 2-0 win over Sevilla in their semifinal first leg at the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

Solar put Real ahead when he rifled the ball in from the edge of the area 10 minutes into the second half of what had been an evenly matched encounter.

The Argentine midfielded helped set up the second 15 minutes from time, winning the ball on the left and working it across for Raul to sweep low into the right-hand corner with a classy first-time finish.

Sevilla produced a typically gritty performance but failed to take their chances and Real will have a valuable lead going into next week's second leg.

Second-Division Alaves host Real Zaragoza in the second semifinal, first leg on Thursday.

Missing leading striker Ronaldo, who was forced to pull out at the last minute because of illness, was guilty of a series of bad misses in the first half.

Zinedine Zidane created the first clear chance of the game, teeing the ball up for an unmarked Raul to smash high and wide.

Roberto Carlos, Guti and Zidane all carved the ball on the left and working it across for an unmarked Raul to smash high and wide.

Inter Milan's Adriano from Brazil, left, celebrates with teammate Alvaro Recoba from Uruguay during the Italian Cup match between Juventus and Inter, in Turin's Delle Alpi Stadium, Italy, on 4 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Sochaux's Oruma spoils St Etienne League Cup party

PARIS, 5 Feb — A double by Nigeria's Wilson Oruma spoilt St Etienne's party as Sochaux fought back from two goals down to win 3-2 in extra-time and qualify for their second successive French League Cup final on Wednesday.

Once great St. Etienne, relegated to France's Second Division in 2001, found themselves two goals up after 22 minutes thanks to Patrick Carteron and Lilian Coman and on course for their first domestic final for 22 years. But Oruma levelled the scoring on the hour before silencing the 33,000 fans in the Geoffroy Guichard Stadium with a brilliant winner in the 103rd minute.

In the final at the Stade de France on April 17, Sochaux will meet Nantes with both teams trying to win the trophy for the first time.

"Nantes beat AJ Auxerre on penalties in the other semifinal on Tuesday. "I can hardly believe we made it back. "Pekerman, an ex-Argentina coach, is technical, I'm sure they will return to the top flight next season," said Sochaux coach Guy Lacombe. —INTERNET

The  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR   Tuesday, 3 February, 2004

Giant screens showed images of Feher's career and the Benfica coach Jose Antonio Camacho told Record sports newspaper. MNA/Reuters

Kevin Keegan’s luck finally turned at White Hart Lane on Wednesday as his Manchester City side pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in FA Cup history to beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-3 in a fourth-round replay. MNA/Reuters
### WEATHER

**Thursday, 5 February, 2004**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

- During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in the whole country. Night temperatures were (°C) above normal in Taninthary Division, (°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (5°C) below normal in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States. Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (3°C) at Hakha.

- Maximum temperature on 4-2-2004 was 35°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 5-2-2004 was 13.6°C (56°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hours MST on 5-2-2004 was 73.9 cent. Sunrise hours on 4-2-2004 was 8 hours approx. Rainbow on 5-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba Aye) was 6 mph from northwest at 14.30 hours MST on 4-2-2004.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 6-2-2004:** Likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthary Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated rain in southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-2-2004:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-2-2004:** Partly cloudy.
Prime Minister receives national race groups

YANGON, 5 Feb — Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received a national race group from Manpan region led by U Sai Mon and another national race group from Monhin Monha region led by U Lawma at Zeyatiri Beikman on 2 February morning at 5 pm.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives a national race group led by U Sai Mon and one led by U Lawma. — MNA

Greening of Yangon International Airport, environs coordinated

YANGON, 5 Feb — A work coordination meeting on year-round greening of the Yangon International Airport and its surrounding areas lying within the 30-mile radius was held at the briefing hall of the orchid farm of Myanmar Agriculture Service in Mingaladon Township here this afternoon, with an address delivered by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Col Myat Thu of No 11 Light Infantry Division, local authorities, departmental officials, and guests. In his speech, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said arrangements are under way to grow monsoon and summer paddies, beans and pulses, edible oil crops, vegetables and cash crops in the 30-mile-radius of Yangon International Airport to make it lush and pleasant all the year round. The State also provides irrigation facilities, river water pumping projects, and power tillers to be able to implement the project. Efforts are to be made to extend sown acreage and to conduct more double cropping.

(See page 10)

Minister attends ASEAN Tourism Ministers’ Meeting

YANGON, 5 Feb — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw attended the 7th ASEAN Tourism Ministers’ Meeting, the third meeting of ASEAN and China, Japan and Korea tourism ministers’ meeting and ASEAN Tourism Exhibition 2004 at Vientiane, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

The Myanmar delegation together with tourism ministers of ASEAN nations and the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the dinner hosted by Chairman of Lao Tourism Administrativen Body Mr Somphong Mongkhonvileay at Lao Plaza Hotel on 2 February morning.

On 3 February morning, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and party attended the 7th ASEAN Tourism Ministers’ Meeting. In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation attended the third meeting of tourism ministers of ASEAN nations and the ROK, later in the afternoon, the tourism ministers held a press conference. In the evening, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and party attended the opening of ASEAN Tourism Exhibition 2004. Lao Prime Minister Boungnang Vorachith opened the exhibition. The Laotian Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Somsavat Lengsavad hosted a dinner to those present.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and party arrived back here by air yesterday evening. They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials.

Prime Minister Boungnang Vorachith opened the exhibition. The Laotian Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Somsavat Lengsavad hosted a dinner to those present.

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