Nation-building endeavours are being made energetically

As the Tatmadaw government strove to establish national reconsolidation which is essential for the building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation it has now achieved it today unprecedented in history. The national brethren who went underground because of internal and external interferences have returned to the legal fold with trust in the leadership and goodwill of the government; they are now energetically engaged in regional development projects and nation-building endeavours.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 51st Anniversary Union Day.)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Kale Industrial Zone, construction tasks in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 6 Feb—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by Tatmadaw aircraft on 3 February morning and arrived at Monywa Airport, Sagaing Division, at 9 am.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed here by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Commander Col Tin Maung Ohn, senior military officers and local authorities.

At the briefing hall of Monywa Airport construction project, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported that original type of the runway is of hard earth mixed with gravel which was 5,000 feet long and 100 feet wide. And the runway is being upgraded into the 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide tarred runway on which big planes can land.

Next, Chairman of Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd U Kyaw Win reported on progress of runway construction. Director-General U Win Maung of Department of Civil Aviation and officials gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions, saying that it is necessary to systematically keep records on construction of the airport. He said that records are to be kept so as to make extension tasks of the airport easy in the future. Next, he signed in the visitor’s book.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected progress of construction of the airport building measuring 180 feet by 60 feet.

Next, he oversaw progress in building the aprons and gave necessary instructions.

Tasks of Monywa Airport Construction Project is 90 per cent complete. In the afternoon, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived in Kale by Tatmadaw aircraft. They were welcomed there by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kale Station and officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to Kale Industrial Zone and inspected the air-con minibus manufactured at Kale Industrial Zone.

Then, they inspected small-scale hydroelectric generators, paddy separator, harrow, paddy thrasher, straw cutter, and other farming machinery and photolitho offset. After inspecting various kinds of jeep assembled from Kale Industrial Zone, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said they have designated Kale Industrial Zone as the 19th industrial zone.

He then urged industrial entrepreneurs to strive for development of the industrial zone to keep abreast of other developed zones.

(See page 10)
Tourism promotion through new TV channel

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on extension of the media as much as possible to cover not only the whole country but also penetrate the nations of the world and in doing so ways and means are to be sought to minimize the cost, and always try to improve the media to be excellent.

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Information on 5 February to launch a new TV channel and to help the Myanmar TV and hoteliers and tour companies collectively run a media business. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw made speeches on the occasion.

In his speech, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan said that the meeting was held to discuss the entrepreneurs’ role in showing the world the tourist attractions and the objective conditions of the nation through the TV.

The media and tourism have interrelationship. Tourism is a very important business for the nation. Thus, tourism plays a key role for national development and earns much income for the entrepreneurs who run it.

Through the Internet, the MRTV-3 programmes have reached the countries in Asia, Europe and American continent. In other words, it can be said that it has reached the worldwide level. Plans are being made to telecast the MRTV-3 programmes in two sectors — the first sector is to promote international interest in Myanmar; and the second sector is to develop tourism with the help of advertisements.

Arrangements are also being made to inform the entrepreneurs about the plans to launch a new TV channel highlighting special education programmes on agricultural, livestock breeding, health, social and economic fields. The new channel will also cover telecasting of entertainment programmes including Myanmar movies and video plays, daily and periodicals. The new channel will help promote the tourism business if hotels and guest houses show its programmes to the guests.

The new channel will surely help foreigners know more about the natural and cultural riches of Myanmar. Thus, to achieve greater success in tourism industry, officials concerned, hoteliers and entrepreneurs are to participate in the endeavours for the launching of new TV channel.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Mr Sumar Kanti Barua of Bangladesh pilgrimage team offer jewellery for Shwedagon Pagoda to the Secretary Sayadaw. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Kin Win Shwe donate ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha at reordination ceremony of Bangladeshi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pattanajota. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Kin Win Shwe attend reordination of Sayadaw of Bangladesh Monastery

Agreement signed for distribution of Myanmar Tokiwa pencils

Yangon, 6 Feb — The Ministry of Education and Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation Ltd signed the agreement on distribution of Myanmar Tokiwa pencils for basic education students at Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), here, this morning.

Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department of the Ministry of Education and Managing Director Mr Fumiyoishi Sakurai of Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation Ltd signed the agreement.

Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Col Aung Myo Min signed in the record book of Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation Ltd.

Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation makes an agreement to cooperate with the Ministry of Education for distribution of quality pencils in 2004-2005 academic year. — MNA

Ceremony held to hail success of leprosy campaign

Yangon, 6 Feb — Ministry of Health held a ceremony this morning to hail the success of state-level leprosy campaign at the International Business Centre (IBC) on Pyay Road.

Present on the occasion were directors-general of ministries related to the Ministry of Health, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents and officials, members of social organisations, representatives of UN agencies, JICA and state and division health departments and officials and guests.

Health Department Director-General Dr Wan Maung read the message sent by Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Health.

Next, Dr Wan Maung and officials viewed round leprosy elimination commemorative booth displayed at the IBC. — MNA

Perspectives — Saturday, 7 February, 2004

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Blair urged to resign over Iraq intelligence

London, 6 Feb—Britain’s Tony Blair, who survived an inquiry into a weapon expert’s suicide without a scratch, was sucked into a new row on Thursday over why he went to war in Iraq.

The Prime Minister has called an inquiry into British intelligence about banned Iraqi weapons as, nearly 10 months after Saddam Hussein was toppled, none has been found. In the meantime, his public trust ratings have plunged.

Now, more trouble has blown up after Blair said he did not know, when he won parliamentary backing for war in March last year, that a government claim Saddam could deploy such weapons within 45 minutes referred only to battlefield arms, not long-range missiles which could threaten other states.

Scientist David Kelly killed himself after being outed as the source for a BBC report that Blair’s team highlighted the 45 minutes claim, knowing it was probably wrong.

Surprising many, judge Lord Hutton’s subsequent report into Kelly’s death absolved the government of all blame. Opposition Conservatives have seized on Blair’s apparent ignorance of the detail and the fact Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon did know the limits of that intelligence.

Conservative leader Michael Howard called on Blair to resign for not getting to the bottom of the government’s claims. “If I were prime minister and had failed to ask this basic question I would seriously be considering my position,” he said.

But Government Minister Margaret Beckett said the furore over weapons types was “impiccking of a high order”. “Do you think Winston Churchill went around asking precisely what kind of munitions were being used in the Second World War?” she replied. Beckett, who is environment minister, on BBC Radio.

At the peak of the war in Iraq, Britain had around 45,000 troops in the Gulf — its largest troop deployment since Korea — but now there are fewer than 10,000. —MNA/Reuters

Putin calls for equal Russia-EU relations

Moscow, 6 Feb—Russian President Vladimir Putin called on Wednesday for the development of relations between Russia and the European Union on an equal basis.

“We are not asking for some kind of exclusive relationship with the European Union, but we would like our relations to be built on a good neighbourly basis taking into account our partnership”, noting that Europe has no future without cooperation with Russia, which should be much broader than is currently the case.

Some 504 houses were also destroyed as the rains went along with thunderstorms, pounded some areas in the island, said Maid Suami, the spokesman of the Karangasem District government here Thursday. The fatality woman, who was identified as I Wayan Surji, 80 years old, was found in the rain of her collapsed house. —MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai-based processing zone makes 27% of world’s notebook PCs

Shanghai, 6 Feb—The Songjiang export-oriented processing zone in Shanghai exported 10 million notebook PC units last year, accounting for 27 per cent of the total world output.

According to statistics from the Shanghai Customs, the processing zone, which occupies three square kilometres in a southwest suburb of the metropolis, gained an export value of 3.86 billion US dollars last year.

The Taiwan-funded Dafeng (Shanghai) Computer Co Ltd was the largest laptop computer exporter in the zone with an export value of 5.3 billion US dollars last year, five times more than the 2002 figure. Its output made up 10.9 per cent of Shanghai’s total exports or 17.2 per cent of exports by all overseas-funded firms in the city.

Songjiang was one of the 15 export-oriented processing zones approved by the State Council in April 2000. Currently, it has 58 registered enterprises with a total investment of 820 million US dollars.

VicHealth Rob Moodie was quoted in the report as estimating that active social life benefits to feel connected and well. “More and more of those who are involved in community activities. “More and more of us are living alone so it’s even more important that we participate in our community,” he said.

“Participation enables us to feel connected and well connected communities with strong social networks are more likely to benefit from lower crime figures, better health, higher educational achievement and better economic conditions,” Moodie said. —MNA/Xinhua

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“We are not asking for some kind of exclusive relationship with the European Union, but we would like our relations to be built on a good neighbourly basis taking into account our common interests,” Putin said.

Russia still believes Iraq war a mistake, says top diplomat

Moscow, 6 Feb—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said Thursday that his country still regards the US-led military operation against Iraq as a huge political mistake, and urged the United Nations to resume functions for Iraq’s settlement.

“We continue to stick to our opinion that the war against Iraq, not sanctioned by the UN Security Council, was a gross political mistake,” he was quoted by Tass news agency as saying. Fedotov rebutted the allegation that the United Nations has become too frail to counter present-day threats and challenges, and called upon the world body to resume work in the post-conflict Iraq by using its extensive experiences in the restoration of peace.

The pressing task now is to find a way out of the present stalemate by joint efforts in accordance with norms of international law to ensure a better life for the Iraqi people, he said. The deputy minister said that a final clarification about whether or not Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction (WMD) should be made as soon as possible.

Iraq did develop WMD. “But some of those weapons were destroyed either by the Iraqis themselves or under the control of international inspectors,” and the point now is whether any banned components for the production of WMD remain in the country, Fedotov said. He emphasized that any findings related to WMD should be verified by independent international inspectors, and the UN Security Council should take measures to prevent these weapons from getting into the hands of terrorists. —Internet

Tourism to French Riviera suffered from Iraq war, euro’s rise, says official

Paris, 6 Feb—Tourism to the French Riviera fell 2.5 percent last year because of uncertainty brought on by the Iraq war and the steep rise of the euro against the dollar, the head of the regional tourist board, Patrick Menueci, said Thursday.

The sun-drenched Mediterranean coast and its hinterland last year welcomed 34.6 million tourists — nearly half of the 75 million who went to France, the world’s most visited country, according to figures, Menueci presented.

“The tally for 2003 is not brilliant,” he said, blaming “an exceptionally difficult international context”, poor economic growth, a heatwave last summer and a strike by festival performers. —Internet

Put the Love Back Into Your Life with the Love Collaborative}

A police officer restrains one of several protesters dressed as Lord Hutton who threw white paint at the gates of Downing Street on 4 Feb 2004. —Reuters

Bali storm kills one, destroys 504 houses

Jakarta, 6 Feb — One person was killed and three others were wounded on Wednesday after floods triggered by heavy rains since Tuesday night hit Indonesia’s beautiful resort of Bali Island, a local government official said.

Some 504 houses were also destroyed as the rains went along with thunderstorms, pounded some areas in the island, said I Wayan Suami, the spokesman of the Karangasem District government here Thursday. The fatality woman, who was identified as I Wayan Surji, 80 years old, was found in the rain of her collapsed house. —MNA/Xinhua

A US military vehicle (L) escorts a convoy of trucks carrying prefabs on their way to Baghdad through the southern Iraqi city of Samawa recently. —Internet

Study shows social hermits likely to die earlier

Canberra, 6 Feb—Those who shun society are three times more likely to die earlier than those who are busy with social activities, according to a latest health study.

A research report released Thursday by VicHealth, a health promotion foundation of Australia’s southeast state of Victoria, said 86 per cent of the 600 people surveyed think active social life benefits their health and happiness.

Chief Executive of VicHealth Rob Moodie was quoted in the report as encouraging people to be more involved in community activities. “More and more of us are living alone so it’s even more important that we participate in our community,” he said.

“Participation enables us to feel connected and well connected communities with strong social networks are more likely to benefit from lower crime figures, better health, higher educational achievement and better economic conditions,” Moodie said. —MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 7 February, 2004
“Reuters” calls US probe on Iraq staff inadequate

LOUSIVILLE, 6 Feb — Reuters said on Tuesday a US Army investigation into the detention and treatment of three of its Iraq staff was “woefully inadequate.” A summary of the investigation sent to Reuters by the 82nd Airborne Division said that the inquiry into the arrest of the three Iraqis near Falluja on 2 January and their treatment during those three days in detention did not find any specific incidents of abuse.

“The government’s investigation of the allegations of mistreatment made by Reuters staff was woefully inadequate,” Reuters Global Managing Editor David Schlesinger said in a statement.

“It appears that the investigation consisted of simply interviewing the accused soldiers, and despite our offer, no effort was made to interview our staff,” he said.

“The military’s conclusion of its investigation without even interviewing the alleged victims, along with other inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the report, speaks volumes about the seriousness with which the US government is taking this issue,” the senior US military spokesman in Iraq, Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, referring to the summary report, told reporters in Baghdad “most of the conclusions have already come out in that document.”

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman, however, later told Reuters that the report was still subject to review and the investigation was not complete. “The report has not been vetted with the chain of command,” Whitman said. “Regardless of what has been provided to you, we do not consider this a closed matter by any means.”

Although the summary of the army investigation’s findings said no evidence of abuse was found, it said that the detainees were “purposefully placed under stress,” including sleep deprivation, and subjected to unforgettable treatment.

Iraq mortar attack kills one US soldier, injures one

BAGHDAD, 6 Feb — Insurgents fired a mortar Thursday at a checkpoint near Baghdad International Airport, killing one US soldier and wounding another, the US command said.

The attack occurred about 2:15 pm outside the airport, which serves as a major American military base. No further details were released.

Indian oil produces Servo Brand in the UAE

DUBAI, 6 Feb — As part of its initiative to expand overseas marketing in a big way, the Indian Oil Corporation has commenced production of its Servo Brand Lubricants in Dubai to cater to Middle East and African markets.

Indian Oil, India’s largest company with sales of about 26 billion US dollars in the Financial Year 2003, has made arrangements with BP Middle East for blending Servo, Indian Oil’s leading lubricant brand not only in terms of sales but also in terms of quality and range, at their plant in Jebel Ali free zone.

Indian oil decided to produce Servo lubricants locally here for cost effectiveness and logistical advantage to serve the markets in Middle East and African countries, an Indian Oil official here said.

The first batch of 20 kilo litres of Servo was blended in the first week of January 2004. IOC plans to blend approximately 500 kilo litres of the product for UAE and another 500 kilo litres for other markets during the first year. The production is expected to double in the next year and IOC plans to raise the production to around 5000 kilo litre per annum in five years time.

The marketing of Servo Lubricants in Middle East and African markets will be undertaken by Luventis which is in the process of finalizing dealers for various markets to establish Servo as premium brand of Lubricants in Middle East and African region.

IOC is the only Indian company in the Fortune 500 list of top global business majors. The largest player in the Indian refining and marketing sector the Indian Oil last year launched a clutch of initiatives expand its overseas operations to bring in about 2.5 billion US dollars as revenues and 100 million US dollars as profits from overseas marketing of petro-products.

This would be through exports of about five million tons of products and sales of three million tons through IOC’s own marketing network and one of its first forays was in Sri Lanka where it enjoys a 20-per cent market share. Lanka IOC is a fully-owned subsidiary that runs about 100 petrol pumps in Sri Lanka. The other overseas move has been in Mauritius.

CPPCC Chairman meets French guest

BEIJING, 6 Feb — Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), met here Wednesday with Jacques Dermagne, President of the French Economic and Social Council.

Jia said that China and France have enjoyed a splendid history and culture and the two peoples have maintained long-standing friendship. The Sino-French relationship is time-tested, and the comprehensive and strategic partnership is a reflection of the comprehensive strategic partnership.

Jia praised the cooperation between the CPPCC and the French Economic and Social Council.

Dermagne said that he feels happy to visit China one week after Hu’s French tour, which greatly encourages French people’s enthusiasm on cooperation with China.

He voiced his hope to further the friendly relations between the CPPCC and the French Economic and Social Council.

Indian oil produces Servo Brand in the UAE

Internet

Sri Lankan leaders call for efforts to achieve peace

Colombo, 6 Feb — Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday called on the people of the country to make joint efforts to achieve lasting peace.

In her message to celebrate the 56th anniversary of independence from the British colonial rule, Kumaratunga said that she believes that “lasting peace, peace with dignity could only be achieved through the united efforts of all credible political forces and social groups.”

“The current absence of war is a reflection of the commitment of people of all political hues to resolve the crises that have plagued us for so long,” she said.

Meanwhile, in his Independence Day message, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe appealed to the people of the country to work towards peace and help create a future filled with peace and prosperity.

Wickremesinghe said that National Day of this year is an important milestone in their quest for peace and prosperity.

“Hubble” shows new images of ‘Black Eye’ galaxy

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — The Hubble space telescope has snapped a new image of the “Black Eye” galaxy, named because an ancient cosmic smashup produced a dark ring and a roiling, conflicted interior.

What looks like a black eye in the Hubble picture is actually a dark band of dust that stands out against the bright nucleus of the galaxy’s “bright nucleus,” Hubble scientists said in a statement on Thursday.

The galaxy is officially known as M64, but astronomers have nicknamed it the “Black Eye” or “Evil Eye” galaxy. The new image shows an area where hot blue stars have just formed, along with pink clouds of hydrogen gas that glow when exposed to ultraviolet light from the infant stars.

Astronomers believe M64’s internal conflict arose when the “Black Eye” absorbed a satellite galaxy that collided with it, perhaps more than a billion years ago.

MNA/Reuters

Rover “Opportunity” takes first real drive on Mars

PASADENA (the United States), 6 Feb — NASA engineers on Thursday sent the rover Opportunity on an 11-foot (3.3 metres) trip on Mars for a closer look at a mineral that could indicate that once there was water on the Martian surface.

This was Opportunity’s first real drive on Mars since it landed on the Red Planet on January 24.

The trip across pebbley soil on the Martian surface brought the rover closer to an area of rocks that scientists want to spend days examining, in hope of finding more concrete evidence on water’s existence on Mars.

This week Opportunity examined its first patch of soil in the small crater where it landed, finding among the mix of particles what NASA scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena call strikingly spherical pebbles.

MNA/Xinhua

Nearly 10,000 Japanese protesters, holding candles and anti-war banner, shout their opposition against the dispatch of Japanese Self Defence Force to Iraq, during their rally near Defence Agency in Tokyo on 5 Feb. 2004. — JIJI PRESS
Bush admits arms “we thought” were in Iraq not found

CHARLESTON (South Carolina), 6 Feb — US President George W. Bush acknowledged on Thursday that the United States had not found banned weapons “we thought” were in Iraq, but defended the war as “the right thing” to do.

“I have not yet found the stockpiles of weapons that we thought we were there,” Bush said in a speech at the port of Charleston, South Carolina, in his clearest acknowledgment of problems with prewar intelligence on Iraqi weapons.

In a speech that laid out a political defence of his Iraq policy in an election year, Bush also blasted critics of the war, saying, “If some politicians in Washington had their way, Saddam Hussein would still be in power.”

Bush spoke shortly after CIA Director George Tenet defended his agency’s work despite intelligence that had inaccurately assessed ousted Iraqi president Saddam Hussein of maintaining stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Bush and other administration officials did say before the war that Iraq presented an “immediate” or “gathering” threat, and long after the war they maintained confidence in finding banned weapons.

The former chief US arms inspector in Iraq, David Kay, said last week US prewar intelligence on Iraqi weapons was almost all wrong.

White House Spokesman Scott McClellan said Bush still had “great confidence” in Tenet.

Majority of Canadians hope Bush loses election

TORONTO, 6 Feb — A majority of Canadians hope US President George W. Bush loses the upcoming election and do not really care who beats him, according to a magazine poll that hit newstands on Wednesday.

In an article entitled “Canadians to Bush: Hope you lose, eh,” Maclean’s magazine said a national survey found only 15 per cent of Canadians would definitely vote for Bush if given the opportunity.

Forty per cent said they would definitely vote for someone else, while 28 per cent said they would consider choosing someone other than Bush. Seventeen per cent said they did not know.

“Despite a spate of polls showing a broad desire for improved relations with the United States after the often rocky (former Prime Minister Jean) Chretien years, there is a sense that this Administration isn’t one we want to do business with,” the newsmagazine said.

Forty-three per cent said Canada is worse off with Bush as President than during the terms of previous US presidents, while 12 per cent said the country is better off and 33 per cent said there is no difference.

Relations between the two neighbours have been strained recently by a slew of factors including, most prominently, Canada’s refusal to join the US-led war on Iraq.

Man lived at home with dead brother for 18 months

LONDON, 6 Feb — A British pensioner did not notice his brother had been dead for 18 months despite sharing a mobile home with him.

When Herbert Silver, 72, finally called police and told them his brother George, 75, had died, they went to the bachelors’ home expecting to find a body. Instead they found a skeleton, British newspapers reported on Thursday.

“I admit that I didn’t go into his room for a few hours, a few days we’ll quite a while actually,” Herbert Silver told the Daily Telegraph.

Silver said he had thought it was “a bit odd” when his brother failed to emerge from his bedroom in the tiny home they shared in Blisford, suffolk, southern England, but told the Daily Mirror: “George liked to keep himself to himself, and to be honest so do I.”

When police were called, Silver admitted, “I started thinking: ‘Who cares? He’s dead.’”

The police then found the body, which had been dead for up to 18 months.

China decides to forgive Iraq debts

BEIJING, 6 Feb — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue reiterated that China has decided to forgive debts from Iraq here Thursday at the regular Press conference.

The size of the debts to be forgiven is now being calculated and studied, Zhang added.

As a developing country, China fully understands difficulties of the reconstruction and the humanitarian situation in Iraq, she explained, expressing her hope that the Iraqi people can quickly step on the road of stable and peaceful development.

She stressed China attaches importance to the reconstruction of Iraq and expects the international community to strengthen cooperation in this regard.

Democratic contenders take aim at round next

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — A reshaped Democratic presidential field took aim on Wednesday at the next coast-to-coast round of five nominating contests, with front-runner John Kerry’s rivals hunting for a way to slow his march toward the nomination.

Kerry, a four-term Massachusetts senator and Vietnam veteran, took a day off the campaign trail after rolling up five more wins on Tuesday in the race to find a Democratic challenger to President George W. Bush in November.

But with a win each to keep their hopes alive, North Carolina Senator John Edwards and retired general Wesley Clark threw themselves back into the hunt, focusing their efforts on showdowns next Tuesday in Tennessee and Virginia that could decide which one emerges as a clear alternative to Kerry.

“I know very well what the priorities are here in Tennessee, they are very similar to ones I learned growing up in North Carolina,” Edwards, who scored his first victory in South Carolina on Tuesday, told reporters after a morning rally at a downtown theatre in Memphis.

Clark, who got on the scoreboard with a narrow win over Edwards in Oklahoma, also flew to Memphis to kick off a bus tour of Tennessee.

Fallen front-runner Howard Dean, meanwhile, pegged his hopes for resurrection on the contest on Saturday in Washington. He also is aiming for a February 17 battle in Wisconsin that could loom as a final stand against Kerry for all of the contenders.

Dean fared poorly in the seven states that voted on Tuesday, finishing no better than third in any of them.

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US Army troops search a crash site where a Chinook helicopter crashed into a field near Falluja on 2 November, 2003. Guerillas shot down an American helicopter in Iraq, killing at least 15 US personnel and wounding 21 in the bloodiest single strike on US-led forces since they invaded Iraq.

Iraqi tribesmen celebrate in front of a downed US Apache helicopter in the southern Iraqi city of Karbala.

Iraq under US and allies’ occupation

US Helicopters crashed or shot down in Iraq

Since the end of major combat in Iraq was declared on 1 May, at least 12 military helicopters have crashed or been shot down, killing a total of 56 soldiers. The deadliest such incident occurred in November, in the northern city of Mosul, when two Black Hawks collided, killing 17.

Iraqi tribesmen celebrate in front of a downed US Apache helicopter in the southern Iraqi city of Karbala.

Helicopters crashed or shot down

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type of helicopters</th>
<th>Casualties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-3-2003</td>
<td>Kuwait border, nine miles from Iraq</td>
<td>Sea Knight</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-3-2003</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Apache</td>
<td>two held as prisoners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-5-2003</td>
<td>Near Samara between Baghdad and Tikrit</td>
<td>Black Hawk</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-5-2003</td>
<td>In Shat al-Hillah Canal, in Hillah, 60 miles south of Baghdad</td>
<td>Sea Knight</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-6-2003</td>
<td>Western Iraq</td>
<td>Apache</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-10-2003</td>
<td>North of Iraq</td>
<td>Black Hawk</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-11-2003</td>
<td>Near Fallujah</td>
<td>Chinoz</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-11-2003</td>
<td>Near Tikrit</td>
<td>Black Hawk</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-11-2003</td>
<td>Northern city of Mosul</td>
<td>Two Black Hawks</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12-2003</td>
<td>Near Fallujah</td>
<td>OH-58 Kiowa</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12-2003</td>
<td>Near Mosul</td>
<td>Apache</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-1-2004</td>
<td>Near Fallujah</td>
<td>OH-58 Kiowa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-1-2004</td>
<td>Near Fallujah</td>
<td>Black Hawk</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-1-2004</td>
<td>Quiyara, near Mosul</td>
<td>OH-58 Kiowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A US Army Apache sits in a field without its rotors and surrounded by US vehicles near the restive central Iraq town of Fallujah on 13 January, 2004. The helicopter that crashed west of Baghdad was shot down by Iraqi guerrillas.
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Development images of Sagaing Division in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Sector</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post office</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegraph office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microwave station</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Information</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanma Alin/Kyemon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub-printing house</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>TV retransmission station</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Information &amp; Public Relations Department</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-Library</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hydel-power plant</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industrial Zone</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education (basic)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEHS</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEMS</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEPS</td>
<td>3255</td>
<td>3860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education (higher)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>college</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agriculture</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddy (million basket)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sown acreage</td>
<td>2909621</td>
<td>3930518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Irrigation facility</strong></td>
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<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Road and bridge</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarred road (mile)</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel road (mile)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth road (mile)</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Railroad (mile)</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (above 180 feet)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (under 180 feet)</td>
<td>1348</td>
<td>1644</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Division can irrigate 500,000 acres of farmland and generate 117.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year. It is the largest in Myanmar and included in the longest dams in Southeast Asia.

The Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae (Spirulina) Pharmaceutical Factory (Yekha) located in the place, one mile west of Sagaing-Mingun Road in Sagaing Division. The factory produces various types of medicine that are derived from blue green algae that can be seen only with the aid of a microscope.

Chindwin River-crossing Hsinbyushin Bridge that links Sagaing and Magway Divisions.

Monywa Industrial Zone, Sagaing Division.

Tractors produced by Monywa Industrial Zone, Sagaing Division.

Newly opened Monywa airport in Monywa, Sagaing Division.
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

The Union of Myanmar has stood through the might of concrete unity of its national races who have lived together for thousands of years on the same land partaking water from the same source and keeping eggs and nest intact. Indeed, the Union has been built sacrificing a great deal of lives, blood and sweat of the national brethren. We should therefore hand down this tradition to our posterity. In the process, we can take lessons from the international affairs and problems of some union nations by observing disintegration of these nations and their national solidarity. It is quite obvious that the collapse of these nations was due to the instigations and racial dissension imposed by big powers trying to get their thumb. As a matter of fact, peace and stability is essential for development of union nations in political, economic and social sectors. In building up a developed nation, it must be free from racial dissension and ideological influence.

After Myanmar had regained her independence, it was subjected to internal armed insurgencies due to the instigations of the colonialists, leaving 35 per cent of the nation’s cultivable land infertile, some three million people homeless, and around 22,000 people and 5,700 military or civilian service personnel killed. And it is learnt that State-owned property worth US$ 5 million and the people’s property worth US$ 95 million were also lost.

Similarly, a total of between 200,000 and 300,000 citizens were killed in Rwanda situated in the middle of Africa Continent due to the armed conflicts and civil war between its two national races, Tutsi and Hutu. Thousands of dead bodies floated down the Kamogwa river of the country and so the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees announced that they might be slaughtered in the civil war.

Over 14,000 people were also killed in the Afghanistan civil war. Under the pretext of finding out Osmar bin Laden, the US and its allies invaded Afghanistan, overthrowing the Taleban Government. Then, a new ruling council was formed, but up to now peace and stability cannot be restored in the nation yet. Besides, Afghanistan has not yet received full amount of necessary assistance for reconstruction of the nation. Being fully aware of the fact that peace and stability and national solidarity play the most fundamental role in building up a developed nation or region, the State Peace and Development Council has given the top priority to national reconsolidation so as to restore peace and stability, and to ward off and fight against all the external instigations and interventions.

Likewise, about 122,000 people were killed in Angolan civil war, 27,000 in Sri Lankan civil war and 33,000 to 40,000 in Sudanese civil war, which are worth-taking lessons. Such incidents are a great hindrance to the development of a nation or a region. The people, on their part, are to take lessons from the disintegration of national unity of some union nations.

Here, I would like to present facts about the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In June and July 1991, there took place an abortive coup attempt of the Commu-

Lessons to be taken from international affairs to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity

Ketu Nilar

In Afghanistan, a large number of houses were devastated completely due to the attacks of the US and its allies.

Innocent children become orphans owing to the civil war following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991.
Lessons to be taken from international affairs to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity

(from page 8)

The nation has gained good prospects and it is now about to regain the position of the world’s super power. Over 30,000 people were killed in Chechenya affairs which began in April 1994. As can be assumed that the lack of Union Spirit in a particular country can lead to disintegration of the Union. Those who suffered on account of the breakup of the Union were only the national people living in that country. Taking lessons from the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the national brethren of Myanmar should always cultivate the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit.

Likewise, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia also encountered ill consequences far worse than the Soviet Union did. The death of Yugoslav leader Marshall Tito entailed the disintegration of national solidarity in Yugoslavia. Later, there surfaced racial issues. In the 1990s, the racial conflict sparked civil war. The flame of war then spread to Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to such a degree that US troops and NATO troops had to step in to bring the situation under control.

Later on, Yugoslavia was faced with the secession of Kosovo, one of its states. As a result, there broke out racial conflicts between Serbians and Albanians. Americans and the NATO group wished Kosovo to break away from Yugoslav and stand as a sovereign state with the aim of weakening the strength of Yugoslavia, which was once a member of Warsaw Pact, and manipulating Kosovo into dancing to the tune of NATO. On the pretext of the Kosovo issue which was in fact just the internal affairs of Yugoslavia, Americans and the NATO group, without seeking the mandate of the UN Security Council, launched air raids on Yugoslavia no less than 6,000 times on 24 March 1999 with the use of war planes totalling 1,000. They fought using a lot of cruise missiles and bombs.

Among the bombs they used were internationally-banned cluster bombs. The cluster bombs claimed a large number of civilian lives of Servia, wounding many others. The attacks on Yugoslavia, causing a loss of property worth over 100 billion dollars. The external and internal elements making the good use of the disintegration of national solidarity in Union States which had stood in stability and peace for many years and interfering the internal affairs only brought ill consequences to the country and the

country. Taking lessons from the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the national brethren of Myanmar should always cultivate the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit.

Innocent civilians lose their lives as wars follow the dismemberment of Yugoslavia. In 1999, NATO forces and Russian armed forces launched a raid on the camps of the guerrillas, and so many people of Chechenya and some victims lost their lives. A study of such circumstances will reveal the ill consequences springing from disintegration of the Union. It

Poem

The Sky of the Union

* Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Kayah and All nationals assembled. Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan All of one mind. Many years have passed We never depart from this land. Eggs not broken, nest not destroyed Hands held fast. One helps and others join in Together we pool our help Which is Myanmar’s strength. Roads, bridges built one by one Lake flowers blooming one after another ‘Tis truly magnificent. * Myanmar nation’s lush and cool There’s the song of peace in pollination Puck it and enjoy the beauty. Worldwide famous are Ruby and Sapphire Into jade added With resources in our land We are abundantly rich. * Citizens, brethren all Ours is the sky of the Union. The sun, moon and stars brilliant Sparkling and clear. The fruits are a hundred Yet they have but one stem. Elder brother and younger Are all but the same For the prosperity of the Union Let’s all strive hard.

Soe Moe (Pathein)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)

Innocent civilians run for their lives as wars follow the dismemberment of Yugoslavia in 1990.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects

(from page 1)

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party flew to Kalewa by helicopter. They were welcomed there by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Col Nyi Tun of Kyikon Station and departmental officials.

On arrival at Myittha River Bridge (Kalewa) construction project, Min-
reinforced concrete bored piles and the upper structure is of steel frame suspension bridge and reinforced concrete beams and tiles. Nowadays, the construction tasks completed 60 per cent.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Myoma Bridge in Mingin Township and viewed prepara-
tions for holding the opening ceremony of the bridge.

Afterwards, they met with Kale District and Mingin Township authorities and local people. At the meeting, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave a speech. He said that Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived in Mingin

Government in cooperation with ASEAN...

(from page 16)

On arrival at the university where the opening ceremony is going to be held at 7:45 am, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed by departmental officials, officials of social organizations, the rector of the institute and faculty members and students.

Afterwards, the opening ceremony was held in front of the archway of the university. Outstanding students Maung Thet Oo Han and Ma Thet Myat Noe Lwin formally opened the new main building.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party planted Gangaw saplings (Mesua ferrea) at the designated places to mark the success of the opening ceremony.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveiled the bronze inscription of the university.

After that, Vice-Chairman of MICC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win sprinkled the bronze inscription with scented water.

Next, the ceremony to open the institute fol-
lowed at the main building.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said that the new main building for Yangon University of Computer Studies was opened to hail the 57th Anniversary Union Day, adding the university institute complete with the splendid new main building, advanced lecture halls, beautiful and magnificent scenarios and modern teaching and learning aids and with the characteristics of a university of international level has emerged. The students who are pursuing the higher learning at the university are to try their utmost to become intellectu-
als and intelligentsia capable of serving the interests of the State and the people with the use of the advanced teaching and learning aids, he noted.

The government is now making all-out efforts to ensure the emergence of a new modern and developed nation and enable the nation to keep abreast with those of the world. Enlist-
ing the strength of intellectuals and intelligentsia, the government is building the nation to be able to stand among the world nations as a sovereign one while striving for enhancing the living standard of the entire national people. Therefore, efforts are being made for building political, economic and social infrastructures capable of creating health and fitness of the people, higher standard of education, all-round development of social sector, sound economic life and higher standard of nationalistic spirit.

At a time when education becomes the basic driving force for development of all sectors, the government has laid down the national education promotion programmes and is implementing them to enable the national education standard to keep abreast with those of the world, to enable the science and technology in the nation to keep pace with changes and developments and to produce highly qualified human resources in all spheres, placing emphasis on development of education sector.

Nowadays, science and technology is advancing with dramatic momentum and has been overwhelming all developing spheres. Information and communication technology which is based on computer science and communication technology is not only networking with the global nations but also is overwhelming such fields as education, health, social, economy, trade and defence. As a result, the global nations are wying with each other for the effective use of advanced science and technology in enhancing the national interests.

At such a time, the government is striving for development of information and communication technology. In the process, systematic steps are being taken for the emergence of ICT infrastructures in the nation.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Shwesayay…

(from page 16)

Shwesayay defile where the hydro-electric power project is being implemented.

At the briefing hall of the project, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported that Myanmar has many water resources from which hydro-electric power projects can be implemented. According to the survey over 39,000 megawatts of electricity can be generated in the country. In Sagaing Division, there are 21 sites where hydro-electric power projects can be implemented, and about 2,400 megawatts of electricity can be generated.

Of the 21 projects, Zee Creek hydro-electric power project in Kalay Township that can generate 1.26 megawatts of electricity, Late hydro-electric power project in Lahe Township that can generate 0.05 megawatt and Thaphanseik hydro-electric power project in Kyunhla Township that can generate 30 megawatts have been implemented.

Among Htamanthi, Homalai, Mawlaik and Shwesayay projects, Htamanthi hydro-electric power project is the one which can produce over 1,200 megawatts of electricity according to the survey. The magnitude of work and vast amount of investment are needed to implement the project.

In order to implement the Htamanthi project, preliminary surveys are being conducted in cooperation with India.

Shwesayay hydro-electric power project can generate 600 megawatts of electricity. He also reported that with the aim of preventing floods of Chindwin River in the rainy season, ensuring the smoothness of water way and fulfilling the electricity needs of the State, systematic measures are being taken to implement hydro-electric power projects along the river.

Next, Hydro-electric Power Department Director-General U Win Kyaw reported on four ways and means for implementing hydro-electric power projects along the river.

At the briefing hall of the project, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on conditions of preliminary engineering works being carried out at the project.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Thu Aye also reported on the movement of watercraft in Chindwin river and the drifting of timber and bamboo rafts in the river.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions and looked into the site chosen for implementation of Shwesayay hydel power project.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party also inspected progress of constructing buildings at the project.

Shwesayay hydel power project will be implemented in Shwesayay riverlet of Chindwin river near Shwesayay village in Budalin Township, nearly 20 miles north of Monywa in Monywa District.

According to the initial feasibility study, the project, when completed, will be able to generate over 600 megawatts of electricity.

Moreover, it will also provide irrigation water for 25 per cent of two million acres of cultivable land all the year round.

The Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Hydro-electric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power will take charge of implementing Shwesayay hydel power project.

Initial engineering tasks are under way along with the conducting of detailed feasibility study.

MNA

New stamps to be issued

YANGON, 6 Feb — M y a n n a P o s t s a n d T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n s o f t h e M i n i s t r y o f C o m m u n i c a t i o n s , P o s t s a n d T e l e g r a p h s will issue three kinds of stamps, two is definitive issue and one commemorative issue. The two kinds of definitive issue will be 30 kyat stamps — one depicting world-famous black orchid (Paphiopedilum Wardii) found in glacial areas in Northern Kachin State, Myanmar, and the other depicting Seintalon mango, a kind of Myanmar mangoes.

Samples of the stamps have been sent to Asean Philatelic Joint Issue of Stamp Album, it is learnt.

The stamp of commemorative issue depicts the championship shield and the best fair play award won by Myanmar youth team in the year 2002 U-17 Soccer Tournament. It is to hail the founding anniversary day of FIFA which will fall on 21 May 2004.

The definitive issues will be available on 11 February and the commemorative issue on 5 May 2004 at state, division, district, and township post offices.

MNA

Commerce Minister leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 6 Feb — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone left here by air this evening to attend the Fifth BIMST-EC Trade and Economic Ministers Meeting to be held in Phukhet, Thailand.

The minister and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads and staff families.

The minister of the delegation was Director U Tin Thwin of Directorate of Trade.

MNA
TRADE MARK CAUTION
The Siam Cement Public Company Limited, a company incorporated in Thailand of No. 1 Siam Cement Road, Bang Sue Sub-district, Bang Sue District, Bangkok Metropolitan, Thailand, is the owner of the following Trade Mark:-
Reg. No. 2382/2000
in respect of “Cement, white cement, dry mortar, asbestos refractory, lime, concrete, fine plaster, general plaster, masonry mortar, asbestos cement and construction materials (not of metal)”.
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.
Win Mu Tin,
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 7 February 2004

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (493)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No. (493) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2569886/7583163/767697

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV “MANDALAY” VOY NO 118/N
Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MANDALAY” Voy No 118/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 6-2-04 and will be berthing on about 7-2-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Aung Kyaw Moe (a) Prem (M.Com)
only son of Mr. Khemchant Ddallian & Mrs. Vineeta to
Sandar Win (B.A)
eldest daughter of U Maung Maung (a) Mr. Chandra Dev Prakash Chairman
(Malikha Automobile Co., Ltd.) & Daw San Myint, Director
(Shwe Super Light Co., Ltd.)
Tender their sincere thanks to those who have kindly graced the Wedding Ceremony which pools Chinese medi-
syndrome. —

HK receives grants for traditional Chinese medicine projects
Hong Kong, 6 Feb—Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) announced here that the National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) has awarded CUHK grants to carry out two Chinese medicine research projects.

The consortium aims at developing an International Centre for Research on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) which pools Chinese medi-

Item Description Qty
(1) Cylinder Assembly Y 000150800 2 Nos Model: TASCAM DA-30 MK II
(2) Record / Playback Head 2 Nos Model: TASCAM 122 MK II
(3) Record / Playback Head 78318100 2 Nos Model: TASCAM BR-20 N

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone: 295279, 295280, 295281, 295658, 295659

Parents of both sides and Aung Kyaw Moe-Sandar Win

The consortium aims at developing an International Centre for Research on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) which pools Chinese medi-
dine for untreated diseases like can-

—MIN/Aung
China to curb excessive investment in steel, aluminum, cement

BEIJING, 6 Feb—Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan on Wednesday called for concerted efforts to curb excessive investment in iron and steel, electrolytic aluminum and cement.

China has become the biggest producer of those products in the world, with improved technology and equipment, but production facilities planned or under construction in those sectors have outstripped market demand due to excessive investment, said he.

Addressing a telecast national conference, the Vice-Premier said China’s production capacity in those sectors has outpaced forecast market demands, while the sectors themselves are characterized by irrational production mix, high input of raw materials, low yields and severe industrial pollution.

Chinese leaders issued a similar warning last year.

The Vice-Premier urged local governments to investigate investment projects in those sectors, and report the results to the central government, which is scheduled to dispatch task forces in the near future to selected areas to make sure its policies are implemented.

Central government departments and agencies, including the Ministry of Land and Resources, the People’s Bank of China (the country’s central bank) and the State Environmental Protection Administration, have taken measures to dampen excessive investment in those sectors, Zeng said.

China will resort to economic, legal and administrative measures to regulate investment in those sectors, meanwhile continuing government departments against interference in investors’ business, the Vice-Premier added.

He ordered the government departments concerned to improve the country’s industrial policies regarding those sectors, and establish a mechanism to publish market information on such products and an early warning system to reduce excessive investment.—MNA/Xinhua

US needs years to repair images abroad

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb—America’s images abroad has deteriorated to such an extent that it will take the United States many years of hard and focused work to restore it, a senior US official has warned.

The warning was voiced by Margaret Tutwiler, recently tapped to take charge of the US Environmental Protection Agency, in a testimony before a US House Appropriations Subcommittee on Wednesday, the New York Times reported Thursday.

Tutwiler said she agreed with the main findings of an independent panel that America’s outreach to the rest of the world has suffered from budget cuts and neglect since the end of the Cold War. “Unfortunately, our country has a problem in far too many parts of the world,” she said, “a problem we have regretfully gotten into over many years through both Democrat and Republican administrations, and a problem that does not lend itself to a quick fix or a single solution or a simple plan.”

The findings Tutwiler referred to were the result of an extensive bipartisan study led by Edward Djerejian, a former US ambassador to Israel and Syria. —MNA/Xinhua

Brazil’s police arrest suspected Italian Mafia boss

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 6 Feb—Brazilian police said on Wednesday they had arrested a suspected Italian Mafia boss who had tried to grind away his fingerprints after running out of time to have plastic surgery to disguise his appearance.

Fabio Franco, 39, was arrested pending extradition to Italy and held in federal police headquarters in Sao Paulo after following his arrest alone at a house in Sao Vicente, 45 miles from the city, on Tuesday, police said.

Franco, was in the South American country to have plastic surgery, but ran out of time, they said.

“The information that the Italian police passed us was that he planned to have plastic surgery on his face ... to disguise himself from police,” a police Press spokesman said.

“But as there wasn’t enough time. He got an emery wheel... a machine to sharpen scissors and knives, and he put his fingers in the machine to get rid of his fingerprints.”—MNA/Reuters

US Army closes chemical weapons furnace

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb—The US Army has shut down a chemical weapons incinerator following an alarm on Wednesday afternoon indicating a possible leak of sarin, a deadly nerve agent.

The Army said Thursday that no one was injured and there was no threat to residents in the surrounding community in Anniston, in the southeastern US state of Alabama. There are some 35,000 people living within 15 kilometers of the incinerator.

Authorities were trying to find out the source of the chemical agent that triggered the alarm, in an observation corridor outside a room that houses equipment for the incineration process.

The alarm indicated a business amount of chemical agent in the area, the Army said. —MNA/Xinhua

Hu Jintao leaves home for Algeria for talks

ACCRAN, 6 Feb—Chinese President Hu Jintao left here for China on Wednesday after paying a successful state visit to the African country.

African President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, when receiving Hu’s visit a crucial milestone in the two countries’ friendly cooperation.

He said Hu’s successful visit to Algeria would further push forward the development of the bilateral relationship.

Hu said the bilateral friendly cooperation has a broad prospect, hoping that the two countries could continue to make joint efforts to promote the relationship in the new century with greater achievements.

The Chinese President, during his stay in Algeria, held talks with President Bouteflika, Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia and Parliament leaders, exchanging views on bilateral relations and other issues of common concern.

The two governments also signed five agreements on bilateral cooperation.

Hu kicked off his four-nation tour on January 26 which also took him to France, Egypt and Gabon. —MNA/Xinhua

Eight-month-old Nicaraguan boy Osman Alants is operated on to correct his harelip in the Velzet, Paiz hospital in Managua by a volunteer doctor of the organization ‘Operation Smile,’ on 3 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Japanese teenagers kiss Hello Kitty wearing a China dress at Sanrio Puroland on the outskirts of Tokyo on 24 Jan, 2004. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET
**Turkish striker Ilhan close to Japanese move**

**JAKARTA, 6 Feb.—** Turkish striker Ilhan Mansiz is close to signing for J-League club Vissel Kobe, his club Besiktas said on Thursday.

“Talks are continuing with Crimmson Football Club on the transfer of Ilhan Mansiz, who is under contract with our firm,” Besiktas said in a statement to the Istanbul Stock Exchange. Crimmson Football Club is Vissel Kobe’s management corporation.

Ilhan will not travel with Besiktas on Friday for the match against Ankaragucu as talks with Vissel Kobe are in the final stages, Besiktas manager Sinan Engin told the state-run Anatolian news agency.

Japanese newspapers said last week the Besiktas forward, who scored the golden goal that took Turkey into the semifinals of the 2002 World Cup, was being targeted by Kobe and a deal could be reached in the coming days. Ilhan already has a huge fan base in Japan, where he was as popular as England captain David Beckham during the World Cup in South Korea and Japan.

The 28-year-old’s signing would be a massive coup for Vissel Kobe, given a cash injection after being taken over by Crimson.

Turkish newspapers have said Vissel Kobe had offered Ilhan a three-year 10-million-US-dollar contract.

**Williams reaches Pan Pacific Open quarterfinals**

**Tokyo, 6 Feb.—** Former world number one Venus Williams eased past Japan’s Saori Obata 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament on Thursday.

The American top seed, who was knocked out in the third round of the Australian Open last month after returning from a six-month injury layoff, proved too much for Obata with her powerful serves and took 66 minutes to win her first match in Tokyo.

Williams did not look 100 per cent fit and made five double faults, two of them in the eighth game of the second set, allowing Obata to score her only service break in the whole match.

Third seed Elena Dementieva's became the first seed to fall, losing to 250th-ranked fellow Russian Tatiana Panova 6-7 (5-7), 6-3.

Japan’s Ai Sugiyama, the fourth seed, fifth-seeded American Chanda Rubin and Jelena Dokic of Serbia and Montenegro, the seventh seed, all made it safely through to the quarterfinals.

Sugiyama overcame a high fever to beat qualifiers Elis Callens of Belgium 6-3, 6-3, while Rubin edged out Japan’s Akiko Morigama for 7-5, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3 for a place against Williams.

Dokic, who played three sets in her first match of the year Wednesday, was made to work hard again before beating Slovak qualifier Janette Husarova 7-6 (7-9), 6-7 (2-7), 6-1 in two hours 22 minutes.

**Brazilian star Zidane extends contract with Real Madrid**

**MADRID, 6 Feb.—** Zinedine Zidane is keen to extend his contract with Real Madrid for an extra year and complete his playing career with the Spanish champions in 2006.

"I'd like to add on another year because I'm very happy here in Madrid," the 31-year-old World Player of the Year told a news conference on Thursday.

"In the three years I've been here and I can only say good things about Real Madrid and if the club wants to extend my stay then I'd be glad to look at that option.

"But I don't want to extend it any longer than that because it is better to leave the way open for new players."

"Nowadays we have to play nearly 60 games a season and it is like having two seasons in one so players will have to retire earlier. It is very difficult for a player of say 36 or 37 years of age to play that number of games."

The Frenchman, who won the European Cup and the Spanish championship in his first two seasons at the club, said despite the gruelling calendar he was optimistic about adding at least one title to his collection this season.

"We are in good form at the moment and we still have a chance of winning everything that we are involved in," he said. "But it is very difficult to retain this sort of form over the whole season and it remains to be seen how we do."

"Our objective, though, is to win all three competitions (League, King’s Cup and Champions League)."

Real took an important step towards reaching the Cup final with a 2-0 win at home in the first leg of their semifinal against Sevilla on Wednesday. They lead the Primera Liga by two points from Valencia and have reached the knock-out stages of the Champions League.

Having recently returned from a 10-day lay off due to injury, Zidane said he was still hoping for an improvement in his own form before the end of the season.

"At the moment I would say I was in average shape, but I prefer it that way so that I can look to finish the season strongly as that is when it really counts," he said.

The playmaker also commented on recent declarations by his French international colleague Thierry Henry in which the Arsenal striker ruled out a move to the Spanish club.

"If he said he didn't want to come to Real Madrid then you have to respect that," said Zidane.
Government in cooperation with ASEAN...

not only in governmental departments but also in private sectors, improvement of the skills of ICT scientists and development of ICT human resources. In the field of education, the government has been able to set up the learning centres, the resource centres, the e-Libraries and computer networks that are based on ICT technology in both basic education sector and higher education sector.

MBCT Parks have been established in Yangon and Mandalay for the emergence of ICT-infrastructures and ICT technology-based networks in the nation. At the same time, the Bagam Yadanabon Teleport to provide the international and ICT communication services have been set up.

Therefore, officials of government departments, technicians of private sectors and entrepreneurs have been making concerted efforts to set up e-ASEAN information infrastructure, e-Commerce and e-Government systems for development of ICT infrastructure and ICT-based services.

The government in cooperation with ASEAN member nations is taking systematic measures for harmonious development in science and technology among the nations.

In accord with the objective which calls for all ASEAN nations to become developed ones in 2020 according to ASEAN VISION 2020, the aims of nurturing human resources have been laid down in Hanoi Plan of Action that has been implemented since 1999. The aims are:

- To produce highly qualified human resources in science and engineering sectors
- To nurture technicians who will contribute to industrial and production sectors
- To conduct training courses for producing human resources in ASEAN region and
- To mutually recognize the qualification of and technicians and exchange work in ASEAN region

All ASEAN member nations are making strenuous efforts for successful realization of the aims.

The 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali in October 2003 laid down the Bali Conception II to accomplish the long-term goals of the association based on the security pillar, economic pillar, social and cultural pillar. Among these three, the social and cultural pillar covers tasks for technological development, he said.

The meeting also adopted a work plan on the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) with a view to bridging the development gap between the new members — Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam — and three USDA members, 44-member cultural troupe of Kayah State and three USDA nationalities.

Delegates to Union Day

Anniversary ceremony arrive

YANGON, 6 Feb — Traditional cultural troupes and member delegates of the Union Solidarity and Development Association of states and divisions arrived here today by air to attend the 57th Anniversary Union Day ceremony. They were the 30-member Kayah State and three USDA members, 44-member cultural troupe of Raklume State and three USDA members, and 30-member cultural troupe of Taninthayi Division and four USDA members of Dawei cultural troupe.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Welcoming and Accommodation Subcommittee for organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Chairman No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials.

Myanmar wins silver in Asia Championship Karatedo

YANGON, 6 Feb — A total of 22 participant nations including Myanmar took part in the Asia Championship Karatedo tournament hosted by China (Taipei) of the People’s Republic of China. The 57th Anniversary Union Day Chairman No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials.

Myanmar thrashes Bhutan 5-0

YANGON, 6 Feb — The second leg of the youth football tournament for the first U-18 BIMSTEC Cup 2004 continued in Phukhet of Thailand this evening.

In the match, selected Myanmar youth team trounced selected Bhutan youth team 5-0. Myanmar team took the lead in the first half with two goals scored by Tun Min Oo in the 18th and 45th minutes.

In the second half, the third goal was shot by Min Aye at the 52nd minute. The fourth goal by Tun Min Oo in the 14th minute, and the fifth goal from Kyaw Kyaw Oo in the 35th minute.

On 7 February at 3.30 local standard time, Myanmar and Bangladesh will play the semi-final, and Indian youth team and host Thailand will play the third semi-final.

Donate blood

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 7 February, 2004
**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Shwesayay hydro-power project**

**Government in cooperation with ASEAN taking systematic measures for harmonious development in science and technology**

**Prime Minister attends opening of new main building for Yangon University of Computer Studies**

YANGON, 6 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected Shwesayay hydro-power project on Chindwin River near Shwesayay Village in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division on 3 and 4 February and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Ye Myint and Li-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of State Peace and Development Council Office arrived at Shwesayay defile of Chindwin River at the border of Budalin and Kani townships.

First, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected Shwesayay hydro-power project being implemented on Chindwin River near Shwesayay Village in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visits a classroom at University of Computer Studies. — MNA

Prime Minister Khin Nyunt visits a classroom at University of Computer Studies. — MNA