Peace, tranquillity and development prevail in almost every part of the country due to national solidarity

Prime Minister attends opening of main building of Hpa-an University held in honour of 57th Anniversary Union Day

YANGON, 9 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the ministers, the deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by Tatmadaw aircraft for Kayin State this morning.

On arrival at Hpa-an at 8.30 am, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were welcomed there by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman and South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Kayin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Khin Kyu, local authorities, departmental officials, and members of social organizations.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Hpa-an University, where the opening ceremony of the main university building constructed by the Ministry of Education in Hpa-an of Kayin State in order to develop human resources, was held in honour of the 57th Anniversary Union Day. Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address on the occasion.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, the deputy ministers, local authorities, responsible personnel, departmental heads, members of social organizations, the pro-rector of the university, faculty members, students of Kayin, Mon, PaO and Shan national races, band troupes, pom pom troupes, and the local people.

The ceremony started with the opening of Adipati Road at the archway at the top of the road at the university.

On the occasion, Director of Kayin State Development Affairs Committee U Thet Hnin Oo reported on matters in respect of the extension of Adipati Road.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Education U Than Aung, and Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun formally opened the road.

(See page 10)

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

Efforts being made to safeguard national solidarity and ensure non-disintegration of the Union

The government has exerted efforts patiently and resolutely to get the national race groups return to the legal fold. Success has been achieved considerably, and national reconsolidation has been successfully built up.

As national reconsolidation has been achieved and peace and tranquility prevails throughout the nation, development tasks concerning betterment of transport, water supply, economy, health and education have been undertaken in rural areas and remote border areas which lagged behind in development. In this way, efforts have been made to bridge the gap of development between rural and urban areas, to maintain and safeguard national solidarity and to ensure non-disintegration of the Union.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message on the 55th Anniversary Union Day)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards national development through mechanized farming

The State Peace and Development Council is working day and night for the nation to become peaceful, modern and developed. Realizing that the industrial development is the sine qua non for modernizing the nation, the SPDC Government has organized the scattered private industries into 19 industrial zones and sub-industrial zones.

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 said that, as ours was an agricultural country, it was necessary to reduce the cost of cultivation and for the industrial zones to produce agricultural machinery and equipment of standard quality in large quantity to facilitate the agricultural work.

The Kalay Industrial Zone is producing small agricultural machinery and tractors on an experimental scale. The Monywa Industrial Zone is also producing various vehicles including 10-ton trucks, electrical goods, textiles, foodstuffs and traditional medicines besides farm machinery.

To raise the momentum of the development of industrial zones, respective courses are being conducted so as to enhance the skills of industrialists and industrial workers and arrangements are often made so that they can go on a study tour of other industrial zones, mills and factories. As human resource development is also important for the development of industrial zones, it is necessary to turn out more and more skilled technicians and workers.

Now, the industrial zones across the nation are developing due to the assistance of the Government and the cooperation among themselves. Therefore, we would like to call upon all those concerned to make concerted efforts to modernize the nation while trying to change the traditional farming to the mechanized one.

ISD tennis 13-19 Feb

YANGON, 9 Feb — The 41st Inter-State/Division tennis championships will be held at Thaybyun Tennis Plaza from 13 to 19 February under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports and sponsorship of Myanmar Tennis Federation.

Tennis players from states and divisions may take part in the matches. — MNA

Computer courses at MICT Park

YANGON, 9 Feb — Myanmar Computer Federation and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) jointly opened Network Systems Engineers Courses (MNYN) and Instructor Training on Fundamental IT Course (MYFEET-2) at MICT Park here this morning.

Fifty-one trainees are attending the MNYN and 11 are attending the MYFEET-2. — MNA

Hlawga Park to be kept open on Union Day

YANGON, 9 Feb — Hlawga Park of the Forest Department will be kept open to the general public on Union Day, 12 February 2004, from 8 am to 5 pm to enable them to relax with peace of mind. — MNA

57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

— for all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-discrimination of the Union, non-discrimination 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 underlining 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.

Appointment of Ambassador of Hellenic Republic agreed on

YANGON, 10 Feb — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Miltiadis Hiskakis as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic to the Union of Myanmar in succession to HE Mr Nicholas Zafiropoulos.

Mr Miltiadis Hiskakis was born in 1956 in Athens. He graduated from the University of Athens with a degree in Law.

He joined the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978 and served in various capacities in the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the diplomatic missions in Plovdiv, Naples and New Delhi.

Mr Miltiadis Hiskakis is concurrently accredited as Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok. He is married with two daughters.

Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra presents the trophy to Myanmar Team (news on page 16). — MNA

Organizational set-up of MWAF clarified in Taunggyi

YANGON, 9 Feb — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains organizational set-up of the Federation. — MNA

MFAW meets with Shan State (South) Organization for Women’s Affairs

YANGON, 9 Feb — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party met with members of Shan State (South) Organization for Women’s Affairs for the federation to President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

At the meeting, the MFAW explained matters related to the organizational set-up and future work programmes. Later, MFAW President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and officials replied to queries raised by members of Shan State (South) Organization for Women’s Affairs.

Teza comes out

YANGON, 9 Feb — The Myawady Printing House has published the February issue of the Teza journal today. The journal includes cartoons, poems, quiz, children’s corner and stories. — MNA
Kerry accuses Bush of changing Iraq war rationale

Richmond, Virginia, 9 Feb—Democratic front-runner John Kerry won the endorsement of Virginia’s governor on Sunday and resumed his attack on President Bush, who he accused of trying to revise the rationale he used to wage war on Iraq.

At a news conference, Kerry challenged Bush’s assertion during a morning talk show that the United States went to war with Saddam Hussein because it knew he had the ability to make weapons of mass destruction.

“This is a far cry from what the President and his administration told the American people through 2002,” Kerry said. “Back then President Bush repeatedly told the American people that Saddam Hussein has got chemical weapons.”

“They told us they could deploy these weapons within 45 minutes to injure our troops,” the four-term senator from Massachusetts added. “It was on that basis that he sent Americans’ sons and daughters off to war.”

Kerry, who volunteered and was decorated for his duty in the Vietnam war, met with Governor Mark Warner over breakfast at the governor’s mansion, where they watched the President’s interview on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

The Virginia governor later endorsed Kerry for President, a move that will give him a boost in the primary election for the Democratic presidential nomination on Tuesday.

Warner described Kerry as a candidate who has a “record of fiscal responsibility.”

“As someone who inherited quite a budget mess here in Richmond, I know he will be inheriting a similar budget mess when he takes the White House - but his record going back to the 1980s when he broke with some in our party to support Gramm-Rudman (the 1985 balanced budget law) makes him the right man to bring back fiscal sanity to our nation’s capital.”

“He also critically understands the need for us in this economy to create more jobs here in America,” Warner added.

US soldier killed as Iraq guerillas attack convoys

Baghdad, 9 Feb—Guerillas attacked US Army convoys in three areas, killing one soldier and wounding three others Sunday, witnesses and the US command said.

Elsewhere, a UN team met with Iraqi leaders Sunday to discuss the chances of holding early legislative elections, and its leader pledged to do “everything possible” to help the country regain its sovereignty.

Meanwhile, a bomb planted inside a police station killed three policemen and injured 11 others on Saturday, officials said. Also, Prince Charles made a surprise visit to British troops in the southern city of Basra on Sunday amid tight security, the first member of the royal family to visit the country since the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

Charles wearing desert camouflage combat, sturdy boots and a black beret met more than 200 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment and thanked them for their work in Iraq.

Democrats criticize Bush budget priorities

Washington, 9 Feb—Democrats criticized President George W Bush’s 2.4-trillion-US-dollars budget plan on Saturday, saying it calls for more tax cuts while slashing programs that could help revitalize the nation’s cities.

In the weekly Democratic radio address, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said Bush’s budget for next fiscal year was disconnected from reality.

“While the current plan to gut vital programs, punish the middle class and saddle our children with a staggering debt is reckless, perhaps more alarming is the flawed economic premise upon which it is based,” Kilpatrick said.

He said making Bush’s tax cuts permanent would not beef up economic growth and create more jobs.

“The reality is that if America’s cities do not prosper, our nation will not prosper,” he said. “This country’s economy is driven by its 320 metropolitan areas which generate 85 per cent of our nation’s economic output.”
Washington conceals US casualties in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—The Bush administration is deliberately concealing from the American people the number and condition of US military personnel who have been wounded in Iraq. The efforts by those few politicians and media figures who have pursued the issue make this clear.

Estimates on the number of US soldiers, sailors and Marines medically evacuated from Iraq by the end of 2003 range from 11,000 to 22,000, a staggering figure by any standard. Thousands of these young men and women have been physically or psychologically damaged for life, in turn affecting the lives of tens of thousands of family members and others. And the war in Iraq is less than one year old.

A recent piece by Daniel Zwerdling on National Public Radio (January 7) highlighted some of the difficulties in establishing the truth about US casualties. Zwerdling began by noting that few Americans seemed aware of the large number of US wounded in Iraq. Zwerdling set about finding the actual number by contacting the appropriate government and military offices. A spokesman for Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told him there were 22,000 wounded in troops under state protection, native to Beijing which contains in northeastern Beijing

In December, Mississippi Democratic congressman Gene Taylor raised the possibility that the Pentagon was deliberately undercounting combat casualties when he brought to light the case of five members of the Mississippi National Guard who were wounded in a booby-trap bomb explosion, but whose injuries were listed as “noncombat” by the military. The truth emerged only because Taylor happened to speak to the most seriously injured of the five at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington. Taylor indicated that he would send a memo to the other members of Congress “and ask if anyone has had a similar incident.” By the end of November, Roger Roy in the Orlando Sentinel could place the number of those “killed, wounded, injured or...ill enough to require evacuation from Iraq” at approximately 10,000. Roy noted that such figures were hard to track, “leading critics to accuse the military of deliberately underreporting casualty numbers.”

Mark Benjamin of United Press International (UPI) has been one of the more assiduous in pursuing an accurate total of the number medically evacuated from Iraq. On December 19, Benjamin reported that in response to a request from UPI the Pentagon had provided a figure of nearly 11,000 US wounded and medical evacuations—2,273 wounded and 8,581 medical evacuations. Benjamin told Zwerdling they were still searching for the numbers.

Two suicide bombers blew themselves up at PUK and KDP offices in Irbil, killing at least 109 people and injuring 11 other, in an attack on Wednesday, 9 February 2004. "Following the operation in Afghanistan, the (NATO) alliance ensures loyalty of faction leaders involved in any fighting against the drug trade there. He said it was a job for Afghan vessels in the Gulf and Indian Ocean filled with bags of hashish. But Ivanov said the drug flow from Afghanistan is posing a serious threat to the national security of all of the Central Asian CIS states and Russia. It results from the absence of a truly international approach toward stabilization in Afghanistan.”

Ivanov says Afghan drug trade threatens Russia

MUNICH (Germany), 9 Feb—NATO forces in Afghanistan are turning a blind eye to a flourishing drug trade that threatens the security of Russia and its neighbours, Russia’s Defence Minister said on Saturday.

Sergei Ivanov told an international security conference in Munich that Afghanis- tans current produces nine times as many drugs as it did under Islamist Taleban rule, ended by US-led forces in late 2001. “It is understandable that by allowing drug peddling in Afghanistan, the (NATO) alliance ensures loyalty of faction leaders on the ground and of some Afghan leaders,” Ivanov said.

“Nevertheless, the drug flow from Af- ghanistan is posing a serious threat to the national security of all of the Central Asian CIS states and Russia. It results from the absence of a truly international approach toward stabilization in Afghanistan.”

He proposed that Russia, its allies in Central Asia and the NATO alliance set up a joint effort to crack down on Afghan production and export of drugs ranging from hashish to poppies used for heroin.

A US soldier (L) and an interpreter (R) check a car during a patrol in Tikrit, northern Iraq recently.—Reuters

2nd American jailed for obscene gesture in Brazil

The second American in a month was arrested while entering Brazil for making an obscene gesture while being photographed by an immigration official, police said on Saturday.

Federal police in Foz do Iguaçu on Brazil’s border with Argentina and Paraguay said retired US banker Douglas Allan Skolnick, 56, was jailed overnight for flipping his middle finger in a photo now required to be taken of all US tourists entering Brazil.

Brazil began fingerprinting and photographing Americans entering the country in January after the US Government imposed a similar process on foreigners, except for those from 27 mostly European countries. “Mr Skolnick went before the judge this morning and opted to take the public prosecutor’s offer that he pay a 50,000-real fine (17,000-US-dollar) to avoid prosecution,” said officer Marcos Koren of the Foz do Iguaçu federal police. —AP/Reuters

Turkey launches initiatives to treat injured Iraqis

ANKARA, 9 Feb— Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said here Friday that Turkey had launched initiatives to treat the Iraqis who were injured in attacks in Irbil in northern Iraq last Sunday.

Upon his return from Belgium, Gul told reporters that a plane carrying seven people who were seriously injured in the attacks was about to land at Ankara Esenboga Airport.

Turkey started to launch the initiatives following the attacks on offices of Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in Irbil last Sunday, said Gul.

He pointed out that the Turkish Health Ministry had also taken necessary steps in a bid to treat the injured.

Two suicide bombers blew themselves up at PUK and KDP offices in Irbil, killing at least 109 people and injuring some 200 on February 1. —MNA/Xinhua

Bomb at police station kills three in Iraq

SULAYMANI, 9 Feb—A bomb inside a police station exploded soon after the morning roll call, killing three police officers and injuring 11 others, officials said Sunday.

The explosion occurred about 9 am Saturday in this town 30 miles south of Baghdad, according to police Lt Odai Salman Abeel.

It was unclear who planted the bomb, which left a large hole in the floor of the station and caused extensive damage inside.

Insurgents have carried out frequent attacks on police stations since the Iraqi police force was reconstituted last year. More than 300 policemen have been killed, according to US military commanders. —MNA/Reuters
Blix says Bush, Blair insincere salesmen on Iraq

LONDON, 9 Feb—Hans Blix, who pleaded for more time to search Iraq for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons before a US-led invasion in March, said the West had a right to expect more from its leaders.

“The intention was to dramatize it (the intelligence) just as the vendors of some merchandise are trying to exaggerate the importance of what they have,” Blix told BBC television.

Nearly 10 months after the war none of the biological or chemical weapons cited by President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair as the reason for a pre-emptive attack on Iraq have been found.

“From politicians, our leaders in the Western world, I think we expect more than that; a bit more sincerity,” Blix said.

Last month former chief weapons inspector David Kay, who was tasked with finding such weapons in Iraq after the war, said those who asserted Iraq had weapons of mass destruction “were almost all wrong.”

Blix’s comments will fan the flames of a debate over whether Bush and Blair misled their peoples by arguing that war was needed to counter a growing threat to international peace from an Iraqi regime armed with weapons of mass destruction.

Guatemala on alert for possible rotavirus outbreak

MEXICO CITY, 9 Feb—The spread of the rotavirus has challenged the medical capacity of the country, Guatemalan Health Minister Marco Tulio Sosa said on Saturday. “The increase in the cases of rotavirus and diarrhoea especially among children, has killed most children, has killed many of 5,500 British troops who served in the Gulf, together with US soldiers, have experienced a range of symptoms including muscle weakness, neurological symptoms, headaches, depression, fatigue, short-term memory loss and difficulty in concentrating, joint and muscle pain, sleep disturbances, skin rashes and shortness of breath.

There were also reports in the US of the same syndrome among Gulf War veterans.

“Science has not explained the mechanism or mechanisms of their illness, much less that their suffering has resulted from fault,” Irwin said in the letter. “Nevertheless, we firmly believe that for very many veterans, their suffering is genuine and has a significant impact on their daily lives and the lives of their families.”

Poll shows 51% of British voters want Blair to resign

LONDON, 9 Feb — Fifty-one per cent of British voters want Prime Minister Tony Blair to resign and 54 per cent believe he lied to the nation over the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, according to a poll published by the Independent newspaper’s Saturday edition.

The NOP poll, conducted this week, also shows the Tories are ahead of Labour in popularity with the Conservatives on 36 per cent, Labour on 35 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 24 per cent.

When asked what they thought of the statement: “It is now time for Tony Blair to resign and hand over to someone else,” 51 per cent said they agreed or strongly agreed while 35 per cent disagreed or strongly disagreed.

When asked “Given what you now know, do you think Tony Blair lied to the nation over the threat posed by Iraq?” 54 per cent responded “yes” and 31 per cent said “no” with the rest undecided.

The poll concludes a terrible week for Blair in which the Tory leader Michael Howard called for his resignation over his admission that he did not know the exact nature of Saddam’s weapons threat before the war against Iraq.

Blair told the lawmakers on Wednesday he had not known the claim that Iraq had chemical weapons ready to fire within 45 minutes referred to battlefield rather than long-range munitions.

The government’s dossier, issued in September 2002, stated that “intelligence indicates that the Iraq military are able to deploy chemical or biological weapons within 45 minutes of an order to do so.”

US Marines charged with rape in Australia

CANBERRA, 9 Feb—Three US Marines have been charged with the rape of two Australian women in the tropical northern city of Darwin, Northern Territory police said on Sunday.

The sisters, aged 23 and 26, said they had gone to an apartment in the Darwin city centre with two of the servicemen just after midnight on Friday, where they were raped.

The soldier was released a week later after a judge ruled there was insufficient evidence that the soldier had deliberately killed the suspected looter. However, the soldier is still considered as a suspect.

Suspected Dutch soldier will not return to Iraq

BRUSSELS, 9 Feb—The Dutch soldier who is suspected of having shot dead an Iraqi civilian at the end of last year will not return to Iraq, Radio Netherlands reported Friday.

Dutch Defence Minister Henk Kamp, Friday said in a local television programme that the man would “report for work” at the barracks in Doorn on Monday.

The 43-year-old sergeant-major “will re- turn” as “main available for further investigation by the authorities”, Kamp was quoted as saying. The soldier was to be sent back to Iraq as soon as possible, but he apparently ob- stipated, according to Radio Netherlands.

It was reported that the soldier allegedly shot the victim during an encounter on December 27, 2003 between Dutch troops and around 70 Iraqi civilians, who were apparently trying to loot a container in Samawah, southern Iraq. The soldier later flew back to the Netherlands, where he was taken into temporary custody.

The soldier was released a week later after a judge ruled there was insufficient evidence that the soldier had deliberately killed the suspected looter. However, the soldier is still considered as a suspect.

British lawyer calls for Gulf War syndrome review

LONDON, 9 Feb—A senior British lawyer has demanded a public review of the issues surrounding Gulf War syndrome, the BBC reported Saturday.

In a letter to Lord Morris of Manchester, who has campaigned for Gulf War veterans, lawyer Stephen Irwin said: “There is no doubt that many of them are ill. It is accepted by experts worldwide that the veterans suffer ill health which is associated with their active service in the Gulf.”

Gulf War syndrome is a condition popularized after the war against Iraq in 1991. Many of the 5,500 British troops who served in the Gulf, together with US soldiers, have experienced a range of symptoms including muscle weakness, neurological symptoms, headaches, depression, fatigue, short-term memory loss and difficulty in concentrating, joint and muscle pain, sleep disturbances, skin rashes and shortness of breath.

There were also reports in the US of the same syndrome among Gulf War veterans.

“Science has not explained the mechanism or mechanisms of their illness, much less that their suffering has resulted from fault,” Irwin said in the letter. “Nevertheless, we firmly believe that for very many veterans, their suffering is genuine and has a significant impact on their daily lives and the lives of their families.”

MNA/Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 10 February, 2004 5
Iraq under US and allies’ occupation

US and allies deaths resulting from car bomb attacks by Iraqi guerillas

Iraqi guerillas repulse the US and allies troops who invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003 using sophisticated weapons. Moreover, the suicide bombers have also blasted the military facilities of US and allies. Up to 5 February 2004 the death toll of US troops reached 529.

US soldiers pass a vehicle that was destroyed in a car bomb blast outside a police station in village of Khalidiyah, some 35 miles west of Baghdad, on 14 December, 2003. A car bomb ripped through a police station in western Iraq.

Bulgarian soldiers stand guard in front of their bombed out base in Karhala, Iraq, on 28 Dec. 2003. Suicide bombers blasted military bases killing six coalition soldiers.

A US military vehicle burns following an explosion in Fallujah on 8 November, 2003. Guerillas killed two US paratroopers and wounded another when a homemade bomb exploded beside their vehicle in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad.

US Army soldiers secure the area near a destroyed transport truck after an attack west of Baghdad on 16-7-2003. One US soldier was killed and two were wounded.

Date | Location | Death toll
--- | --- | ---
2-9-2003 | Baghdad | 1
9-10-2003 | Baghdad | 8
12-10-2003 | Baghdad | 7
20-11-2003 | Kirkuk | 4
22-11-2003 | Baquba | 9
22-11-2003 | Latifiyah | 1
22-11-2003 | Khan Bani | 9
27-11-2003 | Baghdad | 5
27-11-2003 | Baghdad | 8
27-11-2003 | Baghdad | 12
27-11-2003 | Baghdad | 15
8-12-2003 | Baghdad | 1
12-12-2003 | Baghdad | 1
28-12-2003 | Karbala | 6
28-12-2003 | Baghdad | 2
24-1-2004 | Fallujah | 2
25-1-2004 | Khadim | 3
27-1-2004 | Baghdad | 6
2-2-2004 | Mosul | 3

Total | 103
Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

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

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| Information         |      |      |
| Myanma Alin/Kyemon sub-printing house (Magway) | - | 1 |
| TV retransmission station | 1 | 3 |
| Information & Public Relations Department | - | 28 |
| Library             | 1    | 33   |
| Education           |      |      |
| High school         | 53   | 70   |
| Middle school       | 148  | 184  |
| Primary school      | 3185 | 3611 |
| University          | -    | 4    |
| College             | 3    | 7    |
| Institute           | 1    | 3    |
| Health              |      |      |
| Hospital            | 24   | 26   |
| Station hospital    | 29   | 37   |
| Rural health care centre | 114   | 119  |
| Rural health care centre (branch) | 588  | 608  |
| Teaching hospital   | -    | 1    |

**Bwagyi Dam in Aunglan Township, Magway Division.**

**Ngamin Dam in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division, benefits 4,000 acres of farmland.**

**The 8989 feet long Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) links Magway and Minbu.**

**Magway Institute of Medicine.**
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

National races have lived in the Union of Myanmar for thousands of years in unity and amity sharing weal and woe and keeping eggs and nest intact. When Myanmar was under servitude of the British colonialists, the aliens practised divide-and-rule policy to prolong their colonization of the country. That evil legacy sowed the seeds of misunderstanding, hatred and discord among the national brethren. Besides, Myanmar’s independence was accompanied by multicolloured internal armed insurgency.

Having to give the first priority to restoration of peace and stability in the nation where there was poor transportation, successive governments could not concentrate their efforts on development of border areas and national races.

In its drive to practise the national policies, the present Government has made endeavours with might and main so as to translate the national objective, national reconsolidation, into reality. After fully realizing the genuine goodwill of the Government and trusting in the national policies, the armed groups had returned to the legal fold. Now they have been striving for development of their regions hand in hand with the Government. In this way, starting from 1989, projects are being implemented with added momentum for development of border areas and national races in the regions that lagged behind in development for over 40 years.

The main objectives of implementing these projects are:
(a) to promote economic, social and transport sectors for national races in border areas in line with the objectives of Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty,
(b) to cherish and preserve culture, literature, customs of the national races,
(c) to further cement amicable friendship and relations among the national brethren,
(d) to totally eliminate poppy cultivation and narcotic drugs production by establishing business enterprises, and
(e) to ensure security and prevalence of law and order and peace and stability.

The Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was established on 25 May 1989 with five members which was chaired by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. On 4 February 2003, the Central Committee was reconstituted with 16 members.

At the meeting of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held on 21 April 1995, Chairman of the Central Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services gave guidance on the six objectives. These are as follows:

(a) to construct roads serviceable for all seasons in strategic regions,
(b) to take measures to ensure regional rice sufficiency, to grow such cash crops as sugarcane, corn and beans and pulses on a commercial scale and to establish markets in the regions for the produce,
(c) to render necessary assistance to plant suitable perennial crops on a commercial scale,
(d) to upgrade primary schools and to open new primary schools,
(e) to take preventive measures against the diseases that usually break out in border areas as well as to take treatment and preventive measures in parallel, and
(f) to expand the scope of mass media coverage.

On 31 May 1989, the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was formed with 17 members which was chaired by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. And on 4 February 2003, the Work Committee was upgraded with 53 members.

In order to accomplish the plans in conformity with the policies laid down by the Central Committee and the Work Committee, 13 sub-committees were formed on 31 May 1989. On 3 October 1994, the Work Committee was expanded with 18 subcommittees.

On 13-6-98, 11 regions were expanded with 18 subcommittees.

Border areas development includes Kachin special region-1, Kachin special region-2, Kokang region, Wa region, north-east of Kachin State, Palaung, PaO, Kayah, Mawrha, east of Kengtung, Mon, Kayin, Taninthayi, Rakhine, Chin, Kabaw Valley and Naga regions.

The areas of 18 regions in seven states and two divisions are 83,415.34 square miles (approx). Over 5.3 million people live in 68 project townships. Over 46 per cent of the national races live in these regions.

Better and smooth communication from one region to another brings about friendship among the national people and contributes towards the national solidarity and flourishing of the Union Spirit. For development of social and economic structures, roads and bridges were built with greater momentum. Up to 30-10-2003 (See page 9)
Tanai Bridge spanning the Tanai River on Tanai-Nanyun Road in Kachin State
is 942 feet long and 12 feet wide and can withstand 30-ton loads.

2,793.3 miles of earth roads, 1,640.7 miles of gravel roads, 306.2 miles of tar roads, 42 big bridges, 659 small bridges and 16 suspension bridges have been built. A total of 2,971.5 miles of roads, was maintained.

In order to narrow the development gap between one region and another, to develop human resources which is vital for regional development and to uplift the education of youths in border areas 627 primary schools, 61 middle schools, 62 high schools and 62 high schools had been built up to 30-10-2002.

In accord with the Head of State short-term three Rs summer courses were opened. Altogether 31,879 persons became opened. Seventeen dams were surveyed.

For eradication of cultivation of narcotic drugs and poppy-substitute cultivation and success of livestock breeding 19 livestock breeding farms and 41 veterinary offices were opened. Seventy three cows and 38 donkey and sheep were distributed up to 30-10-2003. Four forest retransmission stations were constructed in border areas.

In order to realize the national development and national policies public relations activities were carried out beginning 1994. Up to 30-10-2003, altogether 97 TV reception stations were opened. For eradication of cultivation of narcotic drugs and poppy-substitute cultivation and success of livestock breeding 19 livestock breeding farms and 41 veterinary offices were opened.

Until 30-10-2003, 31 agricultural offices, 115 agricultural centres, 40 dams, four canals and 11 tractor stations were opened. Seventeen dams were surveyed.

For eradication of cultivation of narcotic drugs and poppy-substitute cultivation and success of livestock breeding 19 livestock breeding farms and 41 veterinary offices were opened. Seventy three cows and 38 donkey and sheep were distributed up to 30-10-2003.

So far, 47 post offices, 80 telephone exchanges and 35 telegraph exchanges and 35 telegraph exchanges have been opened for development of mass communications.

The energy sector is important for establishment of industries based on agriculture and natural resources. Eight hydro-electric power stations were built and 251 generators supplied electric power to 186 towns and villages.

In order to realize the national development and national policies public relations activities were carried out beginning 1994. Up to 30-10-2003, altogether 97 TV reception stations were constructed in border areas. Efforts are being made for development of industries and creation of job opportunities in the mineral sector in border areas. Transport, trade, housing, management and finance, auditing, home affairs, social welfare and cooperatives sub-committees are making endeavours for progress in accord with their objectives.

In implementing the development projects of border areas and national races K 50,245.75 million were spent from 1989-1990 to 2003-2004 fiscal year. In fact, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the objective of national reconsolidation was implemented successfully.

Grudge and suspicions had been removed based on loving kindness goodwill and compassion.

Employing the already-achieved peace and stability and fruitful results, continued efforts are to be made for flourishing of the national solidarity spirit and Union spirit. It is an essential national duty bestowed by history.

*****

(Translation MS+NY)

Myanmar’s Pride

* Myanmar means those who love their own Land, honour it, love it even at risk of life Dare to do it, with steadfast tenacity Won’t let the flag down even if hull alone is left Fight the enemy with awakened strength With so much patriotism.

* Myanmar means steadfast and truthful Not acting uncivil ways nor insult others If without incitement Someone else taunts and challenges Word for word, sword for sword Will truly use strength, will avenge With the spirit of love for the Land.

* O, know ye all, know ye We own our land, it belongs to us We rest in the shade of our nation We don’t hanker for others’ property or intrigue If anyone intrude, we’ll expel transgressor We’ll expel it We’ll expel it

If ever Myanmar map meets emergency

If anyone intrude, we’ll expel transgressor Well repulse it

We own our land, it belongs to us

We rest in the shade of our nation

We don’t hanker for others’ property or intrigue

If anyone intrude, we’ll expel transgressor

Well repulse it

If ever Myanmar map meets emergency

Thousand of blood will get together in unison

The Shwebo stallion’s hoofs will be heard loud

Will dismount and assume life

From history, it’ll come back into existence

Will appear before Myanmar instantly

Being unafraid in the past, it’ll be recalled

Will come anew, from our very bosom

Patriotic hero, Myanmar’s pride

The oil painting within our hearts

The slashing of swords will still be anew.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)
Prime Minister attends…

(from page 16)
The ceremony was opened with the three time recitation of Namo Tasso.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Lt.-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented Seinbudaw, Hnetmyatnadaw and Shwe Pankhine to the Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw.

This was followed by the Hudi hoisting ceremony. First, the Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party and wellwishers flanked by regal procession troupes conveyed round Seinbudaw, Hnetmyatnadaw and Shwe Pankhine clock wise.

Under the programme, the Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party conveyed Seinbudaw, Hnetmyatnadaw and Shwe Pankhine onto the scaffolding of the pagoda. At the auspicious time, the Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party hoisted Seinbudaw, Hnetmyatnadaw and Shwe Pankhine atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on it.

Next, the ceremony to share merits gained for hoisting the Shwehtidaw followed at the Mingala panda.

The Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw invested the congregation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party with the Five Precepts.

Next, members of the Sangha recited the Sutta.

Next, the Pagoda was investiture with the Five Precepts.

Next, Myaing Gyingu Sayadaw Bhdanda Sojana delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

The recitation ceremony ended with the three time recitation of Buddha Sasaunam Cima Tittata.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party later visited the university main building.

Peace, tranquillity and…

(from page 1)

Students from the university unveiled the archway of Hpa-an University. Next, Maung Nay Lin Aung, a second year maths major student, and Naw Mi My Htwe, a second year chemistry major student formally opened the university main building.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party later posed for a group photo together with faculty members of the university and students in front of the main building.

The successful opening of the main building, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party planted Thabyegyi trees in the compound of the main building. In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that being able to open the main building and lecture rooms of Hpa-an University as a gesture of hailing the Union Day was something Kayin State as well as the whole Union should be proud of.

It would not be wrong to say that Hpa-an University was an educational institution of international standard because of its modern lecture rooms and advanced teaching aids.

Moreover, there was going to be a technological college and a government computer college in Hpa-an and so the future of students in Kayin State was assured.

Students, children of the national brethren living in Kayin State, would now be able to pursue higher education in peace and happiness at the university and thus they would surely become intellectuals and intelligentists who could raise the momentum of development of Kayin State as well as that of the whole Union.

Now was the time when the Government, enlisting the strength of its national forces, was carrying out the nation-building endeavours so that the Union of Myanmar would become modern and developed and be able to catch up with other nations in the world.

At the same time the Government was making constant efforts for peace and stability, national unity, science and technological development and human resource development by taking systematic measures. National development, secure national economic life and higher living standard of the national people would be realized only if the national forces were sharp and strong.

Therefore, the Government, since its assumption of the State duties, had been making constant efforts to end the armed conflicts and to achieve lasting and overwhelming peace and stability.

With peace and stability now prevailing all over the Union, the Government was able to implement the development plan for border areas and national races, the plan for 24 special regions and the five rural development tasks with added momentum for the harmonious development of various regions of the Union and for the higher living standard of the national people.

According to these development plans, roads and bridges, dams, electrical power stations, airports and other development infrastructures were being systematically built for raising the educational and health standard of the national people.

With the development of health, educational, social and economic infrastructures, various regions of the Union would become equally developed, the living standard of the national people equally higher and the national unity and morality stronger.

Now efforts were being made to bring peace to Kayin State and that these efforts would bear the fruits the entire national people longed for.

As most of Kayin State had become peaceful and stable after 1988, more development measures for it could be carried out with added momentum. As a result, the people living in Kayin State were now able to enjoy the fruits of development.

For the development of transport infrastructure, five major bridges in Kayin State and two major bridges in Mon State were built. Moreover, it was now easy to travel from Hpa-an to Mawlamyine and Myawady to Mawlamyine through Kawkarik and Hpa-an. Improvement of transport (see page 15)

Deputy Minister inspects Union Day exhibitions and shops

YANGON, 9 Feb.–Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein together with Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing and officials inspected the 57th Anniversary Union Day exhibition at the sports ground of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon East District, where the 57th Anniversary Union Day’s flag will stop over for the night.

First, the deputy minister viewed the exhibitions and shops of the industrial zones of Yangon East District.

Next, the deputy minister inspected the exhibitions and shops of the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Cooperatives, the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Agriculture Service, the Ministry of Industry-1 and the Ministry of Industry-2 and social organizations of Yangon East District and left there in the afternoon.

MNA
Peace will prevail in Kayin State in near future

Prime Minister inspects development tasks in Hlaingbwe

The Prime Minister arrived at Hpa-an, Kayin State, this afternoon in-}

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and local residents in Hlaingbwe. — MNA

YANGON, 9 Feb — Prime Minister Khin Nyunt and party arrived the hoisting of Hidawat atop the Kaungkhunmuad Pagoda in Hpa-an, Kayin State, this morning.

Accompanied by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the Prime Minister arrived at Hlaingbwe in the afternoon, where they were welcomed by local authorities, officials, members of social organizations and local people.

Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Hlaingbwe Town-

He inspected X-ray room, dent-

Special measures in order to trans-

nals and oral cavity room for

departments, he noted. The needs

were also fulfilled for the region’s transport sector, which plays a key role in regional development. So, Kawkareik-Hlaingbwe- Hpa-an Road serviceable

The Government has been striving for all-round development of all parts of the Union including far-flung and rural areas. After the meeting, the Prime Minister pre-

Armed Forces, Service personal and departmental of-

Minister U Win Aung arrives back from Thailand

The 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) held in Phuket, Bangkok on 8 Feb-

The meeting was welcomed back at Yangon Internation-

Minister U Win Aung arrives back from Thailand

YANGON, 9 Feb — Min-

ister for Foreign Affairs Dr Wai Thura Myint Aung arrived back here by air this evening after attending the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) held in Phuket, Bangkok on 8 Feb-

The meeting was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Ministers for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, H.E Mr. Suphott Uhirakosa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Union of Myanmar, and the officials from the Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs.

Director General U Win Mra of the International Or-

ganizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Direc-

tor General U Soe Myint, Energy Planning Depart-

ment, Ministry of Energy, Advisor U Maung Maung Ye and Advisor U Aung Than of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Daw Malar Than Hlaik, Head of Branch (1), Economic Division, Inter-
national Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs also arrived back here with the Minister.

The 6th Ministerial Meeting of BIMST-EC ac-

cepted the Kingdoms of Bhutan and Nepal as new mem-

bers.
UN shipping arm to act on stowaway species

LONDON, 9 Feb — The global shipping industry is set to adopt tough new laws to halt the spread of aquatic organisms, blamed for wreaking havoc with fragile ecosystems, through the transfer of ballast water, the world’s top maritime body said on Friday.

The United Nations’ International Maritime Organization (IMO) said it will finalize the stringent laws at a meeting in London from February 9-13 to prevent the potentially devastating effects of invasive species that are plaguing habitats, and causing vast economic damage.

“Ships... can transfer exotic organisms and marine species caused by shipping, exotic organisms and marine species cannot be cleaned up or eradicated once introduced, they can be virtually impossible to eliminate and in the meantime may cause havoc,” Mitropoulos said.

Scientists estimate that about 10 billion tons of ballast water is transferred annually from one habitat to another each year.

Spanish Government on Friday approved a financial package worth up to 715 million euros in direct aid to the country’s shipbuilding sector more competitive. The package includes a 300-million-euro credit line for building ships, 215 million euros in direct aid to research and development programmes in the sector, and a further 200 million euros in loans, also for R&D purposes.

"Spanish shipbuilding is going through a difficult phase, largely due to unfair competition from some Asian countries," the government said in a statement.

The government wanted to help the sector enhance its competitiveness in international markets, the statement added.

MNA/Reuters

Over 30,000 Canadians refused entry into US

OTTAWA, 9 Feb — More than 30,600 Canadian residents were refused entry into the United States last year due to tough new anti-terrorism regulations, the local media reported Friday.

Some 10,000 Canadians traveling to the US illegally were arrested in 2003, sources with US Customs and Border Protection were quoted as saying.

The sources said more than 56,000 others from Canada withdrew applications to enter the US after learning of the tougher guidelines. More Canadian residents are being scrutinized while crossing the border since the United States increased the number of agents to 1,000 from 660. Still, the number of actions taken is relatively small compared to the 54.9 million inspections conducted by agents last year, the sources said.

The tough US border measures include fingerprinting and photographing of citizens of certain countries as they enter and exit the United States. The United States has also created flying squads to set up check-points in remote areas of the border which are also patrolled with helicopters and boats.

MNA/Xinhua

Don’t Smoke

Claims Day Notice

MV JATIWANGI PB-400 VOY NO (389)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JATIWANGI PB-400 VOY No (389) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the Port of Yangon.

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

Chilean poultry producers ready to boost exports to Asia

SANTIAGO, 9 Feb — Chilean poultry companies are ready to increase chicken exports to Asian markets as a possible increasing demand is felt, the local daily, Diario Financiero said on Friday.

The United Nations indicated Thursday that the disease was not under control and had the risk of spreading to other countries, even outside the Asian region.

This situation might favour Chile because it is free of the disease, and has health licences to export to Japan and Hong Kong, which are partially supplied by the Chilean poultry companies, Arizia and Agrousper.

Arizia sends 50 tons of chickens to Japan and about 80 tons of byproducts to Hong Kong a month, and can enlarge its shipments to 500 tons over two months, said its general manager, Ismael Correa.

MNA/Xinhua

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S
Cubans, Idahoans agree on Hemingway research

Havana, 9 Feb—Cuba, where Ernest Hemingway lived for two decades, and a foundation in the US state in which he died agreed on Saturday to swap information contained in books and documents the American writer left behind.

The co-president of the Hemingway House Foundation in Idaho, Martin Peterson, struck the deal with Cuban officials at Finca Vigia, the estate on the outskirts of Havana where Hemingway lived from 1940 to 1960.

The Nobel Prize-winning novelist committed suicide in 1961 at his Ketchum, Idaho, home. Peterson gave the Cuban officials a black-and-white photograph of Hemingway on a hunting trip in Idaho during which he shot two antelopes. Their stuffed heads hang in the sitting room at Finca Vigia.

Two Idaho Republicans, US Senator Larry Craig and Representative CL “Butch” Otter, signed a memorandum of understanding on Saturday under which Cuba’s Communist government committed itself to buying at least 10 million US dollars in farm products, including 5,000 tons of potatoes and 10,000 tons of beans.

Craig, who last year co-sponsored a measure to end travel restrictions on Americans wishing to visit Cuba, said it was time to start a fresh relationship with Havana. Hemingway was drawn to Cuba by the fishing and he lived one third of his life on the island. His favourite bars in Havana are tourist attractions today.

In recent years, increasing numbers of Americans have travelled to Cuba — many defying the US travel ban — and visited the property where Hemingway wrote The Old Man and the Sea, the story of a futile struggle between a fisherman and a giant marlin that won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1953.

Overcoming four decades of hostility with the United States, Cuban President Fidel Castro’s Government last year opened Hemingway’s house and a basement full of documents to American scholars and a US-funded restoration project.

Decaying documents were set to be microfilmed and copies stored at the John F Kennedy Library in Boston. — MNA/Reuters

Oil prices ease tracking gasoline sell-off

New York, 9 Feb—World oil prices fell on Friday, tracking a 4-per-cent slide in US gasoline futures triggered by expectations that recent high prices could prompt an increase in imports, dealers said.

US light crude traded 71 cents lower at 32.37 US dollars a barrel, extending losses earlier in the week after a government report showed a surge in domestic stockpiles. London crude slipped 51 cents to 28.76 US dollars a barrel.

Prices extended their decline after sellers began to flood the gasoline market on expectations of a pickup in imports. NYMEX gasoline dropped 4.48 cents to 96.10 cents a gallon.

“The arb for gasoline is wide open and ships are being booked,” said Nauman Craig, who last year co-sponsored a measure to end trade restrictions on American

HONG KONG to hold ICAC 30th Anniversary Open Day

HONG KONG, 9 Feb—To enhance the public’s understanding of the work of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the commission will be opened to the public on February 15 and 22.

ICAC regional officer Helen Lee said at the media preview programme on Saturday that the Open Day is to prelude of the series of ICAC 30th Anniversary activities, which aims to reinforce public’s awareness of prevention of corruption as well as the transparency of the commission’s operation.

Lee expressed her hope that the Open Day can help maintain public’s confidence and support toward the commission’s work.

According to Lee, this is the fourth time the ICAC open-studio. They received a very warm response of the public, and they found that people are most interested in the firearms, interview rooms and ID parade rooms.

Singer Beyonce holds the five Grammy awards she won at the 40th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on 8 Feb, 2004. Among the awards she won were Best Contemporary R&B Album ‘Dangerously In Love’ and Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for ‘Dangerously In Love 2’. — Internet

US boosts trade ties with Kuwait, Yemen

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—The United States took a step on Friday toward possible free-trade deals with Middle Eastern oil suppliers Kuwait and Yemen, US trade officials said.

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick signed a pair of Trade and Investment Framework Agreements with top trade officials from the Gulf countries.

Last year, President George W Bush proposed a regional free-trade agreement with Middle East countries by 2013. Zoellick said the agreements with Yemen and Kuwait were a step toward the goal.

“It is the first stage of a free-trade agreement,” Kuwaiti Minister of Trade and Industry Abdullah Al-Tawil told reporters a few hours before the signing ceremony.

The initiatives create forums for the United States to work with the two nations on economic reforms and legislation to expand trade and investment flows.

Of the two, Kuwait is the larger US trading partner. Two-way trade with both countries is relatively modest.

The United States exported one billion US dollars worth of goods to Kuwait in 2002, including iron and steel, chemicals, drilling and oil field equipment, aircraft and food products. The United States imported two billion US dollars’ worth of goods from the OPEC member in the same year, most of which was oil.

US goods exports to Yemen in 2002 totalled 366 million US dollars, including aircraft and electrical equipment, and imports from Yemen in 2002 totalled 246 million US dollars, including crude oil and coffee.

The United States is in the final stages of negotiating a free-trade pact with Morocco and recently began a similar set of talks with Bahrain.

It is also negotiating a bilateral agreement with Saudi Arabia that Riyadh hopes will pave the way for Mideast-wide trade cooperation.

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Vieira wants out-of-favour Anelka back in France squad
PARIS, 9 Feb— Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira hopes his former teammate Nicolas Anelka can return to the France team under Jacques Santini as the champions prepare for Euro 2004 in Portugal.

The 24-year-old Anelka said on Friday he was eager to play for Les Bleus under Santini, who said last year the Manchester City striker was France’s “most ineligible player” after he had turned down a call-up in November 2002. “Before I talk about the man, I judge the player. I think that he is back to his best and that he has the qualities to join the squad,” Vieira told L’Equipe on Saturday. “We talked about it on the phone. He said things he regrets. “Now everything has to be done between the coach and Nico. It would be a pity not to come to an agreement. It would be a waste.”

On Friday, French federation president Claude Simonet hinted he would like former Real Madrid forward Anelka back in the squad. “I think that in life if you don’t forgive, you forget,” he said. Professional league president Frederic Thiriez has since echoed Simonet’s views.—MNA/Reuters

Marlet keeps Marseille’s European hopes alive
PARIS, 9 Feb— A last-minute goal by France international Steve Marlet earned cup holders Marseille a 2-1 victory over strugglers AC Ajaccio in a League 1 game on Saturday.

Marseille stay sixth in the standings with 40 points from 23 games, on the same points as Paris St. Germain and one point adrift of fourth-placed Sochaux, who both play later on Saturday. AC Ajaccio remain 15th in the table with 23 points, four above the relegation zone.

Egypt’s Ahmed Hassam Mido, just back from the African Nations Cup, opened the scoring for Marseille after 11 minutes. Stephane Trevisan failed to block a free kick from Didier Drogba allowing Mido to push the ball into the empty goal. The Corsicans hit back in the 73rd minute, when a corner kick was cleared off the line by the defence and Mamadou Sackriffed back the clearance through a packed goalmouth.

sek, however, was not quick enough when he let pressed him in the box before slotting the ball past Trevisan in the last minute. MNA/Reuters

10-man Werder stretch lead with dramatic win
BERLIN, 9 Feb— Bundesliga leaders Werder Bremen showed their character by fighting their way to a dramatic 2-1 win at Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday despite finishing with 10 men.

Defender and captain Frank Baumann hit the winner in the last minute for the northerners, who stretched their lead over second-placed VfB Stuttgart to seven points. Czech striker Vaclav Sverkos opened the scoring for Moenchengladbach with a header in the 51st minute and the visitors responded three minutes later with a goal from close range by goalkeeper Kemoko Camara handed Mali a 2-1 injury-time win in their African Nations Cup quarterfinal on Saturday.

Bayer then had defender Mladen Kasejic sent off for a second booking in the 72nd minute but kept racing forward until Baumann gave them victory from inside the area.

“We made life very difficult for ourselves,” said Werder coach Thomas Schaaf, whose team have 45 points from 19 games. “In the first half we played pretty well but in the second half we were clearly under pressure. What pleased me is that the team kept fighting after the sending off and we were eventually rewarded.”

Borussia Dortmund re-stored pride with a convincing 4-2 win at VfL Wolfsburg, a week after losing 1-0 to Schalke 04 in a tense Ruhr Valley derby. MNA/Reuters

Borussia Moenchengladbach’s Enrico Gaude (R) vies for the ball against Werder Bremen’s Kristjan Lichtes (R) during their Bundesliga match in Moenchengladbach. Internet

Keeper’s blunder sends Mali into semis
TUNIS, 9 Feb— A blunder by Guinea goalkeeper Kemoko Camara handed Mali a 2-1 injury-time win in their African Nations Cup quarterfinal on Saturday.

Camara allowed a seemingly harmless low cross for Ronaldo. Michael Ezra contacted Leeds last week and the club were trying to confirm he had the money for a bid, the Telegraph said. Ezra, a former sprinter, has made a fortune in property and has spent millions of pounds sponsoring Uganda’s athletics and Olympic boxing teams, the paper said.

Real Madrid set to keep Real top in Spain
MADRID, 9 Feb— Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos struck to give Real Madrid a 2-1 win at home to Malaga on Saturday and keep the defending champions two points clear of in-form Valencia.

Real were briefly knocked off the top of the table with Valencia’s easy win over Atletico Madrid in an early game on Saturday.

The result left Real needing to extend their perfect home league record, a challenge they met with far more problems than expected.

Malaga, beaten 6-1 by Valencia last weekend, fell behind in the 25th minute when Ronaldo turned in a Michel Salgado cross for his 19th league goal of the season. Roberto Carlos made it 2-0 with a cracking free kick just before the hour mark but Jose Juan Luque got Malaga back into the game with a well timed run and shot 15 minutes from the end.

Real had a few nervy moments but held on for a victory that keeps them top with 52 points from 23 matches.

Real Madrid looked set for an equally convincing win as they took a deserved 2-0 lead.

David Beckham helped set up the opener, his astute pass outright giving Salgado space to provide a simple low cross for Ronaldo.

Beckham missed with three good chances from free kicks and when the fourth opportunity came Roberto Carlos relieved the England midfielder of the responsibility and scored with a low blast. “We scored our two goals but then maybe relaxed too much,” said Beckham. “They had nothing to lose so they pushed players forward and got the goal.” MNA/Reuters

Leeds in rescue talks with Ugandan tycoon
LOVEJOY, 9 Feb— Leeds United were in early talks with Uganda property tycoon Simonet’s views. —MNA/Reuters

Brazilians on target to keep Real top in Spain
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Real were briefly knocked off the top of the table with Valencia’s easy win over Atletico Madrid in an early game on Saturday.

The result left Real needing to extend their perfect home league record, a challenge they met with far more problems than expected.

Malaga, beaten 6-1 by Valencia last weekend, fell behind in the 25th minute when Ronaldo turned in a Michel Salgado cross for his 19th league goal of the season. Roberto Carlos made it 2-0 with a cracking free kick just before the hour mark but Jose Juan Luque got Malaga back into the game with a well timed run and shot 15 minutes from the end.

Real had a few nervy moments but held on for a victory that keeps them top with 52 points from 23 matches.

Real Madrid looked set for an equally convincing win as they took a deserved 2-0 lead.

David Beckham helped set up the opener, his astute pass outright giving Salgado space to provide a simple low cross for Ronaldo.

Beckham missed with three good chances from free kicks and when the fourth opportunity came Roberto Carlos relieved the England midfielder of the responsibility and scored with a low blast. “We scored our two goals but then maybe relaxed too much,” said Beckham. “They had nothing to lose so they pushed players forward and got the goal.” MNA/Reuters
Peace, tranquility and... *(from page 10)*

would surely contribute a lot to the national unity. The Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) under construction, which will be the longest one in Myanmar, links Kayin and Mon States. Therefore, it would help improve the transportation and trade in these two states.

Before 1988, in Kayin State, there were only 17 hospitals but now there are 25. In education sector, the number of primary schools has increased from 1064 to 1144, that of middle schools from 65 to 78 and that of high schools from 20 to 31. In higher education sector, Hpa-an Government Computer College and Hpa-an Government Technological College were opened. Moreover, Hpa-an College was upgraded to a degree college in 1999 and to a university in 2003.

And the Prime Minister urged the teachers to try their best to strengthen the national unity, to ensure peace and stability in the region and to turn out intellectuals and intelligentia making effective and beneficial use of the favourable conditions for development. Only if the new generations had a clear and right outlook and were highly educated, would they be able to serve the best interests of the nation and the people and to avoid the danger of external instigations.

The Union of Myanmar, throughout its thousands-year-old history, has lived in unity through thick and thin, always driving the invaders out of the country. Therefore, it is best to hold on to the fine traditions and to keep constant vigilance against foreign instigations so that racial conflicts, collapse of the nation and loss of sovereignty can be avoided.

He said peace and tranquility and development prevails in almost every part of the country because of national solidarity.

He said the government is trying to restore tradition of unity that existed for thousands of years among the national races. If mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual sincerity and goodwill will be built among the national races removing instigations, peace will be restored in Kayin State like other states and divisions.

He said the Union of Myanmar can build friendship and cooperation with neighbouring countries and those in the regions. India, Myanmar-Thailand Highway Project and cooperation plan to improve economy, trade and production in border areas among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand will soon be implemented. With the implementation of these projects, Kayin State will develop rapidly.

In Kayin State, regional development, progress of economy and better foundations for improvement of education, health and social standard of local people had been made. At a time when peace and prosperity and development prospects in Kayin State, all national races are to build noble traditions practically in harmony after removing all instigations.

He said Hpa-an University has emerged possessing the characteristics of international universities. Faculty members and students are to try to learn more in order to produce highly qualified human resources by Hpa-an University for development of all-ready achieved better foundations in the Kayin State. He urged them to become those who will serve the interest of the nation.

In conclusion, he urged the students of the university to become intellectuals and intelligentia who can bring about development of the State including Kayin State under the shelter of the university, work together for enabling Myanmar to stand tall among the nations of the world as an independent and sovereign State, to try to build noble traditions and make all efforts to serve the best interests of the nation.

He later urged the trainees to study hard in order to prepare themselves to be the best talents of the country to build noble traditions and to serve the best interests of the nation.

U Maung Win

The relay team led by U Maung Win handed the Flag over to the relay teams headed by the Chairman of Dagon Myothit (Serikar) Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairperson of Dagon Myothit (East) Township Peace and Development Council and others who conveyed it along Paleyada Road. The relay team reached the flag over to Secretary of Yangon East District USDA U Tin Aung. The relay team led by U Tin Aung conveyed the Flag to the grand stand of the sports grounds and handed it over to Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein who took and planted it in a silver bowl on the dais.

The Prime Minister presented K 37.5 million donated by wellwishers to Pro-rector U Saw Han Shein.

The Prime Minister and the guests, teachers and students posed for photos in front of the main building.

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**PBANRDA Ministry opens communicative English course**

**Foreign golfers arrive in Yangon for Myanmar Open Golf Tournament**

**YANGON, 9 Feb —** Foreign golfers arrived in Yangon to take part in the Myanmar Open Golf Tournament, which will be held on a grand scale at Yangon Golf Club in Danyinngon here from 12 to 15 February.

Over 100 world-known golfers from Australia, Chinese, Chinesse (Taipei), Canada, Ecuador, England, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, and the United States of America arrived here by air in the morning and evening to join the tournament.

More foreign golfers will arrive tomorrow. **MNA**

**Union Flag arrives...** *(from page 16)*

Pyaungkauk Road, On arrival at the corner of Pyaungkauk and Paleyada Roads, the relay teams handed the Flag over to Chairman of North Okkalapa Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairperson of Dagon Myothit (South) Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Dagon Myothit (East) Township Peace and Development Council and others who conveyed it along Paleyada Road. Next, the relay teams handed the Flag over to Secretary of Yangon East District USDA U Tin Aung. The relay team led by U Tin Aung conveyed the Flag to the grand stand of the sports grounds and handed it over to Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein who took and planted it in a silver bowl on the dais. **MNA**

**Customs Department opens management course for officers**

**YANGON, 9 Feb —** The management course No 9 for officers, conducted by the Customs Department was opened at the training school of the department here this afternoon, with an addressed delivered by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Director-General of the Customs Department Col Khin Man Aung, Lin, directors-general of departments under the ministry, managing directors, and officers.

In his speech, the minister said the course was opened with the aim of making officers of the management field know the economic policy of the State and the economic goals being implemented at present.

He later urged the trainees to study hard in order to prepare themselves to be the best talents of the country to build noble traditions and to serve the best interests of the nation.

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The Prime Minister and the guests, teachers and students posed for photos in front of the main building. **MNA**

**Seminar on fish-culture held**

**YANGON, 9 Feb —** The Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries organized a seminar on fingerlings hatchery technique at the meeting hall of the department in Ailhon Township on 7 January.

Fisheries Department Director-General U Tun delivered an opening address on the occasion, followed by Deputy Director-General U Hla Win’s explanation about the purpose of holding the seminar. More than 150 interested persons from departments concerned and private fish breeding camps attended the seminar and took part in discussions. Research papers were also read out at the seminar. **MNA**

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Prime Minister attends ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop Kaungmudaw Pagoda in Hpa-an

**YANGON, 9 Feb—A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop Kaungmudaw Pagoda in the compound of glorious Sittha Mahaung Pagoda in Hpa-an, Kayin State, was held at the pagoda at 11.30 pm today, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Abhidaja Maharaththa Guru Mehaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indriya and Muyang Gyingu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana, member of the State Peace and Development Council, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, members of Kayin State, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, social organizations and religious organizations, wellwishers and local people. (See page 10)**

BIMSTEC champ Myanmar youth team receives hearty welcome

**YANGON, 9 Feb — Selected Myanmar youth football team, which secured championship title in the first U-18 BIMSTEC Cup 2004, arrived back here by air this evening. The victorious Myanmar youth team was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Patron of the Myanmar Football Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of Kambawza Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win, officials of the ministry, leading patrons of the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, members of the executive committee of the MFF, athletes from sports federation, and relatives of the victorious youth footballers. The triumphant Myanmar youth football team was given a grand welcome by holding banners reading ‘Warm Welcome to BIMSTEC Cup champion Myanmar youth football team’. Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, U Aung Ko Win and officials later posed for a group photo together with the winning Myanmar youth team. — MNA**

Union Flag arrives Dagon Myothit (South)

**YANGON, 9 Feb—The Union Flag, which stopped over for the night in a silver bowl on the dais in Thita Dipa Sports Ground in Thaylyin, was conveyed by Union Boat and the relay teams this morning to Dagon Myothit (South) where Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Maung Maung Shein took and planted it in a silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground there at 7.30 am to stop over for the night. Next, the Flag was conveyed to the welcoming archway at the junction of Dagon Myothit (South) and the Flag was accorded a rousing welcome by local authorities, USDA members, MWVO members, MF members, MMCWA members, MWAF members, Red Cross Brigade members, Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, students, nurses, service personnel and the people. At the entrance archway of Dagon Myothit (South), Li-Col Maung Maung Shein took out the Flag from the silver bowl on the Union Boat at 7.30 am and handed it over to the Flag relay teams led by member-I of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council U Mya Aung. The latter conveyed the Flag along Pyidaungsu Road in the Township and handed it over to the relay team led by Chairman of South Okkalapa Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Swe. The Flag was conveyed by the relay teams headed by the Chairman of Yanik Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Mingala Taungnyunt Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Dagon Myothit (North) Peace and Development Council and others along**

Union Flag relaying ceremony in progress in Dagon Myothit (South) in Yangon Division. — MNA

**Four political objectives**
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

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Towards national development through mechanized farming

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