Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to President of Iran

YANGON, 11 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2004. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to First Vice-President of Iran

YANGON, 11 Feb — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mohammad Reza Aref, First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2004. — MNA

Delegates from various countries come to Myanmar to observe activities of National Sanitation Weeks

Personnel and people urged to vigorously work together to achieve 100% sanitation coverage by 2005
Seventh National Sanitation Week launched

YANGON, 10 Feb — A ceremony to launch the 7th National Sanitation Week 2004, co-organized by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, was held at the hall of Yangon Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning, attended by Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt. Also present were Vice-Chairman of NHC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, members of NHC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, chairmen of social organizations, ambassadors of ASEAN missions in Yangon, UN resident representatives, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, departmental heads, medical superintendents, matrons, nurses, trainees of Yangon Institute of Nursing and departmental officials.

First, Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. (See page 3)

It is incumbent upon all citizens to maintain national solidarity with Union Spirit

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
57th Anniversary Union Day objectives

— for all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
— to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
— for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence
— to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of inter-ethnic destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
— for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Iranian FM

Yangon, 11 Feb — On the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Kamal Kharrazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. — MNA

I&P Ministry holds 4-monthly meeting

Yangon, 10 Feb — The Ministry of Immigration and Population held its third four-monthly coordination meeting on 2003 at the Population Department (Head Office) on Maha Bandoola Street here this morning. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister U Maung Aung, departmental heads and officials. In his address, the minister dealt with conducting reviews of the strong and weak points in the previous four-month period to make greater progress. He spoke of the need for officials concerned to be equipped with nationalistic fervour and to discharge duties in accordance with the State’s objectives in order to realize the goals. He stressed the importance of data of the nation’s population to be collected as a national duty. Next, the deputy minister discussed matters on tasks of the ministry, followed by a general round of discussions. The deputy minister delivered closing remarks. — MNA

Union Day exhibition booths inspected

Yangon, 10 Feb — 57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition Subcommittee Chairman Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, together with Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naung and officials, this morning inspected the Union Day exhibition booths at Hmaubys sports ground in Yangon North District. — MNA

Tar road opened to hail Union Day

Yangon, 10 Feb — Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day, a ceremony to open a self-reliant tarred road in the village has been opened at 9 am today. About 3,403 persons visited the Exhibition. — MNA

Union Day exhibition booths opened

Yangon, 10 Feb — Under the Union Day Flag Conveying Programme, the Union Day Flag will rest for a night at Industrial Zone sports ground in Hlinehthaya of Yangon West District. The Union Day exhibition booths, at the sports grounds were opened at 9 am today. About 1,000 people were present at the opening ceremony. — MNA

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Top International and Myanmar Golfers ready for Myanmar Open

Yangon, 10 Feb — Outfield along with a top players in this year’s Myanmar Open met the press and public at Yangon Gold Club today. Defending champion Lin Keng-Chi led the international field at the press conference along with 2002 champion Thongchai Jaidee, second placed finisher at last year’s Open. Also attending were contenders and local favourite Zaw Moe. The Myanmar Open will be played for the sixth time at the Yangon Golf Club from 12 to 15 February 2004.

Defending champion Lin Keng-Chi has continued to impress since his victory last year, going on to finish a respectable 33rd on the Japan Tour Money List last season. He will again have to fight off stiff competition from the rest of the field, including Thongchai Jaidee who finished second at last year’s Myanmar Open, 3 strokes off Lin’s pace. Jaidee continues to impress and was very nearly the first APGA player to win back-to-back Order of Merit titles. His most recent victory came in the Volvo Masters of Asia in 2003, bringing his career victories on the APGA Tour to seven. Jaidee also finished in the top ten of the Thai Open 2004, the first Asian Tour event preceeding the Myanmar Open. Jaidee will be looking to go one better on his performance from last year but can expect to face some tough competition from Myanmar’s in-form local professionals Zaw Moe and Aung Win. Two-time Myanmar Open amateur champion, Zaw found his form late in the season last year, finishing fifth at the APGA Tour’s Royal Challenge Indian Open and posting three top-ten finishes on the competitive Japan Tour. The winner of the APGA Tour’s Singapore Open in 1997, Zaw Moe will be looking for a second tournament break-through in his national open in 2004.

After finishing in the top-ten at the last two Myanmar Opens, Win could be narrowing in on what it takes to become the historic first ever Myanmar golfer to win the Myanmar Open.

Thailand’s Booncho Ruangkit, who won the preceeding Tour event, the Thai Open, veteran Canadian and Asian Tour professional Rick Gibson. Former Myanmar Opens winners Anthony Kang (2001) and James Kingston (2001) will also be in the field along with a host of other top international players in the hunt for the Myanmar Open Trophy and the tournament’s top prize of US$ 32,300 out of the US$ 200,000 total purse. — MNA
Delegates from various …

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe makes clarifications on organizational set-up of MWAF in Kengtung

YANGON, 10 Feb -- President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe together with Vice-President Daw Nan Yon; General Secretary Daw Nan Hing, Deputy-General Secretary Daw Sin Yar; Joint-Secretary-General Daw Kham Htun; and other members of the Federation attended the celebration of the First National Sanitation Week in Kengtung, Shan State, today

Speaking in the ceremony, Dr Khin Win thanked the town authorities and the people of Kengtung for their hospitality and support. She said that the Sanitation Week is an opportunity to create awareness among the people about the importance of personal hygiene.

Dr Khin Win added that the Federation will continue to work towards improving the lives of women and girls. She said that the Federation is committed to promoting the rights of women and girls in all spheres of life.

She also thanked the leadership of the Shan State (East) Peace and Solidarity and Development Council for their support.

Later, Dr Khin Win visited the town authorities and the people of Kengtung to gain insights into their experiences and challenges.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for a documentary photo together with faculty members and students in front of the main building of Hpa-an University on 9-2-2004. (News reported) — MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe clarifies organizational set-up of MWAF in Kengtung

On 9 February, a ceremony to clarify the organizational set-up of MWAF in Kengtung, Shan State (East), was held at the town hall in Kengtung.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Daw Khin Win clarified the organizational structure of the Federation. She said that the Federation is a non-profit organization that aims to promote the rights of women and girls.

She also thanked the leadership of the Shan State (East) Peace and Solidarity and Development Council for their support.

Later, Dr Khin Win visited the town authorities and the people of Kengtung to gain insights into their experiences and challenges.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for a documentary photo together with faculty members and students in front of the main building of Hpa-an University on 9-2-2004. (News reported) — MNA

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for a documentary photo together with faculty members and students in front of the main building of Hpa-an University on 9-2-2004. (News reported) — MNA
Malaysian PM urges youths to ensure people’s unity

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Feb—Malaysian Prime Minis-
ter Abdullah Badawi, in a speech on Sunday urging the younger generation to ensure the people’s unity to remain firm for the sake of the nation’s growth.

The younger generation should comprehend the philosophy of cooperation and power sharing to enable them to continue developing the country as the people’s unity has been the pillar of the nation’s progress, Abdullah said in his speech at the United Youth Movement of Malaysia’s New Year Gathering here.

Recounting the nation’s history on unity, particularly among the Malay, Chinese and Indian communities — dating back to the birth of Malaysia, Abdullah said it all began with political consensus which was later translated into social and economic programmes.

Malaysia is a multi-racial country with a population of some 24 million. It consists of the Malays who make up 58.1 per cent, the Chinese 24.3 per cent, the Indians 6.9 per cent and the indigenous inhabitants in Sarawak and Sabah (East Malaysia) some 4 per cent.

Abdullah said the interest of all Malaysians should be included in the national development agenda to ensure that nobody was left out from the development mainstream.

He also advised youths of different communities and religions to forge friendship among themselves for the better understand each other’s way of life and culture.

“Racial integration now (when compared to the past era is much better),” said the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, he said the younger generation, which were the “buds and fresh dynamism” to their veteran, dreamed of having consensus, cooperation and power sharing to better understand each other’s way of life and culture.

Abdullah said the interest of all Malaysians should be included in the national development agenda to ensure that nobody was left out from the development mainstream.

“The younger generation (should) know what they inherited, the direction the country is heading for, what is the existing vision and what is the mission to be accomplished,” he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Union Flag conveyed to Yangon North District

YANGON, 18 Feb—The Union Flag that stopped over for the night in the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Dagon Myothit (South) yesterday was conveyed to the sports ground of Hmawby Township, Yangon North District by Union Boat and the relay teams that was accompanying Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min saluted the Flag from the convey teams and planted it in the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Hmawby Township to stop over for the night there.

First, the Union Flag was saluted to the accompaniment of the military band. At 6.15 am, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Maung sent out the flag from the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Dagon Myothit (South) and carried it to the archway of the sports ground, where he handed it over to Lt-Col Myat Min.

Next, Lt-Col Myat Min at 6.20 am planted the Flag in the silver bowl on the dais on the Union Boat.

The Flag was conveyed from the sports ground of Dagon Myothit (South) Township to the sports ground of Hmawby Township. Along the route, the Flag was a accorded a rousing welcome by teachers and students, departmental personnel, social organizations, dance troupes, USDA members, MMWV members, members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross members, Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, factory workers, farmers and other members led by the Chairman of Dagon Myothit (North) Peace and Development Council and the Chairman of North Okkalapa Township Peace and Development Council and others.

The Union Boat that carried the Union Flag arrived at the welcoming archway of Hmawby at 8.40 am. Lt-Col Myat Min saluted and took out the Flag from a silver bowl. He conveyed and handed it over to the relay teams headed by Hmawby Township Peace and Development Peace and Development Council U Soe Myint Aung.

Afther that, the Flag was conveyed by the relay team that moved along Yangon-Pyay road and handed it to the relay team led by USDA executive U Aung Than Zaw. Next, the Flag was conveyed by the relay teams led by the Chairman of Huntahtin Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Hlannethay Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Insein Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Mingalaon Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Shwepyitha Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Taikkyi Township Peace and Development Council, the Chairman of Helgi Township Peace and Development Council and others along Yangon-Pyay road. The Flag was handed over to member-1 of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Head of the District MPP Police Li-Col Maung Maung Lwin at the entrance to the sports ground of Hmawby.

At the welcoming archway of the sports ground, Police Li-Col Maung Maung Lwin handed over the flag to member-1 of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Deputy Commissioner U Thein Naing. The relay team led by Commissioner U Thein Naing handed over the Flag to Lt-Col Myat Min at a designated place of the sports ground. Lt-Col Myat Min conveyed the Flag and planted it in a silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Hmawby Township at 10.30 am.

NASA engineers dispute decision to axe “Hubble”

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb—The verdict seems final: NASA says it is just too risky for shuttle astronauts to fix the Hubble Space Telescope, which means an early death for the world’s premier astronomical eye in the sky.

But two reports by NASA engineers maintain it is no riskier to service the orbiting telescope than to use shuttle astronauts to finish building the International Space Station, which will require some 25 shuttle flights to complete.

The engineers’ reports, provided to Reuters by an astronomer familiar with the case, dispute NASA’s January 16 decision to forgo a scheduled shuttle mission to repair and upgrade Hubble in 2005 or 2006.

The final planned HST (Hubble Space Telescope) servicing mission, NASA said, will be at least as safe as shuttle flights to the International Space Station,” one of the reports said.

The other report argued that missions to Hubble would have the same ability as those to the station to deal with possible damage to the shuttle’s thermal protection system. Damage to this system left the Columbia crippled last February.

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Dornier plane revived for Australian service

MANILA, 10 Feb — A grandchild of German aircraft pioneer Claude Dornier and his small Philippine airplane are putting a retired World War II plane back into service.

Iren Dornier spent eight months and six million US dollars renovating the Dornier 24ATT, the only turboprop seaplane revived from about 200 built in the 1930s and 1940s that were known for search and rescue missions in Europe during the war.

The German pilot said South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR), a Philippine domestic carrier he founded in 1995, will recommence the plane for its charter service to shuttle business people and tourists among the archipelago’s 7,100 islands.

“This project realizes my dream of many years. It will boost our image of seeking to introduce something new,” Dornier said.

His grandfather designed the World War II plane back into service.

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His grandfather designed the World War II plane back into service.
Economic cooperation between their leaders, Sutton said, has greatly promoted the all-round growth of the bilateral ties, including trade and economic ties, between the two countries.

She expressed her appreciation for New Zealand’s active economic and trade exchanges and cooperation with China and the importance it attaches to China’s economic development.

The two countries are highly complementary in economy and ready to further expand their trade and economic relations, Wu said, expressing the belief that joint efforts, the Sino-New Zealand friendly ties will record greater progress.

Acknowledging that New Zealand is willing to beef up its cooperation with China and implement the consensus reached between their leaders, Sutton said he believed that trade and economic cooperation between the two nations will be further enhanced.

MNA/Xinhua

Kerry attacks Bush on jobs before Virginia vote

MOBILE (Tennessee), 10 Feb — Senator John Kerry attacked President George W. Bush’s record on the economy on Monday as he campaigned in Virginia and Tennessee on the eve of Democratic primaries he hopes will prove a candidate from Massachusetts can win in the South.

The Democratic front-runner, who lost his previous Southern contest, in South Carolina, to Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, was expected to fare better in Virginia and Tennessee, where recent polls show him leading.

Energized by victory in three states over the weekend, Kerry addressed a crowd of about 600 supporters in front of a red-brick fire hall in downtown Roanoke, Virginia.

“Throughout the day he hammered at Bush’s record on the economy, telling Virgin- ia voters, ‘This President has the worst jobs record of the last 11 presidents combined.’”

“The best just before I came in here that the President and the administration have released a new report, and in this new report they say they are going to create 2.5 million jobs over the course of the next year,’” the senator said. “Well, I’ve got a feeling this report was prepared by the same people who brought us the intelligence on Iraq.”

He questioned the election-year timing of the report and charged that each time the administration had predicted job growth it had produced job losses. “I believe that all across America people have a right to quality public service that comes at election time promising a higher number of jobs than they have produced at any time over the course of this entire administration,” Kerry told a Memphis news conference.

The Massachusetts senator said the United States had lost three million jobs during the Bush Administration, including 50,000 in Virginia and 65,000 manufacturing jobs in Tennessee. And he said Bush’s policies were responsible for the country’s huge deficit.

MNA/Reuters

Schroeder says quit SPD helm to save government

BERLIN, 10 Feb—German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said on Sunday he had given up the leadership of his demoralized Social Democrats to save his centre-left govern ment and focus on unpopular economic reforms.

German newspaper editors and commentators spent the weekend pouring scorn on Friday’s surprise move by Schroeder, who said he decided on his own to turn over the reins of his party to deputy Franz Muentefering.

“It wasn’t easy, not even for me,” Schroeder told Der Spiegel news magazine. “It wasn’t Muentefering’s idea. I went to Franz. I talked him into it. I had to convince him to do it.”

Amid a painful overhaul of Germany’s welfare state, Schroeder’s popularity has slumped to record lows in his sixth year in office and the left wing of his party has criticized his reform course.

Facing routs in 14 state and regional elections this year that may cost them their jobs, provincial SPD party barons have pressed Schroeder to take some pain out of the reforms and fire unpopular Cabinet members to win back public confidence.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq asks for health certificate for imported US meat

BAGHDAD, 10 Feb — The Iraqi Ministry of Health announced that US meat would be asked for a health certificate before being imported to Iraq, Al Nahdha local newspaper reported on Monday.

“The Ministry of Health made a decision to ban importing American meat to the Iraqi markets unless it has a credible health certificate from the American Ministry of Agriculture and Industry,” Khalil Muhisn, Director of the Food Research Centre of the Ministry, told the newspaper.

“It would also be acceptable to provide the certificate from an internationally-recognized body saying that the meat is disease free, for human consumption and is sold in America,” Muhisn added.

Muhisn doubted that the imported food sold in the Iraqi market can be all for human consumption, adding that many of the canned products imported from abroad contain illegal ingredients. He said that the reason why such materials exist in the Iraqi markets is the absence of security committees at the Iraqi borders to monitor and control such activities.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 10 Feb — One US soldier was killed on Sunday by a bomb planted on a road south of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, a US military spokesman said.

He said the soldier died at about 4:30 pm (1330 GMT) near the town of Mahmudiya, about 12 miles south of Baghdad.

His death brought the number of American soldiers killed in combat since the start of the US-led war in Iraq to 170. — MNA/Xinhua

Dominican baby dies after removal of second head

SANTO DOMINGO (Dominican Republic), 10 Feb — A seven-week-old Dominican girl born with one of the world’s rarest birth defects died on Saturday, hours after undergoing a delicate operation to remove an undeveloped second head, her doctors said.

Rebeca Martinez died of post-surgical bleeding problems at around 6 am (1000 GMT), said Dr Santiago Hazim, medical director of the CURE Interna tional Centre for Orthopedic Specialties in Santo Domingo.

A team of international doctors operated on Martinez for some 12 hours on Friday to remove the second head in what was thought to be the first such operation ever.

Speaking at a news conference on Saturday with Hazim, the child’s parents, Maria Gisela Hiciano and Frank martinez, called their daughter’s death the will of God and praised the team of 18 doctors who carried out the surgery.

“If there is one grade above super excellent, it belongs to this team of doctors,” the father said. Both parents appeared calm and resigned to their daughter’s death.

MNA/Reuters

US scientists predict quake in California desert

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb — A team of US scientists expects a 6.4 magnitude or larger temblor in the Southern California desert by September 5, the Los Angeles Times reported on Monday.

Led by Vladimir Keilis-Borok, a scientist from University of Californ ia in Los Angeles (UCLA), the team has been predicting quakes within certain timeframes and geographic regions.

That has led to criti cism that their work is not precise enough to be useful, but others see it as significant progress in the science.

The team gained vi sibility last December, when a 6.5-magnitude quake hit near San Simeon, Califor nia. That’s within the 310-mile stretch of California that the team last June predicted would see a quake of magni tude 6.4 or larger within nine months.

The Los Angeles Times reported that the team’s predictions are based on perceived “chains” of small earthquakes that are comparable to past patterns preceding larger quakes in the same area.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s soybean imports soar 2003

BRASIL, 10 Feb — China bought 20.74 million tons of soybeans from the interna tional market in 2003, up 83.3 per cent year-on-year and exceeding domestic produc tion for the first time, ac cording to Customs figures released Monday.

China, once a major ex porter of soybeans, produced only 16.2 million tons in 2003. Natural disasters like droughts affected the na tion’s soybean production.

The nation spent 5.4 bil lion US dollars, a 118.2 per cent increase, for the imports, mainly from the United States, Brazil and Argentina, according to the General Administration of Customs.

The imports supplied about 66 per cent of China’s demand for this year.

In the early 1990s, China remained a net exporter of soybeans, with exports reaching one million tons per year.

MNA/Xinhua

US troops patrol a street of central Baghdad on 9 Feb, 2004. Two US soldiers were killed and six wounded in an explosion as they tried to dispose of weaponry in northern Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

China in Los Angeles (UCLA), where recent polls showed

that Schroeder, who said he decided on his own to turn over the reins of his party to deputy Franz Muentefering.
Iraq under US and allies’ occupation
Deadliest attacks on US and coalition forces in Iraq

Up to 5 February 2004, the death toll of US soldiers rose up to 530 due to the armed resistance of Iraqi guerillas who use sophisticated weapons. Armed attacks against US-led coalition forces by Iraqi guerillas increased and the invasion forces have been suffering great casualty.

US and allies casualties resulting from Iraqi guerilla attacks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Casualty</th>
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<tr>
<td>21-3-2003</td>
<td>Kuwait border</td>
<td>Helicopter</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>23-3-2003</td>
<td>Nasiriyah</td>
<td>Ambush</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4-2003</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>7-4-2003</td>
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<td>24-6-2003</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>7-11-2003</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Police station in Nasiriyah</td>
<td>car bomb attack</td>
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<td>Mosul</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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# Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

**Development images of Bago Division in the time of the State Peace and Development Council**

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<th>Development Sector</th>
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</table>

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day: Development images of Bago 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>Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV retransmission station</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-Library</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (basic)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle school</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>3450</td>
<td>3974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (higher)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital (200-bed)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital (25-bed)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station hospital</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural health care centre</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural health centre (branch)</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses training school</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

The Union of Myanmar is a nation with an area of 261,228 square miles and home to over 100 national races. Its administrative system is divided into seven states and seven divisions, 64 districts and 324 townships. Of the population of over 53 million, over 70 per cent reside in rural areas. The townships, districts and states and divisions will develop, only if the rural areas, where the majority of people live, develop. In other words, the Union will develop only if there is progress in the rural areas, the most basic regions of the nation.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, saying, “Roads must be repaired and upgraded to facilitate the flow of rural goods to the markets in the towns. Coordination will have to be made to effectively repair the former district council roads, linking the towns and villages. We will be able to facilitate transport sector and raise the economic, health and education standards of the village people, only if we can develop the rural areas. Thus, priority should be given to phase-by-phase development of the rural roads.”

In accord with the guidance, the five rural development tasks — transport facilitation; people development Affairs Department has been extending roads and bridges in rural regions, using 55 per cent of its funds. During the four-year period from 1997-98 to 2000-2001, 281 miles and three furlongs of tarred roads, 1,305 miles and four furlongs of gravel roads, 703 miles and four furlongs of laterite roads, and 1,226 miles and five furlongs of earth roads totalling 3,529 miles of rural roads have been completed.

The expenditure was a total of K 3,126.44 million, to which DAD contributed K 2,703.64 million and the local people donated K 422.80 million. The State and Division Development Affairs Committees have been building roads linking villages; villages and towns; and in the towns and districts, to raise the economic, social, health, education and transport standards of the rural areas. The 30-year rural road development plan from 2001-2002 to 2030-2031 is being implemented.

During the first five years of the 30-year plan, 45 miles of tarred roads, 345 miles of gravel roads, 113 miles of laterite roads, and 869 miles of earth roads totalling 1,372 miles of rural roads were built in 2001-2002; 108 miles of tarred roads, 444 miles of gravel roads, 171 miles of laterite roads and 1,479 miles of earth roads totalling 2,202 miles of rural roads were built in 2002-2003; and in 2003-2004, a target has been set to build 21 miles of tarred roads, 154 miles of gravel roads, 47 miles of laterite roads totalling 537 miles of rural roads.

Table: Rural development in Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Div</th>
<th>Target for 2003-04</th>
<th>Completion up to 31.12.03</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sagaing Div</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magway Div</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay Div</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1091</td>
<td>768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2331</td>
<td>1469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
projects has been implemented in other states and divisions. Of the target of 8,042 villages in the three divisions, potable water supply has been ensured in 714 villages in 2000-2001; 1,098 villages in 2001-2002; and 1,020 villages in 2002-2003; and the target for 2003-2004 is 416 villages.

In other states and divisions, a project is being implemented to supply clean water to 344 villages where water is difficult to find, 5,489 villages which do not have access to sufficient water supply and 9,350 villages with no potable water supply totalling 15,183 villages. During the three-year period, there is also progress in the economic, health and education sectors. There are now three primary schools in every five villages. Education promotion is another priority given to development of rural areas. Special attention has been paid to school enrollment of the school age children, extension of elementary schools and opening of post-primary schools in the rural areas.

In the rural health sector, station hospitals and dispensaries have been extended, and more doctors, nurses and midwives have been assigned. The State is also providing necessary equipment and medicines.

Village people visit a rural health education exhibition.

The extended building of a high school in Kokkodaw village in Salin Township, Magway Division.

Rural roads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>1988 Mile/furlong</th>
<th>2003 Mile/furlong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarred</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>3144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latrite</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>1375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>2092</td>
<td>17635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3729</td>
<td>22867</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poem

The Positive sign of the Union

* The goodwill flower of the Motherland
  Which blooms on Motherland
  On the border abode.
  Sweet songs of peace are heard
  Brethrens of the land assemble.
  In solidarity and amity
  New history is made, new nation built
  It's simply amazing.

* Loving kindness showers of the nation
  Which on Motherland fall afresh
  On the rural abode.
  Green, fragrant and pleasant
  Brethrens of the land assemble.
  United and loving each other
  New nation, new granary is built
  It's simply amazing.

* With new amazing features
  The positive sign of the Motherland
  May it last forever.
  It shan't break up no matter who tries
  With hands clasping one another
  The Union like the heart and life
  Brethrens group shan't break up
  Will forever try to perpetuate
  For centuries by the hundred thousands.

Thiha Aung (Trs)

(Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day)
Non-existence of genocide...

(from page 16)

forgotten, and harmonious efforts based on mutual inter-

As they have been living in harmony in the Union of

Colonialism became stronger during the late 19th Cen-

Colonial leaders who realized their political aware-

National race leaders who realized their political aware-

Constitutionalism became stronger during the late 19th Cen-

The course of the history of all the conflicts result-

The imperialists employing their notorious divide and

The course of the history of all the conflicts result-

The course of the history of all the conflicts result-

The course of the history of all the conflicts result-

The course of the history of all the conflicts result-

Races, saying, “As all the national races are living in various

Furthermore, these regions have been facilitated with

The Government has been implementing the projects for
development of border areas and national races, and rural
development plans simultaneously for bridging the devel-

Therefore, border areas where national races live that
lagged behind in development in the past due to poor
transport have now developed in agriculture, livestock breed-
ing, industrial, trade and tourism sectors with fine roads and
better communication facilities and smooth transport.
Furthermore, these regions have been facilitated with
schools, hospitals and clinics and so on.

The Government has been implementing the projects for
development of border areas and national races, and rural
development plans simultaneously for bridging the develop-
ment gap between urban and rural regions. Now, rural
regions have caught up with the development of urban
regions. Moreover, 24 development regions including
Panglong where the Union conceived has been established
for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation
in economic, education and health sectors.

With a view to transforming the Union of Myanmar to a
modern developed nation that can stand tall among the
world nations, the Government is realizing the political,
economic and social objectives. In the process, it is carrying
out the uphill tasks to reach the nation’s goal.

Only when there emerges a new enduring State Consti-
tution, can a modern developed nation be built in accord
with the new State Constitution. So representatives from all
walks of life are going to meet at the National Convention
to draft a new State Constitution.

The entire people are to make combined and united
efforts in the tasks to resume the National Convention
essential for emergence of a new State Constitution through
the might of the already-achieved national solidarity.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on the delegates
to make continuing efforts in transforming the Union to a
modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation
exerting the already-achieved national solidarity and up-
holding the 57 Anniversary Union Day objectives:

— for all national races to safeguard the national policy—
non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of na-
tional solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
— to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among
the national people
— for all national people to defend and safeguard the Union
for its perpetual existence
— to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of
internal and external destructive elements undermining
peace and stability of the State and national development
— for all national races to make concerted efforts for
successful implementation of the seven-point future policy
programme

After the meeting, the Prime Minister had a cordial
conversation with the delegates. — MNA

Information meeting meets local people in towns of
Magway, Sagaing Divisions

YANGON, 10 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-
Gen Kyaw Hsan held a meeting with local people of
villages in the towns of Magway and Sagaing Divisions and
coordinated matters related to information and regional
development.

The minister on 6 February morning met with the staff
at Information and Public Relations Departments in Chauk
and Seikyu Township. At the meeting, the minister
called on officials concerned to strive to be able to expand
the media coverage up to villages in border areas with
high quality and attended to the needs.

At 2:30 pm, the minister met with local people at
Poppakine Village in Saw Township and gave instructions
on regional development and farming. The minister do-
ned publications to the libraries there.

At 4 pm, the minister met with local people, teachers and
students at Laungshle Model village and accepted 274 AUSA
member applications. And the minister presented K 100,000
for village BEHS, text books and exercise books for students
and publications for the libraries.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the
government is making all-out efforts for national develop-
ment, adding that progress has been made as a result, thereby
benefiting much the entire national people. The people, on
their part, need to strive together with the Government and the
Union Solidarity and Development Association in imple-
menting the five rural development tasks, he noted. At
the same time, the entire national people and the government
areRecipe-in-hand and well concentrated on efforts for success-
ful realization of the seven-point future political road map to
ensure the emergence of peaceful modern democratic na-
tion. — MNA
We are convinced that we can stand tall if united. We might fall if we are divided. It is clear that united we stand, divided we fall. Indeed, it is commonly known that unity is strength. History stands witness to the fact that we lost independence and sovereignty due to lack of unity. Actu-
ally, we regained our independence through the united efforts of all the national brethren.

As regards the perpetua-
tion of the Union as well as
keeping prosperity of the national peoples, the na-
tional unity is essential. We
realized that during the
colonial period, the colonists intentionally sowed discord and doubt among the national races. As a result, armed conflicts accompanied the nation’s independence and thus delayed its development.

During the time of the State Peace and Develop-
ment Council Government, national unity is further
consolidated. Realizing the genuine goodwill of the Government, almost 17 armed groups have now returned to the legal fold and are participating actively in the development works of their respective regions. Unprecedentedly, national unity is further strengthened.

A group of staff from the Department of An-
thropology, Yangon Univer-
sity, departed from the port of Kawthuang on the 7th of
April 1977, at 7:40 am, on a study tour.

After going for about 3 hours and 10 minutes, the village reached St Matthew’s Island or Zardet Kyee Island, which is the largest island in Myanmar waters. The island was full of woodlands, thickets
mountains, valleys and ra-
vines. The hills rose up gradually starting from the beaches. Zardet Kyee Island is about 8560 acres.

In the North of Zardet Kyee Island there is Lampi Island, Bocho Island and Makyone Galet village.

Under the scorching sun at 11:40 am, the sea looked as if painted in em-
erald green.

Indeed, 12:30 pm we went over to the island in a boat. When we got there, it was 1:00 pm. already and with the tide down, we had to anchor our boat quite a distance away from the shore. We all waded in the salty-water to get to the shore.

We all headed for the village monastery. We all had a typical traditional house of Salone nationals. A group of staff from the Department of Anthropology, Yangon University, departed from the port of Kawthuang on the 7th of April 1977, at 7:40 am, on a study tour.

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consolidated. Realizing the genuine goodwill of the Government, almost 17 armed groups have now returned to the legal fold and are participating actively in the development works of their respective regions. Unprecedentedly, national unity is further strengthened.

A typical traditional house of Salone nationals.

When we had taken our places, the Nat priest (Shaman) led the singing and dancing, with accompa-
niment of various kinds of instruments. Salone young men played music by beating drums and hitting the bamboo joint with a stick.

There was much merry making where both men and women sang, danced, and drank wine. Both men and women drank any kind of wine from wine to Johnny Walker whisky. They drank, snoozed, sang and danced and were very happy indeed.

The study team was also very busy interviewing them on respective subjects and taking photographs and measurements of their ac-
cessories, which are of cul-
tural significance. Their
songs, language terminology and expressions are recorded on tape.

After that we went to Talun Salone primary school to interview Salone nationals there. The primary school is within sight of the museum.

We were able to in-
terview all the village peo-
ple including the experi-
enced old, performing arts, and the Shaman as follows:

(1) The background history of Salone nationals, to p
ography, physical fea-
ture, costumes, lan-
guage and literature, tradi-
ditional cuisine, music, musical instruments, and dances.

(2) Kinship system, succes-
sion, inheritance—
Youth—Engagement and marriage—Pregnancy, childbirth, christening, childcare, upbringing

(3) Faith and Religion, tra-
ditional festivals, super-
stitions, manas and ta
boos

(4) Economy

(5) Political organization, education, health

We divided the team into five groups and asked over 600 questions and re-
corded the answers.

The Taninthayi Division, which is located in the southernmost part of the Union of Myanmar, consti-
tuates Dawei, Myeik and Kawthuang districts. Salone nationals may be found on the islands in Myeik and Kawthuang districts as separate minority groups.

The Salone nationals reside within the Myeik and Kawthuang townships and on islands in Myeik Township, Kyun Su Township, Palaw Township, Taninthayi Township, Kaw-
thuang Township, Bokpyin Township. They also live on Limpi Islands, Makyone Galet Village and Nyang-
Wi village.

Depending the ocean as their base, the Salone nationals wander along the seashore or live on the sea. During the four months of the Rainy Sea-
son, from May to August, when there are storms and gales, they build temporary huts on stilts and live on shore. In the remaining eight months, from Sep-
tember to April, they roam the seas in Kabnat boats.

The livelihood of the Salone nationals, being fishing and shell-collecting, diving for seafood and oys-
ters, is associated with the sea in one way or another, regardless of the season and where they reside, that is on land or on sea. That is why we should conduct a tour of the beautiful Myanmar sea where the Salone nationals are residing.

(Kyemon: 1-2-2004)
(Translation: Pe Thwin)
New int’l exhibition centre to be built in S-W China

CHENGDU, 10 Feb — Construction of a new international convention and exhibition centre started recently in this capital city of southwest China’s Sichuan Province. The centre, which covers 100 hectares in the new district of southern Chengdu, will take three to five years to complete at an estimated cost of five billion yuan (602 million US dollars).

The project comprises three parts, including an exhibition area which has nine exhibition halls with a total floor space of 100,000 square metres, hotels and cultural facilities and a park.

When the project is completed, it will host 150 exhibitions and 2,000 meetings annually with according to law.

Cypriot President goes to Athens before New York meeting

NICOSIA, 10 Feb — Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos left here for Athens on Sunday for talks with the Greek leadership in view of a meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York later this week.

Speaking on his departure at the Larnaca Airport, Papadopoulos said he would go to New York with the aim to resume negotiations on the Cyprus problem on the basis of Annan's twice-revised plan and reach a settlement by 1 May. "We are going with goodwill. We always supported the commencement of talks on the basis of the Annan plan and our aim remains to reach a settlement by 1 May," he said.

Papadopoulos was expected to meet with Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, Minister of Foreign Affairs George Papandreou and possibly the opposition.

Annan has invited the island's Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to meet him on Tuesday in New York to start a new round of peace talks.—MNA/Xinhua

Uganda plans to construct over 800 health units nationwide

KAMPALA, 10 Feb — The Ugandan Government is to construct 868 health units, including 214 sub-district hospitals nationwide to extend and deliver efficient services to its people.

Ugandan Minister of State for Health Mike Mukula was quoted by local media as saying on Monday that every constituency in the country by 2006 will have a mini-hospital, an ambulance, a generator, clinical and medical inspectors, an outpatient ward and all will be well equipped.

The Ugandan Government has secured over 25 million US dollars from Netherland’s for about 124 health centres and units countrywide.

Mukula said this would be the first of its kind in Africa, adding that “it’s a very ambitious programme but we shall provide it systematically”.

He said that 60 ambulances were dispatched last month to different referral hospitals and about 90 others were yet to be delivered.

Mukula said that Uganda was to intensify the roll back malaria campaign because it was killing people in big numbers in Africa, adding that more than 80,000 people died of malaria last year in Uganda.

China uses Internet for appraisal of foreign-funded enterprises

BEIJING, 10 Feb — Encouraging results have been received in simplifying the procedure of the annual appraisal of foreign-funded enterprises in China by employing the Internet, a new method effective on a trial basis from the start of the year, the State Industry and Commerce Administration said recently.

"The new measure has received a good response from foreign-funded enterprises over the past one month, and one-ninth of them have accepted the new appraisal method," said Liu Ye, an official with the administration.

"More foreign-funded enterprises are expected to choose the new method before the March 15 deadline for application for the annual appraisal," said Liu, who is in charge of enterprise supervision.

Traditionally, foreign-funded enterprises in the country have had to make several visits to the administration’s outlets to complete their annual appraisal. Now they can finish all the steps, apart from the final appraisal, through the Internet.

UN report says cloud forests, water source to millions face risk

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Feb — A warming climate threatens tropical mountain forests that strip moisture from clouds and supply water to millions of people in Africa and Latin America, experts said in a UN report released on Monday, as the result of increased atmospheric concentrations of sunlight-trapping gases released from fossil fuel burning.

"A unique feature of these forests is that they can capture moisture through condensation from the clouds, which also makes these habitats very sensitive to climate change," said Philip Bubb, one of the co-authors of the report, in a statement.

The risk was both to water supplies and the dozens of species found only in such habitats, he said.

Other risks include forest clearance for farming, fires, road construction and the introduction of species from other parts of the world.

MNA/Reuters
Master The New Light Of Myanmar Wednesday, 11 February, 2004 13

China spends $12m annually to train officials abroad
BEIJING, 10 Feb— Chinese central finance allocates 100 million yuan (12 million US dollars) every year to send 40,000 officials abroad for training, according to Liu Yanchao, deputy director of the Overseas Training Department of the State Bureau of Foreign Experts Affairs (SBFEA).

A mid-term or long-term training programme abroad costs about 100,000 yuan (12.092 US dollars) for one person, but the investment is well worth it, Monday’s 21st Century Business Herald quoted Liu as saying.

In China, over 90 per cent of the cadres at provincial level or ministry level had training experiences abroad. Some provincial leaders were among China’s first group of high-level leaders trained at the John F Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University.

Chinese officials who have been trained abroad range from national leaders to cadres of local districts and cities.

“It is a very large talent pool,” said Liu. China’s earliest overseas official training programme started in cooperation with France.

In 1991, Chinese central departments began to entrust a French association for talent training and exchange to train their officials through the SBFEA.

The association has received over 4,000 Chinese trainees in the past 15 years, one-fifth from central government and the rest from local governments, said Guy Marty, chairman of the association.

The French training programmes cover a wide range of fields, including grape planting, the French agricultural market, operation of supermarkets and management of large enterprises.

In 1999 when China initiated reform of state enterprises, the Chinese Government sent officials to learn from the French Government how to manage and control state enterprises undergoing privatization.

Many countries take training as an opportunity for Chinese officials to understand them. The Japanese Association for Overseas Training Scholarships stopped training once but resumed the programmes after they found many of the trained officials were put in important positions back in China.

To meet the demand of China’s official training, AFEPE, a French association promoting trade between France and China, turned itself into an association specially engaged in official training, chaired by Marty.— MNA/Xinhua

Brazil flood deaths reach 119, epidermics feared
BRASILIA, 10 Feb— The death toll from the heaviest rains in more than a decade in Brazil has risen to 119 people, the government said on Monday as it began to stockpile medical supplies in fear of epidemics.

Sixteen of Brazil’s 27 states have been hit by floods which started in January, the National Integration Ministry said, adding that 180,000 people have had their homes destroyed or been forced to leave them.

Regional officials in the state of Sao Paulo, which suffered the worst floods, said 70 people had died there.

The federal government is scrambling to resupply their officials through the SBFEA.

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Indonesia to rely on counter-trade to boost export
JAKARTA, 10 Feb— The Indonesian Government will give a greater focus on counter-trade scheme in its efforts to boost non-oil export and meet the export target in 2004, a minister said here Monday.

Industry and Trade Minister Rini Soewandhi said counter-trade is implemented by 130 countries around the world and accounted for 30 per cent of total world trade value, or is equivalent to some $50 billion.

She said counter-trade would help jobs in Indonesia and boost the country’s foreign exchange revenue.

“…The government gives a greater focus on counter-trade,” Rini said.

Indonesia has set a 7-per cent rise in the 2004 export from $61.02 billion dollars in 2003.

China Three Gorges Project to transmit electricity to Guangdong
YICHANG, 10 Feb— The hydropower station of the Three Gorges Project, the largest hydro-electric project in the world, began to supply electricity to energy-starved Guangdong Province on Sunday.

The power station is expected to transmit 8.16 billion kilowatts of electricity to the south China town of Yichang this year, equivalent to the new thermal-power plant, with an installed capacity of 1.6 million kilowatts.

Li Yong’an, general manager of the China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation, said his corporation will put more generators into operation and generate more electricity this year.

Six generators went into operation in 2003, producing 8.1 million kilowatts hours of electricity in total.

The Three Gorges project is located at the Xiling Gorge Section between the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River in Yichang City, Hubei Province. With a total investment of 21.76 billion US dollars, the project started in 1993 and is scheduled for completion in 2009.

China has set a 7-per cent rise in the 2004 export from $61.02 billion dollars in 2003.

“…The government gives a greater focus on counter-trade,” Rini said.

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Indonesia has set a 7-per cent rise in the 2004 export from $61.02 billion dollars in 2003.

“…”

US dollars over the last three months, were used to pay for OPEC goods.

The Konya building collapsed late on Monday in Konya, central Turkey.

Rescue workers have pulled a 24-year-old woman from the wreckage of a 10-storey building which collapsed late on Monday in Konya, central Turkey. — Reuters

NTV television showed rescue workers applauding as the woman, named as Yasemin Yaprakci, was carried from the rubble to a waiting ambulance on a stretcher.

Anatolia news agency said Yaprakci was very tired and was carried from the rubble to a waiting ambulance on a stretcher.

She said counter-trade would help jobs in Indonesia and boost the country’s foreign exchange revenue.

“…The government gives a greater focus on counter-trade,” Rini said.

Indonesia has set a 7-per cent rise in the 2004 export from $61.02 billion dollars in 2003.

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The Konya building collapsed late on Monday in Konya, central Turkey.

Rescue workers have pulled a 24-year-old woman from the wreckage of a 10-storey building which collapsed late on Monday in Konya, central Turkey. — Reuters

NTV television showed rescue workers applauding as the woman, named as Yasemin Yaprakci, was carried from the rubble to a waiting ambulance on a stretcher.

Anatolia news agency said Yaprakci was very tired and was carried from the rubble to a waiting ambulance on a stretcher.

She said counter-trade would help jobs in Indonesia and boost the country’s foreign exchange revenue.

“…The government gives a greater focus on counter-trade,” Rini said.

Indonesia has set a 7-per cent rise in the 2004 export from $61.02 billion dollars in 2003.

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**Deportivo stay in title hunt**

**Madrid, 10 Feb—** Deportivo Coruna stayed in touch with the top two with a 2-0 win away to Albacete on Sunday, while Real Madrid took advantage of Barcelona's sending-off to move into a four-point lead with a 3-0 victory over Osasuna. The Brazilian playmaker controlled an Edgar Davids pass back into the area, teed the ball up with one touch and hooked it back into the far corner. Barca's victory gave them 37 points from 23 games and took them a point ahead of Athletic Bilbao after their 2-1 win over Mancunia. Deportivo, needing a win to stay on the tails of Real Madrid and Valencia, dominated the first half against Albacete but needed a bit of luck to break the deadlock in the 55th minute. Juan Carlos Valeront took a pass from Diego Tristan and shot weakly at Albacete goalkeeper Manuel Almunia. The ball broke straight to Scalonli on the right of the area and he slotted in.

Hasselbank penalty keeps Chelsea in touch

**London, 10 Feb—** Chelsea kept in touch with the top two in the Premier League after Jimmy Floyd Hasselbank's first-half penalty secured a laboured 1-0 home win over Charlton Athletic on Sunday. Hasselbank struck in the 28th minute but, bar a late flurry of Mutu misses, there were few other chances at either end as below their best. The result kept Deportivo on 46 points, two behind leaders Real Madrid and Barcelona, who both played out goalless draws. Viotti, however, refused to give up hope with 15 games remaining in the league competition. —MNA/Reuters

**Olympique Lyon's title hopes suffer after shock defeat**

**Lyon, 10 Feb—** Olympique Lyon's shock 1-0 defeat at home to En Avant Guingamp on Saturday could have ended their aspirations to defend the Ligue 1 title. The champions, who were four points behind Monaco before Saturday's round of games, slipped to third, seven points off the pace, after the principality team beat Metz 2-0.

At Auxerre moved into second goal difference after a 2-0 victory at Stade Rennais. "We hurt ourselves and it won't be easy for the rest of the season," said goalkeeper Gregory Coupet, who conceded an injury-time goal to Guingamp defender Nisa Saveljic. "We have to keep our chin up." Club president Jean-Michel Aulas said the defeat was a huge psychological blow for Lyon, who reduced a 10-point gap with Monaco in January to just four by Saturday.

"Between a draw and a defeat, the mathematical difference is slim. But psychologically, it is enormous," he said. "We now have to heal the spirits." Lyon forward Sidney Govou, however, refused to give up hope with 15 games remaining in the league competition. —MNA/Reuters

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**Cassano leads Roma's 4-0 romp against Juventus**

**Rome, 10 Feb—** Striker Antonio Cassano struck twice as AS Roma romped to a 4-0 victory over champions Juventus on Sunday, reviving their Serie A title hopes.

The result moved Roma clear of Juventus into second place with 46 points, five adrift of leaders AC Milan, while Juve were third with 43. It was Roma's biggest win over the Turin-based club since 1931, when they won 5-0 at the old Testaccio stadium in the south of the Italian capital.

Last weekend's loss to Brescia and a draw with Udinese had prompted many to question whether Roma had the staying power to keep up with leaders Milan.

"This win is worth double... not just because of who we beat but also because it showed we've raised our level since January," said delighted Roma coach Fabio Capello.

"This is the most important time of the year. Although there's a long way to go in the championship, the games you play now set you up for the run-in.

"They show whether you really are a challenger, especially against your direct title rivals."

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Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe views operations on cleft lip and palate patients

YANGON, 10 Feb — President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, accompanied by Patron of Supervisory Committee for Shan State (East) MCWA Daw Khin Pyone Win and party, on 9 February morning, arrived at Kengtung General Hospital in Kengtung where they were welcomed by Chairperson of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party, officials of MMCWA, the medical superintendent and staff.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party viewed operations on cleft lip and palate patients at the operation theatre and provided cash assistance to the patients individually. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the ceremony to donate cash for medicines and medical equipment used in conducting operation on the patients. She then presented K 750,000 to Kengtung General Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Than Muang, K 100,000 to Maxillo-facial and Jaw Surgery Specialist Dr Nu Nu Yi of Mandalay General Hospital; and K 52,000 for the patients to Shan State (East) MCWA Supervisory Committee.

Full-dress rehearsal of Union Day Flag-hoisting ceremony held

YANGON, 10 Feb — A full-dress rehearsal of the 57th Anniversary Union Day Flag hoisting ceremony was staged at People’s Square on Pyay Road here at 6 am today. Present on the occasion were Chairperson of the Management Committee for Organizing the 57th Anniversary Union Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and committee members, the chairman of the sub-committee for holding Union Day Flag hoisting ceremony and members, military region commanders, chairmen of district PDCCs, senior military officers, chairmen of town-ship PDCCs, departmental officials and members of USDA and social organizations. According the agenda, the full-dress rehearsal was held — taking position of the State Band, arrival of the Union Flag, saluting the Union Flag, taking position of the flag relay team, reading the message of State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and others.

Victorious Myanmar soccer team recounts experience

YANGON, 10 Feb — The experience of Myanmar youth soccer team which took part in the First U-18 BIMST-EC Cup 2004 held in Phukhet, Thailand, was recounted at the hall of Myanmar Football Federation on 7 am today. Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Commander Major Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thin Lin formally opened the new road which is 17,000 feet long and 18 feet wide.

41st Gem Emporium to be held

YANGON, 10 Feb — The 41st Myanma Gems Emporium will be held beginning 13 March 2004 and those citizens who are undertaking exploration and trading of gems under the Myanma Gems Law will be permitted to attend the emporium and take part in competitive bidding during the 41st Emporium period, jewellery and gem sales counters will be allocated on ground floor of the Myanma Gems Emporium and those wishing to open sales counters can contact the management sub-committee office and gem market supervisory committee beginning 17 February.

UMFCCI President meets Ambassador

YANGON, 10 Feb — President of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President U Win Myint met Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Counsellor Mr Rahu Kulshreshth and Commercial Counsellor Mr Raiinder Khanna at the UMFCCI head office this morning. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to boosting of investment and trade between the two countries, exports of quality peels to India, holding of ‘Made in India Show’ Seminar on Cross-Borders: India-Myanmar Trade and Economic Cooperation at Yangon Trade Centre and Sedona Hotel on 19 and 20 February and meetings between Indian and Myanmar businesses. Also present on the occasion were UMFCCI executive members U Tin Myint and U Myo Thant.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 10 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours on 10-2-2004:

- Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach 35 mph from South at 16:30 hours MST on 9-2-2004. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 16 mph from East at 09:30 hrs MST on 10-2-2004. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total sunshine hours on 9-2-2004 was 7.7 hours approx. Rainfall on 10-2-2004 was nil.
- Minimum temperature on 9-2-2004 was 33.0°C. Maximum temperature on 10-2-2004 was 33.0°C. Minimum temperature on 10-2-2004 was 17.0°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-2-2004 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 9-2-2004 was 7 hours approx. Rainfall on 10-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 16 mph from South at 16:30 hours MST on 9-2-2004.
- Forecast valid until evening of 11-2-2004: Possibility of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 40%
- State of the sea: Strong easterly winds with moderate sea are likely at off shore and strong on Yangon. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach 35 mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
- Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbor-
Non-existence of genocide among national races resulting from racial hatred and antagonism Myanmar’s significance

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Union Day delegates

I feel immense pleasure to see the representatives of the national brethren, coming here from various parts of the Union of Myanmar, at the get-together like a reunion of the family members.

According to the significant findings of the excavations and research work, it can be firmly said that the Myanmar races have been living on Myanmar soil since the emergence of human beings in the world. There are now solid evidence proving that all the Myanmar races are not the immigrants who migrated to the country from the places lying outside its territory, but are the true descendants of the Union, living and increasing in numbers on the Myanmar soil.

There are slight differences in the dialects of the national races due the time and climate and geographical conditions of the regions the forefathers chose as their home, while trying to find a dwelling place in the Myanmar territory which has an abundant supply of food and water resources. In other words, it is the basic factor for all the national races to have a belief that they are of the same family residing on Myanmar soil since time immemorial.

All the over 100 national races have the same characteristics — sincerity, kindness, helpfulness, loving kindness, forgiveness, sympathy and peacefulness. And since the start of the human civilization and till now, the national races have been living in unity in a family spirit — mutual love and friendship, helpfulness, inter-relationship. (See page 10)

PM sends felicitations to Iran

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2004. — MNA

Prime Minister Khin Nyunt inspects arrangements for hosting Union Day dinner

Yangon, 10 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this evening inspected arrangements for hosting dinner to commemorate the 57th Anniversary Union Day and the performance of traditional cultural troupe as a full-dress rehearsal in the President’s House Compound on Ahlon Road.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the management committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and officials, arrived at the President’s House at 5.30 pm. They were welcomed there by members of the central committee and management committee, director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and officials and departmental heads.

First, the Prime Minister inspected arrangements for holding a dinner to hail the 57th Anniversary Union Day and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Next, the Prime Minister watched the performance of traditional cultural troupe as a full-dress rehearsal, and greeted the cultural troupe members. — MNA

Union Day delegates tour Yangon

Yangon, 10 Feb — The national races cultural troupe members and Union Solidarity and Development Association members from various States and Divisions who are currently here to attend the 57th Anniversary Union Day ceremony and dinner this morning visited Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township and paid homage to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image. They also watched the White Elephants there. Afterwards, they visited the Drugs Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township. — MNA