The 57th Anniversary Union Day message of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar

YANGON, 12 Feb — The following is a translation of the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary Union Day, 2004, of the Union of Myanmar.

Esteemed brethren of the Union,

On this auspicious occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day, I would like to wish all the national races residing in the Union health and happiness and be blessed with auspiciousness.

Since the prehistoric times and till now, the over 100 national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan, the descendants of the same family, have been living in the Union of Myanmar in solidarity, residing on the same land and partaking of water from the same source, and sharing joy and sorrow together.

Because of the gratitude owed to our forefathers of the successive eras, who lived in unity with high vision, attaching themselves with bonds of amity, with the family spirit — love and friendship, helpfulness, sympathy, mutual reliance, understanding, forgiveness, and cooperation based on common interest — as the foundation, the national races of the Union have been able to live together and join hands for a long time. In this regard, it is the bounden duty of all the national races to understand and uphold the gratitude and to strive with never declining zeal, strong perseverance, and energetic efforts for further flourishing and vitalization of the family spirit and Union Spirit among the national brethren.

The mountain ranges in the north, east and west of Myanmar and the seas facing the nation in the west and south are serving as its natural walls. And all the glory of Myanmar that helped the nation stand tall among the world nations under her own monarchs for years countable by the thousand within its boundary of the walls; and the flourishing of the independent and admirable civilization, art and social values originating from traditions, customs and thoughts rooted in the family spirit, Union Spirit and the spirit of loving the nation, the spiritual strength of the people.

As the Union of Myanmar prospered with her own culture and art as a sovereign nation, it was a nation that was able to present herself to the world with pride and fame.

Myanmar fell into the hands of the occupiers in the 19th Century, during which, the colonialists relying on their superior firepower were trying to seize more land than the whole world. However, the Myanmar races were able to restore anti-colonialist spirit, Union Spirit and national spirit, striving to regain independence on all fronts through applying various means. The national race leaders clearly expressed the national solidarity, the most important requirement for the national liberation, at the Panglong laying in the heart of the motherland on 12 February 1947. As they were able to show unity.

The mountain ranges in the north, east and west of Myanmar fell into the hands of the occupiers in the 19th Century, during which, the colonialists relying on their superior firepower were trying to seize more land than the whole world. However, the Myanmar races were able to restore anti-colonialist spirit, Union Spirit and national spirit, striving to regain independence on all fronts through applying various means. The national race leaders clearly expressed the national solidarity, the most important requirement for the national liberation, at the Panglong laying in the heart of the motherland on 12 February 1947. As they were able to show unity.

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

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

With Union Day Supplement

Newly opened Mogaung Bridge on Nankaung Creek in Mogaung Township, Kachin State. — MNA
Let's lend ourselves to national endeavours

Today is the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day of the Union of Myanmar, home to various national races who have been living together in unity through thick and thin from time immemorial.

It was on 12 February, 1947, all the national brethren of the Union signed the Panglong Agreement in unison to show that they were determined to have total independence for the entire nation and live together ever for. Therefore, the day has been designated as the Union Day since that time and it is held every year with full political essence.

Union Day is the most important day in the history of our country. We can say that the Independence Day was born out of the Union Day. Without national unity and the Panglong Agreement, our country would not have been a prosperous and independent and sovereign nation again. Therefore, national unity is still the life-blood of our Union. This being the case, the State Peace and Development Council, or the Tatmadaw Government, has always given top priority to national unity.

The objectives of the 57th Anniversary of the Union Day are:
- for all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity — to keep the Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- for all the national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence — to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development, and
- for all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

Emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation is our national goal. The Tatmadaw Government has been working day and night to achieve that goal by safeguarding the national policy and by trying to successfully implement the 12 political, economic and social objectives and the seven-point future policy programme.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the entire national people, on this auspicious occasion of the Union Day, to actively and unitedly lend themselves to all the national endeavours being carried out by the Government in the long-term interest of the State.

The Myanmar Karatedo team seen with team leader Dr Ye Naing Win, the manager and the coach. — MNA

The 57th Anniversary Union Day message …

Myanmar had been able to restore her image as an independent and sovereign nation on 4 January 1948. It was due to misunderstanding and suspicion in the nation resulting from the wounds inflicted on her by the colonialists’ attempts to drive in a wedge there occurred internal instability hampering efforts of the past successive governments to concentrate on the national development. And that was the reason behind the lack of national development in the past.

The State Peace and Development Council has taken lessons from history in which the national strength was derived from national unity, and national weakness and backwardness were the result of the loss of national solidarity. It has laid down the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty and has been strengthening national unity, with the national re-constitution and the perennial flourishing of Union Spirit as the objective. Thus, 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold. Moreover, the Government has been ever extending a warm welcome to the returning armed groups, and is constantly making efforts to resolve to restore cent per cent national unity. Peace and stability has been restored in the border regions. In the past, the regions lacked peace and stability due to misunderstanding and oscillation between one national race and another, the outcome of the remoteness of their locality that created weak inter-relationship among the locals.

The restoration of peace in the areas paved the way for the launching of the border area development drive in 1989, that is laying sound political, economic and social foundations and bearing fruits of progress for the locals. In the past, the economic and social gap was wide between the rural and urban areas. To bridge this divide, the rural development project has been implemented for the economic and social progress of the village people. In addition, 24 development zones have been designated in an equitable ratio in all the states and divisions for development of the various sectors including economic, health and education in the whole nation.

The State Peace and Development Council has laid down and implemented the objectives — Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution, and Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution — for Myanmar to get abreast of the countries of the world, while standing as a modern and developed nation.

Thus, it is a special requirement for the entire national races to strive for the resumption of the National Convention, the main task for the formulation of the new State Constitution, with the existing national solidarity. The State has already declared its seven-point future political programme clearly and openly. The seven points show exactly the way in which all the national races will have to march towards a discipline-flourishing modern and developed democratic nation without fail. The national races who love the country will have to walk straight on the road with full Union Spirit and the spirit of national unity.

Here, I would like to profoundly urge the entire national races to actively and energetically implement the following objectives of the 57th Anniversary Union Day (2004) for emergence of a modern and developed nation in the future, while striving to further strengthen patriotism and Union Spirit:
- For all the 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 the 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 the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme.

ANGON

Moe, Han bid to end title drought in Myanmar

YANGON, 11 Feb — Home heroes Zaw Moe and Kyi Hla Han tied off in the US$ 200,000 Myanmar Open on Thursday to ensure that Myanmar will return to the top of the Southeast Asian golfing world after a long time.

The Myanmar Open is celebrating its ninth year in 2004. Event sponsors include Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd with co-sponsors MAI, Sedona Hotel, Wilson, Grand Slam, Inest, Canon, Maruman, Dagon Beer, MIMS Logistics, Max, UPG and Alpine purified Drinking Water. — MNA

Karatedo team arrives back

YANGON, 11 Feb — Myanmar team won one silver and one bronze at the 6th Senior Karatedo Championship of the Asia Karatedo Federation, held in the People’s Republic of China from 3 to 9 February.

The team, led by Vice-President of Myanmar Karatedo Federation Dr Ye Naing Win, a former Karatedo national selection, arrived back here yesterday evening. Mynaw Oz, Min Aye and Sware were among the team in a first-time karate kata event and Mynaw Oz won bronze in singles kata event. Athletes totalling 256 from 23 countries took part in the championships sponsored by AKF. The team was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by President of MKPF Police Col (Rtd) Khin Maung Tun and executives, officials of the Sports Physical and Education Department and others. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 12 February, 2004

Poppies fields destroyed

YANGON, 11 Feb — Up to 29 January 2004, combined teams have destroyed 5,846.79 acres of poppy fields during the current poppy growing season in various regions. On 27 January, a combined team found and destroyed 13 acres of poppy fields at a plot near Nantpok Creek in Hkamti Township. The members of the Tatmadaw team usually comprises the Tatmadaw local battalions, the Intelligence Unit and the Myanmar Police Force, departmental personnel and local people. — MNA

The Myanmar Karatedo team seen with team leader Dr Ye Naing Win, the manager and the coach. — MNA

The Myanmar Karatedo team seen with team leader Dr Ye Naing Win, the manager and the coach. — MNA
Car bomb kills around 50 south of Baghdad

ISKANDARIYA (Iraq), 11 Feb—About 50 people were killed and dozens wounded on Tuesday when a car bomb ripped through a police station south of Baghdad, witnesses and hospital doctors said.

“There are around 50 martyrs, 30 of whom have been identified, and dozens wounded,” Dr. Tahsim Ahmad told Reuters. At Iskandariya Hospital, near the site of the attack.

The hospital’s director, Razak Jamabi, said: “Thirty deads have been brought here. I believe that number is rising. I believe it’s at 49.”

A Reuters reporter counted at least 20 bodies outside a hospital in the small town of Iskandariya, 25 miles south of Baghdad. “It was a car (bomb) that was parked outside the station,” policeman Sadeq Khodair told Reuters. It brought down part of the building and the court house.

US troops cordoned off all roads leading to the blast site.

A suicide bomber blew himself up outside the house of a US-backed tribal leader in the restive town of Ramadi west of Baghdad earlier on Tuesday, wounding four bodyguards.

The attacks followed a pattern of targeting Iraqis seen as collaborators with the US occupation.

A twin suicide bombing exploded outside a hospital in Iskandariya, where a car bomb exploded. At least 55 people were killed and 65 wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a pick-up truck packed with explosives outside a police station south of Baghdad crowded with civilians.

India-Pakistan talks to focus on agenda, structure of dialogue

ISLAMABAD, 11 Feb—Pakistan on Monday said the three-day official level talks between India and Pakistan beginning here from February 16 would focus on agenda, structure of the dialogue and address the future course of action to be taken by both the countries.

“Since they are resuming talks after a long time, they will have to look at agenda and structure of talks and future course of action,” Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said. He said both the countries would hope “to define the ground rules and prepare ourselves for more comprehensive and substantive talks.”

We have to see the ambit of these talks and their scope. We have to sit together and negotiate. "Hope this round of talks would be successful and pave the way for other rounds in which we can focus more substantially on outstanding issues," he said while answering a question. —MNA/PTI

India to undertake conservation of Cambodian temple

NEW DELHI, 11 Feb—Conservation of the ancient Ta Prohm Temple in Cambodia has been entrusted to the Archaeological Survey of India, which will undertake the work in six phases beginning this year at an estimated cost of five million US dollars.

The task spread over 10 years is being undertaken in response to repeated requests to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee from the Royal Government of Cambodia and follows an agreement signed between the two countries during Vajpayee’s visit to that country in 2002.

The project envisages conservation of not only the stones and monument, but also of the age-old tree structures enveloping them and the surrounding environment in harmony with nature, an official release said here quoting Culture Secretary Dhanendra Kumar who is in Cambodia. —MNA/PTI

532 US service members killed since beginning of war in Iraq

BAQOUBA, 11 Feb—As of Tuesday, 10 February, 532 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 372 died as a result of hostile action and 160 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

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

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 594 US soldiers have died—257 as a result of hostile action and 137 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. Since the start of military operations, 2,617 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Department of Defense. —Staff Sgt Richard P Ramsey, 27, Canton, Ohio, killed by an explosive Sunday in Mahmoudiya, Iraq, assigned to the 703rd Ordinance Company, Fort Knox, Ky, supporting the 82nd Airborne Division. —Internet

Chinese, Vanuatu FM hold talks

BEIJING, 11 Feb—Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Vanuatu counterpart Moana Carcasses held talks Tuesday, exchanging views on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Li said China-Vanuatu relations maintained good momentum and the two countries had expanded their exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

The Chinese Government believed that the two countries would boost high-level exchanges, expand cooperation in trade and economy and increase coordination and cooperation in regional and international organizations so as to push forward bilateral ties, said Li. —MNA/Xinhua

Arabs complain they are in dark on US reform plans

CAIRO, 11 Feb—The United States has kept most Arab governments in the dark about its plans for the Middle East, now taking shape under the title of the Greater Middle East Initiative, Arab diplomats and officials said on Tuesday.

The way Washington has handled the initiative so far has added to Arab feeling that the Bush Administration is planning a future for the region behind their backs, they said.

US officials said they want European support for the initiative in readiness to announce it in June when the Group of Eight leaders hold their annual summit, hosted this year by US President George W. Bush at Sea Island, Georgia. The Group of Eight does not include any Arab countries.

Arab governments have read about the proposals from the media or through public statements by US officials, although US Secretary of State Colin Powell did discuss them on Monday with Crown Prince Sheikh Salman bin Hamad of Bahrain.

“The Arab leaders feel their future is on the table at a time when they themselves are not sitting around that table. They find that rather disturbing,” said one Arab diplomat, who asked not to be named.

“Whenever a group of countries is being talked about or having their future planned for them, without them being consulted, that’s not something that people would accept wholeheartedly. In fact, quite the contrary,” said another Arab official, who also asked not to be named.

The latest version of the initiative includes offering possible trade deals, political engagement and military support for countries that reform, US officials said on Monday.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Harii said on Tuesday that the gravest part of the US initiative was that the Arabs were not part of it so far.

“The Arab nations and its leaders must know what’s being planned…so they can take the appropriate position,” he told reporters in Cairo. —MNA/Reuters

Internet

Map of Iraq locating Iskandariya, where a car bomb exploded outside a police station on 10 Feb, 2004 killing at least 45 people. —Reuters
Kay says no point in searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb—The former chief of the group of experts responsible for finding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, David Kay, said there was no point in continuing to hunt for them saying “really did not exist.”

“I think finding them is probably the wrong approach, the wrong strategy,” Kay told a news conference.

“Iraq is as large California, Baghdad is as large as LA (Los Angeles). Have you looked every possible place? The answer to that question is always going to be no. My confident prediction is that 20 years from now, maybe 50 years from now, people will still be digging things up in Iraq,” he said.

When you “look for the production processes, learn where they have been produced, look for the people that have been involved in that production, look for the records... pretty soon you reach the conclusion they really did not exist,” he said.

“My personal conclusion is that there were no large stockpiles of chemical and biological weaponized materials,” he said.

Kay resigned in January and has blamed intelligence failures, not political leaders, for the much-publicized accusations that Saddam possessed chemical and biological weapons and sought nuclear arms — the core of President George W Bush’s case for war.

Annan concerned about divisions among Iraqis

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Feb—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed concern Monday over divisions among Iraqis about a system to assume power from the US-led occupation this summer.

But he said the UN electoral team, which arrived in Baghdad on Saturday to study whether elections can be held before the transfer of power on June 30, had been well-received and was speaking to a spectrum of Iraqis.

Annan told reporters and later the UN Security Council on Monday that he expected the group, led by senior adviser, Lakhdar Brahimi, to finish its work in about a week, and that he would make his recommendations before the end of February.

“I am concerned that there is no consensus yet on the best way to handle the transition,” Annan told a closed meeting of the Security Council.

“There are many Iraqis who are calling for elections before June 30, others disagree and prefer other options for choosing the members of Iraq transitional institutions,” he said, according to his speaking notes.

He said he made clear there is no single “right way” but that Iraqis themselves should agree on a plan.

Annan said the UN team would meet Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the influential and reclusive leader of Iraq’s Shites, who make up 60 per cent of the population.

He said he made clear there is no single “right way” but that Iraqis themselves should agree on a plan.

Annan said the UN team would meet

Indonesia estimates to import 200,000 tons of rice in 2004

JAKARTA, 11 Feb—Indonesia is expected to import about 200,000 tons of rice in 2004, significantly lower than in 2003, the head of the Indonesian State Logistics Agency (Bulog) said on Tuesday.

Last year Indonesia imported 655,126 tons of rice. The initial estimation for this year’s stock is 1.9 million tons and domestic supply is two million tons, the president-director of the agency Widjanarko Puspoyo said.

In the next year, the domestic supply and distribution would be similar to the figures of this year, he said, adding “the volume of rice import in 2005 will also be 200,000 tons.”

However, he said that the estimation for 2005 was still tentative and would also be affected by the domestic supply and stock at the end of this year.

The agency forecast the world rice production this year will be 392 million tons, an increase of 80 per cent, while the projection for 2004 is only 212 million tons.

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China to invest heavily in rural development

BEIJING, 11 Feb—China’s central government will set aside a record 150 billion yuan (18.07 billion US dollars) this year as part of its annual budget to buoy rural development.

“The figure will be approximately 30 billion yuan (3.61 billion dollars) more than last year’s spending,” said Chen Xiwu, deputy director of the office of Central Financial Work Leading Group, at a press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council here Monday.

The added money will be used mainly to support rural tax reforms, upgrade ecological conditions, develop education, health care and training for young farmers, build more infrastructural facilities and speed up poverty reduction in rural areas, he said.

The Ministry of Finance has basically passed the budget plan, which was expected to be submitted to the upcoming National People’s Congress in March for deliberation and enforcement, according to Chen.

Mild tremors jolt central Syria

DAMASCUS, 11 Feb—A series of moderate tremors has jolted a largely uninhabited area in central Syria without causing any damage or injuries, the official news agency reported on Monday.

The series of tremors measuring 1.9 to 3.5 on the Richter Scale hit the hilly, desert area 31 miles northeast of the capital Damascus on Sunday, it said.

Syrians not experienced a major earthquake in decades. In the 12th Century, one of the world’s worst earthquakes hit the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, killing 230,000 people.

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UN team in Iraq to wrap up work in a week

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Feb — The work of a UN team studying whether elections are possible in Iraq was going "extremely well" and would wrap up its visit in about a week, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday.

The team arrived in Baghdad on Saturday to see whether elections could be held, as Shiites want, or recommended alternatives for selecting an interim Iraqi government before the US-led coalition relinquishes power on June 30.

US President George W. Bush wants UN help to arrange an early transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis to try to ease the postwar violence in the country and dispel concerns of extended US rule as he faces a tough re-election fight in November.

Annan said the team, led by veteran UN official Lakhdar Brahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, had met with members of the coalition and the Iraqi Governing Council and was now meeting with other Iraqis.

"I think the work of the team is going extremely well," Annan told reporters. "So far, so good. The atmosphere has been good. They have been well received and there's been very good and frank discussions."

"I think they (the team) will be there for a week or so. And I would hope to be able to give my decision to the Governing Council before the end of the month," Annan said.

Annan said Brahimi, the team's leader, would soon meet with Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the influential and reclusive leader of Iraq's Shiites, who make up 60 percent of the population.

Brahimi's presence appeared to indicate the team would do more than fact-finding but negotiate among the Iraqis factions.

"The issue they are dealing with is much, much more than technical and I needed somebody with Mr Brahimi's experience to lead the team," Annan said. Brahimi, whose presence has been kept secret until the last minute, had been reluctant to go. UN officials said on Monday Annan had ordered him to lead the team.

At least 43 people killed in Iranian plane crash

ABU DHABI, 11 Feb — At least 43 people were killed in Iran's passenger plane crash on Tuesday near Sharjah International Airport in the United Arab Emirates, UAE state television reported.

The dead comprised 19 Iranians, 12 Indians, four Egyptians, two Filipinos, two Algerians, one Bangladeshi, one Chinese, one Nigerian and one Syrian, local police quoted the official as saying that 12 of the passengers were Iranians and the rest are foreigners.

According to the UAE state television, a long time of dead bodies were displayed covered by red blankets. Several dead bodies were shown in dramatic footage of the burning fuselage.

Rescue workers wearing surgical masks over their mouths battled through thick black smoke as firemen doused the wreckage with water hoses.

The twin-turboprop Dutch-built Fokker-50 crashed when it was landing at the Sharjah Airport on a flight from its home port Kish Island in southern Iran.

The airplane belongs to Iran's Kish Airlines, which operates daily flights around the Gulf to the island and is used particularly by Iranian tourists and Asian workers who have to leave the UAE briefly to obtain new visas. — MNA/Reuters

Mexicans demand payment from US work programme

MEXICO CITY, 11 Feb — Mexican protesters, many of them over 70 years old, demanded compensation on Monday from a US guest worker programme begun in the 1940s to the 1960s.

Several hundred braceros, workers known as "braceros," demonstrated outside the US Embassy to call for payment of pension money they say was withheld from their salaries when they worked temporarily in the United States from the 1940s to the 1960s.

The ex-workers have stepped up their demands since US President George W. Bush proposed a programme last month that would allow immigrants, most of them Mexicans, to win a three-year temporary work permit.

On Saturday, some 2,000 bracero pensioners, many on horseback, forced their way onto President Vicente Fox's ranch in central Mexico to Press their demands.

The braceros have warned Mexicans to be cautious of the Bush plan, which critics see as a bid to win Hispanic votes in an election year.

They charge both governments with manipulating Mexican workers to help fill

Iraqi newspaper warns UN team of being deceived

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb — Iraq's local newspaper Azzaman on Tuesday warned the UN experts team headed by Al Akhdhar Al Brahimi of being deceived by some political powers.

"Brahimi and his team would not miss distinguishing real intentions so as not to walk into a trap," the newspaper pointed out.

"So as not to be dragged in the deceit set up for him, Brahimi needs to confer with representatives of the silent majority, who are beyond doubt outside the Governing Council," said the paper.

"The call for elections is being used for purposes narrower than the content of the political legitimacy, for some political powers say something and mean something else," it added.

The UN delegation arrived here last Saturday to assess the feasibility of an early election of Iraq's first post-occupation government called by top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Ali-Sistani. The mission has met US Civil Ambassador for Iraq Paul Bremer, members of the Interim Governing Council, and Kurdish leaders. It was expected to travel to the southern city of Basra to meet Al-Sistani himself Thursday before returning to New York.

The mission was also scheduled to send troops to Iraq nor received any such request from the coalition led by the United States, Britain and Spain, Commander Carlos Alberto Ospina said Monday.

Ospina made the remarks at a Press conference in response to recent foreign reports about possible dispatch of Colombian troops to Iraq.

Colombian public forces have more than 200,000 troops actually carrying out a massive offensive against illegal armed groups and thus no troops are available for deployment in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing to restore 16 ancient bridges

BEIJING, 11 Feb — Sixteen bridges in Imperial Yuanmingyuan garden, or the old Summer Palace in the northwest of Beijing, are expected to get repaired and restored this year, according to the garden's administration.

The garden, built from 1709 onwards, featured an imposing and ingenious amalgamation of traditional Chinese garden art and Western architecture. It was burnt down by Anglo-French Allied Forces in 1860.

After repeated discussions, experts last year inspected the remains of 30 stone and wooden bridges in the garden. Some of the dilapidated bridges were found to be still in good shape and could be repaired, Beijing Daily reported recently.

Zong Tianliang, deputy director of the Yuanmingyuan Garden Research Office, said that the 16 bridges to be repaired this year include the "Green Wave Bridge", which was the garden's only bridge bearing an inscription from Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). — MNA/Xinhua

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The garden, built from 1709 onwards, featured an imposing and ingenious amalgamation of traditional Chinese garden art and Western architecture. It was burnt down by Anglo-French Allied Forces in 1860.

After repeated discussions, experts last year inspected the remains of 30 stone and wooden bridges in the garden. Some of the dilapidated bridges were found to be still in good shape and could be repaired, Beijing Daily reported recently.

Zong Tianliang, deputy director of the Yuanmingyuan Garden Research Office, said that the 16 bridges to be repaired this year include the “Green Wave Bridge”, which was the garden’s only bridge bearing an inscription from Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). — MNA/Xinhua
US and its allies invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003 and they continue to occupy the country. Following the invasion, Iraqi people have to face many difficulties and remains hopeless.

Loss of Iraqi people due to US invasion of Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths resulting from cluster bomb</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children deaths (From March to September 2003)</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraqi deaths due to air strikes (From March to September 2003)</td>
<td>1169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths due to indiscriminate shooting of US and allies forces</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraqi deaths during US-led war against Iraq (From March 2003 to January 2004)</td>
<td>9896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraqi servicemen deaths during the US-led war against Iraq</td>
<td>about 10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate cost for rebuilding Iraq</td>
<td>$ 49.1 bn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost of antiques from Archaeological Museum</td>
<td>about 3000 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An unexploded bomb lies in a crater in middle of the Granada primary school in the Germa Ali area of Basra, in southern Iraq, on 28 May 2003. The school’s 630 pupils, aged between six and 12, attend classes with the bomb lying nearby. The director of the school said they have informed the British military but the bomb has not been removed.

A ransacked and looted Iraq’s largest archaeological museum in Baghdad. Antiques experts charged US troops in failing to protect priceless artifacts and sites from vandals.

Smoke billows from a large explosion that rocked Baghdad, Iraq during air raids of US forces against early, on 31 March, 2003.

A house in downtown Baghdad seen destroyed in an overnight missile attack on 30 March, 2003 by US forces.

Fire and black smoke rise from the gas-oil plant in southern Iraq Rumeila oil fields outside Baghdad on 1 May, 2003. The smoke causes air pollution and soil contamination.

A house in downtown Baghdad seen destroyed in an overnight missile attack on 30 March, 2003 by US forces.

Kathim Jawad Al-Jhelian looks at the damage in his house after British troops raided his house at four in the morning on 25 May 2003 in downtown Basra. The troops suspected him of having weapons in his home. They arrested him and let him go after detaining him for seven hours.
Let’s join hands firmly and in unity

Myint Soe (Na Ta La)

From Inlon Innan to national unity
I am interested in the Inlon Innan.

The most interesting part is reverberations of the Inlon Innan or the harvesting festival from the lawns of the Malikha Villa, the venue of the festival, in Myitkyina in that particular evening. The Inlon Innan represents unity and is the symbol of peace. It is a festival extending warm and cordial relations among the people.

The Nyein Foundation hosted a dinner marking the Kachin traditional Inlon Innan festival on the lawns of the villa in Myitkyina at 7 on 29 December 2003. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner. Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander of Northern Command, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, officials, peace negotiators, leader of Kachin State Special Region 1 U Zakon Ting Ring and members, leader of Kachin State Special Region 2 U Lamon Tu Jaing and members, Chairman of the Nyein Foundation Rev Dr Sabwe Jum and members, priests, members of the Baptist Council and special guests.

The participants also included members of the New Mon State Party, Kayan Pyithit Party, Kayinni National Democratic Party and Kayah State National Races Liberation Front, Kayin, Mon, Chin, Kayah and Wa peace negotiators. The festival was participated by various national races.

The songs, including “The brethren of the Union”, “The people who love Myanmar”, “The Union nation” and “Join hands forever” sung by the Kachin traditional cultural troupes to entertain the guests at the ceremony were full of essence.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, “The Government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point future policy programme for the non-disintegration and the perpetuation of the Union; and for long-lasting of the national unity and the essence of the Union family.

“I would like to urge all the national races to collectively join hands to successfully implement the seven-point future political programme to maintain and enhance the peace, prosperity, unity and progress that are flourishing in the Union; and for the ever firmness of the Union, based on Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity.”

In his new year greetings, U Lamon Tu Jaing said, “Let’s join hands in unity, goodwill and sincerity, regardless of the faith and race, to usher into the new year, while keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes. U Zakon Ting Ring also extended new year greetings, saying,” I firmly believe that the Union of Myanmar will become the most peaceful, developed and united nation in the world if the politicians also join hands with the Tatmadaw, as we all the national races are joining hands with the State, in ensuring peace and development in the entire nation. It is hoped that as the endeavours are being made under the leadership of the State for ensuring food, clothing and shelter and peace and prosperity for the nationalities, the entire national races will surely enjoy the fruits of the endeavours.”

In their new year address, the Kachin leaders have pledged to uphold Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty, expressing their confidence in the State’s leadership and the Tatmadaw.

Let’s join hands firmly

In reality the peace groups already have trust in Our Three Main National Causes, as they hand in hand with the Government are able to restore national consolidation. In this regard, they have heartily welcomed the seven-point future policy programme of the State laid down by the Prime Minister. Moreover, the peace groups including those from other regions have pledged to collectively take part in implementing the political programme. The following table shows the names of the national race groups together with the date on which it met with the Prime Minister and made pledges to take part in the task:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mon State Party</td>
<td>21.8.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan State (North) Special Region 2</td>
<td>17.11.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan State (North) Special Region 3</td>
<td>22.11.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachin State Special Region 2</td>
<td>29.11.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachin State Special Region 1</td>
<td>5.12.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayan Pyithit Party</td>
<td>25.12.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan State (South) Special Region 6</td>
<td>27.12.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa-O National Organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayah State Special Region 2</td>
<td>3.1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan State All National Races</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberation Front</td>
<td>7.1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachin State Special Region 1</td>
<td>9.1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan National Race Group (Shwepyi Aye)</td>
<td>14.1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan State (North) Special Region 1</td>
<td>19.1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan State (North) Special Region 5</td>
<td>22.1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan State (North) Special Region 7</td>
<td>23.1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rakhine Race Representative Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ausnseeya Peace Village</td>
<td>27.1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other national race groups are going to support the political programme.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During their meeting with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, who is also the Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, the national race groups also presented plans to accelerate the anti-narcotics drive, the areas where Government assistance is required and their work programmes.

The Government has been launching the border areas and national races development drive for nearly 14 years since 1989.

It has been launching the drive in the border regions including Kachin State Special Region 1, Kachin State Special Region 2, Kokang region, Wa region, Shan region, Palung region, Kachin North-East region, Kengtung East region, Mawpha region, Pa-O region, Kayah region, Mon region, Kayin region, Taninthayi region, Rakhine region, Chin region, Naga region, and Kabaw valley region, spending a total of K 50,245.75 million up to 31 December 2003.

In addition to the regional development undertakings, the national race peace groups are launching the anti-drug drive. With the aim of extending local distribution and exports, they are extending cultivation of annual and perennial alternative crops and finished-foods production.

Perpetuation of the Union

The Government has been laying down and implementing the border areas and national races development programmes in order to safeguard the national races from falling into the alien deception that may cause doubts and disunity, and to further strengthen the national solidarity and Union Spirit through harmonious progress of all regions.

The entire national races have unanimously supported the seven-point future policy programme of the State. The national race groups have not only welcomed the programme, but also made pledges to actively take part in the task to implement it.

All the national races have taken part in restoring peace in the entire nation, based on the national unity and Union Spirit; joined hands for regional development; and welcomed and supported the future policy programme.

Hence, we fully believe that they are sure to work in unity for the success of the policy programme for the perpetuation of the Union. They all are standing in firm unity.

***

(Translation: TMT)
Marching toward Golden Land in unity and amity

Hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day:

Rural areas to be established in building nation

In building a nation, rural areas are to be built first, then, township, district, state, division and up to central level. Rural area is a very basic one and nationalities in rural areas are the most basic. Rural areas are to be established in building a nation. If the foundation of a building is good, it will last long. The whole Union is to be established from rural areas.

Senior General Than Shwe
State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief
(From guidance given to trainees of No 35 Primary Teachership Course of University for Development of National Races)

Development images of the entire nation in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

After taking up the State responsibilities, the State Peace and Development Council constructing national solidarity has been striving for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In the process, the Government has given first priority to tasks for development of border areas and national races. Then, it has been implementing the plans after designating the 24 special development regions for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation. It has placed special emphasis on the five rural development tasks for development of rural people that make up 70 per cent of the nation’s population.

Now, thanks to the combined efforts of the Government and the people, the nation has enjoyed such fruitful results as harmonious development between rural and urban areas, better transport, health, education and economic sectors.

Agriculture & Irrigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddy output (million basket)</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivable land (acre)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2000000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water pumping station</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation facility</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam under construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The building of digital auto-exchange under the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications that was opened in Kawhmu on 8-2-2004.

Electric power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units used (million)</td>
<td>2226.45</td>
<td>5064.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum power (megawatt)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power plant (megawatt)</td>
<td>706.82</td>
<td>1219.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230 KV grid (mile)</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132 KV grid (mile)</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>1165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydropower plant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas factory (under construction)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power plant project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinic</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural health centre</td>
<td>1337</td>
<td>1404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional health centre</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional clinic</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarred road (mile)</td>
<td>5543</td>
<td>8398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel road (mile)</td>
<td>1569</td>
<td>3194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (above 180 feet)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad (mile)</td>
<td>2793</td>
<td>3897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport for jets</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Communication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post office</td>
<td>1115</td>
<td>1307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegraph office</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone line</td>
<td>67016</td>
<td>342317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular phone system</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital European Cordless</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications System</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDMA telephone (Fixed)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Mobile)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) under construction seen from Mottama bank on 29-1-2004. On completion, the facility will be the longest bridge in Myanmar.

The outpatient ward of Haka People’s Hospital in Chin State.

Power Intake under construction at Paunglaung Dam Project.
Energy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV retransmission station</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPRD office and library</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library (self-reliance)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub-printing house

- Mandalay - 1
- Taunggyi - 1
- Magway - 1
- Kale - 1
- Myitkyina - 1
- Sittway - 1

**Border area development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State-owned factory &amp; mill</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative factory &amp; mill</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private factory &amp; mill</td>
<td>39159</td>
<td>44749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural factory &amp; mill</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Industry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<th>2004</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TV retransmission station</td>
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<td>IPRD office and library</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub-printing house

- Mandalay - 1
- Taunggyi - 1
- Magway - 1
- Kale - 1
- Myitkyina - 1
- Sittway - 1

**Rural development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEHS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>at least 3 schools in 5 villages each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural health centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural housing estate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural water supply</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural road (mile)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock breeding (chicken, pig)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3529</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Mandalay
2. Myingyan
3. Yangon East
4. Yangon West
5. Yangon South
6. Yangon North
7. Meiktila
8. Myaungmya
9. Hinthada
10. Mawlamyine

**Mechanized farming**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude oil barrel (thousand)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil pipeline on land (mile)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas pipeline on land (mile)</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>1401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas pipeline offshore (mile)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil &amp; gas field</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Production of farm machinery & implements**

- Power tillers
- Combined harvesters
- Tractors
- Water pumps
- Trailers for general purpose
- Ploughing blades
- Small farming trucks
- Farm tools

**Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEHS</td>
<td>33747</td>
<td>40049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University, college</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical institute</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of computer studies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace engineering</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>university</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime university</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological college</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Information**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>1988</th>
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**Energy**

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<tr>
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<td>Oil &amp; gas field</td>
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<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mogaung Bridge opened …
(from page 1)

Transport facilities have ensured direct links between the regions and enhanced understanding and unity among the national races. In addition to transport sector of Kachin State, health and education facilities have been built in the region. Institutions of higher learning have been built in all important places including Bhamo and Mohnayin in addition to Myitkyina.

One 300-bed hospital, one 200-bed district level hospital, one 100-bed hospital, five 50-bed hospitals, three 25-bed hospitals, the 25-bed drug rehabilitation hospital, and 30 16-bed hospitals have been built in the state. A midwifery training school and a nurses training school have also been built.

Thanks to the transport, health and education infrastructures, Kachin State has been achieving significant progress. Sown area of the state has reached 560,000 acres at present from 360,000 acres in the past. Cultivation of edible oil crops, beans and pulses and other crops have been extended.

There are now six dams, four diversion weirs and a nurses training school and a nurses training school have also been built.

The government undertook various road projects for development of Kachin State in two ways—accelerating the completion of roads. The Mogaung Bridge was upgraded to all-weather road and bridges have improved, one and half years. As roads and bridges have improved, people can now travel to Kachin State in two ways—on both east and west banks of Ayeawady River.

He said the government implemented road and bridge projects for development of Kachin State. He urged local people to maintain the roads and bridges for durability.

Next, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally opened the bridge.

The Secretary-1 formally unveiled stone inscription of the bridge and walked on the bridge and greeted local people.

The reinforced-concrete bridge, 945 feet long and 21 feet and six inches wide, was built on Nankaung Creek and it has four feet wide walkway on each side. Clearance of the bridge is 140 feet wide and 10 feet high. It can withstand 60 tons of load. Among the bridge which are over 180 feet and above, it is the 167th one after 1988. Construction started on 27-6-2002.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun spoke on the occasion. He said Public Works is implementing the tasks for ensuring better transport in Kachin State. There were 1,471 miles of roads in Kachin State in 1988 and now there are 1,596 miles of roads. The Mogaung Bridge is the 10th bridge which is over 180 feet and above. It was constructed in one and half years. As roads and bridges have improved, people can now travel to Kachin State in two ways—on both east and west banks of Ayeawady River.

He said the government implemented road and bridge projects for development of Kachin State. He urged local people to maintain the roads and bridges for durability.

Myanmar and Ireland establish diplomatic relations

YANGON, 12 Feb—The Union of Myanmar and Ireland, desirous of establishing mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and on Consular Relations, decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at Ambassadorial level with effect from 10 February 2004.

The agreement to establish diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and Ireland was signed by the Ambassadors of the two countries in Kuala Lumpur on 10 February 2004.—MNA

Union day delegates tour Yangon

YANGON, 11 Feb—The 57th Anniversary Union Day Exhibition, organized by 57th Anniversary Union Day Organizing Sub-committee, continued for the fourth day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall today. The exhibition was crowded with members of the Sangha, students, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and people, totalling 3,439. Students took part in the Computer Quiz. Book stalls of News and Periodicals Enterprise and Sarpy Beikman sell various kinds of books.

The exhibition will be kept open without charge from 9 am to 5 pm daily till 16 February.—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the opening of Mogaung Bridge in Mogaung Township.—MNA
Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kywe Tint salutes Union Flag at sportsground in Hinethaya Township. (News on page 16.)

Commander hosts dinner to Union Day delegates

YANGON, 11 Feb — Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials of the command hosted dinner in honour of the cultural troupe members and delegates to the 57th Anniversary Union Day from states and divisions at their homes today. Chairman of the 57th Anniversary Union Day Organization Management Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Hway and family hosted dinner to five Union Day delegates from Taninathyi Division at their home.

The delegates presented local products as gifts to the family. Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, tactical operation commanders and officials hosted dinner to cultural troupe members and 71 delegates, who are members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, at their homes. — MNA

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship winners announced

YANGON, 11 Feb — The Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Fund Supervisory Committee of the Ministry of Education announced the list of outstanding students in 2002-2003 matriculation examination and outstanding Myanmar major students who passed the exam in 2001 matriculation exam.

Scholarship winners: Ma May Thu Kyaw, daughter of U Than Kyaw of Insein BEHS No 1; Ma Ei Mon Win, daughter of U Nyo Win of South Okkalapa BEHS No 3; Ma Khaing Thet Hsu, daughter of U Kyi Soe of Kamayut BEHS No 2; Ma Zune Myo Hsu, daughter of U Than Myo of Chamayetthan BEHS No 1; Ma Khin Thein, first in Chemistry; Ma Kyaw Mhone, daughter of U Thaung Myint of Dagon University, U Zin Nyein Htet, sons of U Thein Than of Dagon University and Ma Tun Phyo Thwe, daughter of U Thaung Myint of Dagon University won Myanmar scholarship awards.

Those who have won the awards are contact Education Planning and Training Department (Tel: 554314) as soon as possible and awards will be presented to the winners in conjunction with the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award presentation ceremony to be held in Pakokku on 22 February morning. — MNA

MWAF officials meet executives of Divisional Organization for Women's Affairs

YANGON, 11 Feb — Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw May Myo Y and Daw Than Nwe met executives of Magway Division Organization for Women's Affairs at No 88 LID on 9 February.

Present were Secretary of MWAF Dr Daw San Shwe, leaders of working group Daw Mya Mya, Professor Daw Min Thet Mon and Daw Kyi Kyi Mya, members of supporting group, Director-General of General Administration Department U Mya Ko, executives of Magway Division Organization for Women's Affairs and officials of Magway Division Support Group for Women's Affairs.

Vice-President 1 Dr Daw May Myo Y explained the purpose of their tour. Division Commissioner U Aung Win reported on work done on eight sectors of the Working Group. Secretary Dr Daw San Shwe explained about organizational set-up of the federation and procedures for membership. Vice-President Daw Than Nwe explained about national races affairs. Leader of information group Daw Mya Mya about organization, discipline, finance and administration and Daw Kyi Kyi Mya about rehabilitation group. — MNA

Minister tours Saw, Htilin, Gangaw townships

YANGON, 11 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hswon paid homage to Saw Township Sangha Nayaka Committe Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Naninda at Thiri Ottamayama Monastery, Saw, on 7 February and supplicated on religious affairs. At Yamwintya U Bo Hlaing Hall in Saw, the minister met with departmental officials and local people and explained endeavours and accomplishments of the State, rural development tasks and seven-step road map of the State. Next, he presented K 200,000 for Saw Township USDA, text books and exercise books for students, periodicals to village libraries and clothes and soap for local people to officials. On arrival at Youth Development Parahita School in Kangyi village, the minister paid homage to the Sayadaw and supplicated on religious affairs. He then presented donations to officials. The minister next clarified undertakings of the State in education, agriculture and transport sectors and urged them to extend agricultural and livestock breeding tasks. While in Kyauktat high school, the minister met local people and presented gifts for the school and local people to officials. In the afternoon, he toured Lesaw, Kyee, Aung and Tharakhia villages. On 8 February morning, he paid reverence to member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Bhaddanta Adeja in Htilin. At Htilin BEHS, the minister met departmental personnel, local people and students. He then presented gifts for local people to officials. The minister visited Hlaingon and Ponna villages. Then, he viewed tasks of self-reliant hydel power worksite on Maw Creek near Hlaingon Village. At the worksite, the 200 feet long dam will be installed with 15-kilowatt turbine. Afterwards, the minister met with local people in Wetthet, Hsaymindaw and Nyangylone villages. During his inspection tour, the minister urged officials to carry out development tasks of Saw, Htilin and Gangaw townships and attended to their needs. — MNA

WFWP gifts for MMCWA

YANGON, 11 Feb — Women’s Federation for World Peace of Japan presented two sweater knitting machines and 30 first aid boxes to the MMCWA.

Chairperson of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted the gifts from Mrs Fumi Kanytawaya and Mrs Sachiko Akao of the WFWP at the meeting hall of MMCWA. After presenting certificates of honour to the donors, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke words of thanks. Vice-Chairpersons Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and executives and WFWP members were also present. — MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepts cash and kind for Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated by an official of a Japanese NGO. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Huan meets local people in Tharakha village, Htilin. — MNA

Minister tours Saw, Htilin, Gangaw townships
South Africa to write off debt of several African nations

CAPE TOWN (South Africa), 11 Feb—The South African Government said here on Monday that it is considering writing off the debt owed it by several African countries.

Foreign Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said in a Press briefing at the Parliament that the debt dated from the apartheid era, before the first democratic elections in 1994, and was granted by the previous government.

She told the media that the countries involved included the Central African Republic, Gabon and Mozambique, but there were others as well.

It did not appear there was any chance of getting the money back, and writing off the debt could be the best way to deal with the issue, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

India says various economic blocs in region are inter-linked

PUSA (Thailand), 11 Feb—Describing as “positive” its role in integrating the region, India has said the economic groupings in South and Southeast Asia, including ASEAN and BIMSTEC, are inter-linked and not overlapping each other.

“They are all interlinked, not overlapping each other and India wholly supports the role of positive movement in the region,” Commerce Minister Arun Jaitely told PTI.

His view was shared by External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha who said although a certain amount of overlapping was inevitable “it only intensifies but not duplicates...you are not repeating in another context”.

Both Sinha and Jaitely were in this island resort of Phuket, which Thailand calls a “pearl in the Andaman sea”, for the BIMSTEC ministerial meeting.

The latest development on economic front in the region is the Framework Agreement on Free Trade Area among countries of BIMSTEC grouping which comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal.

Terming India’s role in integrating the region “positive”, Jaitely said “we are keen on a positive movement in the area” and the signing of the Framework Agreement is a step forward.

He said “four old (India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar) and two new members (Nepal and Bhutan) have signed this agreement”.

Thai Foreign Minister Surakat Sathirathai also said by tying together overlapping sub-regional frameworks not only will the BIMSTEC serve as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia but also effectively link the Bay of Bengal with the South China Sea via Andaman—MNA/PTI

Nigeria signs $13.1b debt rescheduling agreements

ABUJA, 11 Feb—The Nigerian Federal Government has signed nine debt rescheduling agreements worth more than $13.14 billion since 2002, an official from the Debt Management Office in the capital Abuja said Monday.

According to the official, the rescheduling agreements were signed with Britain, Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, France, the United States, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and Austria.

The official who refused to be identified disclosed that negotiations were still ongoing with Russia while the rescheduling agreement with Finland was ready for signature.

The official said that Nigeria and Italy were yet to conclude the reconciliation of debt data as a prelude to the signing of agreements between them.

The official said Nigeria paid up all its debt arrears to

Israel in January 2002.

The rescheduling of the debt, the official said, would open doors for credit agencies to offer credit finance for imports to Nigeria in the drive to boost the real sector of the economy.

According to Nigerian official statistics, the nation’s total external debt increased from $28.3 billion in December 2001 to $30.9 billion in December 2002.

The increase in the debt profile was due essentially to the fall of the dollar against other international currencies, particularly the euro.

The jump in the nation’s debt stock was also attributable to unpaid interest and charges following the 2001 Supreme Court judgment removing debt service as a first line charge from the federation account.

MNA/Xinhua

Bush’s spokesman testifies in leak probe

St. Louis (Missouri), 11 Feb—US President George W. Bush’s Press secretary said on Monday that he had testified before a federal grand jury investigating the leak of an undercover CIA officer’s name.

“I am just doing my part to cooperate fully with the investigation,” Scott McClellan told reporters covering Bush’s trip to Missouri.

“President has made it clear that no one wants to get to the bottom of it more than he does.” A federal grand jury in Washington is investigating the leak of the identity of CIA officer Valerie Plame to a syndicated newspaper columnist Robert Novak last year.

Plame’s husband, former diplomat Joseph Wilson, has accused administration officials of leaking her name in retaliation for his challenge to one of the reasons cited by Bush for going to war against Iraq. Wilson went to Niger early in 2002 at the CIA’s request to assess a report that Iraq had tried to buy uranium from Niger.

MNA/Reuters

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG 762/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG 762/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 11-2-2004 and will be berthing on about 12-2-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 Noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE

MYANNA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (403)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG Voy No (403) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: MS EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

MNA/Reuters

Kenya to translocate 400 elephants

NAROKI, 11 Feb—Kenya will translocate 400 elephants from Shamba Hills to Northern Tsavo National Park in July this year to release increasing conflict between human and wildlife. Local newspaper East African Standard said on Monday that residents of Kilifi District in Coast Province, where the 192.5-square-kilometre Shamba Hills National Reserve is located, have blamed the acute food shortage in the area to massive invasion by elephants. —MNA/Xinhua
China pledges utmost efforts to protect farmland

BEIJING, 11 Feb—The Chinese Government will exercise utmost efforts to protect its precious farmland for the benefits of farmers, a senior official said here Monday.

Chen Xiwen, deputy director of the office of Central Financial Work Leading Group, told a Press conference China would strictly control the acquisitions of farmland and protect the interests of farmers.

To fulfill those two major objectives, China has to implement stringent rules and regulations on the acquisition and use of farmland, especially on those used for profit-making purposes, Chen added.

The latest official statistics show that about 173,000 and 187,000 hectares of farmland will be occupied for various construction projects every year if China increases its urbanization rate by 15 to 16 percentage points by the Year 2020. Those who take over farmer’s land have the responsibility to take care of the employment and social welfare issues of those farmers, stressed Chen.

Sensing the urgency of raising farmers’ income, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued a document on policies for boosting the growth in the income of farmers last Sunday.

According to the document, China will accelerate its reform process of the acquisition system of national soil and adopt higher compensation standards for the farmers if the acquisition is for commercial purposes.

Some policies for the reform of the land acquisition system will be promulgated within this year, said Chen, adding that the country’s legislature has been amended to meet the requirements.

Beijing US labour official to visit Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 11 Feb—US Department of Labour’s International Labour Affairs Arnold L. Levine will visit Sri Lanka this week, the US Embassy said in a statement Monday.

During his visit, Levine will discuss labour issues, including the importance of labour in international trade with Sri Lankan officials.

He will meet with government, labour and international organizations and tour various factories to learn more about sector conditions and standards in Sri Lanka, the statement said.

Levine will also visit projects funded by the US Department of Labour.

New “Doomjuice” worm targets Microsoft

SEATTLE, 11 Feb—A new worm dubbed “Doomjuice” targeting Microsoft Corp’s website emerged on Monday on Internet, which security experts said slowed parts of the software maker’s home page.

Doomjuice, which some are describing as a variant of the MyDoom worm, spreads via e-mail systems already infected with the first version, which became the fastest-spread virus ever when it was unleashed on the Internet at the end of January.

“Looking for machines that are compromised by MyDoom.A or B,” said Vincent Gullotto, vice president of the Anti-virus Response team at Network Associates Inc. He said it was not spreading as rapidly as the initial MyDoom worms.

Because Doomjuice spreads directly between infected computers, rather than via e-mail, experts said it would not be as difficult to stop as a variant of MyDoom, which accounted for as many as one in five emails at its peak in late January. Some computer security companies and Microsoft have taken to describing Doomjuice as a variant of MyDoom, naming it “MyDoomC.”

The MyDoom worm, as well as its variant B, were designed to entice e-mail recipients to click open an attachment, which then installed malicious software on a personal computer. The worms then infected infected PCs to flood the Web sites of the SCO Group Inc. and Microsoft in an effort to shut them down. Experts, who said experts was most likely created by the same author as MyDoom.A, noted that Microsoft signed to flood Microsoft’s web site for request for data in an effort to bring it down, an attack known as a distributed denial of service.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft said that “all Microsoft’s customers need to take steps that are stable and available to customers.” Security experts noted, however, that Microsoft’s web site was slower and was intermittently unavailable over the weekend.

US company says cloned cells repair mouse hearts

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb—Stem cells taken from cloned mice were able to regenerate heart muscles damaged by heart attacks by forming tiny blood vessels and heart muscle cells, corporate researchers said on Monday.

The cloned cells repaired the damage more efficiently and more quickly than so-called adult stem cells taken from bone marrow, the team Advanced Cell Technology (ACT) in Massachusetts reported. “We restored myo- cardiac function and replaced 40 percent of the scar tissue,” Dr Robert Lanza, chief medical officer for ACT, said in a telephone interview.

“This is the first paper to show that cloned stem cells can repair damaged tissue in vivo (in a living animal),” Lanza, whose team published its findings in the American Heart Association’s Journal Circulation Research, said the cloning process seemed to have rejuvenated the cells.

Their study will add ammunition to the argument that cloning technology offers the promise of being superior to other forms of stem cell research. Stem cells are the body’s master cells, giving rise to every tissue. They exist in all tissue and blood and adult stem cells are rare and difficult to redirect.

For instance, it may be possible to get a blood cell to become brain tissue, but it requires many steps and much manipulation. Another avenue involves using embryonic stem cells, which have yet to differentiate into tissue. They have the potential to become any kind of cell but are much harder to control.

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Uganda wins award for 2003 measles immunization programme

KAMPALA, 11 Feb—Ugandan Health Minister Jim Muwonge has said that the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations has awarded Uganda 4.3 million US dollars and a certificate for its successful 2003 measles immunization programme.

Muwonge was quoted Tuesday by local official media as saying that the success would get more donors to fund other diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria.

The minister attributed the success to the teamwork by all stakeholders involved in the health sector.

South Africa to invite tenders for AIDS drugs

CAPE TOWN, 11 Feb—South Africa will invite tenders on Friday from pharmaceutical companies providing anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) to combat HIV/AIDS as it grows over delays in the rollout of the programme.

South Africa has the highest number of HIV/AIDS cases in the world, with an estimated 5.3 million of its 45 million population infected with the virus.

Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang said tenders in Cape Town on Monday that notices would appear in major newspapers and a government bulletin.

President Thabo Mbeki’s Government decided in November to offer public health treatment for HIV sufferers, but criticism grows over delays in the rollout of the programme.

President Thabo Mbeki’s Government decided in November to offer public health treatment for HIV sufferers, but activists have criticized delays in starting the scheme. Tshabalala-Msimang denied the government was dragging its feet. Preliminary work needed to be done, including the training of doctors to manage provision of the medicines, she said.

In January, South Africa’s National AIDS Programme began providing drugs to about 50,000 people in 2004, rising to as many as 1.4 million people by 2009.

The total ARV budget will rise from 42.43 million US dollars this year to 631.3 million US dollars in 2009. — Reuters
Amateurs引来出战

Paris, 11 Feb—— Holders AJ Auxerre were dumped out of the French Cup on Tuesday after they were beaten 1-0 by fourth division side Brive in the third round.

The Ligue 1 club had not conceded a goal in their nine previous games this year, but amateur defender Manuel Debay broke through the Burgundy team’s defence in the 53rd minute. By contrast Paris St German, beaten by Auxerre in last year’s Cup final, dismissed another fourth division team by winning 2-0 at Bayonne.

Auxerre’s only previous defeat in 2004 had been in the League Cup semi-finals last week when Nantes won on penalties after the game had ended in a goalless draw following extra-time.

Impressive since the start of the season, Auxerre were uncharacteristically clumsy in front of the 14,000 Brive supporters.

Djibril Cisse, the Ligue 1 leading goalscorer, found the net two minutes before the break but his goal was disallowed for being offside.

Two minutes before the final whistle, Cisse had another goal denied. It was Auxerre’s only chance in an otherwise dull second half. — MNA/Reuters

Henry reaches century to take Arsenal five clear

LONDON, 11 Feb— Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hailed Thierry Henry as “world class” after the prolific striker netted his 100th Premier League goal in scoring twice to help Arsenal to a 2-0 win over Southampton on Tuesday.

Henry’s double to defeat spirited Southamptont-extended Arsenal’s lead at the top of the table to five points over Manchester United.

The Frenchman, who scored his first Premier League goal against Southampton in September 1999, reached the milestone on 31 minutes before netting again in the last minute to seal the points.

Arsenal, who advanced their club record unbeaten start to the League season to 25 games, have 61 points. On Wednesday, United host League Cup finalists Middlesbrough while Chelsea, in third, visit Portsmouth.

“It was a tough game and Southampton played very well and closed us down well all over the pitch,” Wenger told Sky Sports.

“Overall we kept a clean sheet and that is very positive because we know we can always score another one. It came very late but it was a relief I must say.”

Wenger’s side, which included Spanish striker Jose Antonio Reyes making his first Premier League start in place of injured Dennis Bergkamp, were never allowed to dictate affairs at Highbury.

Robert Pires twice tested Antti Niemi early on but Saints forced a flurry of corners and Lauren was forced to head one off the line.

Henry made the breakthrough when, with a hint of offside, he raced on to a pass from Pires and his shot was strong enough to beat Niemi.

Arsenal keeper Jens Lehmann made two fine saves early in the second half to deny Brett Ormerod and substitute Chris Baird as Saints took the game to the hosts.

But they could not find an equaliser and Henry made sure of the points when he controlled another Pires cross and picked his spot in the top right corner. — MNA/Reuters

Kewell scores Oceania Player of the Year hat-trick

SYDNEY, 11 Feb— Australia and Liverpool midfielder Harry Kewell was named as Oceania’s Footballer of the Year for the third time in six seasons on Monday.

The 25-year-old Kewell joined New Zealand’s Wellington Phoenix in November as the only players to win the award three times when he topped the annual poll.

Kewell’s Australian and former Leeds United teammate Mark Viduka finished second in the voting with New Zealand’s Ryan Nelsen third.

“I’m proud to equal Wynton’s record and would like to thank the people who voted for me,” Kewell said in a statement released on the Oceania Football Confederation web site.

“I will also try my best to break it and hope to produce enough good football to keep them voting for me.”

Kewell also confirmed his intention to play for Australia in this year’s Oceania World Cup qualifying series, saying media reports that had refused to play were untrue. — MNA/Reuters

Bolton manager says FIFA must scrap new offside guidelines

LONDON, 11 Feb—— Bolton manager Sam Allardyce has called on world soccer’s governing body FIFA to scrap new guidelines on the offside rule, despite his side profiting from them on Tuesday.

The guidelines, which were brought in late last year, in effect end offside for players who do not touch the ball or directly block the vision or movement of an opponent.

Bolton, who drew 1-1 at Leicester City in the Premier League on Tuesday, utilized the guidelines to maximum effect from set-pieces and netted their equalizer from one such move.

The English League Cup finalists employed two unmarked players standing in “offside” positions close to Leicester goalkeeper Ian Walker before running away from goal as a free kick was fired into the penalty area.

The move caused enough consternation for Walker, who complained the players had got in his field of vision, to lose concentration and spill a shot from Kevin Davies, palming the ball back under his body and into the net.

“I think they (FIFA) have got it horribly wrong. There is obviously nothing I can do about it apart from try use it to my advantage,” said Allardyce.

“I don’t like it. I don’t think it adds anything to the game whatsoever other than confusion.”

Henry’s double to defeat spirited Southampton.

Henry scores a second goal for Arsenal on 31 minutes before netting again in the last minute to seal the points. — MNA/Reuters

Cameroon defy FIFA over one-piece kit

MONASAT (Tunisia), 11 Feb— Holders Cameroon set a collision course with FIFA on Sunday by wearing their outlawed one-piece strip for their African Nations Cup quarter-final against Nigeria.

Cameroon had used the pioneering kit for their three group games, but were ordered by the game’s governing body worldwide and local organizers not to wear it for the knockout stages as it infringed tournament rules.

However Cameroon, whose sleeveless shirts at the 2002 finals in Mali were also subsequently banned by FIFA, appeared for Sunday’s kick-off still wearing the controversial kit.

Skipper Rigobert Song was quoted on the web site of German kit suppliers Puma before the game as saying the strip had been approved by the continental footballing authority, the Confederation of African Football.

“The team is quite appalled by how, FIFA can suddenly, from out of noth- ing, intervene and seemingly with no self-criticism overrule something that has already been approved,” Song said. — MNA/Reuters

Everton to investigate alleged abuse by United players

LONDON, 11 Feb— Everton will investigate claims by club supporters that some Manchester United players engaged in “improper conduct” following Ruud van Nistelrooy’s last-gasp winner for United in a Premier League match on Saturday.

Everton fans lodged formal complaints with stewards after United players had made their way to the touchline to celebrate van Nistelrooy’s header a minute from time at Goodison Park.

An Everton spokesman confirmed that several fans also made statements to the police claiming that United players had used abusive words and gestures at the end of the match.

“Several of our supporters have made allegations of improper conduct by Manchester United players after their fourth goal,” Everton’s head of corporate affairs Ian Ross said.

“We’ll be talking to the supporters concerned, we’ll be talking to the police and we’ll be studying CCTV footage.”

In a separate incident at Goodison Park, stewards had to restrain an Everton fan who appeared to be charging towards Cristiano Ronaldo after the Portuguese winger had fallen by the touchline shortly before he set up the winning goal. — MNA/Reuters

USA’s DaMarcus Beasley, front right, lies on the field at Mexico’s team celebrates at the end of their semifinal Pre-Olympic U23 soccer match celebrated at the Jalisco Stadium on 10 Feb, 2004, in Guadalajara City, Mexico. Mexico defeated USA 4-0 and won a place for Athens 2004. — Internet

USA’s DaMarcus Beasley, front right, lies on the field at Mexico’s team celebrates at the end of their semifinal Pre-Olympic U23 soccer match celebrated at the Jalisco Stadium on 10 Feb, 2004, in Guadalajara City, Mexico. Mexico defeated USA 4-0 and won a place for Athens 2004. — Internet

USA’s DaMarcus Beasley, front right, lies on the field at Mexico’s team celebrates at the end of their semifinal Pre-Olympic U23 soccer match celebrated at the Jalisco Stadium on 10 Feb, 2004, in Guadalajara City, Mexico. Mexico defeated USA 4-0 and won a place for Athens 2004. — Internet
Union Flag arrives in Hlinethaya from Hmyawby

YANGON, 11 Feb—The Union Flag that stopped over for the night on the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground arrived in Hlinethaya Township yesterday evening. It arrived at the sports ground of Hlinethaya Township, Yangon West District, by Union Boat and the relay team this morning.

Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Kyaw Tint planted the flag in the silver bowl on the dais in the sports ground of Hlinethaya Township to stop over for the night.

Over 10,000 local people together with the Guard of Honour of Phugyi Station saluted the flag to the accompaniment of the military band of Phugyi Station.

At 6.50 am, Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Myint Han took out the flag from the silver bowl.

He carried the flag flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers to hand it over to Li-Col Kyaw Tint.

Li-Col Kyaw Tint planted the flag in the silver bowl on the Union Boat. Then, the Union Flag was conveyed from Hmyawby Sports Ground to Hlinethaya Sports Ground through Yangon-Pyay Road, No 1 Highway, Khayaybin Road, Lower Mingaladon Road, Byainmuang Road, Hlinemyi Road, Aungzeya Bridge, Nyaungdon Road, Tabinshwehti Road and Prince Kanauk Road.

Along the route through Hmyawby, Mingaladon, Shweyopia, Insein and Hlinethaya townships, the flag was accorded a rousing welcome by local authorities, students, departmental personnel and people with dancing troupes.

At 8.30 am, the flag arrived at the archway in Hlinethaya Township where Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Kyaw Tint took out the flag from the silver bowl and handed it over to the relay team led by District Commissioner U Soe Min of General Administration Department. Various flag relay teams conveyed the Union Flag.

At the designated place, Li-Col Kyaw Tint accepted the flag from the relay team leader U Min Soe, chairman of Dagon Township Peace and Development Council and took the flag flanked by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and police officers. Then, he planted the flag in the silver bowl at 8.50 am.

Over 8,000 people together with the Guard of Honour of Yangon Command saluted the flag and the band of Commander-in-Chief (Air)’s Office played the National Anthem.

In the evening, the sports ground was crowded with local people who saluted the Union Flag and enjoyed entertainment of Features Film Division, Myawady Anyeint troupe and Myanmar traditional orchestra.

MNA

Secretary-I inspects Myitkyina Education College, Nurse & Midwifery Training School

YANGON, 11 Feb—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, the deputy minister and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on 9 February.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command and Development Council Maj-Gen Maung Maung Soe Win, Brig-Gen Bo Kyi of the Ministry of Health, U Min Soe Win of the Kachin State Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and local people.

The Secretary-1 and party then proceeded to Myitkyina Education College where they were welcomed by Principal Daw Than Hla, faculty members and trainees. At Nyana Sithi Hall of the college, Principal Daw Than Hla reported to the Secretary-1 on the history of the college and conducting of courses and Head of Management Department U Kha Lwin on organizational setup, progress in construction of buildings and requirements.

The commander reported on assistance being provided for construction of buildings including women’s hostel.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Commission Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Naing Win Myint of Northern Command members of Kachin State and District Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and local people.

The Secretary-1 and party then proceeded to Myitkyina Education College where they were welcomed by Principal Daw Than Hla, faculty members and trainees. At Nyana Sithi Hall of the college, Principal Daw Than Hla reported to the Secretary-1 on the brief history of the college and conducting of courses and Head of Management Department U Kha Lwin on organizational setup.

The commander reported on assistance being provided for construction of buildings including women’s hostel.

After hearing the reports, the party then proceeded to Myitkyina Education College, Nurse and Midwifery Training School in Myitkyina.— MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in Nyaungshwe

YANGON, 11 Feb—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, arrived at Nyaungshwe Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm to inspect the training of cattle, poultry and fish.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions and then met with the trainees of the training course at Nanda No 1 Farm. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected livestock breeding tasks.

At the agricultural farm of the local battalion, Capt Myint Han reported on nurturing of summer paddy on 14 acres of land. Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint planted two Thitseint saplings (belleric myrsinum) to mark success of growing high yield paddy strain.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe proceeded to Eikkhaothaa Co Family Agricultural Farm in Nanda Village, Nyaungshwe Township.

Farm Manager U Than Soe reported on growing of grape, honey orange, sunkt, strawberry, paddy, maize and sugarcane in the farm and distribution. Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the plantations in the farm.— MNA

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* 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 investment 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

Let’s lend ourselves to national endeavours

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Let’s join hands firmly and in unity

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Development images of the entire nation in the time of the State Peace and Development Council Page 8, 9

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