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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Director of Asia & Pacific, UNHCR Mr Jean Marie Sakhouri. — MNA

Students from Mohnyin region have been able to learn six engineering courses with emergence of the higher learning institution Government Technical Institute (Mohnyin) inaugurated

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PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 15 February, 2004

Constantly produce highly-qualified human resources

In building up a modern developed nation with high national prestige and integrity that can constantly catch up with the advances and changes of the world, the Government has been laying political, economic and social foundations exerting collective efforts based on concrete unity of the entire people.

Myanmar is a Union where over 100 national races have been living together with affection and in unity. National requirements — enhancing the national solidarity, ensuring stability and peace and equitable development of all parts of the Union, and constant production of human resources capable of bringing about development of the nation — play the most fundamental role in building up a modern developed nation that can exist as long as the world does. In his speech delivered at the inauguration of the main building of Myingyan Degree College constructed by the Ministry of Education in Myingyan, Mandalay Division, the other day, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the students who are pursuing advanced level studies at the college with peace of mind will understand the power and value of national unity, the essence and the symbol of the Union. The degree college was opened in honour of the 57th anniversary of the Union Day.

Prior to the Union Day, Yangon University of Computer Studies in Yangon, Hpa-an University in Kayin State, Mohnin Degree College and Government Technical Institute (Mohnin) in Kachin State and Myingyan Degree College and Government Technical Institute (Myingyan) in Mandalay Division were launched. The facilities are on a par with international level universities, colleges and institutes. The emergence of mushrooming educational facilities one after another across the nation indicates and reflects the genuine goodwill of the Government that places great emphasis on equitable progress of all national brethren. Only when a large number of highly-qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia are produced in technical, technological as well as arts and science fields in a nation, will such a nation become a modern developed one that can constantly catch up with the advances of the world.

Teachers and students are therefore urged to more actively take part in the drive to further strengthen national solidarity for perpetuation of the nation, while making greater efforts in constantly producing outstanding and dynamic intellectuals and intelligentsia capable of carrying out uphill tasks in order to enable the nation to stand tall among the nations of the world.

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To strive hand in hand with the people for successful utilization of the State’s seven-point policy program
— To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people’s militia strategy
— To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
— To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold “Our Three Main National Causes”

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

Efficient use of electricity

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Local hero Win aims for magical 65 in Myanmar Open

Yangon, 14 Feb — The third round of Myanmar Open was held at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon this morning. MGF General Secretary U Aung Kyi, MPGA General Secretary U Chan Han, Mr Arend Ng of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, officials, guests and fans were present.

Local hope Aung Win is aiming to shoot a magical 65 in tomorrow’s final round of the Myanmar Open to end his country’s title drought in the event. Win endured a frustrating day on the greens en-route to a one-under-par 71 in the third round at Yangon Golf Club today and ended the day four strokes back of leader Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand.

Myanmar’s wait for a first local winner in the event was left on tenterhooks as home favourite Win missed putts early on in his round and needed to drain a 15-foot putt at the last hole to keep him in the title frame. Thongchai’s love affair with the US$ 200,000 event continued to blossom today when he took over as the third round leader after a spectacular six-under-par 66 today. The former Thai paratrooper was in sparkling form as he hit 17 greens in regulation which yielded seven birdies including four on the inward nine at the tree-lined Yangon layout. His outstanding display won over the hearts of local spectators on Valentine’s Day.

Thongchai has a three-day total of nine-under-par 207, one shot better than American Andrew Putts who earned a 68. — MNA
Iraqi civilians deaths mount, but US keeps quiet

Baghdad, 14 Feb — The US military knows 537 of its soldiers have been killed in the war in Iraq, can cite names, how and when they died. But when it comes to dead Iraqi civilians, it will not even talk hundreds or thousands.

Independent thinktanks estimate as many as 10,000 civilians may have died as a direct result of the US-led military intervention in Iraq, either during the war or in attacks aimed at uprooting the occupation. US authorities in Iraq say they keep no official tally.

&#34;We don’t track, we don’t have the capacity to track all civilian casualties,&#34; Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt said.

He said some numbers were available, but too unreliable to use. It was &quot;impossible to count every death. The lines between civilians and combatants are sometimes blurred, bodies buried before they can be counted. But analysts say it is also in Washington’s interests to keep the toll quiet.&quot;

US Marine admits abducting British girl

London, 14 Feb — A former US Marine pleaded guilty on Thursday to abducting a 12-year-old British schoolgirl whom he contacted over the Internet.

Toby Studabaker, 32, from Michigan, also admitted incitement to gross indecency at the start of his trial in northwest England. He will be sentenced at Manchester Crown Court on April 2, prosecutors officials said.

The girl, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, was missing with Studabaker last July, sparking an international police search.

Studabaker spent months communicating with the girl before they met and travelled to a Paris hotel.

The girl returned to her parents after a few days and Studabaker was arrested in Germany and extradited to Britain. Although he denied knowing her age, records show she told him early in their contact that she was 11.

German Defence Alternatives, who is preparing how the American public responds to it, &quot;said we are going to go in and 15,000 people are going to die... Americans need to believe this is doable. They don’t want to hear that this will start a cycle of violence. They don’t want to hear it practically and they don’t want to hear it morally."

Rights groups say it is important to have at least an estimate of civilian deaths. Individual incidents — 53 dead in Iskandariya on Tuesday, 47 in Baghdad on Wednesday — belies the scale of the war and can be quickly forgotten, they say.

The Iraq Body Count group, which bases its assessment on media reports, says up to 10,089 Iraqi civilians have died because of the war.

The group’s co-founder John Sloboda admits the count is flawed, but says even an estimate can be powerful.

"Political leaders say it was worth it to them... ‘But if you don’t know the cost, how can you say it was worth it?’ Stories of women and children — this is what turns ordinary citizens in the West against war,” said "MNA/Reuters".

China active in int’l drug-control cooperation

Beijing, 14 Feb — China’s active participation in international anti-drug cooperation has been effective in curbing the illegal trafficking of narcotics at home, a senior police officer said here Thursday.

Last year China launched 38 anti-drug campaigns in joint efforts with Myanmar and Laos, seizing 261 kilos of heroin, eight kilos of methamphetamine ice and 429 kilos of opium, said Liao Feng, deputy director of the National Narcotics Control Commission, at a meeting of the commission.

"China will continue to collaborate with these countries and play a bigger role in the international community this year," said Liao, also Vice-Minister of Public Security.

Liao said China will further promote the development of regional mechanisms such as the anti-drug action plan it signed with the Association of South East Asian Nations, the memorandum of understanding on anti-drug cooperation in the East Asia sub-region, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

"MNA/Xinhua"

Russia seeks global unity to tackle new threats

Moscow, 14 Feb — Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Thursday that enhancing the world community’s unity to deal with new challenges and threats will be one of a major tasks in Russia’s foreign policy this year.

To fulfil the objective, Russia plans to take measures to strengthen the non-proliferation mechanisms, prevent and settle regional conflicts and improve Russian-U.S. cooperation, Ivanov was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

Addressing deputies from the State Duma, or Lower House of Russian Parliament, Ivanov pointed out that Russia will continue to promote the integration process in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), push forward strategic partnerships with the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), take practical cooperation in peace-making and the fight against terrorism, and consolidate cooperation with countries in Latin America, the Arab world and Asia.

He noted that Russia has gained a stronger foothold in the world arena over the past few years, which is the result of internal stabilization and the achievement of higher economic growth rates.

"MNA/Xinhua"

British soldiers die in Iraq accident

British girl

"MNA/Reuters"

Thailand to shorten nightlife hours, keep youths at home

Bangkok, 14 Feb — Thailand’s lively and notorious nightlife ordered to shut earlier in a clampdown on drugs last year, is to have opening hours curtailed even further.

The Cabinet decision, which has the force of law, has enraged nightclub owners who say thousands of jobs will be threatened, and they plan protests to try to get the decree revoked.

"Millions of waiters and singers will lose their jobs," said Somyot Suthangkool, owner of a popular Bangkok nightclub and chairman of industry body with 50,000 members.

"Owners like us have to prepare to go bankrupt," he added. The decree is the latest move by Prime Minister Thaksin Sinawatra to fight crime — particularly the drugs trade which he labelled a scourge of Thailand’s youth.

This year, the aim is to get youth off the streets by 10 p.m. to prevent them from getting into trouble and to cut down the hours places of entertainment can operate, officials said on Wednesday.

"MNA/Reuters"
Chaos and war leave Iraq’s hospitals in ruins

Baghdad, 14 Feb — At Baghdad’s Central Teaching Hospital for Children, gallons of raw sewage wash across the floors. The drinking water is contaminated. According to doctors, 80 percent of patients leave with infections they did not have when they arrived.

Doctors say they have been beaten up in the emergency room. Blood is in such short supply that physicians often donate their own to patients lying in front of them.

“The word ‘big’ is not enough to express the disaster we are facing,” said Ahmed A. Muhammad, the hospital’s assistant manager.

“It’s definitely worse now than before the war,” said Eman Asim, the Ministry of Health official who oversees the country’s 185 public hospitals. “Even at the height of sanctions, when things were miserable, it wasn’t as bad as this. At least then someone was in control.”

The violence on the streets has seeped into the wards, with attacks on staff members and food being finished in the corridors.

And the list goes on. While Health Ministry officials say no comprehensive health survey has been conducted since the war, several doctors here said that infant mortality is up. Of 48 babies recently brought to the neonatal clinic at Yarmuk Hospital, 19 died, said Taka al-Awqati, a pediatrician. “That is twice as many as last year,” she said.

She also said that more women were choosing to give birth at home, increasing the chances of complications, because they were frightened of venturing into the streets to deliver at a hospital.

The Red Cross and the United Nations used to run health programmes in Iraq. But after the headquarters of both organizations were bombed last year, foreign experts pulled out.

Doctors also said that the postwar sabotage of the country’s primary pharmaceutical factory in Samarra and the looting of the central supply depot in Baghdad had depleted the country of needed supplies.

US soldier killed in Baghdad blast

Baghdad, 14 Feb — A US soldier was killed by a bomb blast in Baghdad as a United Nations team continued to assess demands for early elections.

The latest attack came as the US military said Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has a $10 million price on his head, is the prime suspect in deadly bombings that hit Najaf and the UN headquarters in Baghdad last year.

The soldier, from the 16th military police brigade, was killed and two were wounded when a device struck an army patrol near Abu Ghirib district of Baghdad at about 10:40 pm on Thursday, the military said.

It was the 258th American soldier killed in Iraq since President George Bush declared major combat over on May last year.

Earlier the same day, a convoy carrying General John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, and Major General Charles Swannack, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, was attacked in Falluja.

“Three rocket-propelled grenades were fired at their convoy from the rooftops in the vicinity,” US Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, deputy coalition operations chief told a news conference.

Epidemic emergency vehicle appears in Beijing

BEIJING, 14 Feb — China’s first vehicle for handling epidemic emergencies appeared in the capital Beijing on Thursday.

Like a mobile epidemic prevention station, the vehicle combines the functions of disinfection, sample collection, medical allocation, waste collection and transfer, broadcast guidance and wireless communication, said technicians in Beijing Kante Special Vehicle Factory who produced it.

The vehicle is divided into clean, semi-polluted and polluted areas which are relatively independent to prevent possible infections of the quarantine staff.

It is equipped with a two-kilowatt power engine and spotlights. The tanks aboard can provide water and disinfection liquid for an area of 5,000 square metres. It also has cabinets for keeping waste clothes and water.

The special vehicle was bought at a price of 180,000 yuan (22,000 US dollars) by the epidemic emergency working team under the Beijing Agricultural Bureau.

Advertising expenditure reaches $34.3b in China last year

BEIJING, 14 Feb — Spending on advertising reached some 283.7 billion yuan ($34.3 billion US dollars) in the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan last year, according to a recent CVSC-TNS Research (CTR) report.

CTR, a leading Mainland research firm, released a report early this month jointly with Hong Kong-based admanGo and Taiwan-based Rainmaker International Group saying that last year’s advertising expenditures in this region, not including the money spent on radio and outdoor advertisement, soared by 32 per cent over 2002.

“The figure not only showed the country’s advertising has moved out of the impact of SARS but also the vigorous economy here,” said Tian Tao, CTR vice general manager.

The Chinese Mainland contributed to 54 per cent of the advertising spending while Hong Kong took up 13 per cent and Taiwan accounted for 33 per cent, the report said.

The advertising expenditure increased by 39 per cent to 154.4 billion yuan last year in the Chinese Mainland, among which cosmetics accounted for the most, followed by foods, medicine, retailing and real estates.

Hong Kong reported spending of 35.6 billion yuan on TV and publication ads last year and Taiwan spent 93.7 billion yuan, according to the report.

Russia says will sign deal on nuclear fuel for Iran

MOSCOW, 14 Feb — Russia said on Thursday it planned to sign a deal with Iran next month to ship nuclear fuel for Iran’s power plant, defying US pressure on Moscow to sever nuclear ties with the Islamic republic.

Tehran and Moscow have been locked in months of tough talks over nuclear shipments for the 800 million US dollars Bushehr plant. Russia has helped to build despite repeated US accusations that Iran is secretly trying to acquire nuclear arms.

“I think in about two weeks all outstanding issues will be settled, that is, by the end of February,” Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev told reporters.

He said he hoped to sign the final document, which also requires Iran to return spent nuclear fuel to Russia, during a visit to Tehran in late March.

“The United States has criticized us and will continue to criticize us,” Rumyantsev said. “They say Iran seeks nuclear weapons under the cover of our peaceful technology transfer.”

But we keep telling them ‘they’ve got that wrong. We think we abide by all international laws.’”

Washington wants Moscow to withhold fuel for the reactor as long as Tehran’s nuclear ambitions remain a matter of concern.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said Iran was developing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and denied Bolton’s weapons charge. “Certainly we are not following any programme to produce weapons,” he told reporters in Rome.

German sausage dog in sewer sparks police hunt

BRUSSELS, 14 Feb — A German sausage dog called Anton sparked a police search involving six squad cars after vanishing into the sewers in the northern German city of Luebeck. Authorities said on Thursday.

A spokesman for Luebeck police said the dog’s owner was taking Anton and another wire-haired dachshund for a walk when the two disappeared into a drainage pipe and did not return. “They were trained hunting dogs — for catching rabbits,” she said. “They picked up a scent and off they went.”

The owner recovered one dog, but called police when he attempted to lure Anton out of the sewers with offal. Police condened a 400 yard stretch of the sewer, but despite hearing the dog’s barks, officers could not locate him. — MNA/Reuters

Internet

At Baghdad’s central pediatric hospital, puddles of sewage collect near the laundry and food-storage areas. — Internet

Internet
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

US troops block the road in front of a scene of an explosion at a police station in Iskandariyah, south of Baghdad, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2004. — INTERNET

Iraqis demonstrate in central Baghdad on 13 Feb, demanding the US-led coalition to release prisoners. — INTERNET

Dutch soldiers secure the area where a mortar launched in Samawah, 370 kilometres (230 miles) south of Baghdad, on Thursday, 12 Feb, 2004. A mortar landed near a hotel housing foreign journalists in the southern Iraqi town. — INTERNET

Iraqis walk around destroyed cars south of Baghdad Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2004. — INTERNET

Sisters show damage to the roof of their house in Samawa, southern Iraq, on 12 February, 2004 after a mortar hit the house. — INTERNET

South Korean protesters hold ‘No troop dispatch to Iraq’ banners during a rally in front of the National Assembly, in Seoul on 13 Feb, 2004. — INTERNET
Inquiry will not judge Blair’s role in Iraq war

LONDON, 14 Feb—Tony Blair faced renewed criticism over the war in Iraq yesterday after it emerged that his personal role in authorising military action would not be judged by the Butler inquiry into events leading to the invasion.

Sir Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, criticised the review after it was revealed that the committee would not examine the role of individual ministers and officials. Labour backbenchers warned that the decision meant that the five-strong review team had no chance of producing answers to vital questions about the run-up to war.

A statement released by the Cabinet Office on Thursday confirmed that the inquiry would hold all its meetings in private and would “focus principally on structures, systems and processes rather than on the actions of individuals”.

Unlike the Hutton inquiry, the members of Lord Butler’s review will not employ barristers. The committee’s statement said: “In the interests of not conveying a limited, partial or distorted public impression of the evidence, much of which must necessarily remain secret, the committee has decided the review will be carried out in private.”

The Butler inquiry, which will start taking evidence in April, has faced criticism for its narrow remit, which includes looking at the discrepancies between the two intelligence “gathers, evaluated and used” by the Government and the failure to find weapons of mass destruction. Sir Menzies said the decision was “predictable” and vindicated the decision of the Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy not to take part in the review.

China firmly opposes WMD proliferation

BEIJING, 14 Feb—China firmly opposes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery and will be making more domestic and international non-proliferation efforts, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue here.

Zhang made the remark at a Press conference in response to a question on US President George W. Bush’s call for international non-proliferation cooperation.

According to the spokeswoman, China, consistently supporting the global non-proliferation action, has adopted concrete measures to reinforce a weapons export control regime, which involves both self-control and cooperation with other countries including the United States.

With an established legal framework on non-proliferation, China is willing to adopt strong and effective measures to implement related laws and regulations, said Zhang.

Zhang also elaborated on China’s international non-proliferation cooperation.

According to her, China has consultations and exchanges with the Nuclear Suppliers’ Group (NSG) and with the Missile and Technology Control Regime (MTCR), whose policies and practices served as references for China in setting up its nuclear control regime, a missile export statute and list.

China has filed its application to join the NSG and sought to join the MTCR. A Chinese delegation is having consultations in Paris with MTCR member countries after Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and MTCR president both expressed interest in cooperation.

On a controversial Proliferation Security Initiative designed to intercept suspected shipments in international waters, she said China supports international non-proliferation efforts but believes relevant issues should be resolved under international laws and by political and diplomatic means.

“Any non-proliferation measures should be conducive to regional and global peace, security, and stability,” said Zhang.

Premier Wen extends greetings to Hong Kong resident of Amoy Gardens

HONG KONG, 14 Feb—“Premier Wen Jiabao has asked us to convey his New Year’s greetings to your family, expressing good wishes and good fortune in the year of 2004,” said a Chinese official Friday to a Hong Kong resident of Amoy Gardens, whose family had fallen victim to the outbreak of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) last year.

Zhou Junming, deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said this during his call on Kwok Shin Hung’s family, which Wen had visited at the end of June last year during his two-day-stay in Hong Kong.

According to Zhou, the Premier on February 5 also asked the liaison office to extend his thanks to the Hong Kong family for the postcards and photos the latter sent to Wen in January this year.

Zhou, following the Hong Kong government’s tradition of wishing the Chinese Lunar New Year, sent a red envelope to Kwok’s daughter and baby son, in a way to express his feelings toward Premier Wen as an ordinary friend and wish the Premier a happy new year.

Laughter resounding in the small apartment.

Kwok, a 38-year-old bus station master of the Kowloon Motor Bus Company, said he sent the Premier a postcard and some photos of his daughter and baby son, in a way to express his feelings toward Premier Wen as an ordinary friend and wish the Premier a happy new year.

Saudi Arabia warns of possible car bomb attack in Riyadh

RIYADH, 14 Feb—Saudi Arabia said Friday it had confirmed information that a car owned by a wanted militant had been packed with explosives to be used in what it called a criminal act in the capital Riyadh.

An Interior Ministry statement, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, gave a description of the car and asked the public to be on alert and inform authorities if they had any information on the vehicle.

“The Interior Ministry would like to alert citizens and residents especially in Riyadh that it has confirmed information that a car registered in the name of one of those wanted (militants) has been packed with a huge amount of explosives to be used in a criminal act,” the statement said.

It said the vehicle was a gray 1991 GMC Suburban with darkened windows. It gave the car’s registration number, but said it may have been changed and the car repainted.

It said the car was last seen in the east of Riyadh.

The government has said last year it has seized 24 tons of explosives in the kingdom as well as hundreds of explosive belts and automatic rifles.—MNA/Reuters

Malay Opera doyen accorded National Actor Award 2004

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Feb—Renowned bangsawan (Malay Opera) theatre artist Abdul Rahman Abu Bakar or better known as “Rahman B” was accorded the National Actor Award 2004 from the government.

Deputy Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism Fu Ah Kow who made the announcement at a Press conference here said that Rahman B had played an important role in enhancing the country’s cultural arts.

“Rahman B is a humble person and has the capacity to help others,” he said.

He also congratulated Rahman B and hoped that the award would spur him to continue to promote and bring awareness about Malay opera and bangsawan to the public.

Malay Opera are among the oldest cultural activities in Malaysia and was started in 1935.

Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamaliullah on February 27.

Born in Kapar, Kelang, near here in 1935, Rahman B joined the bangsawan world since he was eight years old, following the footsteps of his parents — Abu Bakar Saleh and Kasminah Taib, who were also bangsawan activists.

MNA/Xinhua
Women in Myanmar represent more than half the nation’s population of over 53 million. Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was founded on 20 December 2003 to effectively extend the women’s development affairs and for the entire mass of women to take part in the task. The Federation has 16 work groups, and they are — Organizational Work Group; Discipline Enforcement Work Group; Financial and Management Work Group; Human Trafficking Prevention Work Group; Work Group for Prevention of Violence Against Women; Rehabilitation and Resettlement Work Group; Young Women Work Group; Environmental Conservation Work Group; National Races Affairs Work Group; Education Work Group; Health Work Group; Cultural Work Group; Economic Work Group; Legal Affairs Study and Advisory Work Group; Information and Communication Work Group; and International Relations Work Group. Legal Affairs Study and Advisory Work Group and International Relations Work Group are formed only at the central level. There are only 14 work groups at the bodies from the State/Division level down to the ward/village level. Since its formation, the members of the Federation have been touring states and divisions to explain the functions.

President of the MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party met with Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs at the International Business Centre on 31 December. They explained the MWAF’s organizational set-up and its duties in detail. A team led by Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe met with Ayeyawady Division Organization for Women’s Affairs in Pathein on 8 January 2004. The team also held discussions with members of the women’s affairs organization, the Union Solidarity and Development Association and its functions with keen interest. It is a non-governmental organization representing more than half the nation’s population has become an important factor. The MWAF formed by the Government with true goodwill is playing a leading role to develop the women’s sector. The womenfolk need to take part in the Federation with might and main as its members. The Federation is accepting as its members those who join it on their own volition. All need to take part in the functions of the Federation with keen interest.

The MWAF will form sub-bodies and continue to explain the organizational set-up and the functions in the states and divisions. Thus, I would like to urge the entire womenfolk to strive for the progress of their sector under the banner of the Federation.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 28-1-2004

The cover of Laws, Rules, Orders and Notifications promulgated by the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar (2003). — (n)

LAW DICTIONARY COMES OUT: The cover of English-Myanmar Law Dictionary published by the Office of the Attorney-General. — (n)

DONATION FOR HOME FOR THE AGED: Wellwishers Dr Thein Htay and family of No 90 (B), Golden Valley, Bahan Township, Yangon, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Vice-Chairman of the Trustees Board of the Home Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) accepts the cash donation. — (n)

RESPECTS PAID: The 28th ceremony to pay respects to faculty members of Kyimyindine ABM school was held on 14 February at the residence of retired Headmistress Daw Hla Shein. The ceremony in progress. — (n)
Students from Mohnyin...

(from page 1)

student Ma Hsan Myint (Communications) formally opened the signboard of the institute. Next, first year student Ma Hsan Myint (Communications) formally opened the main building.

The planting of trees to mark the opening of the institute was held in front of the main building. The Secretary-1 planted a starflower sapling. The commander also planted a sapling of Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) tree. The ministers and deputy ministers also planted saplings.

The commander handed over the documents related to the vehicle donated by Kachin State Peace and Development Regions to the institute. The Secretary-1 formally accepted the donation and presented K 20 million for the institute.

The Secretary-1 unveiled the bronze plaque of the main building. The Secretary-1 and party sprinkled scented water on it. Next, they inspected the language lab, e-Library, lecture rooms, drawing room and computer training centre of the institute.

The opening of the educational facility followed at the assembly hall of the main building. On the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that Myitkyina and Bhamo, the main development regions of Kachin State, are making progress with the opening of universities and colleges. Being convinced that it also needs to establish degree colleges and government technical institutes to produce intellectuals and intelligentsia in Mohnyin region, which plays an important role in the economic sector of Kachin State that has a heavy population, the Government made efforts with genuine goodwill and so Myitkyin Government Technical Institute has emerged, he remarked. He added that Mohnyin Degree College will also be opened the next day on a grand scale.

A total of five institutions of higher education have been opened in Kachin State for turning out human resources on science and technology — two technological colleges and two computer colleges in Myitkyina and Bhamo, and a government technical institute in Mohnyin.

The Government has been implementing the plans adopted for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the Union with a view to enabling the nation made up of 14 States and Divisions to stand tall among the world nations, to further cementing national solidarity, and to maintaining the development momentum for a long time, he disclosed.

And, the Government is making efforts with might and main for harmonious development of all regions of the Union after laying down the 24 special development projects, the five rural development tasks and the border areas development project as a network, he noted. As a result, with development regions, the States and Divisions have developed with mushrooming centres for human development such as universities, colleges, and hospitals.

Everyone in the region who is willing to pursue higher learning has had the opportunities to pursue education within their reach. The education system in which education is to be pursued in cities like Yangon and Mandalay has ended and more opportunities to pursue education have emerged region-wise, he added.

Likewise, only when development gap among rural regions where majority of the people reside and urban is narrow will there be the national development. With this concept, the government has laid down and is implementing the five rural development tasks to bring about harmonious and equitable development.

The main objective of bringing about development in economic, education, health, transport and communication sectors after laying down development projects is to safeguard the three national causes — non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and determination of sovereignty, he said.

Therefore, the national peoples for human development in Mohnyin region are to strive alongside the government in implementing the nation-building endeavours, realising the goodwill and objectives of the government. In severances from Mohnyin region have been able to learn six subjects—Civil, Electric, Electronic, Mechanical, Mechanical Designing and IT with the emergence of the higher learning institution. Thus, efforts will have to be made to be able to produce more and more engineers needed for the State and the region.

The teachers and students, he said, are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts to bring success and glory to the higher learning institution not only in form but also in essence. The teachers are to study all the more to become highly qualified and well-versed ones while nurturing and training their students to become outstanding ones. Teaching and learning methods restricted in lecture halls and rooms are to be avoided and combination methods including practical work out of lecture halls are to be adopted.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has made arrangements for the new generation youths to study modern science and technology in the nation after opening of four technological universities, 26 government technological colleges, 23 government computer colleges and 11 technical institutes including Mohnyin technical institute, he noted.

Nowadays, changes and developments have been made with greater momentum in the field of science and technology and computers. Change and development in science and technology is overwhelming the economic, health and social sectors of the whole human society.

Therefore, it is of paramount importance to learn and apply science and technology to keep pace with changes and developments, he stressed.

He said that Mohnyin technical institute that was opened in honour of the 57th Anniversary Union Day is to make efforts so as to produce outstanding engineers in the region by constantly studying science while making efforts for bringing glory to the institute as it is complete with the splendid and magnificent main building.

At a time when the whole world is on the path to become consolidated and developed one in the 21st century, the entire national people are to strive in unity for emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation with the sense of Union spirit, he continued.

Next, Commander Maj- Gen Maung Maung Sve spoke. He said that the ceremony to open government technical institute (Mohnyin) is a ceremony that brings honour to the Kachin State, adding that the emergence of the institute can be attributed to the goodwill of the government.

He stressed the need for teachers and students to make strenuous efforts for successful realization of the education objectives of the State.

After that, Principal U Maung Maung Than reported on courses conducted and learning of the students at the institution.

Next, Managing Director U Than Shwe of Ever Green Construction Co Ltd reported on the salient points of construction of the institute.

Next, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein reported on opening of government technical colleges and institutes in the respective regions to enable the youths there to learn engineering and computer science.

Afterwards, first year student Ma Zinmar Oo, on behalf of students and local people, spoke words of thanks.

Later, MD of Ever Green Construction Co U Than Shwe presented K 20 million for the institute.

The Secretary-1 accepted the donation and handed it over to Principal U Maung Maung Than.

Next, officials concerned presented gifts to the Secretary-1 and party and the ceremony ended.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party had a group photo taken together with local people in front of the main building of the institute.

The area of the institute is 51 acres. The main building opened is 445 feet long and 260 feet wide and complete with 16 lecture rooms, two drawing rooms, two laboratories, two computer rooms, one meeting room, three offices, one library and one meeting room.

Civil engineering course, Electrical (communication) engineering course, Electrical (power) engineering course, Mechanical (power) engineering course, Mechanical (Design) engineering course and IT engineering course are being conducted at the institute.

The institute was opened on 1 January 2004 and is now being attended by 147 students. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveils bronze plaque of Mohnyin Government Technical Institute. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for documentary photo with students and officials at opening of Mohnyin Government Technical Institute. — MNA
Although there is some…

(form page 16)

He said they are to learn better experiences from wards, townships and districts. He spoke of the need to remove the tendency to shirk and neglect duty and responsibility and warned against opportunism.

Therefore, dignity of the life of the personnel serving the interest of community with goodwill can be preserved, he said.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the wooden bridge across Nankwe Creek near Shweaik Village, Myitkyina Township.

They proceeded to Myitkyina Government Computer College and met the person in-charge Daw Khan Thaing and faculty members. Next, the Secretary-1 presented CD-ROMs for computer teaching aid.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected progress in building Myitkyina Government Technological College.

Afterwards, member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretariat Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Secretariat member Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, met with secretaries, executives and members of Kachin State, district and township USDA offices at Kachin State USDA office.

Secretary of Kachin State USDA U Ra Wam Jone reported on power supply for rural areas. The Secretary-1 attended to their needs and inspected the computer room and machinery for use in generating small-scale hydro-electricity. They then saw over the nursery.

On 10 February morning, they went to Mogau Township Basic Education High School No 1 and met with educational personnel at the school. Headmaster U Saw Hla Maung reported on brief history of the school, buildings and teaching aids. Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt gave a supplementary report.

After leaving necessary instruction, the Secretary-1 presented cash assistance for the school to the headmaster. Next, he cordially conversed with students and teachers.

At 11.30 am, the Secretary-1 and party arrived in Puntha Village, Mogau Township, where Chairman of Mogau Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Than reported on tasks being carried out for generating hydro-electricity on self-reliant basis in Namma Village. The Commissioner and Myanma Electricity Power Enterprise Kachin State Manager U Ba Ngwe reported on power supply in rural areas. The Secretary-1 inspected tasks being carried out for power supply and gave necessary instructions.

Next, they went to Mohinnyin and inspected progress of Myitkyina-Shwebo-Mandalay Highway and maintenance of bridges on the road.

At 4 pm, the Secretary-1 met with local authorities and departmental officials at Seinle Yadana Hall in the township. Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Aung reported on regional development tasks. After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements. He explained functions of administrative bodies and cordially met with those present. Then, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Mohinnyin Hospital and inspected new building of the hospital.

Afterwards, they proceeded to the township USDA Office and inspected machinery for use in generating hydro-electricity in the rural areas. They then cordially met with townswelders and USDA members.

On 11 February, the Secretary-1 and party left Mohinnyin for Myitkyina by car. Next, they arrived back here by air from Myitkyina in the evening.

MNA

Commander

YANGON, 14 Feb—Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Commandant Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected sanitation works in Yangon City.

At 6.30 am, they arrived 38th Street and were welcomed by YCDC Secretary Col Myint Aung. No 4 Military Region Commandant Col Yon Nai Ng Oo and authorities. They then inspected dredging of the drain along 38th street between Bogyoke Aung San and Anawrahta Streets.

They saw over sanitation works being carried out in Pazauung Township and Thakayta Township. They also inspected repaving of Shukhintha Road in Thakayta Township. On arrival at the bank of Ngaroneik Creek, the commander inspected the bank on Thwumna and the bank near Shukhintha Road.

Next, they looked into cleaning tasks in Dagon Myothit (North) Township and gave necessary instructions. Similarly, sanitation works were carried out in Thingangyun, South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (South), Insein and Hlinethaya towns.

MNA

Union Day Exhibition goes on

YANGON, 14 Feb — The 57th Anniversary Union Day commemorative exhibition continued for the seventh day at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here from 9 am to 5 pm today. The interesting booths of respective ministries are on display. A total of 4862 members of the Sangha and people visited the exhibition, which will be kept open until 16 February. — MNA

Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, wife of Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, presents prize to Transport A women’s team in Yangon Mayor’s Trophy Volleyball Tournament Saturday. — MNA
YANGON, 14 Feb — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, deputy ministers and military region commanders, this evening inspected along the railroads by the local train and gave necessary instructions.

The Secretary-2, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and party inspected 38 railway stations along the circular railroad clockwise from Yangon Railway Station by RBE 2501 and they arrived back at Yangon Railway Station at 7 pm.

During their inspection tour, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on maintenance of the railroad, arrangements for running of local trains with RBT carriages assembled at Myingyi Locomotive Shed, cleanliness of railway stations and the circular railroad. The commander on participation of local authorities, departmental officials, NGO members and people in carrying out sanitation works along the circular railroad. The Secretary-2 gave instructions on sanitation of the circular railroad, maintenance tasks, manufacturing of new carriages for convenient travelling of people, plying of trains on time, prevention against accidents at level crossings of motor road and railroad, installation of electric power at the carriages for ensuring secure transport of passengers at night.

Later, he urged them to supervise all the works to ensure convenient travelling by train.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 14 Feb—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials left here on 13 February and they arrived at the border of Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the hospital of Nyaungdon Township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the construction of Maubin Bridge and talked with the people about the digging of fish ponds and fish breeding farm of Asian nation and livestock breeding.

In meeting with the farmers, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than spoke at length on arrangements for economic progress, increase of monsoon paddy cultivation in six main divisions, extending the targets, extended cultivation of oil and perennial crops and pepper and livestock breeding.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Donnyinmaing Bridge where officials concerned reported on maintenance of the bridge for durability. They went to Kyantaw Shawkwin Village Traet and gave instructions to farmers on cultivation of strains of paddy suitable for the region. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the site of Pyapon Bridge.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to the worksite office of Myanma Agriculture Service. Chairman of Bogale Township Peace and Development Council U San Huy reported on cultivation of summer paddy and others.

They inspected construction of Poshowlon Bridge in Bogale Township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and party presented.offertories to members of social organizations.

Cruise liner “Chindwin” leaves Pansodan Jetty for Salone Traditional Festival in the Ma Kyone Galet village, Kawthoung Township.

YANGON, 14 Feb — Under the promotion programme of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, cruise liner “Chindwin” carrying 225 local and foreign passengers left Nanthida Jetty on Pansodan, here, at 8 am today for Salone Traditional Festival 2004 being held in Ma Kyone Galet village, Kawthoung.

Cruise liner Chindwin leaves Pansodan Jetty for Salone Traditional Festival in the Ma Kyone Galet village, Kawthoung Township. — MNA

National Tennis Championship on 22-26 February

YANGON, 14 Feb — The National Championship Tennis Tournament organized by the Myanmar Tennis Federation will be held on Thetbya Tennis Court from 22 to 26 February.

The tournament comprises men’s singles event (open), women’s singles event (open), men’s doubles event, women’s doubles event, men’s over 35 events (singles and doubles), men’s over 45 events (singles and doubles), men’s over 55 events (singles and doubles) and men’s over 60 events (singles and doubles). Those wishing to participate in the tournament are to enlist at the MTA by 3 pm on 20 February. — MNA
Rules announced for Painting and Sculpture Contests

YANGON, 14 Feb — The Sub-committee for Organizing the Painting and Sculpture Contest has announced rules for the painting and sculpture contests. The painting contest comprises six categories—pre-primary level (primary, first and second standards), senior primary level (third and fourth), middle school level (fifth to seventh standards), high school level (eighth to tenth standards and technical and agricultural high schools) and open division. There will be only one category in the sculpture contest with wood sculpture category and plaster sculpture in open division. Anyone may take part in both.

In the pre-primary level to high school levels, the size of the entry must be 15 x 20'. The entry must be endorsed by respective principals with name, standard, school, township, date of birth, father’s name, full address and two passport-size photos. The entries are to be sent to the Education Planning and Training Department at 123, Natmauk Street, Bahan Township, by 23 February 2004. Entries for the open division painting contest must be 20' x 30'. Name, NRC No, date of birth, father’s name, occupation and full address must be expressed with two passport-size photos attached.

The entries for the wood sculpture and the plaster sculpture contests must not be higher than 36 inches high and circumference not longer than 24 inches. At the foot of the works, name, NRC No, date of birth, father’s name, full address must be shown with two passport-size photos attached, and they must be sent to Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road between 1 and 3 March.

All the entries must reflect the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Entries for open division painting and sculpture contests must be sent to Secretary, Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon (Central), Pabedan Township, Yangon, by 1 March to Secretary of the Sub-committee for Organizing the painting and sculpture contests at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall between 1 and 5 March. The entries must be directly sent to the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road between 1 and 3 March.

Artists who won prizes in contests at home and abroad honoured

YANGON, 14 Feb — Those who won prizes in contests were honoured by Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon (Central), Pabedan Township, Yangon, by 1 March to Secretary of the Sub-committee for Organizing the painting and sculpture contests at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall between 1 and 3 March. Aside from the entries, other paintings and sculptures may be sent to be displayed at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day exhibition. They must also reflect the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw and should be sent directly to Tatmadaw Convention Hall between 1 and 5 March.

Patrons U Soe Nyunt (Hilar Sithu) and U Min Naing gave speeches. Then, Patrons U Soe Nyunt (Hilar Sithu) and U Min Naing and officials presented prizes to Excellent Performance in Arts Field (First Class) recipient U Khin Ohn (Yamanya Ko Ko Naing), Thudhamma Manjostadhaba title winner U Taw Taw and International Quality Crown Award 2003 winner artist U Naing Lay. 2002 Excellent Performance in Social Field (Second Class) recipient U Thaung Han, 2002 Sarpay Bearman Manuscript Award winner U Thant Sin (Artist Hla Tin Tun), 2002 Excellent Performance in Social Field (Second Class) recipient U Aung Thwin, 2002 Academy Award winner film director Peggy Soe Moe, on behalf of all the winners, spoke words of thanks.

Artists who won prizes in contests at home and abroad honoured

(a) U Myint Swe who won prizes in international arts contests, Thudhamma Manjostadhaba title winners U Aung Myo Thant and U Aung Myo Kyar. Later, Academy Pagyi Soe Moe, on behalf of all the winners, spoke words of thanks.

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Artists who won prizes in contests at home and abroad honoured

An aerial view of Myingyan Degree College which was opened on 11-2-2004. (News reported) — MNA
China to sign new agreements with India on culture

BEIJING, 14 Feb.—China Thursday said it will sign new agreements with India in the cultural field, including setting up the first cultural centre in each others’ capital to give fillip to the all-round development of bilateral relations.

“The condition ripens, China will conclude new agreements with India on the implementation of cultural cooperation and exchange,” Minister of Culture, Sun Jiazheng said when asked to comment on the progress made in setting up an Indian cultural centre in Beijing and a Chinese cultural centre in New Delhi.

“On the basis of signing the agreement on setting up cultural centres in both countries, the other parts of our cultural cooperation and exchange are also developing very smoothly,” Sun told reporters.

India and China had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the reciprocal establishment of cultural centres in their capitals during Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s landmark visit here in June last year.

Sun noted that India is a friendly neighbour of China and their relationship could be traced back to a long period.

“In recent years, our two countries are enjoying very good development in political, economic and cultural relations,” the minister said, adding that he has received an invitation from his Indian counterpart to visit the country.

“I was pleased to receive an invitation extended by your minister and I will arrange a visit to both India and Pakistan at an appropriate time,” Sun said.

He said the rational underlining international cultural exchange of China lies in fact that China needs to know more about the world and the world needs to know more about China.

Among the many means of communication, culture is perhaps the popular and most effective way of people-to-people communication, he noted.

“On the general lay out of international cultural exchange of China, we have placed cultural exchange with neighbouring countries in a very important place,” he said.

Commenting on China’s progress in promoting culture, Sun said his ministry has achieved notable results in the past and budgetary investment into cultural infrastructure reached a record.

Ongoing projects include the national theatre, the national museum, the national library and the national arts gallery in Beijing.

While fulfilling promises for cultural market access in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, Sun said, his ministry overhauled video game arcades, internet cafes and entertainment clubs.

S Korean President reshuffles presidential office

SEOUL, 14 Feb.—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun Friday appointed Yoonse University president Kim Woon-sik as Chief of Staff replacing Moon Hee-sang.

In the reshuffle of the Presidential Office Secretariat, Roh also named Park Jung-kyu, a lawyer with the Kim & Chang, the nation’s largest law firm, as presidential secretary for political affairs, the Yonhap news agency quoted Presidential Office spokesman Yoon Tae-young as saying.

President Roh has also moved the post of presidential secretary for protocol, the report said.

HK, Shenzhen to cooperate in IC development

HONG KONG, 14 Feb.—The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation said here a three-year cooperative agreement with the National IC Design Industrial Base (Shenzhen) Institution.

The agreement marks a step toward closer collaboration between Hong Kong and Shenzhen in IC integrated circuit design in furtherance of the HK government’s programme announced by the Ministry of Information Industry for development of IC design bases in Chinese Mainland, according to the Chief Executive Officer of the HKSTP C.D. Tam.

Under the agreement, the HKSTP will provide small batch and commercial testing services for the National IC Design Industrial Base (Shenzhen) Institution, which has signed a letter of intent for cooperation.

The agreement is expected to raise the total output of IC design in Shenzhen to 40 billion dollars by 2008, according to Tam.

MARRIAGE

Dr Khin Khin Latt (M.B.,B.S) daughter of U Soe Myint (Adviser, News and Periodicals Enterprise) & (Daw Khin Hla Myint) to

Khin Maung Zaw (B.E)
Microsoft Corporation, Seattle, USA son of (U Ko Ko Gyi) & (Daw Hla Shin).

With the consent of parent and elders of both parties.

Khin Maung Zaw-Dr Khin Khin Latt

Siemens sets up first software company in China

NANJING, 14 Feb.—Siemens sets up its first China-based software company Wednesday in Nanjing, capital of the eastern province of Jiangsu.

The Siemens Software and System Engineering Co Ltd aims to provide application software for its operations in China, and to further the localization level of the German electronics multinational in the country, company sources said.

Peter Borger, vice-executive president of Siemens (China) Co Ltd, said the Nanjing company will take advantage of rich local human resources of software to promote and enhance its research and development ability in China.

The new company will cooperate with Chinese universities, especially those in Nanjiang, and other parts of Jiangsu, to develop software and will therefore employ a rising number of software graduates from these universities during cooperation.

Borger said the new company plans to employ 1,000 software engineers on the medium term.

Siemens had set up more than 40 companies and 24 offices in China. Its operations include information, telecommunications, automotive, energy, electricity, traffic, medical, lighting and home appliance.

The German company has cumulatively invested 5.4 billion yuan (651 million US dollars) in China, and its sales revenue reached 3.01 billion yuan (36.6 billion US dollars) in 2003.

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Under the agreement, the
UN agrees laws against “alien” marine invaders

LONDON, 14 Feb—The United Nations has agreed tough laws against harmful microscopic organisms and other marine creatures that invade delicate ecosystems by stowing away in ships’ ballast water, the agency’s maritime arm said on Friday.

The countries are signing the treaty estimated to be causing billions of dollars’ worth of economic damage every year and has even been linked to facilitating the spread of major diseases like cholera.

The World Wildlife Fund which had warned of a marine environmental disaster in the making if tough action was not taken broadly welcomed the agreement, but said the treaty could take time to enter force.

Macao’s hotel industry slightly down in 2003

MACAO, 14 Feb — The hotel industry in Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), which recorded over three million guests last year, registered 3.5 per cent down on the level of the previous year, despite a slowdown in the effect of an epidemic outbreak lingering for months.

The Macao Statistics and Census Bureau said Thursday that Macao’s 69 hotels including nine five-star hotels logged 3.04 million guests last year. Some of the hotels, especially five-star and three-star hotels were most popular with visitors, which enjoyed an average occupancy rate of 90 per cent in December.

An official of the Macao Tourism Office attributed the slight drop to the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Macao’s neighbouring regions of Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland.

The SAR’s total number of hotel rooms reached 9,185 at the end of last year, an increase of 2.6 per cent on the same period in 2002. With a population of some 440,000, Macao received 11.88 million tourist arrivals last year, an increase of 3.1 per cent on 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

Overseas Chinese entrepreneurs to shift investment focuses

GUANGZHOU, 14 Feb—Chinese investors from around the world are shifting their investment to the Yangtze River Delta, Beijing and Tianjin municipalities, Bohai Bay area and large cities in inland China, said a leading overseas Chinese entrepreneur.

T.C. Wu, president of China Expo (USA) Inc., told a seminar on investment by Chinese-funded enterprises and regional cooperation that, traditionally, more than 90 per cent of businesses in Hong Kong and Macao invested in south China’s Guangdong Province. They had gradually expanded their scope to other coastal areas. The majority of Taiwan investors cast their eyes from Guangdong to Shanghai and Jiangsu, Fujian and Zhejiang provinces, while Chinese entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia and the United States favoured Guangdong, Jiangsu, Fujian and Shandong provinces, Beijing and Shanghai municipalities and the Bohai Bay area.

By the end of 2003, the investment brought to China by overseas enterprises exceeded 500 billion US dollars, 65 per cent of which was provided by overseas Chinese.

Wu predicted that China would see an upsurge of investment as a result of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai.

By 2010, the amount of contractual investment signed between Chinese and foreign firms would be two trillion US dollars and that of actual foreign funds would reach one trillion dollars. Overseas Chinese entrepreneurs would be major investors, Wu said.

MNA/Reuters

Cambodian-flagged cargo ship sinks in Black Sea

ANKARA, 14 Feb—A Cambodian-flagged cargo ship named Heru sank at the Bosphorus Straits linking the Mediterranean to the Black Sea on Friday, the Anatolia news agency reported.

Anatolia quoted Turkish Coast Guard and Ship Rescue Enterprises directorate general as saying that the 139-metre long cargo ship sank due to unknown reasons at the Black Sea exit.

Coast Guard boats had left for the scene to rescue the 21 crew members, the report said.

Meanwhile Anatolia reported that two other ships had run aground near the entrance to the Bosphorus on Friday due to bad weather conditions. All the crewmen were rescued.

Turkey has been gripped by heavy snow in its northwestern part. Several ports and airports have been closed. — MNA/Xinhua

China tries using seawater to flush residential toilets

QINGDAO, 14 Feb—Residents of China’s famous brewery city of Qingdao will be first in the country to flush their toilets with seawater as part of a pilot project currently underway.

Residents living in the Nanjing Development area in the coastal city of Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, will only pay 0.5 yuan (six US cents) per ton of processed seawater, or about one-eighth the average price of tap water in major Chinese cities.

The government has authorized building the seawater flushing facilities for the Nanjing Development, and the site for pumping installation has been selected, according to officials in charge of the project.

Qingdao consumes about 60,000 cubic metres of water a day for toilet flushing while the city keeps struggling with a shortage of freshwater.

The project has become feasible since technological breakthroughs have been made in seawater purification, disinfection and biochemical treatment, and specified standards for water quality and draining, according to the officials.

MNA/Xinhua

Microsoft Windows source code leaks onto Internet

SEATTLE, 14 Feb—Microsoft Corp said Thursday that parts of the source code, or software blueprint, for its closely-guarded Windows programmes had leaked onto the Internet, possibly exposing its products to hackers and illicit copying.

Microsoft said that copies of the source code from its Windows NT and Windows2000 operating systems were being traded over the Internet, but that the copies comprised a tiny portion of the millions of lines of code used to create its cash cow products.

Source code is the intellectual property and lifeblood of any software company, since it is the basic language used to create software programmes. Microsoft has only shared its source code with close partners and carefully chosen organizations, with legal agreements that threaten litigation in the event of that any of is leaked.

The level of secrecy around the code is akin to that around the formula used in Coca-Cola Co’s soft drinks.

“It’s illegal for third parties to post Microsoft source code, and we take such activity very seriously,” Microsoft spokesman Tom Pilla said in a statement. — MNA/Reuters

Liaoning Province works to protect historical heritage

SHENYANG, 14 Feb—Northeast China’s Liaoning Province is expected to launch a historical heritage protection project this year to effectively preserve its historical sites and cultural relics.

The province will invest 20 million yuan (about 2.4 million US dollars) on protecting a number of historical sites, which could be developed and opened for tourism, and renovating those which are dilapidating or damaged, said Peng Yiming, director of Liaoning cultural department.

Peng said Liaoning Province would establish a cultural relic protection centre, monitoring criminal cases concerning cultural relics, helping determine the dates and qualities of cultural relics, offering advice on cultural relic protection project and setting up a web site specialized in cultural relics.

The provincial cultural department would assist the police and Customs in cracking down on crimes involving cultural relics, and would make efforts on cultural relics-related legislation, Peng said.

With plentiful historical heritage resources, Liaoning possesses 201 historical sites at the provincial level, with over 120,000 precious cultural relics of imperial Han (206 BC-AD 220), Tang (618-907 AD) and Liao (916-1125 AD) dynasties. — MNA/Xinhua

Some of the 18 British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards (the British version of the Oscars) are cleaned in London, on 12 Feb, 2004, in preparation for Sunday’s awards ceremony in London.—INTERNET

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The World Wildlife Fund which had warned of a marine environmental disaster in the making if tough action was not taken broadly welcomed the agreement, but said the treaty could take time to enter force.

By the end of 2003, the investment brought to China by overseas enterprises exceeded 500 billion US dollars, 65 per cent of which was provided by overseas Chinese.

Wu predicted that China would see an upsurge of investment as a result of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai.

By 2010, the amount of contractual investment signed between Chinese and foreign firms would be two trillion US dollars and that of actual foreign funds would reach one trillion dollars. Overseas Chinese entrepreneurs would be major investors, Wu said.

Anatolia quoted Turkish Coast Guard and Ship Rescue Enterprises directorate general as saying that the 139-metre long cargo ship sank due to unknown reasons at the Black Sea exit.

Meanwhile Anatolia reported that two other ships had run aground near the entrance to the Bosphorus on Friday due to bad weather conditions. All the crewmen were rescued.

Turkey has been gripped by heavy snow in its northwestern part. Several ports and airports have been closed. — MNA/Xinhua

Qingdao consumes about 60,000 cubic metres of water a day for toilet flushing while the city keeps struggling with a shortage of freshwater.

The project has become feasible since technological breakthroughs have been made in seawater purification, disinfection and biochemical treatment, and specified standards for water quality and draining, according to the officials.

Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, will only pay 0.5 yuan (six US cents) per ton of processed seawater, or about one-eighth the average price of tap water in major Chinese cities.

The government has authorized building the seawater flushing facilities for the Nanjing Development, and the site for pumping installation has been selected, according to officials in charge of the project.

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**SPORTS**

**Tunisia, Morocco set up Nations final clash**

NAXIUMA, 13 Feb - Hosts Tunisia will face off against North African rivals Morocco on Saturday in the Nations Cup final.

In Wednesday’s semifinals, Tunisia held Nigeria to a 1-1 draw after extra time before booking a final ticket in the penalty shootout at Radès while Morocco took an easy 4-0 win against Mali in Sousse. Nigeria took the lead in the 67th minute through a Jay Jay Oloko penalty but Tunisia captain Khaled Badra equalized from the penalty spot just eight minutes from end, and Tunisia went on to win 5-3 in the shoot-out.

It will be Tunisia’s third appearance in the final but the North African country have never won the continental title. But Tunisia will miss their captain Badra in the final due to suspension. He was voted Man of the Match after Wednesday’s semifinal. Morocco, whose only Nations Cup success came in 1976, thrashed Mali in an easy manner.

Striker Youssef Mekhriti cracked home a free kick after 15 minutes and added another in the 58th minute from distance. Youssef Hadij and substitute Nabil Baha changed the score sheet once in the last 10 minutes to turn the victory into a rout.

**Ferguson missing Ferdinand factor**

LONDON, 13 Feb — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson could never have imagined the loss of Rio Ferdinand could have such an impact on his team's Premier League title challenge.

When the England defender started his last match at Wolverhampton Wanderers three weeks ago before beginning an eight-month ban for missing a drugs test, United were a point ahead of Arsenal at the top of the table.

Since then, the champions have conceded eight goals in three matches, still managing to beat Southampton 3-2 and Everton 4-3 before Wednesday’s 3-2 home defeat by Middlesbrough left them five points behind Arsenal.

“We can’t afford to lose another game,” Ferguson said. “We’ve been slack in defence and if we keep doing that, we can say good-bye to the League.”

Ferguson described Middlesbrough’s goals as “soft” after diminutive Brazilian Juninho twice exploited poor marking to score with headers and Joseph Desire Job evaded two defenders to clinch victory.

But Ferdinand should not be too surprised by his side’s defensive frailty.

The aerial threat created by Steve Bruce and Gary Pallister in the early-to-mid 1990s United have never consistently fielded a reliable central defensive pairing.

“Everything was so fast. I never played someone who served so fast. Plus his footwork is so incredible, he always looks free. You always have the feeling that you are late on the ball,” said Rochus, who lost the world number one ranking to Swiss Roger Federer at the Australian Open, said Rochus had put up a good fight.

“I thought he was handling my stuff decently,” Roddick said.

**Japan beat Iraq in soccer friendly**

TOKYO, 13 Feb — Atsushi Yanagisawa and Alex scored second-half goals to give Japan a flattering 2-0 win over Iraq on Thursday in a warm-up for the Asian 2006 World Cup qualifiers, which begin next week.

Sampdoria’s Atsushi Yanagisawa pounced in the 47th minute, heading a left-wing cross from Alex past Iraq goalkeeper Saad Jameel as Japan finally broke through following a turgid first half in Tokyo.

Brazilian-born defender Alex made it 2-0 in the 54th minute, neatly tucking the ball home after a clever exchange of passes with Tatsusho Kuko.

Iraq, who trained on a bumpy field at Rades while Morocco took an easy 4-0 win against Mali in Sousse, took the lead in the 67th minute through a Jay Jay Oloko penalty but Tunisia captain Khaled Badra equalized from the penalty spot just eight minutes from end, and Tunisia went on to win 5-3 in the shoot-out.

**Roddick powers way past Rochus in San Jose**

SAN JOSE (California), 13 Feb — Top seed Andy Roddick began his North American campaign by crushing Belgium’s Christophe Rouchus 6-4, 6-2 in the first round of the San Jose Open on Wednesday.

Third seed Mardy Fish, on the other hand, had to call on all his reserves in a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-2) victory over Denmark’s Kenneth Carlsen in a second round.

Fourth seed Taylor Dent, however, fell 6-4, 6-4 to fellow American and wild card Robert Kendrick, also in the second round.

The contest between the tall Roddick, the world’s fastest server, and the short Rochus delighted the crowd, with the smaller man attempting to tip up the American by scamping to the net and attempting tight angles with his groundstrokes.

In the end though, the American was much too powerful, cracking 16 aces and 13 more winners to only 16 total winners for Rochus.

Roddick did not always have his rhythm with his second serve, but once he established his footing on the high bouncing indoor court, he was lethal.

In the fifth game of the second set, Roddick cracked a 143-mph ace, a 136-mph service winner, a 137-mph ace and a 136-mph ace.

Last Friday in the Davis Cup, Roddick set the world record for service speed at 150-

“There’s so much intensity in his game,” Roddick said.

“Everything was so fast. I never played someone who served so fast. Plus his footwork is so incredible, he always looks free. You always have the feeling that you are late on the ball,” said Rochus, who lost the world number one ranking to Swiss Roger Federer at the Australian Open, said Rochus had put up a good fight.

“I thought he was handling my stuff decently,” Roddick said.

**Brazil to wear new shirt for first time against Ireland**

Rio de Janeiro, 14 Feb — Brazil will wear their new super lightweight shirt for the first time when they meet Ireland in a friendly international in Dublin next Wednesday.

The 155-gram shirt, the lightest ever designed by sportswears manufacturer Nike, was unveiled by Brazil to wear new shirt for the first time against Ireland.

The most obvious difference with Brazil’s previous shirt, which they wore when they won their fifth World Cup in Japan in 2002, is that the federation’s (CBF) emblem has been moved to the middle of the chest.
15-2-2004 (Sunday) (Programme Schedule)

Morning Transmission (09:00 - 19:30)
9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
9:06 Union of Myanmar National Races
10:00 Headline News
10:19 Myanmar Traditional Marionette (The Alchemist Dance)
9:15 National News
9:25 From Yangon to the Peak of Mt. Victoria
9:30 National News
9:35 Song “Blessed Myanmar”
9:40 Second Expedition to observe the crocodiles nests
9:45 National News
9:50 Song of Myanmar Movie Imp-act “Given the gift of Life”
9:55 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
9:59 Union of Myanmar National Races
10:04 Headline News
10:13 Myanmar Traditional Marionette (The Alchemist Dance)

15:2-2004 (Sunday) (Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad)

Evening Transmission (15:30 - 23:30)
15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
15:36 Union of Myanmar National Races
16:40 Headline News
16:45 Myanmar Traditional Marionette (The Alchemist Dance)
16:50 National News
16:55 From Yangon to the Peak of Mt. Victoria
16:00 National News
16:10 Song “Blessed Myanmar”
16:12 Second Expedition to observe the crocodiles nests
16:15 National News

8:00 Sunday, February 15

View today:
7:00 am
1. Reception of Parittas by Missionary Sayawd U Othamnara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. လူမျိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် ချန်ပီးသားများကို သုံးပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
12:50 am
5. Milo Success In Soccer
1:00 am
6. စိတ်ကြိုက်များ များသို့ ပြသချင်
1:15 am
7. နောက်ထက်ပိုင်းသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
1:30 am
8. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
2:10 am
9. ချန်ပီးသားပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
2:45 am
10. International news
4:00 am
11. မှူးဗျူးပုံပြသချင်
4:15 am
12. ဗျူးပုံပြသချင်
4:30 am
13. နောက်ထက်ပိုင်းသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
6:30 am
14. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
7:15 am
15. ကြိုက်များသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
7:30 am
16. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
8:00 am
17. နောက်ထက်ပိုင်းသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
8:15 am
18. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
8:30 am
19. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
8:45 am
20. Say It In English
10:00 am
21. Martial Song

11:05 am
22. ကြိုက်များသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
12:50 am
23. Milo Success In Soccer
1:00 am
24. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
2:10 am
25. ချန်ပီးသားပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
2:45 am
26. International news
4:00 am
27. မှူးဗျူးပုံပြသချင်
4:15 am
28. ဗျူးပုံပြသချင်
4:30 am
29. နောက်ထက်ပိုင်းသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
6:30 am
30. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
7:15 am
31. ကြိုက်များသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
7:30 am
32. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
8:00 am
33. နောက်ထက်ပိုင်းသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
8:15 am
34. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
8:30 am
35. အမှတ်တံဆိုးများသို့ ပြသချင် (အမှတ်တံဆိုး)
8:45 am
36. Say It In English
10:00 am
37. မှူးဗျူးပုံပြသချင်

WEATHER
Saturday, 14 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated rain in Shan State, weather has been fairly in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divi- sions; (3°C) above normal in Shan and Rakhine States, Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 13-2-2004 was 35.0°C (95°F). Minimum temperature on 14-2-2004 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9-30 hrs MST on 14-2-2004 was 65%.

Total sunshine hours on 13-2-2004 was (9) hours. Approach Rainfall on 14-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba- aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba- aye) was 15 mph from Southeast at (09:00) hours MST on 14-2-2004

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

Forecast valid until evening of 15-2-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty 80%.

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


Although there is some progress in the regions, remedial measures are to be taken in time for shortcomings and weaknesses

Secretary-1 meets local authorities of Myitkyina, Mohnayin towns...