Opportunities created for those who are willing to pursue higher education within their reach with emergence of universities and colleges in states and divisions

Mohnyin Degree College opened

YANGON, 16 Feb—The opening of Mohnyin Degree College was held on Mohnyin on 11 February, with an address by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present were Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Immigration Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Tactical Operations Commander of Northern Command Col Tin Shein, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, chairmen of Myitkyina District and Mohnyin Township Peace and Development Councils and members, the principal of Mohnyin Degree College, professors and faculty members, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and local people.

First, the opening ceremony of the archway of the college was held. Maung Kyaw Min, first year Botany Major student, and Ma Saw Nan Wut Yi, a first year Physics Major student, formally opened the archway. Next, Maung Nay Min Htwe, first year Chemistry Major student, and Ma Ei Shwe Zin, first year Myanmar Major student, formally opened the main building of the college. The Secretary-1 planted a star-flower sapling to mark the opening of the college.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and deputy ministers planted star-flower saplings and Gangaw saplings.

Next, the Secretary-1 formally unveiled the bronze plaque of the college. The Secretary-1 and party sprinkled scented water on it. They also inspected computer training centre, stationery shop and language lab. The Secretary-1 delivered a speech. He said the government is implementing development tasks to bring about harmonious development across the nation and to forge the Union Spirit among the national races.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For better communication services

The Government is striving day in, day out for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Thanks to the earnest efforts of the Tatmadaw Government, after its assumption of the responsibilities of the State, various national race armed groups returned to the legal fold and as a result peace prevails throughout the country.

With the implementation of the border area and national races development projects, people living in the remote border areas are now witnessing fruitful result of the projects.

For harmonious development among the states and divisions, the 24 special development regions have been designated and universities, colleges, government technological colleges, computer colleges and hospitals established with a view to raising the living standard of local people, providing better health care services and promoting the education standard.

In addition, rural development projects are being implemented for equitable development of all the regions in the country. Now, efforts are being made in accord with the guidance of the Head of State to narrow the gap between rural and urban areas.

Myanmar delegation led by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony.

Auto exchange in Kungyangon and Kawhmu are type KX-TD 500s. They can be installed with 400 telephones each and 300 has been installed in Kungyangon and 200 in Kawhmu so far.

They can operate overseas calls. MPT is building new auto exchange in 30 townships in states and divisions. As communication services are being extended, altogether 130 auto exchange, 614 exchange and about 400,000 telephone lines have been installed throughout the country.

The Government is making arrangements for ensuring better communication services in rural areas. Moreover, TV retransmission stations have been established with the aim of enabling the people living in border areas to know the objective conditions of the State.

At a time when good foundations for strengthening the economy of the State and raising the living standard of the people are emerging, we firmly believe that the communication sector will develop with momentum.

Myanmar to attend biodiversity conservation conference

YANGON, 16 Feb — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung here by air to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the seventh conference on conservation of biodiversity there.

The delegation was sent off at Yangon Interna- tional Airport by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Min- ister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers for Forestry and officials. — MNA

National Seminar on WTO Trade Policy begins

YANGON, 16 Feb — A ceremony to open the Na- tional Seminar on WTO Trade Policy, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and World Trade Organization (WTO), was held at Grand Plaza Park royal Hotel in Yangon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Huy Oo, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental heads, advisers, officials of WTO and depart mental officials. Addressing the opening of the seminar, Maj-Gen Thein Swe said this Seminar is part of the WTO Technical Assistance and Training Plan to enhance institutional and human capacity in member countries especially for the developing and least-developed members to know more about WTO agreements and facilitate effective participation in the Multilateral Trading System.

According to the WTO Technical Assistance Programme, the National Seminar on WTO Trade in Services was convened in Yangon in February last year, and we are also very pleased to host today’s seminar on WTO Trade Policy. At this seminar, I found that it will focus on quite a number of topics such as WTO Agreement on Agriculture, Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Meas ures, Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Market Access issues including on going agricultural market access negotiations, services negotiations and customs matters including customs valuation. As we all are aware that, the World Trade Organiza tion — WTO is a rule based organization which deals with the rules of trade among member countries at a global level.

It is, therefore, an organization for liberalizing trade, for human rights and trade negotiation and for settlement of trade disputes. I was informed that, currently, there are 148 members and about 30 countries are at the observer status in the accession process to be a member.

About two-thirds of the members are developing countries and their role in world trade is increasingly important because of the trend of global trade where the volume of trade among the developing countries is much more than developed.

Myanmar is one of the founder members of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade — GATT and also a signatory to the Final Act which established the World Trade Organization.

As a member of WTO, we are quite aware that we have to implement the obligations of the WTO Agreements. Therefore, our people need to know thorough what are the obligations we need to follow and what are the preferences we were given according to the WTO Agreements. I believe that, this National Seminar will contribute to some extent providing wider knowledge to our people. This seminar is attended by 30 participants from relevant Ministries who are responsible for the implementation of the WTO Agreements. Therefore, I should like to urge the participants to learn more about the WTO obligations and rights and exchange your quarters and views with the esteemed resource persons. You should make good use of the opportunity for the benefit of your organizations and country and also for the full realization of the objectives of this Seminar.

In conclusion, he said that I would like to express once again my deep appreciation and profound thanks to the resource persons from the WTO for coming all the way from Geneva.

Next, Dr Raymond Krommeneck, coordinator of Training and Technical Cooperation Department of WTO, extended greetings and the opening ceremony concluded.

The seminar continues up to 19 February. MNA
Iraq’s neighbours pledge not to meddle

KUWAIT CITY, 16 Feb—Iraq’s neighbours pledged Sunday not to meddle in Baghdad’s affairs, but that promise may be difficult to keep considering their varied interests in the country.

Foreign ministers from Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and politically influential Egypt met in the Kuwaiti capital for two days to discuss the repercussions of Iraq’s developments on the Middle East.

Bahrain also attended as a representative of the Arab League.

Ministers worried that the US plan to reorganize Iraq into a federal system would empower ethnic groups and foster regional instability. Their chief interest was for ethnic groups in Iraq not to agitate the minorities in their own countries.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari assured the ministers that would not happen and asked them to keep out of Iraq’s affairs. He told The Associated Press that Iraq’s neighbours should not interfere in Iraq and decide on their own political future, and not dictate.

The final statement of the meeting respected Zebari’s plea, but regional analysts suggested its words were empty.

“It is impossible to keep this promise,” said Wael Kazziba, a political science professor at the American University in Cairo. “It is a question of national interest.”

The Gulf countries, primarily Saudi Arabia, worry that the now-emboldened Iraqi Shiites — a long-repressed majority in Iraq — will strike up close ties with influential Iran and become more powerful.

Spanish protesters call for end to Iraq occupation

MADRID, 16 Feb—Thousands of anti-war protesters have taken to the streets across Spain calling for the government to withdraw its 1,300 troops from Iraq and for the United States to end its occupation there.

The demonstrations on Sunday — in major cities like Madrid, Barcelona, Seville and Valencia as well as smaller towns — marked the anniversary of massive anti-war protests a year ago.

With the US-led forces poised to invade, millions came out a year ago, but crowds were much smaller this time.

Protestors claimed 150,000 marched in Madrid, while authorities put the figure at 9,000, according to the Spanish news agency Europa Press.

In Barcelona, organizers said a crowd of 20,000 versus an official estimate of 4,000, the website of newspaper El Mundo said.

Gunmen in Iraq open fire on US convoy

BAQubah, 16 Feb—Gunmen opened fire Sunday on a US convoy on a Baghdad highway, setting one vehicle ablaze, and witnesses said three foreigners were wounded.

The convoy of a military Humvee and two sport utility vehicles, the sort used by American civilians and officials in Iraq, was on a high way in western Baghdad when the gunmen attacked, hitting one of the SUVs.

Witneses said they heard gunfire and afterward saw American soldiers pulling three wounded people from the stricken vehicle.

1,000 people stage anti-war meeting in Sydney

Canberra, 16 Feb—About 1,000 people participated in a meeting in Australia’s largest city Sydney Sunday to mark the anniversary of global protests against the war in Iraq.

Millions of people in over 600 cities across the world staged anti-war protests one year ago to oppose the US-led invasion of Iraq. Half a million protestors took to the streets in Sydney at that time.

The Australian Associated Press quoted meeting organizer Pip Hinman as saying the continuing resistance to the occupation of Iraq and the growing scandal over the government’s lies about weapons of mass destruction intelligence is quelling a reinvigoration of the anti-war movement.

“There’s been a huge response to this meeting which is indicative that people are still so very concerned about the war which is ongoing in Iraq and which is based on a lie,” she said.

An international day of action is scheduled on March 20 to mark the anniversary of the start of the US-led invasion of Iraq. A mass rally has been planned for Sydney’s Hyde Park at midday.

China sets up national employment service for professionals

Beijing, 16 Feb—China unveiled its professional and skilled workers modernized employment service Saturday for the country’s professionals and skilled workers.

A spokesman for the service offered by the Ministry of Personnel said regular job sessions will be held at a physical site, including two separate job markets each week during its coming trial operation, and a larger job market one to three months after the trial operation.

The spokesman said the service also includes an Internet-based platform for job applicants and employers in cooperation with the ministry’s Internet-based job network (www.newjobs.com.cn).

It will be opened to all well-trained people, mostly high- and medium-level-caliber professionals and skilled people across the country, and those seeking to employ them, including departments of the central government and its institutions, said the spokesman.
Tension high in western Iraq after 27 killed in guerilla attacks

BAGHDAD, 16 Feb—Tension remained high in Iraq one day after guerrillas launched twin raids on Iraqi security bases, sparking blistering battles that left 27 dead and dozens wounded.

Violence raged on, with two Iraqis killed and three others wounded Sunday when insurgents mistakenly hit a minibus with a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) in Baghdad after trying to attack a US convoy, a hospital doctor said.

The killings rocked the northwest Shiite Muslim district of Shaawla, the source said, while another US military patrol came under small arms fire in the capital’s western al-Adel suburb, a US spokesman said.

The convoy was ambushed at 9.00 am (0600 GMT), the military said, adding that no US vehicles or soldiers had been harmed.

But a清新 exchange left the attackers’ sports utility vehicle in flames. The spokesman said it was not clear if the assailants were hurt, but witnesses said bodies had been removed from the car.

Near the northern city of Kirkuk, US soldiers gunned down two men who fired a rocket at Iraqi security forces in the village of Yaich, police said.

The synchronised raids by masked gunmen on a police and a paramilitary station in Fallujah on Saturday followed back-to-back bombings that killed more than 100 people earlier this week.

The attacks left at least 23 policemen and four attackers dead, the US military said. Two of the attackers were reported to be Iraqi.

According to local police chief Hakim Jumaili, about 15 attackers stormed the police station with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and other weapons, freeing 22 prisoners.

The assaults came just one day after the United Nations said Iraq was not ready for early elections and warned against serious dangers of civil war in the strife-torn nation.—Internet

Farmers benefit from new medical system in Jiangxi Province

NANCHANG, 16 Feb—Farmers of east China’s Jiangxi Province have benefited from the rural co-operative medical system, and highly praised the new mechanism, said an official with the province department of health.

So far the medical system, which is still in its pilot period, has paid 9.37 million yuan (1.13 million US dollars) worth of medical expenses for over 320,000 farmers, among whom 42 people with serious illness received over 10,000 yuan (1209 US dollars), the official said.

The new medical system is co-funded by subsidies from central, provincial, municipal and county governments and by farmers themselves. The farmers only have to pay 10 yuan (1.2 US dollars) each year and the state will shoulder 20 to 70 percent of their medical expenses. Luo Xiaoling, a villager of Jiangxi’s Chongyi County, said that her daughter suffered from congenital heart disease, and in the past 10 years she had not received any form of treatment because she had no money.

However, the family joined the rural co-operative medical system last October and took the daughter to receive the operation in Beijing. They paid 30 yuan (3.6 US dollars) and in return the local government reimbursed them over 10,000 yuan (1209 US dollars).

Jiangxi will go on popularizing the medical system within the province this year, and the system will cover 80 per cent of Jiangxi’s rural population in 2010, according to the official.—MNA/Xinhua

Philippines to issue tamper-proof identification cards to aliens

MANILA, 16 Feb—The Philippines’ Bureau of Immigration will soon issue tamper-proof identification cards to foreigners registered with the bureau in a bid to bolster its campaign against human smuggling and the proliferation of fake travel documents, a local newspaper reported Saturday, and the issuance of various immigration documents as the process will now be automated or done by computers.

As a result, Fernandez said an accurate and tamper-resistant identification and monitoring system will be instituted to help immigration officers at the ports of entry to check the authenticity of travel documents used by arriving and departing aliens.

A new system will be able to more effectively target ships close to shore or in congested waterways, he said.

"The combination of state-of-the-art navigational and initialization information technology allows the missile's active radar seeker to better discriminate the desired targets from islands, other obstructions or neutral ships," he said.

"The Harpoon missile is fired from the Anzac, Adelaide and Collins Class naval platforms, and F-111, FA-18 and AP-3C aircraft," he said.

"The Anzac class frigates will be the first to utilize this capability upgrade," he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Vehicle crash kills US soldier in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Feb—An 82nd Airborne Division para trooper died of injuries suffered when his vehicle overturned near Baghdad, the US military said Sunday.

The soldier, whose name was not released, died Saturday night at the 31st Combat Support Hospital where he was taken after the accident, the statement added.

The 82nd Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg, NC, is responsible for Anbar province and parts of Babylon province west of Baghdad. The area includes the town of Fallujah, a centre of anti-American violence, and stretches to the Syrian and Jordanian borders to the west and the Saudi Arabian border in the south.—Internet

Rebuilding Iraq could take ‘a very long time’

BAGHDAD, 16 Feb—Prime Minister Tony Blair as a special representative on Iraq today warned that reconstructing the country could take "a very long time".

Brian Wilson, a special representative on trade and reconstruction, said he did not know how long it would take to make the country safe. "It’s a long haul. We have seen for ourselves, much closer to home,” the Labour MP for Cunninghame North in Ayrshire said on Scottish Television’s Seven Days programme. "If you have people whose sole vested interest is in undermining a peace process, in targeting security forces, in frightening people out of operating a normal, civil society, then it can go on for a very long time.

"Ultimately, the wish of the great majority of people for a normal and stable society does prevail, but nobody can put timescales on it.”

Mr Wilson claimed there could be “very rapid progress” with some rebuilding work and also on the political front as Iraqis take control of their own affairs.

But he added: "None of that is certain, none of it is overnight, but that is the process that has to take place. "But I go back always to the point of asking: What is the alternative?" "The alternative is that today Saddam Hussein would still be ruling Iraq, half a million corpses would still be in mass graves, and every normal citizen of Iraq would be either operating the rule of terror in the case of a very small minority, or living under the fear of terror in the case of the great majority.

"So whatever the problems and challenges that exist now, they at least offer the prospect of a future, whereas what existed before offered nothing but continuing misery and terror."—Internet

Australia to spend $23m to upgrade missile system

CANBERRA, 16 Feb—Australia will spend $30 million Australian dollars (23 million US dollars) to upgrade its defence forces’ anti-ship missiles, Defence Minister Robert Hill said Friday.

The current Harpoon Block II missiles will be replaced with Harpoon Block II technology to enhance their precision and lethality, Hill said in a statement.

The new system will be able to more effectively target ships close to shore or in congested waterways, he said.

"The combination of state-of-the-art navigational and initialization information technology allows the missile’s active radar

seeker to better discriminate the desired targets from islands, other obstructions or neutral ships," he said.

"The Harpoon missile is fired from the Anzac, Adelaide and Collins Class naval platforms, and F-111, FA-18 and AP-3C aircraft," he said.

"The Anzac class frigates will be the first to utilize this capability upgrade," he added. — MNA/Xinhua

an armoured vehicle drives through the streets of Fallujah, 35 miles south of Baghdad, on Saturday, 14 Feb, 2004 in this image taken from video. —Image

US Military Police check a burned out vehicle that was riddled with bullets and torched in Baghdad recently. —Internet

A current system will be replaced with Harpoon Block II technology to enhance its precision and lethality, Hill said in a statement. —Internet

Farmers benefit from new medical system in Jiangxi Province

NANCHANG, 16 Feb—Farmers of east China’s Jiangxi Province have benefited from the rural co-operative medical system, and highly praised the new mechanism, said an official with the province department of health.

So far the medical system, which is still in its pilot period, has paid 9.37 million yuan (1.13 million US dollars) worth of medical expenses for over 320,000 farmers, among whom 42 people with serious illness received over 10,000 yuan (1209 US dollars), the official said.

The new medical system is co-funded by subsidies from central, provincial, municipal and county governments and by farmers themselves. The farmers only have to pay 10 yuan (1.2 US dollars) each year and the state will shoulder 20 to 70 percent of their medical expenses. Luo Xiaoling, a villager of Jiangxi’s Chongyi County, said that her daughter suffered from congenital heart disease, and in the past 10 years she had not received any form of treatment because she had no money.

However, the family joined the rural co-operative medical system last October and took the daughter to receive the operation in Beijing. They paid 30 yuan (3.6 US dollars) and in return the local government reimbursed them over 10,000 yuan (1209 US dollars).

Jiangxi will go on popularizing the medical system within the province this year, and the system will cover 80 per cent of Jiangxi’s rural population in 2010, according to the official.—MNA/Xinhua

The current Harpoon Block IIs will be replaced with Harpoon Block II technology to enhance their precision and lethality, Hill said in a statement.

The new system will be able to more effectively target ships close to shore or in congested waterways, he said.

"The combination of state-of-the-art navigational and initialization information technology allows the missile’s active radar seeker to better discriminate the desired targets from islands, other obstructions or neutral ships," he said.

"The Harpoon missile is fired from the Anzac, Adelaide and Collins Class naval platforms, and F-111, FA-18 and AP-3C aircraft," he said.

"The Anzac class frigates will be the first to utilize this capability upgrade," he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Australia to spend $23m to upgrade missile system

CANBERRA, 16 Feb—Australia will spend $30 million Australian dollars (23 million US dollars) to upgrade its defence forces’ anti-ship missiles, Defence Minister Robert Hill said Friday.

The current Harpoon Block II missiles will be replaced with Harpoon Block II technology to enhance their precision and lethality, Hill said in a statement.

The new system will be able to more effectively target ships close to shore or in congested waterways, he said.

"The combination of state-of-the-art navigational and initialization information technology allows the missile’s active radar seeker to better discriminate the desired targets from islands, other obstructions or neutral ships," he said.

"The Harpoon missile is fired from the Anzac, Adelaide and Collins Class naval platforms, and F-111, FA-18 and AP-3C aircraft," he said.

"The Anzac class frigates will be the first to utilize this capability upgrade," he added. — MNA/Xinhua
Iranian official calls for WMD-free Middle East region

TEHERAN, 16 Feb — Iran has always been in favour of annihilating nuclear arms in the Middle East region, and make it free from weapons of mass destruction (WMD), a senior Iranian official said here on Sunday.

Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Alireza Moayeri made the remarks at the inauguration ceremony of the international Indian Ocean Region (IOR) conference in Tehran.

“The (Indian Ocean) region had been the scene of rivalry between the American and ex-Soviet Union during the Cold War, and make it diverse resources and advantages, the official told dozens of experts and researchers from Australia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Canada, South Africa and Nepal.

He said that regional peace and stability could only be materialized through cooperation and mutual understanding among countries. The two-day conference titled “Security, Energy and IOR”, would discuss regional security issues, concepts of regional energy security and cooperation with powers outside the region.

“Though the Indian Ocean region houses some 75 per cent of the world’s total oil reserves and almost a quarter of the world’s population, its available economic opportunities have not yet been used properly,” lamented the Iranian official.

Calling terrorism a global issue, Moayeri stressed the need for international anti-terror cooperation.

Vehicle accident kills British soldier in southern Iraq

LONDON, 16 Feb — The British Ministry of Defence announced Friday that a British Army mechanic has been killed in a vehicle accident in southern Iraq.

Corporal Richard David Ivell, serving with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, died on Thursday in the accident at Shaibah Logistics Base, an airlifted in the southwestern outskirts of Iraq’s southern city of Basra, the ministry said.

“There was no hostile action. It was an accident on the base,” said a spokesman for the ministry, which declined to give further details on the accident.

The 29-year-old soldier became the 59th British serviceman to die in Iraq since the US-led war against Iraq broke out on 20 March last year.

Britain, the staunchest ally of the United States on Iraq, sent about 45,000 troops to the Gulf for the Iraq war. There are still about 9,000 British troops in Iraq, most of them serving in the Basra area.

Spain to introduce pioneering electronic ID cards

MADRID, 16 Feb — Spain will introduce pioneering electronic identity cards to help boost Internet security by giving people unique digital signatures, Interior Minister Angel Acebes said on Friday.

The 150-million-euro (192-million-US-dollar) scheme, due to be rolled out from 2005 after a pilot version at the end of this year, will replace current identity cards with a version that looks similar but carries a small chip packed with extra information.

“The electronic (identity card) will allow people to work on public and private communications networks, registering their identity and their digital signature,” Acebes said, adding that the electronic signature would carry the same legal weight as a conventional one.

Netherlands to limit workers from new EU members

BRUSSELS, 16 Feb — The Dutch Cabinet has decided to further limit the number of workers from the new member states of the European Union (EU), who will be allowed to work in the Netherlands starting May 1.

The Dutch Cabinet had at first set a limit of 22,000 workers from Poland and other Eastern European countries, according to Radio Netherlands reported Friday.

The Dutch Cabinet had at first set a limit of 22,000 workers from Poland and other Eastern European countries, according to Radio Netherlands.

It said the Dutch Government will “only provide working permits when there are no Dutch personnel to fill the positions.”

African first ladies vow to fight AIDS

KIGALI, 16 Feb — The first ladies of African countries ended their meeting here Saturday, with an aim to fight HIV/AIDS and discrimination against people infected with the disease.

During the meeting, which is an initial plan of the African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA), the participants reviewed some of the objectives and strategies in which the organization can be strengthened, said Rwandan First Lady Jeannette Kagame, who is also the chairperson of the organization.

“We have resolved the promotion of inter-country learning and exchange of best practices in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support programmes in OAFLA,” she added.

The meeting which gathered five African first ladies from Senegal, the Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Gabon and the hosting Rwanda also came to a consensus of making an awareness and mobilizing resources for the fight against AIDS at the national, regional and international levels.

Kenyan First Lady Lucy Kibaki said that the organization was created in Geneva in 2002 to reinforce the capacities of first ladies to respond effectively to the challenges presented by HIV/AIDS.

The first ladies’ meeting, with the theme “A Mother’s Face in the Fight Against AIDS,” was held on the sidelines of the summit of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), which attracted over 10 African leaders to discuss a framework aimed at tackling the continent’s economic issues.

The two-day summit was focused on good governance, the strengthening of African economy and democratisation, among others.

According to the latest available figures, an estimated 2.1 million lives were lost to HIV/AIDS in the region alone in 2003. Meanwhile, as many as 28 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS.

Beijingers’ disposable income, expenditure up

BEIJING, 16 Feb — As a result of rapid and steady economic development, the per capita disposable income of Beijingers surged 11.4 per cent year-on-year to reach 13,882.6 yuan (1,786 US dollars) last year, the latest statistics have shown.

With their income rising, local residents’ living expenses rose by 8.2 per cent year-on-year to hit 11,123.8 yuan (1,345 US dollars) last year.

According to the city statistics bureau, local residents spent more on communications, personal consumer goods and durable goods, but expenses on foods, medical care and recreation dropped slightly.

EU seeks to tap tomato nutrient potential

BRUSSELS, 16 Feb — Red, round and juicy, the tomato is the perfect addition to a salad but it also contains nutrients that could be used to make healthy food additives.

Scientists are trying to tap the tomato’s potential and make food additives from the four million tons of tomato waste dumped in the EU each year, the European Commission said on Friday.

The EU Executive Commission is funding the research into extracting proteins, sugars and oils from the tomato dregs, mostly skin and seed, without using chemicals.

Most of the tomato waste — leftovers from processing tomatoes into ketchup, pasta sauces and canned goods — ends up in animal feed.

Scientists are hoping to develop natural ways of eliminating impurities from the tomato waste.

“We have for a long time known the nutritional benefits of eating tomatoes,” EU Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin said in a statement. “With this project, we are set to maximize the potential of this juicy fruit.”

The Commission is funding the total cost — 425,000 euros (547,000 US dollars) — of the two-year research project. It is hoped that the new technique would also reduce tomato waste by 30 per cent. — MNA/Reuters
British veterans in Iraq to be studied for effects of war

London, 16 Feb — Britain would carry out a biggest ever study of the physical and psychological impact of the Iraq war on thousands of British troops who fought in that Middle East country the British Observer newspaper reported Sunday.

Funded by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and carried out by a specialist unit at London’s Kings College, the study would provide the first detailed picture of the human cost of modern combat for both the troops and their families the paper said.

Early studies have already suggested that the emerging cause of trauma could be connected with 'flashback' incidents, with at least five British personnel accidentally killed by American forces in Iraq, the paper said.

But the MoD research would cover possible triggers for illnesses, from controversial vaccinations given to protect against anti-war to the effects of depleted uranium used in allied weapons and stress factors related to individual soldiers’ experiences, the paper added.

Professor Simon Wessely, who would lead the study, told the paper that the immediate concerns were first, whether or not there would be a repeat of the kind of physical health problems experienced by soldiers who joined the 1991 Gulf War and second the increasing concerns about psychological issues.

Exhaustive medical research has produced no evidence of a recognizable Gulf War syndrome. But Wessely told the paper that it was clear that service in the Gulf had established the long-term impact on health and well being.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has decided to expand its investigation into prewar evidence on whether and how to promote "inaccurate intelligence".

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 17 February, 2004

Sport, exceeded 11,400 units, sales in China in 2003

Mitsubishi Motors sees record sales in China in 2003

Beijing, 16 Feb—Japan’s fourth-largest carmaker Mitsubishi doubled its 2003 sales in China to sell a record 145,235 vehicles last year.

Sales rose by 106.1 per cent from 2002 with sports utility vehicles (SUVs) leading the way, company figures show.

Sales of the Pajero, including both the imported and locally-produced Pajero Sport, exceeded 11,400 units, while the L200 SUV stood at almost 30,000 units. Since unveiling the Lancelot sedan with local partner Southeast Motors last year, Mitsubishi has extended its China range by introducing the Outlander (CUV—car-based utility vehicle) produced with Beijing Reep, a joint venture between Beijing Automotive Industries Holding Corp and Mitsubishi’s biggest shareholder, German-US DaimlerChrysler AG, last month.

The teaching strategy step by step when the financial situation warrants.

"In addition, the government has accepted the Education Commission’s proposal to change the academic structure to three-year junior secondary, three-year senior secondary and four-year university. The EMB will launch a public consultation next month to seek views on the implementation timetable and financial arrangements, and will adopt a pragmatic approach to implementing the changes as soon as possible."

The two straits are the outlet to the world’s oceans for Black Sea states. In normal conditions some 2.5 million barrels of Russian oil pass through the straits each day, but disruption by poor weather is common in the winter months.

A total of 42 tankers had been awaiting transit at the entrances to the two straits on Friday.

"The rescue effort is continuing both by sea and by air, but we have no results for now," said one official.

Neighbouring Bulgaria said on Sunday that 17 of the people on the Here had been its nationals. A Bulgarian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Turkish coastal authorities had so far found only a broken raft and a safety belt.

I am sorry I cannot pass on good news, but there is still a chance the search will give some positive result, he said.

French nuclear-powered carrier to jointly exercise with India

New Delhi, 16 Feb — France will field its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle, and a SNA-type nuclear submarine in the next round of joint naval exercise, the Hindustan Times reported Saturday.

The 38,000-ton Charles de Gaulle, with Rafale M Fighter and E-2eearly warning aircraft on board and the accompanying naval task force, will steam into the Indian Ocean region in April.

The joint exercise, code named the Varuna series, will take place off the coast of Goa, south India, sources at the naval headquarters were quoted as saying.

"The two sides will raise the level of manoeuvres in anti-submarine warfare and anti-air warfare over what was practised on previous occasions," a naval officer said.

This is the first time that France will field nuclear-powered vessels in exercises with India.

Spanish police seize five tons of cocaine on ship

Mazows, 16 Feb—Spanish police have seized a fishing boat carrying five tons of cocaine in international waters and arrested all seven members of the Colombian crew, the government said on Friday.

Police also arrested five Spanish nationals and one woman from the Dominican Republic in southwestern Spain this week in a crackdown on the same international drugs-trafficking ring.

A government statement said the cocaine seized on Thursday aboard the Lugo, a Belize-flagged ship, was bound for Spain and had come from a Colombian drug cartel connected to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC, a Marxist-inspired guerrilla army.

Proceeds from Colombian drug traffic have fuelled the 17,000-strong FARC’s war against the Colombian state, which has lasted for four decades.

Spanish police had been investigating the drugs-trafficking ring since September and do not exclude making further arrests, the statement said.

Turkish straits reopen as weather conditions ease

ANKARA, 16 Feb—Turkey’s Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits reopened to maritime traffic on Monday after blizzards battered the key oil shipping route for two consecutive days.

A maritime official said ships were heading north through the Bosphorus towards the Black Sea and that traffic in the other direction would resume at 1430 GMT. The Dardanelles Straits, south of the Sea of Marmara, were fully open.

The two straits are the outlet to the world’s oceans for Black Sea states. In normal conditions some 2.5 million barrels of Russian oil pass through the straits each day, but disruption by poor weather is common in the winter months.

A total of 42 tankers had been awaiting transit at the entrances to the two straits on Friday.

"The rescue effort is continuing both by sea and by air, but we have no results for now," said one official.

Neighbouring Bulgaria said on Sunday that 17 of the people on the Here had been its nationals. A Bulgarian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Turkish coastal authorities had so far found only a broken raft and a safety belt.

I am sorry I cannot pass on good news, but there is still a chance the search will give some positive result, he said.

French nuclear-powered carrier to jointly exercise with India

New Delhi, 16 Feb—Intending to raise its military engagement with India, France will field its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle, and a SNA-type nuclear submarine in the next round of joint naval exercise, the Hindustan Times reported Saturday.

The 38,000-ton Charles de Gaulle, with Rafale M Fighter and E-2c early warning aircraft on board and the accompanying naval task force, will steam into the Indian Ocean region in April.

The joint exercise, code named the Varuna series, will take place off the coast of Goa, south India, sources at the naval headquarters were quoted as saying.

"The two sides will raise the level of manoeuvres in anti-submarine warfare and anti-air warfare over what was practised on previous occasions," a naval officer said.

This is the first time that France will field nuclear-powered vessels in exercises with India.

MNA/Xinhua
Traditional festival of sea-friendly people

Salone nationals live between 9° 40’ and 13° 30’ latitude and between 97° 20’ and 98° 40’ longitude. They can be found in Ellaphineston, Ross (Donkama Creek), Lampi, Nyaze and St Maarten Islands and they also live on islands near Kawthoung Island, Katan Island, Patelaw, Meesem Island and Wah Islands. A few live in Malti island in Daw island, King Island and jetty on Myeik Beach.

Although Salone nationals feared pirates in the past, they are now safe due to the efforts of the government. As they live along the beaches, they live on the sea. They are proficient in swimming and diving. Diving in the sea, they catch fish, prawn, sea leech and green snail (something used for making beautiful lamp shade) and earn their living by selling them.

It is their custom that Salone nationals live on the beaches near the sea, using the boat made of cane called Kavan as their home. Their boats cannot sink easily because they are made of cane. The roof of the boat is made of thatch.

There are a few clothes and some pots for cooking in a Salone family. Every family usually raises at least a dog. During the rainy season, they do not go to the stormy sea. They are back on the beach and build houses in the beach and live there in the rainy season. The posts of their house are long. Salone families live together in unity, sharing food. After the rainy season, the families leave the beach for the sea. They allow other families to stay in the house they have built. If the boat is damaged, Salone nationals live in other boats of others nearby before rebuilding a new one.

They are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal to stay in the house they have built. If the boat is damaged, Salone nationals live in other boats of others nearby before rebuilding a new one.

They are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf. If the courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.

Salone nationals are contented with food they have gathered. Salone nationals are monogamists. There is a practice of courting in their youth. A young man makes proposal of marriage through a go-between, using betel leaf.
Opportunities created...

(from page 1)

Nowadays, mutual trust and understanding among the regional brethren has been forged and Kachin State has enjoyed cent per cent peace and tranquillity. With the prevalence of peace and tranquillity in Kachin State, the government has designated Myitkyina and Bhamo regions as special development regions and is making all-out efforts for development of economic, health, education and transport sectors in Kachin State. There was only Myitkyina degree college in Kachin State in 1988 and there are now Myitkyina university, Bhamo degree college, Myitkyina education college, Myitkyina government technological college and Myitkyina government computer college. Bhamo government computer college and Bhamo government technological college totalising seven.

Mohnyin region of Kachin State is densely populated and it is also a region where emphasis is being placed on agriculture. Therefore, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance to the effect that priority is to be given to human resources development in Mohnyin region.

That is why degree college and government technical institute have emerged in Mohnyin region. To be brief, there are one university, seven degree colleges and colleges and one institute in Kachin State. In the whole nation, there were 32 universities and colleges in 1988 and there are now 154 universities, degree colleges and colleges with about 900,000 students.

The government created the opportunities to pursue the higher education in the states and divisions to meet the demand of the growing number of students in their pursuit of higher learning in the regions. In other words, the government opened more universities and colleges in the states and divisions after designating the 24-development zones. Likewise, universities and colleges were opened in highly populated and strategic Myingyan and Mohnyin regions.

Opportunities were created for those who are willing to pursue higher education within their reach with the emergence of universities and colleges in the region. This will help produce educated persons capable of safeguarding peace and tranquillity in the region.

The world is now on the path leading to the Knowledge Age and every nation is building and transforming its education system to keep pace with changes and developments. In the process, highly qualified human resources are to be produced to be able to apply modern technology.

Therefore, more universities and colleges have been opened in the states and divisions to enable everyone there to pursue the higher learning. Mohnyin degree college opened with the aim of producing highly qualified human resources needed for the State and the region is to strive for producing intellectuals and intelligentsia and for successful realization of the national objectives laid down by the State.

To meet the demand of the higher education in Kachin State. There were 30 high schools in the past and there are now 46 high schools, nine high schools (branch) and 15 affiliated high schools while the number of middle schools has increased from 68 to 82 and the number of primary schools from 1080 to 1184 with 114 post-primary schools.

In the communication and information sector, there were 12 telephone exchanges in the past and there are now 38 telephone exchanges, 5 satellite stations, 13 microwaves, 12 rural communication centres and 18 TV retransmission stations in Kachin State.

Thus, Mohnyin degree college opened with the aim of producing highly qualified human resources in the region. He urged the faculty members to teach their students to become intellectuals who will serve the interest of the State and its people. They themselves are to continue their studies as constant learners.

Ma Nan Lwin Lwin

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win plants a tree to mark the groundbreaking ceremony of Mohnyin Degree College. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects a book show at Mohnyin Degree College. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for photo together with faculties and students in front of Mohnyin Degree College. — MNA

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe spoke. He said the groundbreaking ceremony for the college was held on 5 June 2003. The college was opened on 18 December 2003. He said the government is fulfilling the needs of the education sector, the most basic and strong force for development of the nation.

He said the teachers are to make efforts for development of the education sector and the students are to learn their respective subjects to be brilliant.

Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt said in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe the college was opened to produce qualified human resources in the region. He urged the faculty members to teach their students to become intellectuals who will serve the interest of the State and its people. They themselves are to continue their studies as constant learners.

Managing Director of Ever Green Co Ltd U Than Shwe presented K 20 million for education funds of the college to the Secretary-1.

The Secretary-1 handed over the donation to Principal U Than Nyunt.

The Principal presented gifts to the Secretary-1, the commander and party.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected booths of IT companies and the book show.

They posed for photos together with local people in front of the main building.

The main building is 385 feet long and 228 feet wide and it includes 17 lecture halls, a language lab, two laboratories, a library, two offices, a theatre and multi-purpose hall.

Twelve specializations—eight major subjects and four minor ones—are available at the college where altogether 343 students are studying.
85th anniversary of MRTV observed

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsann addresses the 58th anniversary of Myanma Radio and Television. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than... (from page 16)

Only when there is increase in per capita income will there be national development, he pointed out. Ayeyawady Division is the one that produces paddy most in the country and last year, 3.4 million acres of land were put under monsoon paddy. As 1.6 million acres of land will be put under summer paddy efforts are to be made to meet the target.

In Ayeyawady Division, over 1.3 million acres of land can be put under beans and pulses and emphasis should be placed on extended cultivation of edible oil crops. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also spoke of the need to grow Thitsesein (bellaric myrobalan) as edible oil crops and pepper and raising local strain chicken.

He also urged the service personnel to strive with goodwill for regional development.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander greeted those present.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Kyungh不在乎 camp in Meinmahlaukyun reserved forest in Bogale Township. They were welcomed there by officials of the Forest Department.

Director U San Lwin of the department and an official reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party on type of forest on Meinmahlaukyun, plants and herbal seen in the area, forest conservation, wild animals, birds seen in mangrove forest areas, migrant birds and breeding of crocodile pusoros, a species of crocodile thought to be on the verge of extinction. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected breeding of crocodile pusoros.

Natural Environments and Wild animals Conservation Branch under Forest Department designated Meinmahlaukyun as a reserved forest in 1994 and measures have been taken for conservation of mangrove forest in delta region and promoting eco-tourism. At present, 47 crocodile pusoros are being raised in Kyunghاحتمال and Haungchaung Camps. During the period from 1999 to 2003, altogether 93 crocodile pusoros were released for reproduction.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at No 1 Mangrove Park of Forest Department in Byommyeckyun in Bogale Township.

At the briefing hall of the camp, officials reported on measures taken for conservation of mangrove forest. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on mangrove forest conservation and action to be taken against those who indiscriminately fell trees.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected saplings of mangrove trees and viewed round the mangrove forest.

About 1.2 million mangrove trees are grown in the Mangrove Park of Byommyeckyun.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Kadonkani Village in the afternoon and they paid homage to Pyilonschanzha Pagoda. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated cash for the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party, next, proceeded to the station hospital in the village. Responsible personnel reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party on providing health care service to patients and strength of staff. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended to the needs. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than asked after the patients and the commander made cash donations for the patients.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated K 100,000 and the chairman of Pyapon District Peace and Development Council K 50,000 to the funds of the hospital.

At Basic Education High School in the village, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected computer room and language lab.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated K 150,000 for the students who are going to sit matriculation examination in Bogale and the commander K 50,000 for four primary schools in the village through the headmaster.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed round the development of the village and cordially greeted local people.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, local authorities and members of social organizations at the office of Village Peace and Development Council.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing made a speech saying that they were there to provide necessary assistance for regional development. If efforts are being made unitedly the region will develop more, he said. He also pledged that he will provide assistance as much as he can.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the government is making all-out efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. To narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has laid down the five rural development tasks namely better transportation in rural areas, ensuring potable water and water for agricultural purpose, raising education standard of rural people, providing better health care services and promoting economy of rural people.

Rural people are needed to participate in the tasks, he noted. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also urged the local people to raise chicken on a manageable scale and to make the village green and pleasant.

They spent the night in Kadonkani village.

Secretary of NCCC Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsann. (News page 16) — MNA

Chairman of NCCMC Maj-Gen Lun Maung. (News page 16) — MNA

Chairman of NCCW U Aung Toe. (News page 16) — MNA
MoU Consultation Meeting…

(from page 16)

In doing so, the Ministry of Health is closely collaborating with UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and other partners in the country as well. As a result, Myanmar was able to declare itself free from Leprosy and Polio in 2003. These achievements clearly indicate the success of an integrated and well-coordinated effort involving communities, NGOs, public and private sectors as well as international agencies.

Moreover, another outstanding achievement of proactive measures regarding disease prevention and control aspects in general round of discussions.

Heroin and stimulant tablets seized

YANGON, 16 Feb— A combined team consisting of local Tatmadawmen, members of intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force on 4 February, searched Tom Wu, son of U Tom Lai Kkki of Lonsin Village, Lonlin Township, China, and found three stimulant tablets bearing “Shwe” together with him. The team also searched room No 3 of China-Myanmar inn where he put up and seized his wife Ma Kyuang Hlaing, together with 58 grams of heroin and 165 stimulant tablets.

Next, the team searched room No 1 of the inn and arrested Wan Lalk, son of U Wan Chint of Ward 3, Phaungsa Village in Mongkoe Township, together with 1780 stimulant tablets. Police station concerned filed the culprit under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Cash donation for State Pariyatti Sasana University on 18 Feb

YANGON, 16 Feb — A cash donation ceremony for K 100 million-funded to State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) will be held at 2 pm on 18 February instead of 19 February, it is learnt. — MNA

Work coordination meeting on prevention of avian flu held

YANGON, 17 Feb—The Yangon Division Health Committee held its work coordination meeting on prevention of avian flu at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Thet Huy.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Health Committee Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyin and committee members, the president of Yangon Division MWCASAC and members, the chairman of the District Peace and Development Councils, heads of District and Township Health Department.

PBANRDA Ministry opens courses

YANGON, 16 Feb—Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs opened special financial rules course No 15 and rural planning course No 6 at its central training school in Dagon Myothit Township (North) here today. Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun delivered an address.

Sixty trainees are attending the special financial rules course and 30 are attending the rural planning course. Both are six-week courses. — MNA

Narcotics seized

YANGON, 16 Feb—A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Bhamo Special Anti-drug Squad, acting on information, stopped and searched a motorbike with number plates Ya/72821 on the jangle street linking between Namshanyan Village and Kalawgy Village on the border between Momaung Township and Waimaw Township on 15 January and arrested driver Lawaw, son of U Marit and Gam of Maramun Village, Momaung Township, together with 147 grams of heroin from his backpack. In connection with the case, Waimaw Police Station is taking action against Tun Taung Naing, son of U Mya Hlaing, and their accomplice Ma Nge, daughter of U Thadi Mu of Myainggon Village in Mudon, and Yan Maung (a) Katpli, son of U Win Maung of Dhamma-yektha Street in Phaya-thonezu (1) Ward, under sections 15/19(A)/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Hpa-an Special Anti-drug Squad and local battalion, acting on information, searched the house of Tun Tin Naing and Ma Soe Soe Naing of Yadana Thetkha Street in Ward-4, Phayathonezu, on 26 January and seized 1380 stimulant tablets bearing WY letters.

In connection with the case, Phayathonezu Police Station is taking action against Tun Tin Naing, son of U Mya San, and Ma Soe Soe Naing of Kaudma, daughter of U Mya Hlaing, and their accomplice Ma Nge, daughter of U Thadi Mu of Myainggon Village in Mudon, and Yan Maung (a) Katpli, son of U Win Maung of Dhammayektha Street in Phaya-thonzu (1) Ward, under sections 15/19(A)/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

PBANRDA Ministry opens courses

YANGON, 16 Feb—Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs opened special financial rules course No 15 and rural planning course No 6 at its central training school in Dagon Myothit Township (North) here today. Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun delivered an address. Sixty trainees are attending the special financial rules course and 30 are attending the rural planning course. Both are six-week courses. — MNA

Lawaw seen together with motorbike and seized drugs.

Four drug traffickers including Tun Tin Naing, together with seized drugs. — MNA
Scientists link schizophrenia with lead exposure

Seattle, 16 Feb. — Scientists recently have found a link between pregnant women’s exposure to lead and the risk of schizophrenia years later in their children.

A research team, led by Dr. Ezra Susser of Columbia University in New York, released its finding in a report presented here at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

It is the first time that any environmental toxin has been related to the later risk of schizophrenia, Susser said.

The discovery was based on a study of blood samples taken from pregnant women in the 1960s, when lead was still widely used in vehicle fuel. People whose mothers were exposed to high levels of the metal in exhaust fumes were more than twice as likely to develop schizophrenia as adults.

Susser believes that lead may interfere with the growth of nerve cells in the baby’s brain during the developmental period, when brain cells make frequent connections to one another.

He said his study suggested that all levels of lead exposure are dangerous for unborn children.

“There is no level at which lead is safe. We get to lower and lower points in our studies and there seems to be no level that will not have a prenatal effect,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Another major fire kills at least 39 people in east China

HANGZHOU, 16 Feb. — At least 39 people were killed and four others injured by a temple fire in Hangning City of east China’s Zhejiang Province, only three hours after a blaze that killed 51 in northeast China, local officials said.

The fire was extinguished about half an hour later at 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, according to a police officer. By Press time, 39 bodies had been found and four injured people were rescued.

Senior officials including provincial Governor Lu Zhanhai, vice governor Zhang Mengjin and Wang Yongming, and director of the Zhejiang Province Department of Public Security Wu Hanzhong had rushed to the scene to investigate and guide the rescue work.

The search for survivors and clean-up work still continue while the cause of the fire is under investigation. — MNA/Xinhua

HK to promote environment standard in public housing

HONG KONG, 16 Feb. — Steering along its course of promoting environmental standard in the provision of public housing, Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) published its fourth environmental report to underpin its firm commitment and vision towards a greater environmental sustainability.

Assistant Director of Housing (Procurement) Ada Fung, who is also the department’s Green Manager, said that the report recognized the importance of the efforts made by the authority on sustainable development.

Apart from promoting healthy living, enhancing greater environmental awareness and developing green environment in public housing estates, the authority will also ensure that all relevant environmental legislation and regulations are strictly implemented, she said.

“The report, entitled ‘Meeting Environmental Challenges for a Sustainable Future’, highlights the authority’s environmental performance in 2002/03 as well as the way forward in the next four years,” she said.

The report illustrates the principles adopted by the authority in the implementation of its environmental policy,” Fung said. “The authority is also obliged to minimize environmental impacts to residents and the public from the HA’s operations,” she added.

“Continual improvement on the implementation of an environmental management system would be sought.”

“Environmental concerns will be addressed while incorporating new initiatives in our core businesses, including planning and designs, construction and demolition, marketing and estate management activities,” she noted. — MNA/Xinhua

Greece returning to normal after normal after blizzard paralyses transport

ATHENS, 16 Feb. — Conditions in Greece were gradually returning to normal Saturday after the country was all but paralyzed by an unexpected blizzard over the past two days.

“There is no level at which lead is safe. We get to lower and lower points in our studies and there seems to be no level that will not have a prenatal effect,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Assistant Director of Housing (Procurement) Ada Fung, who is also the department’s Green Manager, said that the report recognized the importance of the efforts made by the authority on sustainable development.

Apart from promoting healthy living, enhancing greater environmental awareness and developing green environment in public housing estates, the authority will also ensure that all relevant environmental legislation and regulations are strictly implemented, she said.

“The report, entitled ‘Meeting Environmental Challenges for a Sustainable Future’, highlights the authority’s environmental performance in 2002/03 as well as the way forward in the next four years,” she said.

The report illustrates the principles adopted by the authority in the implementation of its environmental policy,” Fung said. “The authority is also obliged to minimize environmental impacts to residents and the public from the HA’s operations,” she added.

“Continual improvement on the implementation of an environmental management system would be sought.”

“Environmental concerns will be addressed while incorporating new initiatives in our core businesses, including planning and designs, construction and demolition, marketing and estate management activities,” she noted. — MNA/Xinhua

Unidentified members of the Johns Hopkins University archaeological team survey an excavated section that includes a group of round buildings on Jan 18, 2004, in Luxor, Egypt. The site, where the team has been working since early January, is part of the Temple of Goddess Mut. — Internet

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State’s seven-point policy programme.
— 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 National Causes’.

The temperature in central Athens Friday dropped to five degrees below freezing and maximum temperatures did not exceed minus two degrees. It is Greece’s coldest spell in the past 100 years, said Dimitris Ziakopoulos, head of forecasts at the National Meteorological Service.

A state of emergency was declared on Crete and all vehicles except for ambulances and other emergency vehicles were banned from the roads on the island. Gavdos, an island on the southernmost tip of Europe, saw snow for the first time in 62 years, locals said. — MNA/Xinhua

HK to promote environment standard in public housing

HONG KONG, 16 Feb. — Steering along its course of promoting environmental standard in the provision of public housing, Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) published its fourth environmental report to underpin its firm commitment and vision towards a greater environmental sustainability.

Assistant Director of Housing (Procurement) Ada Fung, who is also the department’s Green Manager, said that the report recognized the importance of the efforts made by the authority on sustainable development.

Apart from promoting healthy living, enhancing greater environmental awareness and developing green environment in public housing estates, the authority will also ensure that all relevant environmental legislation and regulations are strictly implemented, she said.

“The report, entitled ‘Meeting Environmental Challenges for a Sustainable Future’, highlights the authority’s environmental performance in 2002/03 as well as the way forward in the next four years,” she said.

The report illustrates the principles adopted by the authority in the implementation of its environmental policy,” Fung said. “The authority is also obliged to minimize environmental impacts to residents and the public from the HA’s operations,” she said, noting that continual improvement on the implementation of an environmental management system would be sought.

“Environmental concerns will be addressed while incorporating new initiatives in our core businesses, including planning and designs, construction and demolition, marketing and estate management activities,” she noted. — MNA/Xinhua

Greece returning to normal after blizzard paralyses transport

ATHENS, 16 Feb. — Conditions in Greece were gradually returning to normal Saturday after the country was all but paralyzed by an unexpected blizzard over the past two days.

“The temperature in central Athens Friday dropped to five degrees below freezing and maximum temperatures did not exceed minus two degrees. It is Greece’s coldest spell in the past 100 years, said Dimitris Ziakopoulos, head of forecasts at the National Meteorological Service.

A state of emergency was declared on Crete and all vehicles except for ambulances and other emergency vehicles were banned from the roads on the island. Gavdos, an island on the southernmost tip of Europe, saw snow for the first time in 62 years, locals said. — MNA/Xinhua
Nigeria to cut 52% of imported petroleum products

ABUJA, 16 Feb — Nigeria will cut 52 per cent of imported petroleum products when the country’s oil refineries resume operation by May, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported Friday.

The NAN quoted Olukole Oluleye, executive secretary of Nigeria’s Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPPRA), as saying that problems associated with refineries were being tackled to put them back on stream by May.

Oluleye made the remarks when receiving a delegation of the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), saying that importation of petroleum products would be cut down to 12 million litres per day from the current 25 million litres by May when the four oil refineries resumed operations.

In a report covering the January 26-February 8 period, OCHA said, “Several non-governmental aid organizations were forced to temporarily suspend humanitarian operations or withdraw personnel because of access problems.”

It estimated that 1.2 million people had been left without food and other aid during that time.

Impassable roads leave one million Angolans without food aid

LUANDA, 16 Feb — The United Nations Aid Coordination Office (OCHA) said Friday that an estimated one million Angolans were left without humanitarian aid over the recent two weeks because of impassable rain-wrecked roads and the threat of landslides.

In a report covering the January 26-February 8 period, OCHA said, “Several non-governmental aid organizations were forced to temporarily suspend humanitarian operations or withdraw personnel because of access problems.”

It estimated that 1.2 million people had been left without food and other aid during that time.

Earthquakes in northern Pakistan kill 12

ISLAMABAD, 16 Feb — At least 12 people were killed and 30 others injured when two moderate earthquakes jolted northern Pakistan on Saturday, local police said.

The earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale was centred 200 kilometres northeast of Peshawar, capital of the North-West Frontier Province and it hit most of the northern Pakistan at 3:20 pm (10:20 GMT), Farhan Hayat of the country’s seismic centre told Xinhua.

The New Light of Myanmar
A team of astronomers have discovered a tiny, distant galaxy with a single star and a red dwarf star. The team, from the California Institute of Technology and the Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées in France, uncovered the faint galaxy using two of the most powerful telescopes—one in space, the other in Hawaii—aided by the natural magnification provided by the gravitational pull of a massive cluster of galaxies. The team, led by Stanford University professor David Spiegel, presented their findings to the central region of Singida, which is facing a food shortage, a local official said. The cause of death was investigated by the police, who found no immediate cause. The cause of death was investigated by the police, who found no immediate cause. The cause of death was investigated by the police, who found no immediate cause. The cause of death was investigated by the police, who found no immediate cause. The cause of death was investigated by the police, who found no immediate cause.

**Tanzanian Govt offers food to hungry central areas**

Dar-es-Salaam, 16 Feb.—The Tanzanian Government has provided 1.250 tons of food to the people of the regions of Dodoma, which is facing a food shortage, a local official said.

Singida Regional Commissioner Hamila Kasungu said the food is provided through the Emergency Food Programme of the Prime Minister’s Office, in collaboration with the World Food Organization. The supplies are to be transported from the National Food Reserve in the central region of Dodoma and to be distributed to the hunger-stricken districts, he said. Adding that at least 6,000 tons of food are needed in the region. Drought, along with other negative factors, has resulted in poor harvests in many parts of the country, making the government seek food supplies for the affected areas.

**Study suggests good sleep helps cancer recovery**

Seattle, 16 Feb.—Sleeping well may help people fight cancer, US scientists said here recently.

A research team, led by Stanford University professor David Spiegel, presented the findings here at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The study suggested that restless nights and lack of sleep disrupt the brain’s ability to make the body more vulnerable to diseases.

One is cortisol, which helps to regulate immune system activity — including the release of ‘stress’ cells that help the body combat cortisol. Levels typically peak at dawn, after hours of sleep, and decline throughout the day.

The new study shows that how well your body fights cancer — and may help explain how mental well-being plays into cancer recovery and progression.

Previous studies have shown that cancer patients who have group therapy or a strong social network fare better than those who do not. According to the new study, this could be because people with stronger social support sleep more soundly, causing less disruption to the body’s hormone balances.

“Psychosocial factors affect your behaviour patterns, such as exercise, what you eat and drink, and your sleep,” Spiegel said.

**Italian cycling great Pantani found dead in hotel room**

Rome, 16 Feb.—Marco Pantani, the Italian cycling great who fought his way back from injury to win the Giro d’Italia and the Tour de France, was found dead in a hotel room near Central Italy on Saturday night, the hotel manager said.

The news of the death of the 34-year-old Pantani, who was called ‘The Pirate’ because of his trademark shaved head and bandana was by doping accusations later in his career, shocked the Italian sports world.

“This is a tragedy of enormous proportions for the whole cycling world,” said Mario Cipollini, winner of the 2002 world road race championship. “I can’t find the words.”

The cause of death was not immediately known but it appeared that no violence was involved.

The Italian news agency ANSA said police had found medicines in the room.

Pantani, who had been suffering from depression, was found dead in a hotel in the Adriatic coastal resort city of Rimini, made famous by the late director Federico Fellini, who used it as a setting for some of his most famous films.

Pantani, a fine climber, won both the Giro d’Italia and the Tour de France in 1998. He was the first Italian to win the Tour de France since Felice Gimondi in 1965.

The last years of his life were spent in legal battles fighting to see doping bans overturned.

“Hed a paid very high price. For four years he was at the centre of a storm,” said Gimondi, who was Pantani’s manager for two years.

Pantani was the subject of a major scandal in 1999 when he was thrown out of the Tour of Italy. Leading the race, he failed a test for haemocrist — an indicator, though not proof, of the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

He was also banned in 2002 for using insulin during the previous year’s Giro. He rode in the 2003 Giro, finishing a disappointment 14th, and was later treated in a drugs and depression clinic.

**“Head-On” wins best film at Berlin Festival**

Berlin, 16 Feb.—A German film about Turkish immigrants won the Golden Bear award at the Berlin Film Festival on Saturday and South Africa’s Charlize Theron won a Silver Bear best actress award for her role in “Monster”.

“Head-On” by German-Turkish director Fatih Akin picked up the top prize at the Berlinale, which kicks off the European film contest season and is ranked just behind Cannes and alongside Venice among the world’s leading film festivals.

Theron, who also won a Golden Globe and an Academy Award nomination for her stirring performance as a homeless prostitute serial killer in “Monster”, was voted top actress by the seven-member jury. A total of 23 films were in the competition.

Struggling to pick a single actress in a field crowded with strong contenders, the jury took the unusual step of awarding another Silver Bear best actress prize to Catalina Sandino Moreno for her role in the US-Colombian film “Maria Full of Grace”.

The festival’s Silver Bear for best actor went to Uruguay’s Daniel Hendler for his role as an idle young Jewish architect in the low-budget Argentine film “Lost Embrace” (“El Abrazo Parado”).

Set against Argentina’s economic crisis, the film follows Hendler’s character as he tries to get a Polish passport to go to Europe, where his grandparents only just escaped the Holocaust.

“Head-On” (“Gegen die Wand”), the only seventh German film to win best film in the 54-year history of the Berlinale, tells the story of Sibel, a young German of Turkish origin trying to escape her strict Muslim home by convincing an older, depressed German-born Turk to marry her.

“I love this film,” jury president Frances McDormand told Reuters. “It said in a wonderful way so many things of the other films said as well. ‘Head-On’ told them in a most powerful and most moving way.”

The festival featured some 400 films in various competitions and sold more than 400,000 tickets to the general public. Berlin hosts one of Europe’s most important film rights markets.

There was also plenty of glamour with stars including Renee Zellweger, Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton, Robin Williams, Jude Law, Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy and Claudia Schiffer tripping across the frosty red carpet.

**Poor children deprived of basic cancer care**

London, 16 Feb.—Cancer groups on Sunday demanded that basic life-saving cancer drugs be made available to poor children who they said were suffering and dying because of lack of funds.

Each year, the 250,000 children diagnosed with the disease worldwide, up to 80 per cent die because treatments are not available, or affordable, in poor nations.

Cancer charities and patient groups said one way to help poor children would be to push basic cancer drugs on the World Health Organization (WHO)’s essential drug list so they can be given to children who need them.

“The same sort of model that is being used for AIDS drugs should apply to these,” said Professor Tim Eden, the president of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), referring to moves to reduce prices and access to anti-AIDS drugs.

“There’s an assumption that treating cancer is expensive, but it doesn’t have to be. For some types of cancer it can cost as little as 20 pounds (37 US dollars) to cure a child,” he added.

Geoff Thaxter, of the International Confederation of Child Cancer Parent Organizations (ICCCPO) which represents families of children with cancer around the world and works to improve access to care and treatment, said only 20 per cent of children with cancer worldwide receive drugs that could save their lives.

**Over six kilos of drugs seized in N-W China city**

Lanzhou, 16 Feb.—Police in Lanzhou, capital of northwestern China’s Gansu Province, seized six 0.298 kilos of heroin between late December and early January, in a series of operations to crack down on drug trafficking, officials said Sunday.

The Lanzhou Municipal Public Security Bureau said that a total of 22 suspects involved in 20 drug smuggling cases were captured during the period. Among the total, some 2.795 kilos of heroin was seized in a single case on 24 January.

Lanzhou police, in cooperation with police from east China’s Shanghai Municipal public security bureau, seized 20 suspects involved in 20 drug smuggling cases were captured during the period. Among the total, some 2.795 kilos of heroin was seized in a single case on 24 January.

Johnson said he was going to Europe, where his grandparents only just escaped the Holocaust.

“Head-On” (“Gegen die Wand”), the only seventh German film to win best film in the 54-year history of the Berlinale, tells the story of Sibel, a young German of Turkish origin trying to escape her strict Muslim home by convincing an older, depressed German-born Turk to marry her.

“I love this film,” jury president Frances McDormand told Reuters. “It said in a wonderful way so many things of the other films said as well. ‘Head-On’ told them in a most powerful and most moving way.”

The festival featured some 400 films in various competitions and sold more than 400,000 tickets to the general public. Berlin hosts one of Europe’s most important film rights markets.

There was also plenty of glamour with stars including Renee Zellweger, Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton, Robin Williams, Jude Law, Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy and Claudia Schiffer tripping across the frosty red carpet.

**American pop music diva Mariah Carey poses with her trophy at the MTV Asia award at the Indoor Stadium in Singapore. Carey received a special Lifetime Achievement Award.**
Arsenal's Henry ruled out of Chelsea Cup match

LONDON, 16 Feb—Arsenal striker Thierry Henry has been ruled out of Sunday's FA Cup fifth-round tie against Chelsea with a foot injury, the Premier League club said on their website on Saturday.

The prolific Frenchman, who suffered bruising during Tuesday's league victory over Southampton, has also pulled out of his country's friendly international against Belgium on Wednesday.

Arsenal defender Sol Campbell will have a late fitness test on a groin injury before manager Arsène Wenger names his team to play Chelsea at Highbury.

Bochum stun champions Bayern with rare victory

BERLIN, 16 Feb—Surprise package VfL Bochum recorded their first home win over champions Bayern Munich in nearly 20 years with a 1-0 Bundesliga victory on Saturday.

Denmark striker Peter Madsen hit the winner on eight minutes for the Ruhr Valley side, who remain fifth in the table and on course for a UEFA Cup berth.

Bayern, who had not lost a league game in Bochum since a 3-0 defeat in 1985, looked nervous and short of ideas on their way to their third Bundesliga defeat of the season.

The Munich club, who face a daunting task against Bochum goalkeeper Rein van Nistelrooy in the cup next month, were left to concentrate on their struggle to avoid relegation.

Bayern kept pushing and were ahead after 34 minutes when midfielder Scholtes tapped the ball in from close range after a slick move involving Roy Keane, van Nistelrooy and Ryan Giggs.

But the champions were reduced to 10 men within five minutes, Neville appearing to head-boot City's Steve McManaman after the United defender had fallen over in the penalty area.

The incident prompted angry exchanges involving players from both sides before referee Jeff Winter dismissed Neville.

French leaders Monaco crash to first home defeat

PARIS, 16 Feb—French Ligue 1 leaders Monaco slipped to their first home defeat of the season on Saturday, losing 1-0 to Lille.

A blunder by Italian goalkeeper Flavio Roma helped Matt Moussilou score a shock winner in the 79th minute.

Paris St Germain moved into second with a 1-0 win at lowly Toulouse, giving them 46 points to Monaco's 51, while AJ Auxerre and Olympique Lyonnais, two points further back, finished with a bang in a game, clash in the big game of the weekend on Sunday.

Monaco dominated throughout but lacked their usual brilliance and flair, the absence of injured playmaker Ludovic Giuly proving costly.

To add to the principality team's woes, they lost another key player in international defender Sébastien Squillaci, who left the pitch on a stretcher.

PSG's win came courtesy of a 28th minute goal by Serb Daniel Ljubijoda, who struck from Strasbourg during the winter transfer window.

The Parisians are now unbeaten in 12 games. Sochaux and Olympique Marseille, both held to draws by Girondins Bordeaux and Le Mans respectively, lost a little window in the title chase.

Le Mans' coach Thierry Goudet resigned on Monday after a bad run of results and his successor, Swiss Daniel Jeandupeux, started with a goalless draw against sixth-placed Marseille.

Monpellier, languishing like Le Mans in the bottom three, also took on a new coach in former Ivory Coast manager Robert Nouzaret, but his new charges were beaten 1-0 at home by Metz. Montpellier have claimed one point in their last 10 league games.

Rangers' title hopes hale after draw at Aberdeen

GLASGOW, 16 Feb—Rangers' hopes of retaining the Scottish Premier League title continued to fade despite Frank de Boer's late goal salvaging a 1-1 draw at Aberdeen on Saturday.

Alexander Diamond's second-half goal had put Aberdeen on course for their first win against Rangers since 1998, but defender De Boer found the net with a header in added time, it was disallowed for offside.

Stuttgart, warming up for their Champions League clash with Chelsea, stayed third after a 1-1 draw with strugglers Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Stuttgart started well in a tense game in which each team had a man sent off, opening the scoring through Hungarian striker Imre Szabics on five minutes.

Ten-man United knock out City in FA Cup thriller

LONDON, 16 Feb—Manchester United overcame the sending-off of England defender Gary Neville to beat neighbours Manchester City 4-2 in an action-packed FA Cup fifth-round match on Saturday.

Two goals by Ruud van Nistelrooy and one each for Paul Scholes and Cristiano Ronaldo put United, who played with 10 men for nearly an hour, into the quarter-finals for the first time since 1999.

The victory lifted United, who suffered an embarrassing 3-2 home defeat by Midtjylland on Wednesday to damage their chances of retaining the Premier League title.

In the first half we were outstanding and should have been three or four up,” United manager Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports.

“The sending-off changed the nature of the game but in the second half our counter-attacking was outstanding. Our character and discipline were very good.”

United dominated the first half and went ahead after 34 minutes when midfielder Scholtes tapped the ball in from close range after a slick move involving Roy Keane, van Nistelrooy and Ryan Giggs.

But the champions were reduced to 10 men within five minutes, Neville appearing to head-boot City's Steve McManaman after the United defender had fallen over in the penalty area.

The incident prompted angry exchanges involving players from both sides before referee Jeff Winter dismissed Neville.

It was an uncharacteristic performance by Gary and he let himself down,” Ferguson said.

City, who recovered from 3-0 down at halftime with 10 men to beat Totttenham Hotspur in the last round, scored a rare victory over their local rivals and United goalkeeper Tim Howard made brilliant saves to deny McManaman and Joey Barton.

But United, recorded 10 times FA Cup winners, rode the storm and increased their lead after 71 minutes through the prolific van Nistelrooy.

The Dutch striker pounced at the far post to tap in a cross by Ronaldo and the Portuguese winger then turned the ball in from a tight angle after Giggs' firm volley was well parried by goalkeeper Arni Arason.

City defender Michael Tarnat pulled one back 12 minutes from time with a powerful angled strike but van Nistelrooy settled the match with a simple tap-in after Keane, an inspirational captain throughout, headed back a deep cross.

Striker Robbie Fowler scored another late consolation with a quickly taken free kick four minutes from the end but United held on and City, 16th in the Premier League table, were left to concentrate on their struggle to avoid relegation.

It was an uncharacteristic performance by Gary and he let himself down,” Ferguson said.
Monday, 16 February, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4°C) above normal in Tanintharyaw Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Chin, Rakhine States and Yangon, Ayeayarwady, upper Sagaing Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant light-nights temperature was (3°C) in Bhamo.

Maximum temperature on 15-2-2004 was 38.2°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 16-2-2004 was 10.8°C at Mrauk-U. Relative humidity at 9:30 hours MST on 15-2-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 15-2-2004 were 7 hours 10m. Rainfall on 15-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall on 16-2-2004 was 3mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport, and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from North at (08:00) hours MST.

Bay Influence: Weather is partly cloudy in South Bay and generally elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-2-2004: Possibility of isolated light rain in Tanintharyaw Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin States, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%). Rainfall at the sea will be slight to moderate in Bay of Bengal.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in extreme southern Myanmar areas.

For Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-2-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-2-2004: Partly cloudy.

WEATHER
National Convention Convening Commission meets

YANGON, 16 Feb — The National Convention Convening Commission held its meeting at Kyaiikasan Grounds here today.
Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council U San Htay, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretaries, Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman Maj-Gen Than Htay and Secretaries were present.
The Secretary-2 explained matters pertaining to the convening of the National Convention.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 16 Feb— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, on 14 February, met with departmental officials and members of social organizations at the office of Bogale Township Peace and Development Council.
Also present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, chairmen and members of district, township, ward and village PDCs, departmental officials and members of social organizations.
Chairman of Bogale Township Peace and Development Council U San Htay reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on location and area, economy, agriculture and livestock breeding of the township and departmental officials on work being carried out department-wise. The commander gave a supplementary report.
Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said that prevalence of law and order, strong economy and human resource development are sine qua non for emergence of a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Nowadays, peace prevails in the country and arrangements are being made based on the agriculture and meat and fish sectors to gain strong economy, he said. He continued to say that intellectuals and intelligentsia are produced for human resource development.

MoU Consultation Meeting on Joint Action for Mobility and HIV commences

YANGON, 16 Feb— The opening of the MoU Consultation Meeting on Joint Action Plan for Mobility and HIV was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.
Also present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, the directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, medical superintendents, officials of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Medical Association, delegates of embassies in Mekong regions, delegates from UN Agencies, delegates of countries in Mekong valley region and guests.
Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address. He said: It has been two years since we all agreed and signed an MoU that enabled us to facilitate and support collaboration in the implementation between and among ourselves in line with Greater Mekong sub-regional Joint Action Programme on reducing HIV vulnerability among the mobile populations. Today, we now gather here to update and share the activities implemented according to the MoU, review the previous MoU that already expired in December 2003, and draft and then propose an updated version of MoU with a recommended timeframe of three to five years.
May I now take the opportunity of briefing you of health care services in Myanmar. Under the guidance of the State Peace and Development Council, the Ministry of Health, Myanmar, is striving to raise the health status of the nation and to ensure the highest attainable level of health for the entire nation by systematically developing and implementing Health Plans that will lead to achieving the “Millennium Development Goals”.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint addresses the opening of the MoU Consultation Meeting on Joint Action Plan for Mobility and HIV. — MNA

Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at the Commission’s meeting. — MNA

Secretary of NCCC Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained accommodation and other arrangements for the delegates.
Chairman of NCCWC U Aung To and Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported to the meeting on the functions of the respective bodies.
The Secretary-2 delivered the concluding address.

MNA