Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the scale model of Pakokku Textile Factory Project under Myanma Textile Industries in Pakokku. — mna

Prime Minister urges historians, archaeologists, researchers to prove laterite civilization’s existence with finds, sound evidence

Next, Managing Director of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo reported on distribution of power. After that, Prime Minister gave instructions on completion of the tasks soonest, supply of raw materials and fire preventive measures. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected progress in construction of Pakokku textiles factory and automatic weaving machines to be installed at the factory. Afterwards, Project Director U Myint Thein Oo reported on production process of the factory. Next, the Prime Minister and party left the factory.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the Maritime University Project. — mna

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

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

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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
To realize the goals of city housing projects

Yangon city is the political, economic and social hub as well as glory of the nation. Cities in South East Asia and Asia regions are green and pleasant with gardens and parks.

The Government is making strenuous efforts for Yangon to become a green and pleasant garden city too.

The City Housing Project Supervisory Committee held its Meeting No 1/2004 at the meeting hall of Department for Human Settlement and Housing Development on Bogoyoke Aung San Street on 14 February, with an address by Chairman of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee was formed to implement the housing projects with the aims of enabling Yangon city to possess characteristics of international cities, hygienic living of the people and raising their social standard.

He noted that in the past in Yangon, there were no proper residential quarters and buildings. So, it lacked the characteristics of a capital. There was shortage of clean drinking water and were weaknesses in sanitation and sewerage system. People could not live in hygienic and pleasant environment.

Therefore, the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee is systematically implementing the housing projects for construction of modern buildings and creation of pleasant environment in accord with urban projects. The committee is also making Yangon City clean and pleasant.

Kandawgyi and its environs are being upgraded to become a recreation centre and a garden of high standard for city dwellers. Beautiful bunds were built near Inya Lake. Measures are being taken with greater momentum to upgrade major roads in the downtown, extend the main roads, put up lamp posts and upgrade roundabouts and islands.

As the city is becoming more and more pleasant day after day, we firmly believe that the goals of the city housing projects will be realized through the coordination and cooperation of departmental officials and entrepreneurs.

Vocational Training School inspected

Yangon, 17 Feb — Officer on Special Duty of the Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Than Shein, together with officials, arrived in Pakokku on 12 February and inspected the progress in construction of buildings at the Border Areas and National Races Youth Development Training School, growing of perennial crops and flowering plants the progress in construction of buildings at the Border Areas and National Races Youth Development Training School, growing of perennial crops and flowering plants and procurement of furniture. He met with staff and gave necessary instructions.

He also inspected the National Races’ Youth Development Training School in Matupi on 13 February and the Basic Sewing and Knitting Course No 1 in Mindat on 16 February morning.

He attended the opening ceremony of Women’s Vocational Training School and the Basic Sewing and Knitting Course No 1 in Mindat on 16 February morning. The 14-week course is being attended by 20 trainees from Mindat District, Chin State. — MNA

50th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To strive in 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 Main National Causes”.

Biographical book on One Thousand Greats features Hitlar Sitthu


The biography of Myanmar writer U Soe Nyunt (Hitlar Sitthu), retired Deputy Minister for Information and Deputy Minister for Culture is included in the book. IBC presented the poet laureate with One Thousand Greats for Literature and Government Service Award and 21st Century Award for Achievement for Literary and Government Service, Outstanding People and certificates of honour in 2002.

The book features one thousand great Asians, one thousand great intellectuals, one thousand great scholars and one thousand great scientists, and librarians, universities and research centres all over the world have kept this famous biographical book. — (H)

Thongchai triumphs by three shots in Myanmar Open Golf

Yangon, 15 Feb — Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand marched to his second victory in two months at the Yangon Open today after firing a three-under-par 69 in the final round at Yangon Golf Club. The Thai star triumphed by 3 shots over American Andrew Pitts who carded a 71 and picked up the winner’s cheque of US$ 32,300. Thongchai accumulated a winning total of 12-under-par 276 and joined Boonchu Ruangkit as the tournament’s only two-time winners, having won here in 2002.

Korea-born Australian Unho Park continued to impress by finishing third following a fine 67 while Singapore’s Mardan Mamat and halfway leader Alistair Pepperdine shared fourth place on 282, six behind the winner. “I am very happy,” said a jubilant Thongchai. “It seems like I always do well here in the Yangon Open. I feel like my game is very good now.”

In what turned into an enthralling match-play duel on the back nine, Thongchai had to dig deep into his reserves at the sun-baked Yangon layout to make his mark. He started the day one ahead of Pitts but stumbled to a 37 on the front nine as the American took a two-shot swing on the par three 11th which the Thai birdied and Pitts bogeyed after missing the green.

New roads opened to hail Union Day

Yangon, 17 Feb — The newly-constructed Thaza turreted road with the length of 10,810 feet was opened with ceremony in Monywa on 10 February as a gesture of hailing the 57th Anniversary Union Day.

Similarly, the 1,400 feet long Shwegea gravel road was opened on 5 February in Mogok Township to hail the 57th Anniversary Union Day. The earth road is two miles long and 10 feet wide. There are four bridges on the road. — MNA

People’s Desire

— Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views

— Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation

— Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State

— Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

New officials leave for Lao PDR

Yangon, 17 Feb — U Tun Aung and U Myo Thant, members of Central Executive Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry, left for Lao PDR by air at 7:45 pm today.

They are to attend the Workshop and SOM on Development of the East West Economic Corridor (EWECC) on 18 and 19 February in Savannakhet, Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

The two officials were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by President of UMFCCI (Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry) U Win Myint, UMFCCI Central Executive Committee member U Aung Moe and officials. — MNA

Managing Director U Thein Aung of Aung Myitta Co delivers a welcoming address at the dinner. — mna

Managing Director U Thein Aung of Aung Myitta Co delivers a welcoming address at the dinner. — mna
Iraq bombings kill two US soldiers

Baghdad, 17 Feb — Roadside bombs killed two US soldiers in separate attacks on Monday in Baghdad and a city northeast of the capital, the US military said. Gunmen also killed an American civilian and wounded three others in a weekend ambush south of here.

One soldier from Task Force Iron Horse died and four others were wounded when a bomb exploded at about 9.40 am in the centre of Baqubah, about 35 miles northeast of here, the 4th Infantry Division said.

Two Iraqis were arrested, including one who had a cell phone that may have been used to detonate the bomb, according to Master Sgt Robert Cargie, a division spokesman in Tikrit.

A US army helicopter gunner surveys the countryside of Iraq for possible threats in a helicopter convoy transporting US top administrator in Iraq L Paul Bremer to Baghdad from Kirkuk on 16 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

Joint venture scores China’s largest car export deal

BEIJING, 17 Feb — A China-South Korea joint venture has announced China’s biggest ever car export deal with the sale of 19,000 vehicles to Russia.

Beijing Hyundai Motors (BHM), a 50-50 joint venture between Beijing Automotive Industry Holding Co and Hyundai Motors of South Korea, will export 19,000 Hyundai Sonatas worth 200 million US dollars to Russia this year, said a company executive.

“The Ministry of Commerce said the export deal equals all the sedan cars exported overseas since the founding of New China,” said Xu Heyi, general manager of the company, quoted by Monday’s Beijing Youth Daily.

The first batch of Sonata cars will head for Russia in April, Xu said.

BHM was the first automobile joint venture approved by China after its entry to the World Trade Organization. It introduced the Sonata, its first model, in December 2002.

Last year, BHM’s production capacity doubled to 300,000 units and the company is planning another production base of a similar size this year. — MNA/Xinhua

Dengue fever kills 16 in Jakarta

JAKARTA, 17 Feb — At least 16 people have died and 2,046 others have fallen sick from dengue fever since the beginning of this year, according to the Jakarta Health Agency.

Agency head Abdul Chalik Masulili said that last year, only four people died of dengue fever over the same period.

“People think dengue fever is more common than other diseases,” he said. “So when there are dengue fever patients in this year, they will be taken to city-run Tarakan Hospital in Central Jakarta.

Health agency data shows that cases of dengue fever in the Greater Jakarta area hit a high of 15,360 in 1998. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq, trade main hurdles in Franco-US relations

PARIS, 17 Feb — Post-war reconstruction in Iraq and trade issues are the main hurdles to an improvement in still-fragile relations between France and the United States, US Congress members said Monday.

Members of a recently created “French Caucus” met President Jacques Chirac and Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin to discuss issues still dividing Paris and Washington after their split over the war in Iraq. Republican Armo Houghton of New York, co-chairman of the friendship group, said the conversation with Chirac was frank but friendly. However, there was still some way to go to repair transatlantic relations after dramatic disagreements in 2003.

He said that on a scale of one to five, with one the top rating, relations currently stood at three.

“The United States was disappointed, not in the fact that France objected to what we did in Iraq, but the fact that they tried to rally part of the world against what we did in Iraq,” Houghton said.

France last year mustered Germany and Russia to its side in opposing US plans to invade Iraq and threatened to veto any UN Security Council resolution Washington might seek to support a war. — Internet

Environment-friendly auto expo to be held in south China

HAIKOU, 17 Feb — Hainan Province in south China will hold an environment-friendly auto exposition in a bid to boost the development of environmental protection technologies in the auto industry.

Co-sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Engineering, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and Hainan’s department of science and technology, the expo will run from Febru-
ary 18 to 22 in Haikou, capital of the Hainan Province, said Xu Wenda, deputy secretary general of the expo committee.

The expo would exhibit international up-to-date environment-friendly auto-
mobiles with advanced tech-
nologies and powered new energy forms, said Xu.

Domestic auto manufactur-
ers together with some in-
ternational giants have shown interest in the expo, said Xu, and 33 automobile enterprises including Shanghai Volkswagen, Beijing Hyundai and Rolls-Royce are expected to attend.

“We hope that China’s environment-friendly manufac-
turers will extend coop-
eration with international au-
tomobile giants through the expo,” the official said.

HK submarine gas pipeline project invites int’l bidding

HONG KONG, 17 Feb — The Hong Kong Electric Co Ltd is reviewing international bidding for building a gas pipeline linking up a Shenzhen liquefied gas plant to Hong Kong’s Lamma Power Sta-
tion.

Granted by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government earlier this week, the 92-kilometre submarine gas pipeline is to be laid to introduce gas from Shenzhen.

Sources from the company told Xinhua Sunday that the gas pipeline, of 610 millimetres in diameter, will be laid in Mers Bay in the northeast part of Hong Kong to relay natural gas from Shenzhen’s Pingtoujiao liquefied gas plant to Lamma Power Sta-
tion in southern part of Hong Kong.

The proposed project is scheduled to start at the end of this year and is expected to be completed by early 2006. Carbon-steel pipes will be used in the project. — MNA/Xinhua

County court services officer killed in Iraq

Baghdad, 17 Feb — A county court services officer died in a roadside bomb attack on Monday in Baghdad, the US military said. The police said the same day that four others were killed and four others were wounded.

Gunmen also killed an American civilian and wounded three others in a weekend ambush south of here.

One soldier from Task Force Iron Horse died and four others were wounded when a bomb exploded at about 9.40 am in the centre of Baqubah, about 35 miles northeast of here, the 4th Infantry Division said.

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A US army helicopter gunner surveys the countryside of Iraq for possible threats in a helicopter convoy transporting US top administrator in Iraq L Paul Bremer to Baghdad from Kirkuk on 16 Feb, 2004. —INTERNET

County court services officer killed in Iraq

Baghdad, 17 Feb — A county court services officer on duty with the National Guard in Iraq was killed in Baghdad, 16 News reported.

Eric Ramirez, who worked outside the Chula Vista courthouse and served court papers in the field, was posted to Iraq as a military police officer.

Ramirez returned to the United States in December to be with his family. He returned to Iraq 29 Dec.

His parents live in Orlando, Fla. It was unclear when Ramirez was killed. —Internet

Hooded and handcuffed prisoners, accused of the murder of Iraqi Governing Council member Aquila al-Hashimi, are led down the stairs by Iraqi police at Baghdad’s main police academy, on 16 Feb. 2004. Hashimi was shot by gunmen in front of her Baghdad home on 20 September of 2003. —INTERNET
**Fallujah mayor questioned in police station attack**

Baghdad, 17 Feb — The mayor of Fallujah was among those called in for questioning in the US-led coalition’s police station attack, a US military official said Monday. At least 20 Iraqi police officers were killed in Saturday’s raid, officials said.

Brig Gen Mark Kimmitt, a US military spokesman, said he was uncertain if the mayor was still being held for questioning. He said he was unsure if the mayor was among the dead attackers.

Kimmitt said it was “the sense of the commanders” in the field that the attack was the work of Iraqis, not foreigners. Some reports quoted local officials saying Iranians were found among the dead attackers.

Kimmitt said the raid was a well-coordinated dawn strike against a police station and a civilian defence compound in Fallujah, killing at least 20 Iraqi police officers and freeing up to 100 prisoners. At least four of the suspected insurgents also died in the guerilla assault in the centre of Fallujah, 30 miles (48 kilometres) west of Baghdad in the “Sunni Triangle.”

The Sunni Triangle is a region north and west of the Iraqi capital that has been a hotbed of opposition to the US presence. Several people, including the town’s mayor, are being questioned about possible inside help in the insurgents’ attack, Kimmitt said.

He said it was uncertain if the mayor was still being held for questioning. Evidence from inside the attack included the cutting of communication lines to the police station before the raid and a call to the station that pulled a number of officers away from the building, he said.

Kimmitt said it was “the sense of the commanders” in the field that the attack was the work of Iraqis, not foreigners. Some reports quoted local officials saying Iranians were found among the dead attackers.

The attack was quick and well-organized, he said.

“This was a very, very well-trained unit that came in,” he said. “They came in, did their business and got out very quickly.”

**One Civil servant, dead, three hurt in Iraq ambush**

Baghdad, 17 Feb — One member of a US religious group was killed and three others wounded in an ambush near their base last week while travelling in Iraq, the US military said on Monday.

The civil servant, all US citizens, were found on Saturday in a hospital in Mahmudiyah, 18 miles south of Baghdad, by US paratroopers on patrol, a spokesman for the US military said.

“They were travelling in an Iraqi taxi from Babylon to Baghdad when people in a white sedan ambushed them with small arms fire,” the spokesman said. He said it was not clear on which day the victims were attacked nor which church group they represented.

**One in four cattle dead, three hurt in Iraq ambush**

Baghdad, 17 Feb — One member of a US religious group was killed and three others wounded in an ambush near their base last week while travelling in Iraq, the US military said on Monday.

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**India voices concern to US over outsourcing ban**

New Delhi, 17 Feb — The Indian Government on Monday voiced its concern to the US over the ban on outsourcing services from the country and said it would be difficult to open up the domestic agriculture market.

“It is strange that on the one hand, people are talking about opening of market, and on the other hand, banning business process outsourcing (BPO). Our agriculture is fragile as it is not subsidized (BPO). Our agriculture is not subsidized,” a spokesman for the Agriculture Ministry said.

“Trade is a sandstorm moves in over central Iraq. US soldiers man a checkpoint near the Iraqi military academy after the failure of WTO talks in Cancun.”

**Pakistan, India resume dialogue process**

Islamabad, 17 Feb — Pakistan and India here on Monday restarted their dialogue process after an over two-year gap, official sources from Pakistan’s Foreign Office told Xinhua.

According to Kyodo News, the launch of the two-day fifth round of talks in Bangkok is in line with an accord reached by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra last December.

Thailand, a major farm producer, wants to export more agricultural products to Japan such as chicken, tapioca and sugar. But it has already signalled an intention to avoid talks on Japan’s rice market, given the sensitivity of the issue in Japan, in return for movement in other areas.

Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is worried that FTA talks with Thailand could have an unfavourable effect on its ongoing FTA talks with Mexico, Kyodo said.

Government statistics show that Japan is the biggest supplier of imports and the second-largest export market of Thailand, with imports of 14.8 billion US dollars and exports of 9.9 billion US dollars in 2002.

Japan has an FTA with Singapore and is now in negotiations with Mexico, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines for a similar arrangement. Thailand has an FTA with Bahrain, and recently concluded FTA talks with India and Australia.

**Fresh tremors hit Pakistan**

Islamabad, 17 Feb — Fresh tremors jolted remote northern Pakistan on Sunday, one day after 20 people were killed in two earthquakes in the mountainous region.

There was an immediate word of new casualties or damage from the latest jolts, police and local officials said.

“A few more jolts were felt today but we don’t have any reports of casualties,” police unofficial Sarwar said from the district of Battagram, 68 miles north of the capital Islamabad.

Three aftershocks registering 4.3 or below on the moment magnitude scale were recorded by the meteorological department in the northwestern city of Peshawar, a department official said.

Interior Ministry official Javed Iqbal Cheema said 20 people were killed and scores injured when two earthquakes registering 5.7 and 5.5 on the Richter Scale convulsed the region on Saturday.

Police said 13 people died in Battagram when falling rocks hit their minibus and it plunged into a ravine. In the same area, a boy was killed when a wall fell on him.

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

US Military Police arrive to secure the Khadimiya primary school compound in Baghdad, Iraq, after school children, playing during their recess period, accidentally detonated a grenade on Monday, 16 Feb, 2004, which killed one child and wounded four others. — INTERNET

Iraqi men shout during a demonstration outside the Coalition headquarters in Baghdad on 16 February, 2004. — INTERNET

A group of Iraqi men survey the damaged house of a local leader in the village of Aamriya, near Falluja, some 50 km (30 miles) west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 16 February, 2004. — INTERNET

US soldiers secure the area as their colleagues defuse a roadside bomb in the town of Mosul, some 390 km north of capital Baghdad, on 16 February, 2004. — INTERNET

US soldiers stand next to a destroyed civilian car after a car accident in the suburbs of Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 16 February, 2004. It does not take much to ignite anti-American anger in Iraq—just a car accident with the US military is enough to deepen suspicions over the occupation. — INTERNET

A US military tank guards the road next to flaming SUV in Baghdad on Sunday, 15 Feb, 2004. Gunmen opened fire on a US convoy on a Baghdad highway, setting one of the vehicles ablaze, and witnesses said three foreigners were hurt. — INTERNET
Baghdad car accident highlights anti-US anger

BAGHDAD, 17 Feb—It does not take much to ignite anti-American anger in Iraq — just a car accident with the US military is enough to deepen suspicions over the occupation.

When a five-ton US military truck called Cowboy Up crushed a civilian car on a crowded highway and killed two passengers on Monday, furious Iraqis immediately assumed the worst.

"Those Americans meant to kill those poor people. They do these kinds of things," said engineer Ahmed Hussein, standing in a large crowd of Iraqis.

The commanding US officer on the scene, who asked not to be identified, said the mangled white car that was sliced in half swerved into the truck's lane as a convoy passed.

Iraqi witnesses who were driving on the other side of the highway said the American vehicle crashed into the car at high speed and made no attempt to stop or slow down.

The tension among US soldiers is palpable. Some 375 US soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq since the March invasion. A guerrilla attack is always a possibility.

US Army investigators arrived on the scene and took pictures of the corpses, which soldiers had covered with a rug and a cloth. Iraqis tried to see the faces of the dead because they had driven onto the highway from the neighbourhood. But all they could see was the hand of one of the dead with a wedding ring on a finger.

An investigation by the military seemed like stalling to frustrated Iraqis, who could not understand why the Americans had ignored their requests for the identity cards of the deceased so their relatives could be notified.

Nearly 300 million people suffering from asthma worldwide

BANGKOK, 17 Feb—An estimated 300 million people worldwide are suffering from asthma and the disease is blamed for one in every 250 deaths globally, according to a report issued at the Fourth Triennial World Asthma Meeting, which opened here Monday.

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Economic sanctions not conducive to flourishing of democracy

Aung Moe San

The policy of America and its western allies to impose economic sanctions on the nations for, what they say, the flourishing of democracy is against the events of world history. It is also against the development of human society. Because democracy never flourishes in a country whose economy is in a state of decline. History has never witnessed the building of a firmly rooted democracy in an undeveloped nation. The world nations always start the practice of democracy only after developing their economy, raising the literacy and living standards and equitable sharing of the food, clothing and shelter rights. Another prerequisite is the public freedom, the rule of law and the effective responsive political institutions. America and its western allies are imposing sanctions on Myanmar, the economic sanctions have caused 30,000 to lose their jobs – while the generals keep theirs.

Here, I would like to present Nicholas D. Kristof’s article “Sanctions don’t work.” featured in the International Herald Tribune daily issued on 10 November 2003. It said, “The Bush administration has vastly backed, threatened, acquiesced in or hinted at tough economic sanctions against Cuba, Syria, North Korea and Burma. Democrats helped lead the fight for a new ban on imports from Burma. The United States imposed 85 new unilateral economic sanctions on foreign nations from 1996 to 2001. But sanctions, which cost US companies up to $19 billion in 1995 alone, aren’t a policy; they’re a feel-good policy programme. The United Nations sanctions inspection can do some good, while economic sanctions kill children. The claim that sanctions killed 500,000 Iraqi children, a figure that originated in a UN Children’s Fund report, has probably overestimated by a factor of ten, but no one doubts that UN sanctions contributed to child malnutrition and mortality in Iraq.”

He also asked whether such acts met the words of US President Bush who said that sex trafficking was the worst social problem; and that it must be eliminated. Richard Boucher, the State Department spokesman, replied to his question, saying that he would study the report thoroughly; that the imposing of the sanctions was a correct act; that the US understood that the sanctions had caused harm to the garment industry of Burma; and that the sanctions were targeted against the government. There are always interrelations between the Government and the people. The people will also suffer if the government that is continuously striving to build the nation, is hurt. Likewise, the government is also hurt, when the people are suffering.

The report of the US government has already indicated that the fact that the sanctions have harmed the people. Thus it is clear that the US government’s sanctions are not meant for public interest or for the democracy cause. Whoever tries to destroy the cause of Myanmar and the national unity, the entire national races will have to work for their own cause. They must also strive for the advancement and progress of the nation, with full Union Spirit. In doing so, they should accept and uphold the 57th Anniversary Union Day objectives which are:

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

At the conclusion of the Special Refresher Course for university and college teachers held at Central Institute of Civil Service, Phwegyigyi, Hliug Township, Yangon Division, on 30 January 2004, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said: The result of the efforts for the existence of the bilateral friendship and the extension of relations between Myanmar and the neighbours and the regional countries is the further flourishing of amity, friendship, sympathy and goodwill for Myanmar.

Despite pressures from the west, the ASEAN nations are resolutely standing by Myanmar. At the Bali Summit, the ASEAN nations issued a declaration expressing support for the democracy process of Myanmar and saying that sanctions will not help the emergence of democracy in Myanmar. Japan also said that it would render assistance to the democracy process of Myanmar.

As Myanmar lies in the hub where Southeast Asia and South Asia meet, the development in the cooperation between Myanmar and the two regional countries will benefit both. In this regard, I would like to say that at a time when Myanmar has been striving to build a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, laying down the seven-point future political programme and further consolidating the national unity, the economic sanctions of the US and its western allies are not conducive to democracy cause; they will have negative impact on the process instead.

(Translation:TM) (Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 17-2-004)
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looks into tasks for all-round renovation of Kyakikamawt Pagoda in Kyauktan. — MNA

Convocation of Yangon Institute of Economics to be held

YANGON, 17 Feb — The convocation will be held for university students who passed their third year examinations in July and August 2003 at the Convocation Hall of Yangon University at 9 am on 7 March 2004.

At the convocation ceremony, degrees in BEcon (Economics), BPA, BDevS, BEcon (Statistics), BPS, BCom, BAct and BBA will be conferred. Graduated students are to submit prescribed application forms together with two recent photos (2”x1.5”) and an original of national registration card. Those who graduated before 2003 may apply for graduation absentia.

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The Prime Minster urged historians, archaeologists and other experts to investigate and report on the pagoda. The Prime Minister observed a laterite stair in the compound of Myatsaw Nynuang Pagoda and a mound where the Archaeology Department will excavate an ancient ordination hall.

During the visit to Kyakkamawt Pagoda, the Prime Minister and party inspected the pagoda all-round renovation task. They also visited the place where Barmeh Sayadaw practised vipassana.

In the afternoon, they visited Myanmar Maritime University construction project at Thanlyin-Kyauktan region development zone. The projects is being implemented by the Ministry of Transport.

At the project briefing hall, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than explained the academic programmes, staff organization, and the university’s building of seven fibre speed boats in cooperation with Japan-Myanmar Cooperation Association. The seven boats were displayed at Tokyo International Boat Show held in Japan. Of the seven boats displayed under the title “Made in Myanmar” five were sold at the show. He also explained international cooperation programme, saying Maung Thet Naing, a second year student of shipbuilding science won RINA-Myanmar Shipyard Award for 2003 presented by Royal Institute of Naval Architects.

U Aung Htwe of Shwe Malar Construction Co Ltd reported on progress in construction of the three-storey main hall, the main lecture hall and three two-storey lecture halls and work to be done.

After giving instructions to officials, the Prime Minister viewed the computerized navigation, and computerized engine controlling, and visited laboratories of the chemistry and physics departments.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visited Yangon East University.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt explained the brief history of the university, academic matters, major subjects, the number of students, the IT room equipped with 158 computers, staff affairs and requirements.

The Prime Minister chose the site to build the four-storey main hall.
Entries invited for Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo contest

YANGON, 17 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Photo Contests Organizing Committee today announced that it will conduct a colour photo contest.

The two titles for the contests are “Developing and Praiseworthy Myanmar” and “Preserve Cultural Heritage”. The contestants may send four 10” x 12” print photos for each contest.

Those who have won first to third prizes in the previous contests will be categorized into a separate group.

If an entry wins a prize, its negative is to be submitted. Data and captions are to be written on a separate sheet. If there is a model, his or her permission is required. An entry is not to have been published before in any publications and it must not be a prize-winning work at home or abroad. Digital camera photos are not allowed.

First to third prizes will be presented in Yangon on 27 March 2004, and consolation prizes at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Commemorative ceremonies to be held at respective commands.

The entries are to be sent to U Tun Min, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department, No 22-24, Pansodan Street, by 29 February. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than

(from page 16)

After having established 24 special development zones, the State has been constructing and opening universities and hospitals in every zone. In addition, agricultural and livestock breeding tasks are being carried out for economic boom, and five rural hospitals in every zone. In addition, agricultural and livestock breeding tasks are being carried out for economic boom, and five rural hospitals in every zone.

Supervisors are also participating in the tasks, he added.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Pyinsalu Station Hospital and inspected wards and operation room. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated cash for the hospital through official.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also went to Pyinsalu Police Station where he inspected wards, solar-powered refrigerator used in storing medicines and operation theatre, and comforted the patients.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated K 100,000 for the fund of hospital to member of hospital supervisory committee. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to Pyinsalu Police Station and met with MPF members and their families.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed round the development of Pyinsalu region by car. — MNA

Lweliyan and Mohnyin bridges in Mogaung inaugurated

YANGON, 17 Feb — The opening of Lweliyan Bridge on Namti-Tanai Road in Mogaung Township, Kachin State, took place at the archway of the facility on 15 February morning.

It was attended by Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, officials, departmental heads, members of social organizations and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally opened the bridge.

After formally unveiling the stone inscriptions of the bridge, the commander, together with the guests, walked along the 137.5-foot-long steel-beam bridge, which can withstand 30-ton loads.

In the afternoon, the commander and the minister attended the inauguration of Nantyiin River-crossing Mohnyin Bridge on Shwebo-Myikyina Road in Mohnyin.

On the occasion, the minister and the commander extended greetings to the public and formally opened the bridge. The minister pressed the button to unveil the stone inscriptions of the bridge.

The 200-foot-long reinforced concrete bridge has a 26-foot-wide motorway and two 8-foot-wide pedestrian lanes on its either side. Its clearance area is 110 feet long and it can withstand 30-ton loads. — MNA
Prime Minister inspects…
(from page 16)

Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Amin Kyaw and Managing Director of Golden Flower Construction U Aung Htwe formally opened the Yeikmons.

Managing Director U Aung Htwe reported on construction of the project. He said Golden Flower Co Ltd constructed five housing projects, namely—Shwe Malar, Shwe Sabai, Shwe Ponnyoth, Shwe Padauk and Shwe Tharaphi Yeikmons from 1997 to 2001. He said each apartment is 2,300x2,700 sq-ft and it was furnished with parquet, tiles and ceilings and central water supply.

The company provided K 15 million for maintenance and it also built offices for staff, installed PABX telephone system and central room for satellite TV. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the apartments.—MNA

Minister attends Hti-daw-hoisting ceremony of Yokhsìnhla Pagoda in Thazi

YANGON, 17 Feb — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and wife, accompanied by Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading U Min Hla Aung, attended a Hti-daw-hoisting and consecration ceremony of Yokhsínhla Pagoda in the compound of Phayaggy Kyaungtaik in Hlinetkay village in Thazi Township, Mandalay Division, on 14 February morning. Present on the occasion were world Buddhist missionary Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Canda Siri (Hlinetkay Sayadaw) and members of the Sangha together with Maj-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Mokta Station and military officials, officers and others.

The Sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Members of the pagoda board of trustees accepted the Seinbudaw donated by Zawtika rice miller U Maung Maung Ohn and Daw Nan, the Ngetmyatnadaw by U Min Hla Aung and K 300,000 by the minister and wife. Next, the Hti-daw-hoisting ceremony was held.

On 15 February morning, the minister, together with North-West Command Deputy Commander Col Khin Maung Ohn and officials inspected the construction project of No 021 25-ton bran oil mill and No 222 50-ton rice mill being implemented by MAPT and gave necessary instructions to officials. The minister later went to Sagaing and met with officials and staff at divisional manager’s office of MAPT and left instructions.

Entries invited for colour photo competition

YANGON, 17 Feb—With a view to ensuring development of Myanmar Tourism, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism has already announced that it will hold the colour photo competition under the title of scenic Myanmar.

The size of entry photo must be from 12x12 inch to 12x18 inch. The entry must be own creation and must not be prize winning work in any other competition.

There is no limitation for the number of the entry photo which is to be taken locally. Name, NRC No, address, brief biography and full caption of the entry are to be provided in a separate sheet of paper which is to be attached to the back of the entry.

Handsome prizes will be given alongside consolation prizes.

Entries are to be sent to Secretary of the Committee for Organizing the Colour Photo Competition U Kaung Hrut (Deputy Director) of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, No 779 91, Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon, not later than 27 February 2004.
Agricultural and regional development tasks inspected

YANGON, 17 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials inspected agricultural and regional development tasks in Hmawby Township, Hnatin and Taikkyi Townships this morning.

At the Yangon Division Vegetable Production and Livestock Breeding Special Zone near Myaungsbin Village in Hmawby Township, Special Zone-1 in-charge Deputy Commissioner of Yangon North District General Administration Department U Thein Naing and Special Zone-3 in-charge Head of Division Settlement and Land Records Department U Kyin Tun reported on land preparation, cultivation of vegetables, raising of chickens and layers, digging of fish ponds and breeding of fish.

Chairman of Special Zone Supervisory Committee Commissioner U Hla Soe reported on maintenance of roads in the zones and arrangements for cultivation of vegetables, officials concerned on irrigation, power supply, installation of telephone and other assistance and entrepreneurs on agriculture and livestock breeding.

The commander then gave instructions. The commander and party inspected construction of briefing halls by Naing Group Construction and observation tower.

They inspected irrigation from Kalitaw Dam in the special zone-2, road linking Wanetchaung Village in Hmawby Township and panning of 18-foot wide river linking Myooychaung Bridge, Bawlekyun and Yayabwahaung Bridge.

The commander and party went to Myooychaung Bridge and inspected cultivation of summer paddy in Bawlekyun and irrigation from river water pumping station. They inspected Gwayawan river water pumping project in Hnatin Township.

They also inspected in summer paddy cultivation, river water pumping projects and irrigation in Angaungkyun in Taikkyi Township and preventive measures for bank erosion, fish breeding in Aphyawu.

The commander met farmers and gave instructions on cultivation of triple cropping — MNA

Anti-drug billboard erected in Myawady District

YANGON, 17 Feb — With a view to ensuring Myawady District to become a narcotic drugs free region, an educative billboard was put up in front of Bayintnaung Market in Myawady, Kayin State, yesterday morning. Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing delivered an address at the ceremony and Chairman of the Central Supervisory Committee for Enforcing Myawady District to Become Narcotic Drugs Free Region Member of the CCDAC Minister for Labour U Tin Winn formally unveiled the billboard.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu, senior military officers, local authorities, officials, social organizations, teachers, students and local people total-ling over 1,000. In his address, Minister Col Tin Hlaing said that the purpose of the ceremony was to secure participation of the entire people in the drugs elimination tasks for ensuring Myawady District to be a drugs free region. It is in accordance with instructions and directives of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt (now Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt) at the special meeting of the Ministry of Home Affairs on 23 July 2002 for elimination of narcotic drugs in border areas.

Under the patronage of the CCDAC and Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association, Myawady District Anti-Narcotics Association was formed on 22 May 2003. It will carry out organizational tasks in cooperation with local non-governmental organizations. So far, a total of 10 educative billboards have been erected in crowded sites in Myawady District. In a bid to establish narcotic drugs free region, priority was given to Tachileik, Myawady and Kawthoung Districts. In the process, remarkable success has been achieved in Tachileik thanks to organizational measures taken by anti-narcotics associations at different levels and NGOs, and hearty participation of local people. The minister called on social organizations and local people to take part in the tasks after receiving necessary assistance of regional administrative bodies and departments.

Myawady District is a border region where people illegally enter the region or migrate to the neighboring country and narcotic drugs are smuggled. So emphasis is to be placed on prevention and control of trafficking narcotic drugs. In conclusion, he called for collective efforts to accomplish the project in hand with the Central Supervisory Committee, local administrative bodies and NGOs.

The ministers met with local authorities, service personnel, NGOs, townsmen and local people at Thanyin Hall in Myawady on 15 February afternoon and dealt with harmonious participation in the State’s seven-point policy programme, and tasks for ensuring peace and stability, regional development and elimination of drugs in the region.

Afterwards, they inspected rehabilitation centres, the office of the head of District Myanmar Police Force, and reception camp. The CCDAC chairman and party attended the opening of the office of Myawady District General Administration Department and formally opened it. The chairman presented K 2 million to the district ANA and K 200,000 to district organization for women’s affairs. — MNA

Written examination for junior reporter posts announced

YANGON, 17 Feb — The written examination for four posts of junior reporter with the New Light of Myanmar Daily of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be held at the New Light of Myanmar building, No 22/30, Strand Road, Botataung Township on 6 March 2004.

The candidates are to sit for English from 9 to 11 am and Myanmarars and general knowledge (internal/external) from 12 noon to 2 pm.

The candidates who have the right to sit for the examination are to contact the Manager (News Division) of NPE (Tel: 294621). — MNA

CCDAC Chairman Minister Col Tin Hlaing delivers an address at the ceremony. — cccdac
Educational programmes on AIDS to be introduced in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 17 Feb — The Zimbabwe Religious Authority Board established recently to represent the interests of churches would this month introduce educational programmes on HIV and AIDS in various churches throughout the country, the Sunday Mail reported.

The programmes, to be coordinated by representatives from various church denominations, are meant to create AIDS awareness in various communities through educating church members.

The head of the organization’s division responsible for health, David Mupunwa, was quoted as saying that church leaders had already been trained to conduct the programmes.

Mupunwa said the initiative came as a result of the need for the church to play an active role in the fight against the pandemic.

He said the proposed programmes were a result of increasing incidents of HIV infection, which did not spare even church members.

Mupunwa said the church was influential in Zimbabwe and needed to take the opportunity to make a difference.

He added that some countries in the region had declared a Jihad (Holy War) against HIV/AIDS and Zimbabwe needed to take a cue from them.

The major thrust of the initiative is to bring a network of pastors to fight the pandemic.

There has not been much teaching on the subject in the church and there is need to promote its education.

MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.
The second best time is now.
Cholera has killed 141 in Zambia since November

LUSAKA, 17 Feb—An outbreak of cholera has killed 141 people in Zambia since last November, the Ministry of Health spokesman Victor Mukowa said here Monday.

He confirmed that the ministry has in a public notice on February 12 declared Lusaka and Northern provinces as cholera infected areas, banning any patients or suspected patients from leaving the infected area without the permission of health authorities.

The notice signed by Health Minister B Chituwo also bans any unapproved public gathering of more than five persons, including funerals.

According to Mukowa, a total of 4,741 cases have been reported nationwide in Lusaka, Northern, Southern, Eastern, Copperbelt and other provinces.

However, he said, the cases have been going down recently, with only 80 patients currently being treated.

Copperbelt and Eastern provinces have been declared cholera free so far, he said.

To combat the disease, the Health Authority has opened cholera treatment centres in affected areas where patients are isolated and treated.

Community based health workers have been mobilized to ensure all patients and contacts are traced, and their homes thoroughly disinfected.

Health inspectors and environmental health staff have been mobilized to strengthen inspections of eating and drinking places, bars, restaurants and shops.

Clean water are delivered to affected areas, in addition to chlorination of wells.

Schools and markets were also closed to allow for cleanup. In Lusaka, the Armed Forces were also mobilized in cleaning up the city.

MNA/Xinhua

OPEC could again reduce production in May

JAKARTA, 17 Feb—The Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) could again reduce its production level in May, if the reduction of one million barrels per day (bpd) in April is inadequate to maintain the price level, an Indonesian minister said Monday.

“If the reduction in April is not enough, the organization will further reduce it in May,” Mines and Energy Minister Purnomo Yuniarto was quoted by state news agency Antara as saying.

OPEC still wants to maintain oil prices at 22-28 US dollars per barrel, he said.

Purnomo said OPEC will likely hold a meeting if it is forced to reduce again its production in May.

OPEC has been producing 27 million barrels per day for the past months, larger than its limit of 24.5 million.

MNA/Xinhua

China shopping mallfire kills at least 51

BEIJING, 17 Feb—A fire in a shopping mall in northeastern China killed at least 51 people and injured more than 70, state television CCTV said on Sunday.

The blaze broke out on the second floor of the five-storey Zhongbai Commercial Plaza, which contained shops, a dancing hall and a bath house, at around 0320 GMT in the city of Jinlin, China Central Television said.

An official at Jinlin’s fire fighting team told Reuters the death toll was still being updated.

“More than 30 died, but the final number is being compiled and verified. The CCTV figure may not be accurate,” he said.

Jinlin is about 590 miles from the capital Beijing.

Officials were investigating the cause of the fire, which has already been extinguished. Fire fighters were searching for more victims.

The official Xinhua news agency had reported the fire took place in the northeastern city of Changchun.

MNA/Reuters

Building collapses in Mumbai

New Delhi, 17 Feb—A portion of a building collapsed Sunday evening near Taj Hotel in Mumbai, southwestern India, trapping nine people, the Press Trust of India quoted fire brigade sources as saying.

Eight of the trapped people were rescued after the eastern portion of the four-story building collapsed and the other was still suspected to be trapped beneath the debris.

The building is situated next to the Regal Cinema on the road leading to Taj Hotel. The local fire service has sent fire tenders and men to remove the debris, they added.—MNA/Xinhua
Adrian Mutu put Chelsea ahead before halftime but Spaniard Reyes smashed in a spectacular equalizer, his first goal for the club, and grabbed his third in five minutes later to keep the Premier League leaders on course to win the Cup for the third year in a row.

"They gave us problems in the first half. In the second half, we pushed up more," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters. "Our team play was good, our passing was good and we were mentally strong. The players wanted to win."}

First Division Sheffield United beat Colchester of Division Two 1-0, striker Paul Peschisolido heading the winner for last season's semifinalists after 61 minutes.

Liverpool play Premier League rivals Portsmouth later on Sunday.

Romanian striker Mutu gave Chelsea a deserved lead after 40 minutes, taking advantage of a poor clearance by Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann to wrong-foot a stunned left-foot shot from 20 metres that flew into the top corner of the net.

Shortly afterwards, the player signed last month for around £6 million euros (1.28 million US dollars) from Sevilla put Arsenal ahead.

Midfielder Patrick Vieira released him with a neat pass and Reyes produced a deft finish to beat Arsenal goalkeeper Neil Sullivan, who had just come on as a substitute for the injured Carlo Cudicini.

"There's a lot to work on but you can see that there's talent here," Wenger said. "His work rate was absolutely outstanding today. The number of runs he made was fantastic." The visitors never really threatened to get back into the game as Vieira and Sol Campbell led a truly miserly Arsenal defensive effort and Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink became the seventh player booked as his team's hopes faded.

Manchester united, Millwall and Tranmere Rovers reached the last eight on Saturday, when Fulham drew 0-0 with West Ham United and Sunderland drew 1-1 with Birmingham City.

The competition is combined with the qualification campaign, which starts in June. The leaders trailed to Alan Archibald's opener after 35 minutes and United's misery continued when striker John Collins scored an equalizer and Scottish Second Division side Morton in 1963-64.

Stuart Duff brought down Stilian Petrov to concede the penalty for Sutton's winner, which set off a chronic inflammation of his groin," Wenger said.

Wenger said Campbell reached the end of the season and Chelsea's John Terry against South Korea and Chelsea on Sunday against Wenger's better team. He said the defender signed last month from Lyon was expected to try out the defensive partnership of Campbell and Chelsea's John Terry against Portugal.

However, he said it was better that Campbell reached the end of the season and the European Championship in good condition rather than be risked in a friendly.

Nigeria's inspirational skipper Austin Jay Jay Okocha is to be the named top player at this year's African Nations Cup, a senior official of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) told AFP. ---Reuters

Okocha named best player of 2004 nations cup

RADES (Tunisia), 17 Feb.— Nigerian captain Jay Okocha has been named the best player of the 2004 African Nations Cup, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) said Saturday.

The 30-year-old midfielder received his award at halftime of Saturday's African National Cup final between Morocco and Tunisia at Radès.

Okocha scored four goals and helped Nigeria to third place in the tournament.

After Friday's third place play-off win over Mali at Monastir, he described himself as very happy and confirmed his own success.

Okocha had his international ban increased from one to three matches and his international ban increased for three matches. ---UEFA

Diouf gets extra game ban after appeal

TUNIS, 17 Feb.— Senegal striker El Hadji Diouf's appeal against a three-match suspension given during the African Nations Cup has backfired after the Confederation of African Football (CAF) added an extra game to his ban.

The former African Player of the Year was banned by CAF on Monday for the opening matches of Senegal's World Cup qualifying campaign, which starts in June. His appeal was rejected at a meeting on Friday.

The Liverpool player was found guilty of violent conduct after the tournament's organizing committee reviewed a video of the tempestuous quarterfinal against Tunisia in Rades last weekend.

"The three-match penalty handed out to player El Hadji Diouf was increased to four matches for acts considered unacceptable and injurious to football and the public," a CAF statement said on Saturday.

"Diouf spent much of the match in a verbal battle with United Arab Emirates referee Ali Bujsaim and at the end of the 1-0 defeat had to be restrained from attacking him and members of the Tunisian bench.

It means he will not feature again for Senegal in a competitive match before Octo-

ber 10, when his country are to meet Liberia in Monrovia in Group One of the qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Thecompetition is combined with the qualifiers for the next Nations Cup, to be held in Egypt in 2006. Three Senegalese officials who stormed on to the pitch after Tunisia's controversial goal.

Celtic close on title with record-equalling win

GLASGOW, 17 Feb.— Celtic scored two goals on Saturday, closing on the Scottish Premier League title and equalling the 40-year-old British record for consecutive league wins.

The visitors never really threatened to get back into the game as Vieira and Sol Campbell led a truly miserly Arsenal defensive effort and Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink became the seventh player booked as his team's hopes faded.

Manchester united, Millwall and Tranmere Rovers reached the last eight on Saturday, when Fulham drew 0-0 with West Ham United and Sunderland drew 1-1 with Birmingham City.

The competition is combined with the qualification campaign, which starts in June. The leaders trailed to Alan Archibald's opener after 35 minutes and United's misery continued when striker John Collins scored an equalizer and Scottish Second Division side Morton in 1963-64.

Stuart Duff brought down Stilian Petrov to concede the penalty for Sutton's winner, which set off a chronic inflammation of his groin, said Wenger said.

Wenger said Campbell reached the end of the season and the European Championship in good condition rather than be risked in a friendly.

LONDON, 17 Feb.— Arsenal defender Sol Campbell will not be fit to play in England's friendly away to Portugal on Wednesday, his manager Arsene Wenger said on Sunday.

Campbell, suffering a groin problem, played in Arsenal’s 2-1 FA Cup victory over Chelsea on Sunday against Wenger’s better team. He said the defender signed last month from Lyon was expected to try out the defensive partnership of Campbell and Chelsea's John Terry against Portugal.

However, he said it was better that Campbell reached the end of the season and the European Championship in good condition rather than be risked in a friendly.

"If a player like Sol is in the state he is in at the moment it is important that he does not set off a chronic inflammation of his groin," Wenger said.

Wenger said he felt sorry for England manager Sven Goran Eriksson, who was expected to try out the defensive partnership of Campbell and Chelsea's John Terry against Portugal.

"He said it was better that Campbell reached the end of the season and the European Championship in good condition rather than be risked in a friendly.

LONDON, 17 Feb.— South Korea beat Oman 5-0 in friendly.

Striker, 17 Feb.— South Korea beat Oman 5-0 in the southeastern city of Ulsan on Saturday. striker Ahn Jung-hwan scoring twice in the 14th and 36th minutes to warm-up before the start of the home side's World Cup qualifying campaign next week.

Oman, who had beaten South Korea 3-1 when the two sides last met in Muscat late last year, got off to the worst possible start when an attempted clearing header looped into their opponents' net within 10 minutes.

Striker Seol Ki-hyeon, who plays for Anderlecht, got a second for South Korea after stubbing the ball home from close range in the 55th minute after Oman's goalkeeper could only partially clear a powerful header from the edge of the box.

In blustery conditions in the Ulsan Munsu World Cup Stadium, Oman rarely threatened and Ahn made it 3-0 from the penalty spot in the first half after he was brought down on the edge of the area.

South Korean coach Humberto Coelho used the second half to bring on a clutch of young players alongside veterans from the last World Cup campaign. ---MNA/Reuters

Arsenal ignited by golden Reyes

LONDON, 17 Feb.— Striker Jose Antonio Reyes scored twice to help Arsenal end Chelsea's FA Cup hopes for the fourth successive year with a 2-1 victory in a feisty fifth-round tie on Saturday.

Adrian Mutu put Chelsea ahead before halftime but Spaniard Reyes smashed in a spectacular equalizer, his first goal for the club, and grabbed his third in five minutes later to keep the Premier League leaders on course to win the Cup for the third year in a row.

"They gave us problems in the first half. In the second half, we pushed up more," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters. "Our team play was good, our passing was good and we were mentally strong. The players wanted to win."
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Wednesday, 18 February, 2004

WEATHER

Tuesday, 17 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 (3°F) above normal in northern Shan State (30°F) to (4°F) below normal in Kachin, Rakhine States, Sagay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°F) to (6°F) below normal in Chin State, Magway, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 16-2-2004 was 35.5°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 17-2-2004 was 14.0°C (57°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-2-2004 was 66%.

Total sunshine hours on 16-2-2004 was (80 hours) as compared to (83 hours) rainfall on 17-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (3 mm (0.12 inch)) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northwest at (11:30) hours MST on 16-2-2014. Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 18-2-2004.

Forecast: Rain and scattered showers in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, eastern Shan, Kayin States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. A degree of certainty is (40%). State of the seas: Seas will be slight to moderate in southern Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in southern Myanmar.


Barometer: 1019.4 hectopascals.

Earthquake report (Issued at 14:00 Hours Today) 

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside of Myanmar about (10 miles) South of Mandalay and (10 miles) North of Sagaing. Seismological observations were recorded at (13 hrs) 11 min (55 sec) M.S.T on 17th February 2004.
YANGON, 17 Feb—Chairman of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrived at Shwe Ingyin Yeikmon Housing Estate at the corner of Waizayanta Road and Thanthuma Road in Thingangyun Township on 15 February.

On arrival there, the Prime Minister was welcomed by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, heads of departments, social organizations, Managing Director of Golden Flower Construction Co Ltd U Aung Htwe and officials. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected apartments at the Shwe Ingyin Yeikmon Housing Estate.

The opening ceremony of Shwe Ingyin Yeikmon Housing Estate was held at the corner of Waizayanta Road and Thanthuma Road in Thingangyun Township at 8 am on 15 February attended by Vice-Chairmen of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The Yeikmon was constructed by Shwe Marlar Construction under the supervision of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development of the Ministry of Construction.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, departmental officials, social organizations, construction entrepreneurs, managing director and members of the board of directors and guests.

The opening ceremony of the housing estate was held at the archway of the Yeikmon. (See page 10)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets with departmental officials, members of social organizations, townswelders and entrepreneurs. — MNA

YANGON, 17 Feb — A team of diplomats including Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing and guests. Diplomats, UN resident representatives visit southern Shan State

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Pyinsalu by air from Yangon on 14 February.

The diplomatic team comprises Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and wife, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials of MOFA. The diplomats were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Commandant of Eastern Command Col Win Myint, Station Commander Brig-Gen Thuw Haung and officials.

During the visit to Inlay Phaung Daw U Pagoda, they offered Shwethagyan to Buddha images. They then studied the weaving industry and silver industry of the Inlay Lake.

At Shwe Kyu Shu Nwawsaw Hotel 1, they enjoyed the Inlay traditional boat race. The Dean and the Vice-Dean of diplomatic corps presented cash awards to the rowers.

In the afternoon, they visited sericulture and weaving industry at Inpawkhon village. In Taunggyi, they visited Shan State Cultural Museum. Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife hosted dinner in honour of the team members at the command in the evening. At the dinner, Shan State cultural troupes entertained the guests with traditional songs and dances.

The next morning, they visited Shwephonepiwint Pagoda, Sulamuni Pagoda and Mwedaw Kekku Pagoda. The team members presented cash donations for the ancient pagodas in Kekku. In Pindaya, they visited Shwe Omin Cave. The team arrived back here in the evening. MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were welcomed by departmental officials, members of village Peace and Development Council and social organizations, and local people. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party met with officials and social organizations at Eya Village SPDC Office. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said rural development tasks are being carried out for narrowing the development gap between rural and urban areas by laying down the five rural development School and five social organizations through officials.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the BEMS and inspected the construction of the school building.

In the afternoon, they arrived at Pyinsalu in Labutta Township and met with departmental officials and local people totalling about 400 at Pyinsalu Basic Education High School. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing made a speech. Afterwards, they proceeded to Amatgyi Village in Pyinsalu Village-tract in Labutta Township and inspected the development of the village and cordially greeted the local people.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said in order to build up a peaceful and developed nation, there need essential requirements such as the rule of law, economic development and human resource development. It is required to produce intelligentsia and intellectuals for the development of the nation, he said. (See page 9)