Indaw region test well producing 4.32 million cubic feet of natural gas per day

Prime Minister stresses need to continue drilling work as scheduled

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended to the needs, speaking of the need to continue the drilling work as scheduled. He cordially met with members of social organizations in Mawlaik Township. Accompanied by officials, the Prime Minister observed the drilling of the No 3 well. The Prime Minister and party posed for photo together with the project staff in front of the test well.

On arrival at the project, they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Huay, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kale Station, members of Mawlaik District and Town-ship Peace and Development Councils, departmen-tal personnel, members of social organizations and staff of the project. — MNA

Yangon, 18 Feb — The All-round Skill Contest for Yangon Command, organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association, was held in conjunc-ton with the prize presenta-tion ceremony in honour of the 57th Anniversary Union Day at the hall of the command headquarters this morning, attended by Chair-man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Supervisory Com-mittee for Yangon Division MCWA Daw Khin Thet Hay.

Later, officials presented souvenirs to the children who presented entertain-ment to audience.— MNA

All-round Skill Contest for children of Yangon Command held

Yangon, 18 Feb — The All-round Skill Contest for Pre-Primary School stu-dents from regiments and units under the Yangon Command, organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Associa-tion, was held in conjunc-tion with the prize presen-tation ceremony in honour of the 57th Anniversary Union Day at the hall of the command headquarters this morning, attended by Chair-man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Supervisory Com-mittee for Yangon Division MCWA Daw Khin Thet Hay.

Perspectives

To realize the objectives of the State (Page 2)

Prime Minister inspects regional development tasks in Magway, Mandalay Divisions (Page 16)

Salone Traditional Festival opens to enable the world witness objective conditions of Myanmar (Page 16)

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To realize the objectives of the State

The Government is striving with might and main for the nation to become a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic one. Thanks to the strenuous and constant efforts of the Tatmadaw Government since its assumption of the duties of the State, national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold.

With peace prevailing across the country including remote border areas, projects for development of border areas and national races hand in hand and as a result, those areas have developed with added momentum.

For equitable development of all regions in states and divisions of the nation, 24 special development regions have been designated and universities, colleges, government technological colleges, computer colleges and hospitals have been established. Arrangements have been made to raise the living standard of people residing in border areas, provide better health care services to them and promote their education standard. Moreover, the five rural development tasks are being implemented simultaneously in rural areas where 70 per cent of the population of the country reside. Nowadays, people are witnessing such new infrastructures as dams, reservoirs, bridges, roads and so on which will contribute much towards national development.

At a time when good foundations for strengthening the economy of the State and raising the living standard of people have emerged, work is under way to implement the seven-point policy programme that will lead the nation towards peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic one.

On 7 February, Prime Minister General Kyin Nyunt met with members of state and district Peace and Development Councils and departmental officials at the meeting hall of Eastern Command in Taunggyi.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister said that service personnel at state, division, district and township levels are responsible for realization of the government’s objectives and it is their duty to lead and organize the people in order to realize the government’s goodwill towards the people and national objectives.

The Government has laid down plans for harmonious development of the State and policies for perpetuation of the Union. For realization of the plans, State’s high-ranking officials themselves have made field trips to grassroot levels and fulfilled the requirements. Service personnel working in the various regions should keep in touch with local people and fulfill their requirements and desires. To realize the objectives of the State, officials at different levels are urged to strive harmoniously through coordination and cooperation.

Regional development projects inspected in Pyapon District

Yangon, 18 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Aseyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, inspected rural health care centre in Amar, Bogale Township, Pyapon District, on 16 February morning.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions to the officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party also inspected Amar Myanmar Police Force and Affiliated Basic Education High School and attended to the needs.

In the afternoon, they held a meeting with local people at Amar camp of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy. Also present were Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, departmental personnel, local authorities, members of social organizations and townsenders. On the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered a speech. In his speech, he spoke of the need for local people to participate in the tasks for ensuring peace and stability in respective regions, which can contribute towards restoration of peace and stability, prevalence of law and order and raising the economy of the State in building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

They proceeded to Bawthit Village and looked into thriving pepper plantations and left necessary instructions. Afterwards, they left Bogale by boat and arrived in Pyapon.

MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains women’s affairs

Yangon, 18 Feb — President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and officials arrived in Mandalay on 16 February morning.

They met with the Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Patron of Mandalay Division Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Myat Ngwe and members of the division level panel of patrons, CEC members, supporting group members and others totalizing about 500 at the City Hall. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe said that officials of MWAF toured States and Divisions to carry out development of the entire women. Today, they arrived in Mandalay, Mandalay Division, to explain organizational set-up of the federation, the aim and functions in meeting with members of the Mandalay Division Organizational Group for Women’s Affairs. For development of the women’s life, the federation was formed with seven lofty aims such as uplift of women’s role, protection of the women’s rights, development of social, education, health and economic affairs of women and securing of women’s life. As MWAF is a social organization, it will be able to widely and effectively carry out the tasks. Members of the federation and required to focus on all-round development of the State, the national and the entire women. And, concerted efforts are to be actively made in accord with the motto ‘Let’s make efforts for development of women’s life’.

Next, Secretary of the federation Prof Dr Daw Mar Tin explained the organizational set-up of the federation and submitting of membership application and leaders of the working groups clarified preventing violence against women and human trafficking, rehabilitation and resettlement, functions of the Girl’s Working Group, the Culture Working Group, the National Race Affairs and Organizing Working Group, functions of education, health, economic and environmental conservation, information/communication, discipline and finance & management working groups. Then, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tin accepted K 6.65 million for the federation and presented certificates of honour to the willowers. The president spoke words of thanks. Yesterday morning, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party met with members of the Mandalay Division Organization for Women’s Affairs and supporting groups at the Yeiktha of Central Command Headquarters. At the meeting, the president and officials answered the queries. — MNA
540 US service members killed since beginning of war in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb—As of Tuesday, on 17 February, 540 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 374 died as a result of hostile action and 166 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine and Poland have reported one each. Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 402 US soldiers have died — 259 as a result of hostile action and 143 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,666 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 412.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- A Stryker Brigade soldier was killed in a roadside bombing Monday in Tall Afar in northern Iraq.
- Army Lt Adam G Mooney, 28, Cambridge, Md; missing since Jan. 25 when his helicopter went down in the Tigris River in Mosul, Iraq; his remains were recovered Saturday; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation; attached to 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY.
- Army Pfc Nichole M Frye, 19, Lena, Wis; killed Monday in Baqubah, Iraq, when an explosive struck her convoy; assigned to Company A, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, Army Reserve, Kalamazoo, Mich.
- Army Spc. Eric U Ramirez, 31, San Diego; killed Thursday in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, when he was attacked by small arms fire and an explosive; assigned to the 670th Military Police Company, Army National Guard, National City, Calif.
- Army Pvt Bryan N Spry, 19, Chestertown, Md; killed Friday in Baghdad when his vehicle rolled into a ditch; assigned to Company A, 2-504th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC.—Internet

Iraq data shows economy shrank 56% in 1991

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb—Iraq’s gross domestic product fell 56 per cent in 1991, the year after UN sanctions were imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, according to official figures.

Iraq’s Central Bank published official statistics for the first time in 26 years on Tuesday that showed the extent of the economic damage inflicted by Baath Party rule and by United Nations sanctions in the 1990s. The figures were shown only to Saddam Hussein and his aides as they revealed the regime’s vulnerability.

Sanctions remained in force until May of last year. The economy grew 10 per cent in 2001 as Iraq started to flout sanctions, exported more oil and goods flowed in from countries like Syria. The Central Bank is working to publish figures that cover the period after 2001.

MNA/Reuters

Khatami says Gulf region threatened by hegemonic policies

THIERRY, 18 Feb—Iranian President Moham- madm Khatami said on Tuesday that the Persian Gulf region was being threatened by hegemonic policies and opposing methods by world big powers. In a written message read out to the 14th International Conference on the Persian Gulf being held here, Khatami said the region was passing through one of the most difficult situation in the past few years due to unilateral policies adopted by certain big powers.

Regional wars and conflicts have claimed lives of thousands of innocent people and have inflicted great damage to different countries in the region, the President added.

While stressing Iran’s foreign policy was based on the establishment of peace, security and stability in the region, Khatami said that his country has been interested in establishing peace in war-ravaged Iraq since the neighbour was occupied by US forces and their allies.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to see increasing woodwork exports

HANOI, 18 Feb.—Vietnam will gain woodwork export turnovers of one billion US dollars next year, up 33.3 per cent over this year’s estimated figure of 750 million US dol- lars. Competitive prices and expanding markets are mainly attributed to the expected peace in war-ravaged Iraq since the European Union, is expected to purchase more Vietnamese products this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian PM says govt focuses on agriculture

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Monday his government focuses on the development of agriculture so as to raise the income of rural people.

“The focus is on agri- culture. People are asking why Pak Lah (nick name of Abdullah) is focusing on agriculture when other want the focus to be more on IT, biotechnology and all forms of technical knowl- edge,” Abdullah said at a meeting with elected repre- sentatives and heads of gov- ernment departments in Perak State, central Malaysia.

“Agriculture is in fact riches bestowed by God even though we have to seek the knowledge to develop it. We can use high tech- nology to develop agricul- ture.” In agriculture we can have better value added products than in other fields. In the past people said there is a limit to agri- culture but now with our technology there is no limit to its growth and development,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chile praises South Korean approval of FTA

SANTIAGO, 18 Feb—Chilean Vice-Foreign Minister Christian Barros on Monday voiced the government’s satisfaction with the South Korean parliamentary ap- proval of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed by the two nations.

“We deeply value the support and commitment assumed by the authorities and the private sectors of South Korea in the ratification of this accord, the first FTA between Latin America and Asia,” Barros said.

“The fact that we are the first to have a free trade agreement with South Korea grants us an important advan- tage regarding those countries that have a production and trade structure similar to ours,” he added.

The remarks were made shortly after South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon called Barros to inform the ratification.

Earlier on Monday, the South Korean unicameral Parlia- ment ratified the FTA bill by a vote of 162 to 71. The approval ended the history that South Korea has had no such an agreement with a foreign country.

Chilean Government spokesman Francisco Vidal said the ratification of the FTA with South Korea “closes a cycle pended since last year and is a further step in the strategy of the country’s international integration.”

Vidal said the ratification of the accord “opens an important market” that would be reflected in “more jobs and the country’s international integration.”

MNA/Xinhua

An explosion has killed a US soldier and wounded two others while they were patrolling the bombed recruitment centre area in Baghdad, where a suicide bombing killed over 40 people on 11 Feb, 2004.—INTERNET

US soldier killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb—A roadside bomb killed a US soldier in northern Iraq, the US military said Tuesday, the third such killing in less than 24 hours.

The US soldier who died Monday evening near the city of Tall Afar, 400 km (250 miles) northeast of Baghdad, was the third killed in separate roadside explosions across Iraq throughout the day. The bomb exploded as the soldier’s convoy passed by. He died while being airlifted to a nearby hospital, the military said. Another soldier was wounded.

The death brought to around 376 the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq since the US-led invasion last March which deposed Saddam. Two earlier attacks on US convoys, one in Baghdad and the other in Baqubah, killed two US troopers to the north, each killed one soldier. Five troops were also wounded.—Internet

Chilean Vice-Foreign Minister Christian Barros (L) and South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon (R) at their meeting with elected representatives and heads of government departments in Perak State, central Malaysia.
Annan hopes to make Iraq recommendation

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Feb — Secretary-General Kofi Annan hopes to make a recommendation by Friday on when elections could be held in Iraq — before or after the June 30 target date for the US transfer of power to Iraqis. Annan said Tuesday he is waiting for a UN team led by his special adviser, Lakhdar Brahimi, to report on its weeklong trip to Iraq to assess the prospects for elections before making proposals to the US-led coalition and the Iraqi Governing Council.

The coalition and the council asked the United Nations on 19 January to send a team to Iraq to help resolve an argument between the Bush administration and Iraq's most prominent Shiite leader, Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, on the transfer of power.

The coalition wants to keep to a handover plan it reached with the Governing Council in November; the council wants elections before making proposals to the UN.

Annan said Tuesday that he was optimistic that the Iraqis would reach agreement soon on one option regarding elections — and that the UN's proposals on elections will be "acceptable to all." Annan echoed this view Tuesday, telling reporters he hopes his conclusion "is going to be helpful." "I hope we will be able to help break the impasse and steer things in the right direction," the secretary-general said.

Annan told reporters he hopes to make his recommendations before he travels to Japan on Friday morning. —Internet

Iraq says no let-up in anti-occupation attacks

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb — This is the fourth attack on US troops in just over 24 hours. An Iraqi civilian and two US soldiers have been injured after a US patrol came under a rocket propelled attack west of Baghdad.

According to Aljazeera's correspondent, the attack took place near the public hospital in Ramadi city on Tuesday. No further details are yet available.

This attack follows three separate incidents on Monday, in which three US soldiers were killed. Late on Monday night, a roadside bomb killed one US soldier and wounded another in northern Iraq.

According to the US military, the soldiers were traveling in a convoy near Tall Afar, about 400 miles northwest of Baghdad, when the bomb exploded.

One soldier died while being taken to a nearby hospital by helicopter, the military said.

Singapore's retail sales up 9.7% in December 2003

SINGAPORE, 17 Feb — Singapore's total retail sales value was estimated at about 1,482 million US dollars in December 2003, up 9.7 per cent from a year ago, according to the Singapore Department of Statistics here on Monday.

Compared to November 2003, overall retail sales rose by a hefty 26.6 per cent, the department said in a press release published on Monday.

The growth was boosted by strong Christmas sales and pre-GST (Goods and Services Tax) hike spending, it said. With effect from January 1, 2004, Singapore's GST rate was raised by one percentage point to 5 per cent.

Sales of motor vehicles, food and beverages, medical goods and toiletries and watches and jewellery rose substantially over the year-earlier period.

China, Holland to cooperate in windmill power

BEIJING, 17 Feb — China and Holland will cooperate in windmill power generation, trademark protection and sustainable energy equipment, according to a Dutch Minister here Monday.

At a Press conference, Sybilla Dekker, Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning and Environment, said Holland will also set up an office in Shanghai to promote Chinese travelling in her country. She also said China will travel in Holland.

According to a memorandum of understanding signed by China and the European Union here last Thursday, it will be easier for Chinese tourists to go to Europe.

"This is also one of the reason that this delegation comes to China. I hope the enterprises can find opportunities in China and bring their products here," she said.

According to the Department of Commerce, the delegation led by Dekker included 33 small- and mid-sized enterprises and the main reason for their visit is to help China to promote bilateral trade. Besides Beijing, the delegation, during their stay in China, will also visit Shandong Province in the east and Guangdong Province in the south. — MNA/Xinhua

Bombings kill three soldiers, wound six in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb — Roadside bombs have claimed more American lives, killing three US soldiers in separate attacks in Baghdad and Sunni Muslim areas to the north of the capital. At least six soldiers were injured in the attacks, one critically.

In the biggest attack, one soldier from Task Force Iron Horse was killed and four were wounded in a roadside bombing in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. One of the wounded was critically injured and the other three were in guarded condition, the military said.

The first soldier from the Stryker Brigade to be killed by hostile fire died Monday evening in a roadside bombing in Tall Afar in northern Iraq.

Strikers are high-tech fighting vehicles and the brigade by that name was recently deployed from Fort Lewis, Wash. Another soldier from the brigade was wounded in the blast. A soldier from the 1st Armored Division died and another was wounded in a bombing Monday in central Baghdad.

The latest deaths brought to 541 the number of Americans who have died since President Bush launched the Iraq war March 20. Most of the casualties have occurred since Bush declared an end to active combat May 1.

Witnesses said two roadside bombs exploded Tuesday outside the Al-Azhar Medical College and hospital in Ramadi in the Sunni Triangle, damaging a US Army Humvee.

It was unclear if any soldiers or civilians were injured. A third bomb was defused.

Indonesian economy grows 4.1% in 2003

JAKARTA, 17 Feb — The Indonesian economy posted a year-on-year growth of 4.1 per cent in 2003 against 3.7 per cent in 2002, with consumption remaining the key driver, the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) reported Monday.

Private consumption grew by 4.02 per cent, government consumption by 4.94 per cent, gross fixed capital by 1.36 per cent, export by 4.04 per cent and import by 1.96 per cent, the BPS said.

The bureau targets a 4.8-per cent growth in 2004, and we regard this as a realistic figure. If the general election runs smoothly, we may even achieve higher growth," BPS head Soedearto Soebarkti told a Press conference.

BPS also announced growth in the fourth quarter of 2003 was 4.35 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua
NO LET-UP IN ANTI-OCCUPATION ATTACKS

Polish army patrol sets up a roadblock. At least two Iraqis died and eight coalition force members were wounded in a double car bomb attack on a Polish base at Hillah south of Baghdad recently. — Internet

Scores of gunmen firing mortars and grenades stormed Iraqi security posts in Falluja on 15 Feb, killing 22 people including 14. The picture shows a group of U.S. soldiers securing an attacked police station in Falluja on 15 Feb 2004. — Internet

US troops patrol the streets of Baghdad on 17 Feb 2004. A roadside bomb killed a US soldier in northern Iraq, the US military said Tuesday, 17 Feb, the third such killing in less than 24 hours. Internet

US military vehicles block a highway as a US soldier collects evidence at the scene of a roadside bombing in Baghdad on 17 Feb, 2004. Across Iraq roadside bombs claimed more American lives, killing three US soldiers in separate attacks in Baghdad and Sunni areas to the north of the capital. — Internet

US tanks patrol Baghdad’s Karrada district on 17 Feb 2004. Internet

Iraqi men check the destroyed house of Mohammed al-Issawi, a local leader in the village of Ameriya, near the restive town of Fallujah, 50km west of Baghdad, on 16 February. Witnesses said US forces killed al-Issawi and used helicopters to destroy the house. — Internet

25 US soldiers hurt as bus overruns in Kuwait

KUWAIT, 18 Feb— Twenty-five US soldiers were injured when their bus overturned near an Air Force base used by Kuwaiti and American-led forces in northern Kuwait, a spokesman for the US military said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Sunday near Ali al-Salem Air Base, 45 miles northwest of the capital Kuwait City, Captain Randall Baumber said.

"Four of the soldiers were taken to a Kuwaiti Armed Forces hospital and are in a stable condition, while 21 were treated at a local camp," Baumber added.

He said Kuwaiti police were questioning the bus driver, a Kenyan national. He did not elaborate.

Halliburton halts $140m more in US billings

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb— Halliburton Co said on Monday it would defer billing for an additional 140 million US dollars in meals for US forces in Iraq and Kuwait until a discrepancy is reconciled between the number of meals ordered and those actually served.

The Houston, Texas-based oil services company said it was holding off billing until an agreement was reached on subcontractor services for meal planning, food purchase and meal preparation for troops.

Halliburton is the biggest contractor for the US military in Iraq with more than 8 billion US dollars in deals covering everything from doing laundry, building bases and providing meals to helping rebuild the oil industry.

Its contracts have drawn intense scrutiny from Democrats because of its ties with Vice-President Dick Cheney, who ran the company from 1995 until 2000.

Last week, Halliburton said in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing it had agreed to delay billing for 34.5 million US dollars while Defence Department auditors weigh whether its subcontractors overcharged for meals in Iraq and Kuwait.

The additional 140 million US dollars in suspended billing was for food services already provided to US forces in Iraq and Kuwait, the company said.

"It is important to understand that this is not any sort of "admission"," said Randy Hal, president and chief executive of Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root. "As a responsible government contractor it is the right thing to do."

Indonesia to protect top leatherback turtle site

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb— Indonesia pledged on Monday to help critically endangered leatherback turtles by creating a marine protected area for a Papua nesting beach that attracts a quarter of the remaining population in the Pacific.

"A national service programme, our nation will become stronger, more united and we will build a younger generation which is more outstanding," he said.

He advised parents not to be unduly worried as the necessary measures to ensure the safety of their children have been undertaken.

The three-month programme, involving military training, motivational courses and community work, is expected to cost 131.57 million US dollars annually.

Malaysian youths crucial factor to nation's growth

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb— Malaysia's younger generation is the key asset in making Malaysia a developed and progressive country, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Monday.

The government acknowledged this fact by setting aside a huge allocation to implement the National Service Programme for the youths, Najib said when flagging off the transport for National Service Programme trainees at Sultan Mohamad Stadium in Kota Baharu, Kelantan State.

He said the programme, apart from exposing the youths to new experiences, will also provide them with the necessary skills, knowledge and values to make them capable of meeting various challenges.

A total of 2,267 youths from Kelantan left to attend the programme.

They are among 26,000 youths, aged 18, who will be taking part in the programme at 41 camps nationwide from Monday.

Najib, also Defence Minister, said to achieve this ambition, the nation cannot depend on physical development alone.

"(No matter) how much we give the allocation, whatever physical development implemented, it is going to be inadequate unless another dimension, the national development policy is undertaken — human resources development which is the most important asset to the country," he said.

"We have sincere intentions that through this National Service Programme, our nation will become stronger, more united and we will build a younger generation which is more outstanding," he said.

He advised parents not to be unduly worried as the necessary measures to ensure the safety of their children have been undertaken.

The three-month programme, involving military training, motivational courses and community work, is expected to cost 131.57 million US dollars annually.

Meeting to direct Iraq aid convenes end February

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb— An international conference will convene in Abu Dhabi on February 28-29 to start channelling 15 billion US dollars of aid pledged to reconstruct Iraq, Iraq's Planning Minister Mehdi al-Hafedh said on Monday.

Steering a conference in Baghdad on Sunday that counted pledging a minimum of 10 million US dollars each will take part in the conference, which will activate two funds run by the World Bank and the United Nations to manage the aid.

"We expect definite results. We need to build a modern state along transparent lines," Hafedh said.

The minister said major donors, such as Japan, will take part in the conference. The final list of participants is still being prepared.

The Madrid donors' conference in October set up the two funds to manage around 15 billion US dollars in aid and loans pledged by countries other than the United States to help rebuild Iraq.

Washington allocated around 18 billion US dollars to Iraqi reconstruction separately as bilateral aid that did not go through the funds. The aid could solve rampant unemployment and stabilize the society, and Iraq's US-installed Governing Council has been urging donors immediately without waiting for security in the country to improve. An estimated 56 billion US dollars is needed over the next few years to finance Iraq's rebuilding after more than a decade of sanctions that destroyed the country's economy and the 2003 US-led invasion.

2004. Several anti-war protests were held around Spain marking the first anniversary of demonstrations held around the world against the war in Iraq.
On return from amazing Taninthayi

Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)

The clean environmentally water of the Bay of Bengal annually produces thousands of tons of premium fish and shrimps species for us.

In the darkness, the ship seemed to go up and up into the sky. Harkar was enormous for us. We boarded the ship in the evening but it is too late for the tide. On the next day, we really arrived in Myeik harbour at 9 am. We were far from our home but were not afraid because Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Brig.Gen Ohn Myint warmly wel-comed all of us.

All of sixty two members of scholars and students of Centre for the Human Resources Development, Diploma course of prawns and shrimp culture training, studied this region especially Myeik and Dawei Town-ship. The journey was made from 3rd to 12th February, 2004.

On our first day trip, we saw silvery sandy beach and sea. The scene was very beautiful and amazing. We left the ocean behind us out on the sea. The boat seemed small and slightly weak but there on the way, the noise of its engine was loud and birds (Zinyaw) flew out of the surface far and near. It was our first sight of one of Myeik archipelago. Myeik archipelago just a name was formed in over 1000 islands of muddy path. Mangrove forest and sand beach.

We all saying! Amazing and swooning over Taninthayi. The next day journey was easier than first-day. We soon reached the top of island guided by U Tun Than (an official of ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Myeik Division). Ah Saung Kaung mud crab nursery cage was situated on Daung-khu-maw island, Kyunsu Township. Major Zaw Win (Retd) explained us on the topic of soft shell mud crab culture system MOSCOT or Ah Saung Kaung Industries Company Limited was under the strong management of Director U Maung Sitt who was very outstanding in the economic sector. I think he is one of the heroes for sustainable fisheries development of Taninthayi. The cold storage factory runs very well and earns lots of income for our country. Factories were situated in Inn lay Myaing in industrial zone Myeik Taung, Taninthayi Division. Products of these companies include sea water prawns, mud crabs, soft shell mud crabs, cuttlefish black pomfret mackerel, hair tail. Furthermore the company decided to promote its products.

Next, we studied works in Pyi Phyo Tun interna-tional Company Limited. Their products are tested by quality control programme that exceeds all industry stand-ard and factories also are under HACCP system. Pyi Phyo Tun (PPT) produces frozen prawn 6 metric tons per day and fish 100 metric tons per day. In return, the company imported medicine, engine spare parts, battery tyre with tubes from India, Singapore.

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

On return from this journey we stated that Taninthayi is an interesting area to work on its ecologi-cal aspects. Fishery management and conservational man-agement of natural resources are two of the toughest environmental fields to enter considering some of the unique jobs available with utility companies, NGO, game preserves and universities as a starting point for career in this region.

On return from this journey we stated that Taninthayi is an interesting area to work on its ecologi-cal aspects. Fishery management and conservational man-agement of natural resources are two of the toughest environmental fields to enter considering some of the unique jobs available with utility companies, NGO, game preserves and universities as a starting point for career in this region.

In return, the company imported medicine, engine spare parts, battery tyre with tubes from India, Singapore.

Spanish Mackerel

Malaysia and others. Export items are frozen prawn, variety of fishes and other quality marine products and are exported to Europe and Asia. Both inshore and deep-sea species are caught all year round, resulting in an annual catch in excess of 820,000 tons.

Manufactures from miracle species are mainly mackerels, black pomfret and jerm snapper. Brown fish meal is available all year round for poultry farming, agriculture, pig and ruminant feeds.

Next day, at 10 am we took a rest in Kywe-ku-Kyantkhyi bridge. Chief Engineer explained to us about construction projects of Taninthayi. And then, we pro-ceeded to Vantage Company. Vantage Company was established on 13th November 1996. The company is discussed with Mr Wuna Chan (a Thai technician) and assumed that Education and Training are the mainstay in the creation of qualified and skilled workers. We have arranged training programme for new Myanmar techni-cians to enhance their technical know-how and excursion to the industries. Vantage fish meal factory is located in Myeik. The factory produces about thirty tons of fish meal per day. I thought Vantage fish meal can be categorised into two main varieties according to quality and use. Protein is 60% in Min, fat is 12% in Max, Moisture is 105 in Mix, Ash is 22% in Max and Silica is 2% in Max, Salt is 5% in Max and FPA is not necessary in their feed. On 9th Feb, we started Dawei field trip. Good Bye! Myeik and responsible persons of Peace and Develop-ment Councils, waving our hands.

Our dreams came true in few days. We arrived in Maungmukan beach on 10th February for specimen col-lecction. We have museum in our university. We studied “Taninthayi” shrimp processing cold storage. It was owned by U Kyaw Maung.

They warmly welcomed us with delicious Lunch for our students. And, on the next day, we not only paid homage to the ancient pagodas (Shin-koo-Shin) but also visited environmental studies.

This work would have been impossible without the management of Pro-Rector U Kyaw Kyaw Huy (Dawei University) and valuable encouragements of Divisional Fisheries Office U Aung Paing (DOF) staff.

on return from amazing Taninthayi
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt Inspects ... (from page 16)

and needs; Col Zaw Min and officials, on dams, reservoirs, tube-wells and water pumping stations and benefited areas in Magway Division, measures being taken for ensuring local rice sufficiency, extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, cotton and other crops and boosting production and tasks for greening arid zone including conservation of forests and establishment of tree plantations.

Afterwards, the General fulfilled the requirements to upgrade a high and middle schools and a rural health care centre and made a speech. In his speech, he said that Myanmar Township is an arid region and it gets only a little rainfall. So systematic and effective measures are to be taken for sufficient water supply. Efforts are to be made for construction of small scale dams, underground water tapping stations and digging lakes in cooperation with respective departments.

The General stressed the importance of sufficient supply of rice and drinking water for regional development. That is why supply of sufficient irrigation and drinking water was adopted as one of the five rural development policies and digging lakes in arid region and it gets only a little rainfall. So systematic and effective measures are to be taken for sufficient water supply. Efforts are to be made for construction of small scale dams, underground water tapping stations and digging lakes in cooperation with respective departments.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hears reports on prospects of oil and gas in Indaw region by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 17-2-2004. (News on page 1) — MNA

Meeting to coordinate upgrading of Yangon City held

YANGON, 18 Feb — The coordination meeting of working committee for keeping Yangon City clean and pleasant and upgrading tasks was held at City Hall of Yangon City Development Committee, here, this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

Also present were the working committee members, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, military region commanders, departmental heads and local authorities.

First, the commander delivered a speech, saying that in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt supervised responsible officials systematically to carry out upgrading tasks of the city with a view to enabling Yangon City to have characteristics of international cities and ensuring uplift of health status and living standard of city dwellers. The working committee members are to accelerate their upgrading tasks for emergence of Yangon City as a clean, pleasant and garden city.

Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin explained functions of YCDC. Officials reported on their respective sectors. Later, the commander gave a concluding remarks. — MNA
**Salone Traditional Festival…**

made to develop not only the Salone people, but also the
Mynmar archipelago, with the help of tour industry. The
aims of the festival is to preserve the sincerity and tradi-
tions and culture of the Salone people, to promote the
traditions and culture of the ethnic races of Myanmar and
to let foreign tourists and local tour entrepreneurs study
them, and make tourists know the natural and coastal beau-
ties of Myanmar.

Salone are the significant people among the ethnic
Mynmar races living in the villages and towns along the
Taninthayi coast since time immemorial. Their social life,
love of the sea, social and cultural customs and faith are
so interesting. Living in Bokpyin Township, and on
Zadetgyi, Bo Cho, Jalai and Lambi islands and Mynmar
archipelago they are excellent divers. Thus, the festival
includes diving and boat races of the Salone people.

As Taninthayi Division is a coastal region, it is rich in
both onshore and offshore natural resources including,
minerals, forest products, pearl, bird nest, marine pro-
ducts and oil and gas. The regions also grows rubber, oil
palm, herbal plants and other crops. The commander then elaborated on the transport developments and building of
bridges including Winwa, Palauk, Palaw, Taninthayi,
Pathoung, Kywege-Kyaunkphyu and Lemya-Mandaing
bridges in the division, indicating the direct road link
between Kachin State in the northernmost region of
Myanmar and Kawkhout in the southernmost tip.

The evergreen forests on the Mynmar archipelago re-
mains pristine and untouched, and the sea also is free of
pollution, and is beautiful and less frequented by outsid-
ers. Divers may see the various species of fish, coral reefs
and wreckages of the ships that were sunk in the seas
around the area. Thus, eco-tourism and aqua-tourism will
continue to flourish even after the completion of the fes-
tival. As the territorial waters of Myanmar at Mynmar ar-
chipelago are bordering the Thai seas, vacationers come
to the archipelago from Phuket in Thailand on board the
powered boats. Thanks to the Ministry of Hotels and Tour-
ism and the local administrative bodies and the festival
holding committees at different levels, the festival can be
organized successfully. Like all their brethren, the Salone
people will have to collectively strive for perpetuation of
the sound foundations laid by the Government for progress
of all the regions of the nation. Likewise, concerted and
energetic efforts of the entire people are required to pre-
serve the Salone traditions and culture, develop the tourist
industry, raise the living standard of the Salone people,
and for the successful implementation of the seven-point
future political programmes of the State for emergence of
a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic
nation. Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein
Zaw spoke on the occasion. He said the main factor for
development of tourism is attraction. There are two at-
tractions—nature attraction and human attraction. Festi-
vals which can reveal the culture and customs of the people
in a region are attractions. Cultural, food and traditional
dance festivals are held in the east as well as in the west.

In Myanmar there are festivals all the year round.
Among them, Thingyan, Thadingyut and Tazaungdaing
lighting festivals are famous. There are also traditional
festivals of national races. Naga festival have been held
for three times and Salone traditional festival will become
famous very soon. Myanmar is the treasure for tourists
because of its snow-capped mountains, hill station resorts,
beaches, its long history and ancient heritage.

According to the findings of foreign and local scholars,
it can be said that primates originated in Myanmar. The
Prime Minister gave instructions on making arrangements
for Myaing region as a tourist attraction. Myanmar has
not become a tourist destination yet due to the political
attacks and less publicity. In tourism words of mouth is
one of the effective methods.

Beginning 1996-97, running of powered boat, diving
and hotels and recreation activities were introduced in
Mynmar archipelagoes for development of marine tourism.
Now 30 Phuket-based powered boat companies run their
operations.

He urged officials concerned to make efforts for
holding of Salone traditional festival in the years to come.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented bags of rice to a
representative of Salone nationals.

Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint presented a TV for
Salone nationals, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw a satellite
receiver for Ma Kyone Galet Village and Deputy Minister
Brig-Gen Khin Maung cash for those who rendered
assistance to the festival to Salone nationals and officials.

Myanmar Hoteliers Association, powered boat
companies and Shambhala Co presented clothes, blankets
and gifts worth US $1,500 to the representatives of Salone
nations. A Salone national presented souvenirs to Lt-
Gen Maung Bo and party. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented
gifts to tourists. A Salone national thanked the government.
Members of Salone Dawei traditional dance troops
entertained the audience. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented
traditional harpoons to Salone nationals. He presented K
200,000 and Moby Dick Tours Co Ltd K 500,000 to Salone
traditional dance troupe. Traditional boat race, diving
contest, demonstration of diving, fish catching contest and
camp-fire were held on 15 February.

There were booths on hotels and tourism. Salone
culture and development of Taninthayi Division, painting
and souvenir shops were at the festival. Over 6,500 people and
270 tourists visited the festival. — **MNA**
Prime Minister attends Htidaw hoisting ceremony of Hsandalawpyi Pagoda in Myingyan

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party hoist Shwehtidaw and Hngetmyatnadaw atop the Hsandalawpyi Pagoda. — MNA

YANGON, 18 Feb— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, yesterday, left Bagan for Myingyan and arrived there at 7.30 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, members of District and Township Peace and Development Councils and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended a ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Hsandalawpyi Pagoda built according to the wishes of Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadawgyi and put religious objects into upper reliquary was held at the pagoda at 8 am.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of members of the Sangha led by Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Also present were ministers, deputy ministers, the deputy commander of Central Command, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, members of the pagoda board of trustees, members of social organizations and religious associations, wellwishers, local people and pilgrims.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

The Prime Minister and party and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Magway Sayadaw.

Next, disciples offered paritta flowers, water, sand and thread to members of the Sangha. The Sayadaws recited paritta. Disciples conveyed the paritta flower, water, sand and thread and scented the paritta water and tied it.

Minister and party, wellwishers and disciples conveyed the diamond orb, the vane, Shwehtidaw and religious objects clockwise the pagoda.

Next, disciples conveyed the religious objects to the reliquary.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party conveyed the diamond orb, the vane and Shwehtidaw to the pandal of the decorated carriage of Teingya Htidaw Hoisting Team.

The Prime Minister and party, next, conveyed the diamond orb, the vane and Shwehtidaw to upper part of the pagoda through the decorated carriage.

On behalf of the wellwishers, the Prime Minister fastened the jewellery donated by wellwishers tightly on Shwehtidaw, the vane and the diamond orb.

Next, disciples hoisted tiers of Shwehtidaw atop the pagoda.

At the auspicious time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went atop the pagoda and put religious objects and Buddha images into the reliquary.

Next, the Prime Minister and party hoisted the vane and diamond orb atop the pagoda.

They sprinkled scented water on the Shwehtidaw, Hngetmyatna-daw and the Seinbudaw.

Next, Third Thudhamma Manjotadharapriya Taingya U Than Hla shared merits gained. The wellwishers hoisted the golden Htidaws of 16 encircling pagodas.

The Prime Minister then performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to Buddha image in the Gandakuti Taik. They planted a sapling of lihna (Buchanania latifolia).

Next, Min Kyuung Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party tolled the Hsandalawpyi Bell for nine times and shared merits gained.

The Prime Minister and party went to Pan-ai model Village in Mahlaing Township in Meiktila District. They were welcomed by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Soe, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Meiktila Station, Commander Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin of Meiktila Air Base and local authorities.

The Prime Minister attended the Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Shwemokhtaw Pagoda in the village on 17 February.

Also present were members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Athakwawon Ye Ye Kyawngtaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Labhavata, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, local authorities and wellwishers.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Labhavata.

Next, lay persons presented paritta water, flower, thread and sand to the Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited parittas. The lay persons conveyed the parittas water, flower, thread and sand.

The Prime Minister and party presented the Seinbudaw and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Labhavata.

The ministers and wellwishers presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Labhavata delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

The Prime Minister and party conveyed the Seinbudaw to the pandal of Teingya Htidaw hoisting team. Then they conveyed the Seinbudaw to the top of the pagoda through decorated carriage.

At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister and party climbed up the pagoda and hoisted the Seinbudaw. Next, they sprinkled scented water on the golden tiers of the Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and the Seinbudaw. Teingya U Than Hla shared merits gained.

They performed rituals of golden and silver showers. The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to Buddha images in Gandakuti Taik.

MNA
YANGON, 18 Feb—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, arrived at the local battalion in Pyapon yesterday.

They inspected agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of the battalion. They then paid homage to member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Ganthavaca Pandita Bhaddanta Veypolla of Htinbin Monastery and members of the Sangha at Yadana Theikdi Sasana Beikman in Pyapon.

At the town hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental personnel and local people.

The commander reported on implementation of the economic plan in Ayeyawady Division and Pyapon District in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Pyapon Hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed eye surgical operations being conducted by Eye Specialist Prof Dr Kan Nyunt and party of Yangon and gave words of encouragement to 150 eye patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than donated K 200,000 to the funds of the hospital.

They then proceeded to Pyapon Cold Storage built at Bankyunus Village, Dedaye Township, by YQL Co Ltd and inspected it. In Dedaye, they saw over construction of Dedaye Pyapon earth road in Ohbin Jetty. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the temporary prayer hall in which Pawdawmu ancient Buddha image of Hanthawaddy period is being kept in Tanyinngon Village, Dedaye Township. They paid obeisance to the image. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander donated cash towards the fund for construction of the building in which the Buddha image will be kept.

At Dedaye Basic Education High School No 8, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveiled the sign-board of Karaweik Hall of the school and gave a speech.

Headmaster U Win Hein presented commemorative pennants to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Maj-Gen Soe Naing. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than accepted 500 baskets of paddy donated by U Ba Maung, on behalf of U Sa La Yah-Daw Dan Mary of Wakamiye Village, Dedaye Township. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented K 7.3 million donated by 14 wellwishers for offering gold foils to Kyaiikdeyon Pagoda to Pyapon District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Ye Htut and K 2 million donated by U Kyaw Win and U Nay Win Tun of Yangon to Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Hein Lin.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing donated K 500,000 for maintenance of Karaweik Hall. Lt-Col Ye Htut also donated K 300,000 for the hall. On their behalf, the cash donations were handed over by U Hein Lin to Headmaster U Win Hein. An old student of Yangon donated K 500,000. On his behalf, the cash was handed over by U Tin Hlaing to the headmaster.

Divisional Education Officer U Maung Maung spoke words of thanks.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines arrives

YANGON, 18 Feb—At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines Ms Delia Domingo Albert arrived at Yangon International Airport this evening by air on an official visit to the Union of Myanmar. She is accompanied by senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines.

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs and delegation were welcomed at the airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez and embassy staff.

Information Minister inspects presses in Insein

YANGON, 18 Feb—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Managing Director U Myint Thein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, General Manager U Thet Soe and officials, inspected GTC Press (Mechanical Workshop), Sarpay Beikman Press and AungSan Press this evening.

At GTC Press, GTC Press Manager U Kyaw Thu reported on innovation of pre-press machines and equipment such as flat light box, plate machine, film heater and plate grinding machine, annual production and distribution of them to sub-printing houses and other organizations, samples of the products, Deputy Press Manager U Myo Htin on works of Sarpay Beikman Press and Aung San Press Manager U Nyan Tin on matters related to his press.

Next, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of machines innovated for industrial development in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, manufacturing of press machines, advertisement for quality and model of the machines in newspapers and on radio and TV to attract private presses, fire prevention measure of paper warehouses and sanitation of staff quarters and presses.

Heroin seized in Myitkyina, Muse

Yangon, 18 Feb — A combined team comprising members of Musk special anti-drug squad and local intelligence unit, acting on information, on 27 January seized 204 gm of heroin from the house of U Zaw Gan in Naungsa Village, Muse. Action is being taken against him by the police stations concerned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
In memoriam

Family shares merits gained Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi, Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us three years ago, we family members have made donations and offered ‘soon’ and provisions to members of the Sangha today (19-2-2004). We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife Daw Khin Than Nwe
Sons and daughters - 
- Major Maung Maung Kyaw (Retd) (BSI) - Daw Cho Leh Oo
- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
- Dr Myat Noe - Yin Mar Oo
- Zaw Tun Oo - Khin Thida
- Nay Tun Oo
Grandchildren -
- Maung Hein Htet, Ma Yin Mar Myat Noe, Ma Phu Ngon Kyaw, Maung Thant
Thi Thain Zaw (Po Thila)

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Japanese Tobacco Inc, a Japanese company with an office at 2-2-1 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the owner of the following Trade Mark -

MONTÉ CARLO
Reg. No. 197/1991

in respect of “tobacco and tobacco products, cigarettes; smokes; articles; matches;” Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Chinese customs seize four export-banned cultural relics

TIANJIN, 18 Feb — Four cultural relics were seized last week by the Tianjin Customs among old furniture and artworks which were scheduled to be exported to France.

The four cultural relics were identified by experts from the local cultural heritage department as relief wood carvings dating back to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The carving are banned to the Qing Dynasty and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EASTERN TREASURE VOY NO (21)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EASTERN TREASURE (Voy No (21)) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-2-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD JAPAN
Phone No: 25624/256914

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV “MANDALAY” VOY NO 119/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MANDALAY” Voy No 119N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 18-2-2004 and will be berthing on about 19-2-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMAR FIVE STAR LINE
Phone : 293147, 296507, 298754

Funds target fresh water clean-up programmes in China

BRUNO, 18 Feb — More than 31.5 billion yuan (3.8 billion US dollars) has been ploughed into initiatives since 2001 aimed at controlling water pollution in some of the country’s major rivers and lakes. Under the investment, which will continue through the end of next year, the central government and local agencies have completed nearly 500 projects, and can now treat more than 7.9 million tons of waste water each day, according to Tuesday’s China Daily.

However, officials said on Monday such a massive achievement is not nearly enough progress, and they urged local governments to continue giving more support to related projects.

Regions along and around the three rivers and three lakes — Huaihe, Haihe and Liaohe rivers and Taihu, Chaohu and Dianchi lakes — which include 11 provinces and Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai municipalities — suffer from serious pollution. For example, half of the Huahe River’s tributaries are seriously polluted and in a few monitoring sections along the river, the pollution index is worsening.

A pollution control plan was developed for the Taihu lake region in 2001 and similar plans for the other five lakes came out last year, according to Pan Yue, Vice-Minister of State Environmental Protection Adminis-

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Malaysia launches domestic tourism campaign

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb — Malaysia on Tuesday launched a domestic tourism campaign called the Cuti-cuti (go home) Malaysia campaign to cushion the external effects on the country’s tourism industry.

At all levels of society, including residents’ associations and schools would be asked to organize tours for their multi-racial communities, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said at the launching of the Cuti-cuti Malaysia 2004-2005 campaign here.

“We will go all out on a large scale to promote domestic tourism this time,” he said.

The ministry hopes to achieve 25 million local tourists by the end of the campaign compared to 18.3 million local tourists last year.

Domestic tourism could cushion the effects of external factors, such as war, recession which resulted in a decline in foreign tourist arrivals, Kadir said.

Kadir said that according to studies, the number of domestic tourists had always outnumbered foreign tourists in this country.

There were 9.9 million local tourists compared to 5.5 million foreign tourists in 1998 and 1981. The number of foreign tourists last year.

He said a successful tourist-oriented nation depended largely on local tourists rather than foreign tourists.

Domestic tourism, he said also helped improve the quality of life among the people while increasing currency circulation in the local market.

Kadir said previous Cuti-cuti Malaysia campaigns had changed the mindset of locals who now consider holidays a necessary part of life, thus contributing to increased productivity after being refreshed and rejuvenated.

Scientists discover most distant galaxy from Earth

LOMANGLES, 18 Feb — Scientists discovered Sunday that they have detected a tiny galaxy that they believe is the farthest known object from Earth, according to local media reports Monday.

The galaxy, just 2,000 light-years across or 50 times smaller than our Milky Way, lies about 13 billion light-years from Earth and appears to form stars at the rate of nearly three Sun per year.

An international team of astronomers, led by Jean-Paul Kneib of the French team, confirmed their discovery last year in the outskirts of the Virgo supercluster of galaxies.

Scientists believe what they see is a picture of what was just 750 million years after the Big Bang, as the Universe was emerging from the cosmic Dark Ages.

Dark Ages is a murky period before the Universe’s first light and first stars was created.

Studies on the observation of the dark ages provide the first glimpse of the cosmic Dark ages.

The Hubble Space Telescope revealed the first observational and the most powerful telescopes.

In one space, the other in the Hubble — aided by the natural magnification provided by a massive cluster of galaxies.

Scientists believe what they see is a picture of what was just 750 million years after the Big Bang, as the Universe was emerging from the cosmic Dark Ages.

The seven women will also promote the empowerment of women.

As a representative of Ministry of Women Affairs, I congratulate all the women for this day. We really feel the need for women in the police,” Dr Soraia added.

New-generation TOEFL to come in 2005

BEIJING, 18 Feb — A new-generation on-line Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) will come into operation in September 2005 for students who want to study in North American universities, the US Consulate General Testing Service (ETS) announced here Monday.

Susan Chyn, an ETS official, said that the new TOEFL would examine comprehensive abilities in listening, reading, writing and speaking.

After taking the test, each examinee would receive specific comments from ETS experts, so they would learn their strengths and weaknesses.

Chyn said the ETS would cooperate with its China partner, Tide Times Group, to promote the Language Courseware and Criterion On-line Writing Evaluation study tests for the new TOEFL.

Some Chinese universities, international relations between universities and Capital Normal University, have been allowed to use the tool.

The ETS, founded in 1947, was the largest non-profit private educational testing and evaluation organization in the world, with products represented by TOEFL, GRE and GMAT.

China’s science foundation cooperates with US online firm

BEIJING, 18 Feb — The Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) announced here Tuesday that it is share information resources with a US online company which bridges tough scientific problems and possible solutions.

Yuan Youxin, director of the NSFC’s international exchange centre, said the cooperation between the foundation and InnoCentive Company will help resolve research problems throughout the world.

Yuan said his foundation would encourage Chinese researchers to bid for difficult issues listed by the InnoCentive on its website, http://cn.innocoentive.com.

According to its official web site, InnoCentive is a “community matching top scientists to relevant R&D challenges facing leading companies.”

“Increases an online forum enabling major companies to reward scientific innovation through financial incentives,” All Hussein, InnoCentive’s vice-president in charge of marketing, said his company was willing to strengthen cooperation with China’s scientific community.

The cooperation involves solving problems for bio-chemical research problems, would be arranged by the NSFC and InnoCentive for Chinese college students and other amateur researchers.

Potential participants were welcome to compete, with rewards ranging from 5,000 to 100,000 US dollars.

Microcredit had reached millions of poorest families by 2002

DHAKA, 18 Feb — Microcredit has reached 41.6 million poorest families by the end of 2002, and 79 percent of them are women, said the Bangladesh Microcredit Summit Campaign (MSC) Friday.

“Microcredit is a powerful tool to provide a dignified route out of poverty for hundreds of millions of those living below one US dollar a day,” the MSC said.

The campaign was launched at the first global microcredit summit held in Washington in 1997 with a goal to reach 100 million of the world’s poorest families, especially the women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services by 2005.

As part of the global efforts of MSC, the four-day summit in Dhaka was the biggest ever regional meeting to consolidate the achievements made by the microcredit sector and formulate policies for new challenges.

The summit will discuss a range of important issues including institutionalization of the microcredit sector, scaling up of microcredit, mobilizing evaluation tools for measuring impacts on the lives of the borrowers and considering as well empowerment of women.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a message sent to the summit hailed the gathering as support of the ongoing International Year of Microcredit in 2005.

6% of Vietnamese children suffer from goitre

HANOI, 18 Feb — Six per cent of Vietnamese pupils aged 8-10 suffer from goitre, local newspaper Youth quoted a health official as saying on Tuesday.

In the country’s Melbourne Delta, up to 10 per cent of local pupils suffer from goitre, said Luong Ngoc Khue, deputy head of the Health Ministry’s Treatment Department.

In order to eradicate goitre by 2005, Vietnam is to spend nearly 400 billion VND on anti-goitre activities this year, including further promotion of the use of iodized salt among local residents.

The ministry will organize training courses and campaigns for promotion of the use of iodized salt and iodized fish sauce, especially in the delta.

Nepal, Thailand agree to increase flight frequency

KATHMANDU, 18 Feb — Nepal and Thailand have agreed to review the existing Air Service Agreement and increase the flight frequency between the two countries, the Nepali Ministry of Transport, Tourism and Civil Aviation said Tuesday.

According to a memorandum of understanding signed here Monday, the two countries are entitled to fly up to 10 flights per week with any kind of aircraft, up from the existing seven for specified airlines of both countries.

Besides, the designated airlines can fly additional 12 flights per week under the code sharing for specified airlines.

The agreement is a part of the global efforts of MSC, the four-day summit in Dhaka was the biggest ever regional meeting to consolidate the achievements made by the microcredit sector and formulate policies for new challenges.

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Afghan women enrolled in police academy

KABUL, 18 Feb — Seven Afghan women were enrolled in the first class exclusively for female police cadets Monday afternoon, marking the beginning of a fresh progress for women to play more active role in the post-war country.

“Without the contribution of women in the society,” Dr Soraia Rahim, Deputy Minister for Women Affairs said at a registration ceremony here, “we cannot progress in social, in law and every section of the society.

The seven women will be put on an eight-week police basic course.

“As a representative of Ministry of Women Affairs, I congratulate all the women for this day. We really feel the need for women in the police,” Dr Soraia said.
**Portugal, England sign Euro hooligan pact**

LISBON, 18 Feb — Portugal and Britain signed a pact on Monday aimed at combating soccer hooliganism at this summer’s European soccer championship, with measures including barring about 2,500 English fans from travelling to Portugal and Germany also discussing possible moves to bar about 4,000 German hooligans.

British police will also monitor fans leaving for Portugal and check whether they have a history of violence. Among other measures, about 2,500 hooligans will be barred from leaving Britain by having their passports seized. The accord is customary among big international matches.

Portugal’s soccer governing body UEFA has warned a repeat of past violence at matches could result in England’s expulsion from the tournament.

Nuno Magalhaes, an interior minister, said at the signing, told reporters: “We’re testing out some of our ways of working...to be sure we get it right.”

Under the accord, British police officers will work with Portuguese security forces during the tournament. British police will also monitor fans leaving for Portugal and check whether they have a history of violence.

Organizers expect the 16-team tournament to attract about 500,000 fans. About 60,000 police, firefighters and other emergency personnel are being mobilized for the three-week event.

Wednesday’s friendly between Portugal and England in Faro about 150 miles south of Lisbon in the Algarve resort region is expected to attract about 2,500 English fans. That number is far below the 50,000 foreseen for when the event starts in June.

Police at the match is aimed at winning over England fans and preventing the usual behaviour for which they are notorious. Officials will mingle with fans on early on and there are plenty of welcoming events.

“The police are making all the right noises at this stage,” Kevin Miles, international coordinator of England’s Football Supporters’ Federation, said in a phone interview from Faro.

Belgium’s Kim Clijsters (R) celebrates with her sister Elke after winning their first round doubles match at the Antwerp Open WTA tennis tournament, in Antwerp, on 17 Feb. 2003. Elke Clijsters failed in her bid to set up a match with her elder sister, Belgian world number two Kim, in the Diamond Games after losing 6-3, 6-2 to Spain’s Arantxa Pauoa in the first round. —Reuters

Belgian’s Kim Clijsters (R) celebrates with her sister Elke after winning their first round doubles match at the Antwerp Open WTA tennis tournament, in Antwerp, on 17 Feb. 2003. Elke Clijsters failed in her bid to set up a match with her elder sister, Belgian world number two Kim, in the Diamond Games after losing 6-3, 6-2 to Spain’s Arantxa Pauoa in the first round. —Reuters

Beckham confident player rows with FA are now over

LONDON, 18 Feb — England captain David Beckham believes his team have put behind them last year’s selection rows between the players and the Football Association and are fully focused on Euro 2004.

“We are on the right road now to getting things sorted,” Beckham told Sky Sports News on Monday before England travel to Faro for a friendly against Portugal on Wednesday.

“We’ve got to be on the same side, we can’t have these situations. It doesn’t help for the preparation of the game or for the players. We’ve got to put it behind us.”

Last October, players threatened to go on strike before England’s deciding Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey when defender Rio Ferdinand was suspended from international duty after missing a drugs test.

The following month, Leeds United striker Alan Smith was dropped for a friendly against Denmark after being arrested for throwing a plastic bottle into the crowd in a club game, causing further unrest in the squad.

However the two sides have since taken steps to improve their relationship. Beckham insists there is harmony between senior players and the FA aimed at clarifying international selection policy were hailed as a success.

“It’s tough to get back to that level but I feel I’m hitting the ball well, I’m serving well and I feel I’m pretty tough to beat.”

Beckham was scheduled to meet FA chief executive Mark Palios, executive director David Davies and Trevor Brooking, recently appointed director of football development, later on Wednesday.

Beckham was also looking forward to his team’s clash with European champions France on June 13 in Lisbon, the opening match of the tournament in Portugal. England are also drawn with Switzerland and Croatia in Group B.

“It’s a tough group we’re in and the match everyone looks forward to is the French game, that’s going to be a tough game,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

**Leaders Porto held to 1-1 draw at Benfica**

Lisbon, 18 Feb — Leaders Porto preserved their unbeaten record in the Portuguese Premier League with a 1-1 draw at Benfica on Sunday. Porto, the League’s only unbeaten team, stay top on 56 points, with Lisbon’s Sporting in second a further five points adrift. Sporting beat Moreirense 1-0 at home on Friday to keep their championship hopes alive.

Benfica are third, four points behind Sporting and nine off Porto.

Roared on by a near-capacity crowd at the new 65,000-seat Luz stadium, Benfica hit back in the second half and Brazilian midfielder Giovani Mauricio struck Porto’s bar with a long-range shot in the 47th minute. Benfica’s equalizer came after 50 minutes when winger Simao Sabrosa scored from close range after rounding two defenders.

MNA/Reuters

**Roddick reels in Fish to win San Jose crown**

SAN JOSE (California), 18 Feb — Top seed Andy Roddick overcame high school teammate Mardy Fish 7-6, 6-4 to win his first San Jose Open title on Sunday.

In a spectacular match between two close friends, both players served well and came up with big shots again and again but it was the US Open champion who produced the goods when it mattered most.

“It was pretty intense out there,” Roddick told reporters. “We just know what each other’s got to do. That was evident. I found myself going against myself instinctively because he knows what I would do instinctively.

Roddick saved four set points in a long first set tiebreak when it appeared the pumped-up Fish was about to seize control of the match.

The tiebreak was finally won 15-13 by Roddick when he kicked a 119 miles per hour serve into Fish’s backhand and followed up with a forehand volley winner.

In the second set, Roddick, 21, needed five break points before producing the first service break of the match at 4-4 and then served out for victory.

Roddick delivered 16 aces against 17 by Fish.

“I got a little tired,” said Fish, who lived at Roddick’s house when the pair attended high school in Boca Raton, Florida. Fish, who played two matches on Saturday and won the doubles title with James Blake on Sunday, added: “My legs started to feel it a little bit.”

The title was Roddick’s first since he won the US Open in September.

The American will now leapfrog Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero into second place in the ATP rankings which are released on Monday.

Roddick is hoping to dominate the US winter and spring hardcourt season and wants to put pressure on world number one Roger Federer of Switzerland, who is approximately 700 points ahead in the rankings.

“I don’t know if I can capture it but if I was capable of a big summer run (last year) why not switch in to spring?” said Roddick, who won a tournament in the 2003 US summer hardcourt season, winning four titles.

“It’s tough to get back to that level but I feel I’m hitting the ball well, I’m serving well and I feel I’m pretty tough to beat.”

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MNA/Reuters
4:15 pm: 2. Songs to uphold
4:30 pm: English For Everyday
4:45 pm: 4. Cute Little Dancers
5:00 pm: 5. Band "The Unforgettable
5:15 pm: "Mingalabar"
5:30 pm: "Come and See
5:45 pm: "Song - "Good Morning"
6:00 pm: "Song - "Good Morning"
6:15 pm: 8. International news

Thursday, February 19
View today:
7:00 am: 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayawd U Ottamaortha
7:25 am: 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am: 3. Morning news
7:40 am: 4. Nice and sweet song
7:56 am: 5. Dance of national races
8:00 am: 6. Dance Variety
8:15 am: 7. Army
8:36 am: 8. International news

8:45 am: 9. Let’s Go
9:00 am: 1. Martial song
9:15 pm: 2. Songs to uphold
9:30 pm: 3. English For Everyday
9:45 pm: 4. Cute Little Dancers
10:00 pm: 5. Band "The Unforgettable
10:15 pm: "Mingalabar"
10:30 pm: "Come and See
10:45 pm: "Song - "Good Morning"
11:00 pm: "Song - "Good Morning"
11:15 pm: 8. International news

WEATHER
Wednesday, 18 February, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours
MST: During the past 24 hours, weathers has generally been fairly clear in the whole country. Night temperatures were (4˚C) to (4˚C) below normal in Kachin, Shan, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Tanintharyi and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5˚C) to (6˚C) below normal in Chin, Rakhine States, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.
Minimum temperature on 17-2-2004 was 36.0°C (97°F).
Minimum temperature on 18-2-2004 was 14.5°C (58°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-2-2004 was 69.
Total sunshine hours on 18-2-2004 was 9.2 hours approx.
Rainfall on 18-2-2004 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 (17:30) hours MST on 17-2-2004.
Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 19-2-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of cloudiness: 4.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Yangon waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of Mayor in lower Myanmar waters.

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Prime Minister inspects regional development tasks in Magway, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 18 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, together with the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by air and arrived at Bagan-NyaungU, Mandalay Division, on 16 February afternoon. They were welcomed there by Brig-Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpadauung Station, Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min and military officers.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Myaing Basic Education High School in Pakokku District, Magway Division. Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected computer skills room, computer aided instruction room and language lab of the school.

At the assembly hall, the Prime Minister met with the principal and teachers. On the occasion, Principal U Hsan reported on academic matters, pass rate of matriculation students and requirements. Minister for Education U Than Aung dealt with measures to be taken for raising education standard and pass rates of the students. The General upgraded a basic education primary school to a middle school and graded a basic education primary school to a middle school in Myaing. The General and entourage inspected class-rooms of the school. Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party looked into Myaing People’s Hospital (16-bed) and upgraded it to a 25-bed one. At the office of Township Peace and Development Council, the General met with local authorities, service personnel and members of social organizations. Township Chairman U Hla Than reported on location, area, population and climate conditions of the region, land resources, sown acreage, construction of irrigation facilities, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil and cotton, condition of local rice sufficiency, and education, health and communication sectors. Pakokku District Chairman Li-Col Htay Oo, on annual rainfall of the district, growing of nine major crops, output of monsoon and summer paddy, local rice and edible sufficiency, cultivation of beans and pulses, cultivation of edible crops and edible oil sufficiency in the district, education, health and communication sectors.

Salone Traditional Festival opens to enable the world witness objective conditions of Myanmar

YANGON, 18 Feb — The Salone Traditional Festival was opened at the beach of Ma Kyone Galet Village, Bo Cho Island, Kawthoung Township, on 16 February, under the co-sponsorship of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the opening ceremony. Also present were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Chairman of Work Committee for Organizing the Salone Traditional Festival Deputy Minister for H&T Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and members, members of subcommittees, senior military officers, military attaches of foreign missions in Myanmar, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, members of Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Myanmar Travels Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Thai-Myanmar Friendship Association and social organizations, local entrepreneurs, Dawei cultural troupe members, ethnic Salone people, guests and tourists. Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw formally opened the festival.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said in the past the Salone living in the Myeik archipelago are called kaban. They are nomads, moving from place to place in the sea, staying at the places on islands that are safe from strong gust of monsoon winds and waves from the sea, and where they have access to fresh water. They venture into the seas as soon as the monsoon retreats. Most worship traditional spirits, while those living on Ma Kyone Galet, Zadetgyi and Nyaungwi islands are of the Buddhist faith.

The Myeik archipelago, where the festival is being held to enable the world witness the objective conditions of Myanmar, is a pleasant place in the sea. Efforts are being made (See page 8).