State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2004. — MNA

Vice-General Maung Aye and wife present documents, rice, edible oil, salt and offertory to Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Candima. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ceremony to hand over Bodhi sapling donated by Indian President

YANGON, 24 Feb — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to hand over the Bodhi sapling donated by the President of the Republic of India and to donate English version treatises for International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University by Thitagu Saydaw Dr Bhaddanta Nainissa. At the University this evening.

Present on the occasion were Chancellor of Thidagu World Buddhist University ITBMU-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha from the monasteries, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Li-Gen Thitha Thit Gu Aung Myint On and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

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

Wednesday, 25 February, 2004

Do more research on diseases and build more pharmaceutical factories

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is making every endeavour to build the nation into one that can be on a par with other countries of the world. It calls for the active and enthusiastic participation of the entire people for the Government’s efforts to meet with success. Health and fitness of the people is very important for all the national endeavours. This being so, the Government is taking all the necessary measures to provide health care services more and more widely.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deuty Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on 21 February visited the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) and the pharmaceutical factory project (PyinOoLwin) and met with responsible personnel.

In his meeting with them, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye emphasized the need for research on common diseases in Upper Myanmar and urged the construction of a modern pharmaceutical factory.

The Ministry of Health, in providing health care services, gives special emphasis to prevention of diseases, higher health standard, diagnosis and treatment and rehabilitation work. And it is implementing the projects to prevent malaria, elephantiasis, dengue haemorrhage fever, TB, leprosy and other seasonal diseases.

The purpose of establishing the Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) to do intensive research on common diseases in Upper Myanmar and other health problems. Now all together 10 branches under MRD (Upper Myanmar) are doing research work on malaria, TB, diabetes, hypertension, dengue haemorrhage fever, reproductive health and systematically planting 449 kinds of medicinal herbs.

The pharmaceutical factory (PyinOoLwin) is being built under the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries and on completion it will be able to produce all kinds of medicine enough to meet domestic demand. Therefore, we would like to call upon all those responsible to do more research on common diseases and to extend the construction of pharmaceutical factories.

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

Soldiers’ codes of conduct competition and extempro talks held

YANGON, 24 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative central-level soldiers’ codes of conduct and extempro talks competition continued today at respective venues. The viva voce of soldiers codes of conduct was held at the hall of Yangon Command extempro talks at the halls of the Ministry of Defence in Chawdwingon. Present were Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Chairman of the the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative central-level soldiers’ codes of conduct and extempro talks Sub-committee Director of Defence Services Resettlements Maj-Gen Aung Thein and officials. — MNA

Annual meeting of MAMS to be held

YANGON, 24 Feb — The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science will be held on 27 February 2004 from 9 am to 4 pm at the auditorium of the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street, Lannmadaw Township, here. As the technical activity of the Academy, a symposium on public health emergency management will be organized in conjunction with this annual meeting from 12 noon to 4 pm and all interested persons can attend it. The members of the Academy can get themselves registered from 8 am on 27 February 2004 at the Institute. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2004. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Kuwait

YANGON, 25 Feb — On the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait, which falls on 25 February 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

People’s Desire

— Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views and standing in the way of our development.
— 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.

MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers an address at the opening of the Workshop. — MNA

ICPD+10 Advocacy and Alliance Building Workshop held

YANGON, 24 Feb — The ICPD+10 Advocacy and Alliance Building Workshop jointly sponsored by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) was opened at the meeting hall of MMCWA at the corner of Thanthumar and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

It was attended by MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Tin Linn Myint and CEC members, patrons of the MMCWA Central Supervisory Committee, Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay, representatives of UN agencies and officials, the secretaries of state and division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees, officials of Health Department and Population Department.

First, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made an opening speech. Next, Representative of UNFPA Mr Rajib M Assifi explained matters related to holding of the workshop. Next, the workshop continued. The workshop focused on measures taken in ten-year period in Myanmar by the respective organizations over the work programmes laid down at International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994. The workshop will also seek ways and means to be applied in taking measures in coming ten-year period. The workshop continues tomorrow.

MNA

Fisheries undertakings clarified

YANGON, 24 Feb — A meeting was held to clarify fishing undertakings under the Fishing Rights of Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries was held at the meeting hall of FD on Hsinmin Road, Ahlon Township this morning.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein attended the meeting and clarified matters related to fishing undertakings under the Fishing Rights.

Next, Director-General of FD U Than Tun assessed work requirement presented by officials of Sea Security Control Committee and officials of Marine Administration Department, Customs Department, Myanmar Ports Authority and Immigration and National Registration Department.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein. — MNA
Suicide bombing kills ten policemen in Iraq

KIRKUK, 24 Feb—A suicide bomber exploded a white Oldsmobile outside a police station in this northern city Monday, killing at least ten policemen and wounding as many as 45 other people. It was the fifth suicide attack in Iraq this month.

The bombing occurred as Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld visited Baghdad to check on the state of readiness of Iraq’s security forces, which have borne the brunt of the suicide strikes.

US administrator L. Paul Bremer told reporters after meeting with Rumsfeld that Iraq has seen “a real step up” by “professional terrorists” from al-Qaida and Ansar al-Islam in conducting suicide attacks.

Kirkuk has also seen rising ethnic tensions as Kurds, Arabs and Turkomen compete for control of the city, located in one of the world’s richest oil-producing regions, 180 miles north of Baghdad.

The bomber detonated his 1990 car as police were changing shifts at Rahimawa station, according to the station’s chief, Col. Adel Ibrahim. Col. Thamer Abdul-Masih said the bomber’s car followed police driving to the station in a Kurdish neighbourhood and “ran into the last car in the convoy and exploded.” US command in Baghdad said Iraqi police fired on the car but were unable to stop it.

Police Chief Torhan Yooesl said seven policemen and the bomber were killed and 52 people were wounded. The US military said 35 people were wounded.

The blast devastated nearby buildings and injured civilians in a passing bus.

Former CIA official criticizes Bush’s reasons for Iraq war

IOWA CITY, 24 Feb—In a speech in Iowa City, a former CIA analyst says the Bush administration’s use of reports of weapons of mass destruction to justify the war in Iraq have created a constitutional crisis compared only to Watergate.

Raymond McGovern says the Bush administration should be held accountable for using post September 11th fears and allegations of Iraq weapons to deceive Congress and the American public to justify war in Iraq.

McGovern, who once was in charge of preparing daily intelligence briefings for several presidents, gave a lecture at the University of Iowa Sunday.

He says it would also be appropriate for congressional leaders to pursue impeachment proceedings against President Bush.

Even though the former chief weapons inspector says that he has concluded Iraq didn’t have weapons of mass destruction, Bush has defended the effort to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein as essential to American security.

Spacewalk to leave space station empty

WASHINGTON, 24 Feb—The two-man crew of the International Space Station are to fly the empty space station, while British-born NASA astronaut Michael Foale and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri conduct the spacewalk, leaving no one inside to monitor systems directly or assist in a crisis, the newspaper said.

According to the Post, the Russians have made about 50 such spacewalks, but this would mark the first for the US-led space station. The spacewalk planned for Thursday was scheduled to begin about 4 pm EDT (2100 GMT) and was supposed to last five hours and 40 minutes, the report said.

The week that Foale and Kaleri will do on the spacewalk—deploy and collect science experiments— is not urgent but would have to be done eventually, NASA officials told the newspaper.

A July review of spacewalk plans, station managers at NASA’s Johnson Space Centre in Houston initially opposed this week’s spacewalk and recommended that it be put off until shuttle flights resumed and the station had a three-person crew, the Post said.

“Crew safety and the vehicle while they are performing EVA (extra vehicle activity) without an [inside] crew is a risk not worth taking especially if the EVA tasks are not critical” to maintaining the space station, according to the NASA review quoted in the article.

The report said the Russians refused to sign on to the document unless the spacewalk was planned for as a requirement.

UN experts urge EU to tackle AIDS crisis

DUBLIN, 24 Feb—United Nations experts on Sunday urged the European Union to appoint a commissioner to take charge of the fight against AIDS to stem a growing crisis in Eastern Europe as the bloc prepares to enlarge in May.

Speaking on the eve of a two-day conference in Dublin, Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS, the UN’s AIDS group said HIV/AIDS was spreading faster in Eastern Europe and central Asia than anywhere else in the world with a 50-fold increase in new cases during the past 10 years.

"Let’s get serious. This is an understated and forgotten epidemic and if we don’t take some very exceptional measures it’s going to get out of hand," he told Reuters in an interview.

The conference, “Breaking the Barriers—Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia,” is the largest to be hosted by Ireland during its six-month EU presidency. It comes as the 15 strong EU prepares to welcome 10 new members, most of them from Eastern Europe, on 1 May.

"I have a double message for EU leaders,” Piot said. “Don’t think the problem is fixed in your own region—we’re seeing a slow but steady increase in new infections in every country. Secondly, at your eastern borders there is a huge AIDS epidemic that is going to have major implications within the EU.”

He said the focus in recent years on Africa, where up to 40 per cent of the adult population is infected in some sub-Saharan regions, meant Eastern European had “slipped through the cracks.”

Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, the UN children’s agency, noted that the rate of infection was growing among women but most rapidly among young people.

Beijing invites design to revive Grand Canal

BEIJING, 24 Feb—Beijing has invited seven companies from six countries to bid for the design plan to revive the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, the country’s grandest project in history after the Great Wall.

Designing companies from Japan, the United States, Canada, Germany and Australia as well as domestic companies were invited on Wednesday by the Beijing Planning Committee and the Tongzhou district government after a wide selection of potential players. The public will be invited to decide the best plan as well.

The new canal’s waterway, on 1 May, 1,794-kilometre-long Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, was dug about 1,400 years ago in the Sui Dynasty (581-618). The new canal’s watercourse will be widened to 200 metres and be decorated with both historical and modern scenes along the bank, said Liu. MNA/Reuters
**UN says Iraq elections possible but not likely in 2004**

**United Nations, 24 Feb**—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday independent commission immediately if it wanted fair elections before the end of the year.

But the report issued to the UN Security Council warned that a proper organization of elections would probably not be possible until next year in the turbulent country.

“The work was started immediately and the required political consensus was reached fairly rapidly, it would be possible to hold elections by the end of 2004,” the report said. It was written by a UN electoral team led by an advisor, Lakhdar Brahimi, who recently visited Iraq.

But the report said Iraqis might have to wait until next year after setting up a legal framework for elections.

And yet another suggestion was to convene a forum consisting of representatives of the main political, religious and other groups and develop a consensus on an interim caretaker authority.

**Tanzania to distribute “AIDS” drugs to 400,000 patients**

**Dar-es-Salaam, 24 Feb**—The Tanzanian Ministry of Health has intended to develop an ambitious treatment plan to deliver antiretroviral therapy (ART) to about 400,000 people living with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2008, local newspaper Sunday News reported.

Prime Minister Samia Suluhu Hassan said that funds were not good enough. According to the paper, the injury commission said that British Marine’s sleeping bags had not been flown home from training in Norway amid new claims against the Ministry of Defence (MoD) that inadequate sleeping bags led to frostbite, the Mail newspaper reported.

The paper also quoted Norwegian Army chief Colonel Lars Sundnes as saying that British Marine’s sleeping bags were not good enough. According to the paper, the injury commission said that British Marine’s sleeping bags were not good enough. According to the paper, the injury commission said that British Marine’s sleeping bags were not good enough. According to the paper, the injury commission said that British Marine’s sleeping bags were not good enough.
NO LET-UP IN ANTI-OCCUPATION ATTACKS

US soldiers help with security in front of a police station which was the site of a car bomb attack earlier in the day, in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, on Monday, 23 Feb, 2004. The blast killed at least ten people and wounding at least 45 others, police and other officials said. — INTERNET

Police and medics gather at a police station in Kirkuk, Iraq, where a suicide bomber detonated an explosive-packed vehicle on Monday, 23 Feb, 2004, killing at least 10 people and wounding 45 others, police and hospital officials said. — INTERNET

Members of the Army’s 32nd Signal Battalion board a US Air Force C130 transport plane as they prepare to leave the country from an airstrip in Balad, Iraq, on Thursday 19 February, 2004 under the troops rotation programme. — INTERNET

A US army helicopter hovers over an electrical power station in the al-Dura district of Baghdad on 21 February. — INTERNET

US troops patrol on the streets of the city of Tikrit on 23 February 2004. — INTERNET

Iraqis survey the scene of a suicide attack in front of the police station in the town of Kirkuk, north of Baghdad, on 23 February, 2004. — INTERNET
Iraqi oil pipelines hit as sabotage spreads south

MAHABAD, 24 Feb—Iraq’s northern oil export pipeline is still coming under attack, officials said Monday, as sabotage hit infrastructure further south, raising fresh fears about the vulnerability of the country’s oil industry.

Almost a year after the Iraq war, the country’s US-led authority does not feel confident enough yet to try to restart the pipeline from Iraq’s Kirkuk oilfields.

“We are making some progress. There is no date set yet,” Rob McKeen, the authority’s oil chief, told Reuters. “The fact is that there are some wonderful oilfields in the north. It is important to figure out a way to export the northern crude.”

Oil infrastructure sabotage has been rare in Iraq’s mostly Muslim Shi’ite south, but Iraq’s main internal pipeline was on fire Monday after coming under attack a few days ago near the Shi’ite holy city of Kerbala.

One option US and Iraqi oil officials were considering was to use the line, known as the strategic pipeline and currently out of commission, to pump Kirkuk crude south for export from the Gulf.

But a guard in the region said an explosive device ripped through a section of that line, about a week ago. A Reuters photographer saw smoke still rising Monday from the reversible line west of Kerbala.

 Attacks have mainly targeted the export pipeline from Kirkuk oilfields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan which runs through Muslim Sunni strongholds, co-religionists of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.

India’s ALH chopper to be displayed at Asian Aerospace Show

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb—Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), projected as India’s biggest armament of export potential, would put up an air display at the Asian Aerospace Show beginning in Singapore from Tuesday.

The ALH, which elicited export queries from the United States and Israel, would be displayed for the first time to potential buyers in the South East Asia.

Air Chief S Krishnaswamy would lead the Indian contingent at the show during which he is expected to hold talks with top defence officials from the US Pacific Command and Services Chiefs from Australia and South East Asian countries.

Along with a display by the ALH, the Indian Air Force will put up an air show by its ace aerobatic team Surya Kiran comprising nine aircraft.

545 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Feb—As of Monday, 23 Feb, 545 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense.

Of those, 378 died as a result of hostile action and 167 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 the major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 407 US soldiers have died—263 as a result of hostile action and 144 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. Since the start of military operations, 2,698 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures as of Monday. Non-hostile injured numbered 416. The latest identifications reported by the military:

—Army Sgt 1st Class Henry A Bacon, 45, Wagram, NC; killed Friday when he was struck by a vehicle in Ad Dujayl, Iraq; assigned to Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, 4th Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Iraqi Shia Stuart-a-rally in front of the Coalition Provisional Authority building in the port town of Basra, some 550 km (330 miles) south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 24 February, 2004.---Internet

Nepal, India sign agreement on free flow of passenger vehicles

KATHMANDU, 24 Feb—In a bid to facilitate smooth movement of people across borders, India and Nepal on Monday signed an agreement on free flow of passenger vehicles through five border points connecting major cities.

The agreement was signed by Indian Ambassado-r to Nepal Shyam Saran and Nepali Labour Secretary Narayan Prasad Silwal in the presence of Foreign Secretary Shashank and his Nepali counterpart Madhu Raman Acharya here.

The agreement will be operationalized after signing of the protocol for procedures and modalities. It envisages movement of regular passenger bus service through five border points on 14 different routes connecting important cities of Nepal to New Delhi; Lucknow, Patna, Kolkata, Darjeeling and Varanasi among others.

Before signing the agreement, Shashank and Acharya held talks on the entire gamut of Indo-Nepal relations including trade, transport, security, terror- ism, extradition treaty and border management.

Describing the talks as “very constructive” and “positive” where the whole range of bilateral relations including security issues were discussed,” Shashank told reporters that matters relating to strengthening co-operation in the SAARC region and BIMSTEC were also discussed.

“The bilateral talks were held in a friendly, cordial and constructive manner,” Acharya told reporters after the talks.

During the parleys all issues of bilateral relations were covered and both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress made in various fields at various levels, he said.

To a question, he said the two sides have an ongoing arrangement to exchange intelligence information to tackle the security problem.

At least six dead in Indian space centre fire

NEW DELHI, 24 Feb—At least six people were killed and three injured in a fire in India’s main space centre on Monday, an official said.

The fire broke out in the fuel testing area of the centre in the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh, said the official.

“A test motor caught fire while being transported and as a result the building caught fire. The fire is now more or less under control,” said the space centre official, who did not wish to be named.

The spacecraft, the launching centre of the spaceport, is located on Sriharikota Island, 60 miles north of the southern city of Madras.

NMA/Reuters

Folklore, fun and mockery as Germans revel in carnival mood.

Internet
Efficient use of electricity

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

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

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 appealed

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
HEAD OF SHAN STATE RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
U Tun Tun acted as master of ceremonies.

Presiding Nayaka of Myole Monastery member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Candima administered the Five Precepts to the congregation.

Members of the Sangha recited the parittas.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife presented offertories and eight requisites, and rice, edible oil and salt donated to the monasteries in Lashio through the Sayadaw.

Daw Mya Mya San also presented robes and rice, edible oil and salt to the nunnerys in the town through Chairperson of Shan State Nun Executive Committee Maha Gamha-vacaka Pandita Nun Daw Kesi of Sasana Hitakari Nunnery.

The Secretary-1 and members of the State Peace and Development Council presented offertories and eight requisites, and rice, edible oil and salt to members of the Sangha.

The Sayadaw of Myole Monastery delivered a sermon. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife performed rituals of golden and silver showers.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party offered "soon" to members of the Sangha.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party sprinkled scented water on the bronze plaque of the Sasana Ordination Hall and paid reverence to the Buddha images in the hall.

Addressing the meeting, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need for respective local authorities and departmental officials in Yangon to implement the targeted work projects of 14 sectors such as agriculture, industry and meat and fish.

They also need to make efforts for exceeding the targets, he said.

Only when the value of GDP of the projects is on the increase, will the economy of the State go up, he added. That is why officials concerned are to endeavour for successful implementation of their sector-wise projects.

Next, Head of Divisional Planning Department U Shwe reported on matters relating to implementation of the annual projects and the values of GDP for fiscal 2003-2004; Divisional Agriculture Supervisory Committee Manager U Aung Hsan on measures being taken on measures being taken for the rule of law and reduction of crimes in Yangon Division.

After that, those present at the meeting also participated in the discussions, and reported on their respective tasks. Later, the commander fulfilled the needs and made concluding remarks.

Third four-monthly meeting of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council held

YANGON, 25 Feb — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council held the third four-monthly meeting this morning at conference hall of Yangon Command. Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting.

Next, Head of Divisional Planning Department U Shwe reported on matters relating to implementation of the annual projects and the values of GDP for fiscal 2003-2004; Divisional Agriculture Supervisory Committee Manager U Aung Hsan on measures being taken by four means and ways for exceeding the target of agriculture sector, paddy cultivation, and project implementation on irrigation facilities; and Commander of Myanmar Police Force (Yangon) Police Col Aung Daing on measures being taken for the rule of law and reduction of crimes in Yangon Division.

After that, those present at the meeting also participated in the discussions, and reported on their respective tasks. Later, the commander fulfilled the needs and made concluding remarks.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife pay homage to Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image and Tiloka Vijaya Pagoda in Lashio

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party paid homage to Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image on Zeya Hayma Hill in Lashio at 8.45 am on 22 February. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye donated cash and offered gold foils to the image. He then signed in the visitors’ book. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife and party went to Tiloka Vijaya Htutawngyi Pagoda on Yaykan Hill and paid homage to the pagoda. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife made cash donations to the funds of the pagoda. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party also signed in the visitors’ book. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye donates cash to the funds of the Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image on Zeya Hayma Hill in Lashio. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offers gold foils to the Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image on Zeya Hayma Hill in Lashio.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye being welcomed by departmental officials and local people in Lashio.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offers gold foils to the Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image on Zeya Hayma Hill in Lashio.

Commander inspects hostels of Armed Forces Day Parade columns

Yangon, 24 Feb — Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected the hostels of Nawaday Column, clinic, mess, ration store, and documents. The commander also inspected the drill of the columns and left instructions on preparing meals in hygienic conditions, sanitation tasks and systematic practising of drills.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends …

(from page 1)

First, the ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Next, the Thitagu Sayadaw invested the Prime Minister and congregation with the Five Precepts. The Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited religious verses, and the Prime Minister and party presented oblations to the monks.

The Thitagu Sayadaw handed over the Bodhi sapling donated by the President of the Republic of India as a token of Dhamma gift. The Bodhi sapling was donated by the President of Republic of India for Myanmar through the Thitagu Sayadaw while the Sayadaw was attending the International Buddhist Conference and meeting on promotion of pilgrimage held in New Delhi, India from 17 to 19 February.

Then, at the treatise-donation ceremony, on behalf of the Thitagu Sayadaw, Lay person U Han handed over 1989 treatises worth 11,991,800 to Pro-rector (Admin) of ITBMU Dr Hla Pe. The Sayadaws and the Prime Minister and party next shared the merits gained, and the ceremony came to a close with the three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu*. — MNA

YANGON, 24 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 Pleasant 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 27-3-2004, and consolation prizes at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative ceremonies to be held at respective commands. Entries are to be sent to U Tun Min, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department on Pansodan Street, by 29 February. — MNA
State acknowledges nurses, health assistants as most basic forces of health...

(From page 16) Now there are three nursing universities — Defence Services Institute of Nursing, Yangon Institute of Nursing and Mandalay Institute of Nursing — 23 nurses training schools and 20 midwifery training schools.

In 1988, there were over 8,300 nurses and 8,100 midwives.

Now there are over 15,400 nurses and 14,000 midwives in the nation.

At present, there are over 400 dispensaries, over 1,400 rural health centres and over 80 regional health units.

In the past there were 240 dispensaries, over 2,000 rural health centres and over 60 regional health units.

Moreover, the Government has established nursing diploma courses, BNSc degree courses, MNSc degree courses and PhD courses for the nurses.

In addition, seven Myanmar nurses got the PhD degree at La Trobe University in Australia.

Eight nurses got masters degree through distance education courses from the university. Thus, the State has paved the way for and is giving encouragement to is the nurses to get access to higher learning.

He said the number of highly-qualified nurses and special nurses have increased. Achievements have also been made in Myanmar medical history.

It is heartening to learn that nurses participated in significant operations such as kidney transplant, open heart surgery, conjoined twins, replantation of a crushed arm by hand, micro surgery method and cleft lips and cleft palate.

He said they also took part in the tasks for eradication of diseases of smallpox, leprosy, trachoma, iodine deficiency and polio and preventive measures on health hazard as the mass movement.

He said the nurses are actively participating in health care services such as maternal and child care, school health activities, malnutrition, environment and job and practice of bacco free activities, care for elderly people, sanitation and pure water supply and national poison control work in cooperation with other social organizations.

With their active participation of the nurses, midwives and health assistants in public health care services, they will be an important force in realization of the health objectives of the State, he added.

He said their active performances much contribute towards the success of five rural development tasks and their correct education and systematic prevention create better foundations on health — high knowledge on health, possible death with production in health of healthy living and clean surroundings. Health standard of rural people will improve, he added.

He said the government has assigned noble and extensive duties of health care services to the nurses, midwives and health assistants with trust.

With this knowledge, they are to make fair utilization of health standard of rural people with goodwill, he said. They are also to perform noble tasks and they are to win loving kindness of the people, he added.

Better foundations for development of nursing sector in Myanmar have been achieved in combination with the government's encouragement and nurses' efforts.

He urged veteran nurses of Myanmar Nurses Association to enhance efficiency of the nurses, to utilize their ability in the interest of the people and to turn out brilliant human resources continuously.

He urged the nurses, midwives and health assistants to try to become good ones as a consolidated force under the banner of Myanmar Nurses Association.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views round the documentary photos on public health care services given by the Myanmar Nurses Association.

In conclusion, he urged them to strive for uplift of national health standard as a brilliant, highly-qualified force, to take care of the health, tenderly and warmly, to work hard under the banner of the association in accordance with its objectives and to take part in the tasks for implementation of the seven-point future programme of the State that can shape character of the people.

He said the nurses and midwives of the national health units will ardently and purposely work for the development of rural people will ardently and purposely work for the development of rural people.

State health services, they will be an important development in development of rural people.

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Bad weather costs Uganda over $60m annually

KAMPALA, 24 Feb—Weather experts have said that harsh climatic conditions cost Uganda, with a population of 24.6 million, over 60 million US dollars annually. Charles Twesigemwe, Commissioner for Disaster Preparedness in the Prime Minister’s Office, was quoted by The Monitor newspaper on Monday as saying that the worst vagaries are drought, floods, mudslides, windstorms and hailstorms, which account for more than 70 per cent of natural disasters. He said over 60 million dollars is value of more than 80,000 hectares of crops damaged by disasters alone. “Economic losses resulting from transport accidents, fires and other climate-related disasters are estimated at 26 million dollars a year,” he said. He said the bleak situation is not unique to Uganda, adding that more than 90 per cent of all natural disasters occurring around the world today are related to water — either too little of it, in case of drought, or too much of it, in the case of floods, landslides, diseases and pests.” — MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 25 February 2004
**China to crack down on water polluters**

**Beijing, 24 Feb —** China will crack down on water polluters and revise laws and regulations to give its environmental watchdog more clout, said senior environment officials here Monday.

Chen Shaorong, deputy director of the environment and investigation centre of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), said a team formed by six central government departments will begin an inspection tour this year to identify small factories that illegally discharge pollutants into major waterways.

The SEPA said last week that China’s major waterways were still severely polluted after years of cleaning. Many factories along the main rivers and lakes discharged more toxic and organic pollutants than the maximum allowed in the regulations.

"A crackdown action is urgently needed to stop illegal polluters. The SEPA plans to clean the major waterways before 2005," said Chen, who joined the 2003 campaign against small chemical plants and paper makers that used outdated technologies.

However, he admitted that the environmental watchdog was restricted by its limited powers.

China’s environmental law and regulations state that the SEPA has no powers to close polluters, but must resort to local governments to do so. "When some local governments think gross domestic products (GDP) is more important and thus shield polluters, the cleaning plan is halted," said Chen.

"The SEPA expects to have the powers to enforce decisions without the intervention of local governments," said Wang Suli, vice-director of SEPA’s legislative office.

He said the country’s legislative body was reviewing a law which endowed public service departments like the SEPA such rights.

"Another problem is that the fine stipulated in the current regulations is too small to deter the polluters," said Chen.

The solution is to eliminate industries that are highly polluting or using outdated technologies, said Wang.

MNA/Xinhua

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**US panel recommends to restrict TV ads for kids**

**Washington, 24 Feb —** Children under the age of eight are unable to understand that television advertisements are not real and should be protected from seeing them, a task force of psychologists said on Monday.

TV ads for sugary cereals, snacks and other food have been shown to encourage young children to beg for and eat such food, which in turn is contributing to the obesity epidemic among children, the American Psychological Association panel said.

"Studies show that the essence of Indian, Thai and Chinese herbal medicine system opened in the Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan, China," Chao Xungong said.

Participants agreed that a solid foundation has been laid in the research and development of the Yi medicine. The current stage is the golden age for industrialization of the medicine.

The Yi medicine draws from the essence of Indian, Tibetan and local medical theories of the Yi nation and have accumulated rich experience.

China holds first Yi medicine conference

**Chuxiong (Yunnan), 24 Feb —** The first national conference on protecting the medicine of the Yi nationality in China opened in the Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Chuxiong in southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

Participants agreed that a solid foundation has been laid in the research and development of the Yi medicine. The current stage is the golden age for industrialization of the medicine.

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The solution is to eliminate industries that are highly polluting or using outdated technologies, said Wang.

MNA/Xinhua

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**China to see railway construction peak period**

**Beijing, 24 Feb —** China is to see another peak period of railway construction in the coming years, which aims to relieve the transportation pressure and meet the needs of rapid economic growth.

China’s railway length is expected to extend from 72,000 kilometres to 100,000 kilometres by 2020 and the technical equipment will near international level, said Chinese Railways Minister Liu Zhijun here Sunday at a working conference.

The investment in railway will increase greatly in the coming years, which will contribute to the economy’s growth, said Liu.

China will also launch a series of new railway projects this year, and major reconstruction work will be carried out to improve the transportation efficiency, said Liu.

The medium-term and long-term goal of railway construction was set in a blueprint on China’s railway network, which was passed on January 7 at a meeting held by the State Council.

**MNA/Xinhua**

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**Don’t smoke**

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**Study says no-smoking areas offer partial protection**

**London, 24 Feb —** Designated no-smoking areas in restaurants and clubs provide only partial or no protection against second-hand smoke, Australian researchers said on Sunday.

Less than a week after Ireland announced it would become the first country in Europe to outlaw smoking in pubs, bars and restaurants, Professor Bernard Stewart of the South East Sydney Public Health United in Australia said that, at best, restricted smoking areas halve levels of environmental tobacco smoke.

"No-smoking areas may provide some re-duction in the level of exposure of individuals to environmental tobacco smoke. However, the reduction may be marginal or trivial," Stewart said in a report in the journal Tobacco Control.

ETS, or second-hand smoke, is a complex mixture of more than 4,000 chemical compounds that are generated from smoking or burning tobacco products.

The Australian scientists measured at-smoking, and non-smoking areas halve levels of environmental tobacco smoke.

They found levels varied but, on average, if a person moved from a smoking to a non-smoking area it would reduce the amount of nicotine inhaled by about 53 per cent.

"We found that exposed to large amounts of nicotine inhaled by about 53 per cent. ,” said Dr. Geoff (correct) Matt of San Diego State University in California.

WTO official sees no chance to end Doha round this year

**London, 24 Feb —** The stalled Doha round of trade liberalization talks cannot be concluded on schedule by the end of this year, a senior World Trade Organization (WTO) official said on Monday.

"That now looks completely unachievable," said Richard Eglin, director of the WTO’s trade and finance division, told a meeting at the Royal Institute for International Affairs, a think-tank.

Eglin said a more realistic timetable for the talks was mid-2007, when the US’s fast-track negotiation mandate is due to expire.

The talks, faltering after a launch in Doha, Qatar in November 2001, ground to a halt at a follow-up meeting in Cancun in Mexico last September.

MNA/Reuters

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**China faces challenge of growing obesity epidemic**

**Washington, 24 Feb —** The US panel recommended to restrict TV advertising for kids.

"Another area of sensitive advertising content involves commercials for violent media products such as motion pictures and video games." The American Psychological Association made several recommendations based on the report, including regulations that could restrict advertising aimed at children eight years and under.

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**A newborn African elephant calf took its first steps on 23 Feb, 2004, at the San Diego Zoo’s Wild Animal Park in San Diego. The healthy male calf was born to a first-time mother who was rescued by the 1,800-acre Wild Animal Park in August 2003. — Internet**
**Portsmouth make Liverpool pay the penalty in FA Cup**

**LONDON, 24 Feb.—** Substitute Richard Hughes gave Portsmouth a shock 1-0 victory over Liverpool in their FA Cup fifth-round replay on Sunday to set up a quarterfinal against holders Arsenal.

Liverpool's England striker Michael Owen huffed a penalty before Hughes lashed a low shot into the far corner of the net after 72 minutes to decide a tense encounter at Fratton Park. It was the Scottish midfielder's first goal for Portsmouth, who have only won the FA Cup once, in 1939. They will face Arsenal, where Hughes was once a trainee, at Fratton Park in the last eight on March 6. After a tepid first half controlled by Liverpool, the match came to life with a low shot into the far corner of the net after 59th minute. The 32-year-old Moldovan pinched the ball from Marseille defender Philippe Christanval to score from just inside the box. Nantes' rearguard, with an outstanding performance from Colombia's Mario Yepes, thwarted Mar- seille's desperate attacks. — MNA/Reuters

**Dortmund beat Cologne 1-0 to stay on course for Europe**

**BERLIN, 24 Feb.—** Borussia Dortmund stayed on track for a place in Europe with a 1-0 victory over bottom club Cologne in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

The game was deadlocked until the 59th minute when Parma striker Alberto Gilardino poked a weak shot towards goal. Antonioli bent the ball between his legs and rolled into the net.

British striker Ewerthson scored in the 26th minute for the 1997 European champions, who need to secure a UEFA Cup spot to save their season.

**Villarreal suffer heavy blow to European hopes**

**MADRID, 24 Feb.—** Villarreal lost further ground in the race for European places in Spain when they were beaten 4-1 at relegation candidates Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Zaragoza were 2-0 up inside 20 minutes with goals from Leonardo Ponzi and Cani. Villarreal's late goal was sealed when Quieroz Alvarez was sent off after 24 minutes.

Former Barcelona striker Dani got the goal of the season challenging for a Champions League place when they were beaten 4-1 at relegation candidates Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

The game was deadlocked until the 59th minute when Parma striker Alberto Gilardino poked a weak shot towards goal. Antonioli bent the ball between his legs and rolled into the net.

Parma striker Mark Bresciano added a second after 73 minutes from Zaragoza's goal. Bresciano's effort was blocked by goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli, who had made two key saves shortly before.

Bresciano's goal was followed by another two minutes later when Parma striker Massimo Maccarone scored from the edge of the area.

Both sides had problems finding their rhythm on Sampdoria's sticky rain-soaked pitch and long-range strikes by Parma midfielder Simone Barone and Sampdoria defender Aimo Diana were the best efforts of a subdued first half.

Antonioli's howler increased urgency into the match and Bresciano doubled Parma's lead with a shot from the edge of the area before Sampdoria finally got their goal. But despite a late spell of pressure the home side could not find an equalizer.

Brazilian striker Ewerthson scored in the 26th minute for the 1997 European champions, who need to secure a UEFA Cup spot to save their season.

The game was deadlocked until the 59th minute when Parma striker Alberto Gilardino poked a weak shot towards goal. Antonioli bent the ball between his legs and rolled into the net.

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### MYANMAR PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

#### MRTV-3

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<td>The National</td>
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<td>9:15</td>
<td>National News</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:20</td>
<td>Beautiful Tantinjhyi</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:25</td>
<td>Smart Beautiful Cart</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>National News</td>
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<td>9:35</td>
<td>Paper Toys</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:40</td>
<td>Song &quot;Bagan the Wonder Land&quot;</td>
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<td>9:42</td>
<td>What an Interesting Souvenir Shop</td>
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<td>9:45</td>
<td>National News</td>
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<td>9:50</td>
<td>Shan Traditional &quot;Hoo&quot; Offering Ceremony</td>
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<td>9:55</td>
<td>Song of Myanmar Beauty &amp; Scenic Sights &quot;Myanmar Panama &amp; Myanmar Senti-ment&quot;</td>
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<td>Traditional PoD Dance</td>
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<td>Myanmar Modern Song &quot;To Golden Mandala&quot;</td>
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<td>Let's Enjoy Mann Shwe Sattaw Pagoda Festival</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>National News</td>
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<td>10:35</td>
<td>Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Rwong)</td>
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####_regular programmes for viewers from abroad

**Morning Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)**

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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
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### WEATHER

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair throughout the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (7°C) below normal in Chin State and above normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was (1°C) in Hakha.

Maximum temperature on 23-2-2004 was 35.5°C (96°F). Minimum temperature on 22-2-2004 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-2-2004 was 86%. Sun shine hours on 23-2-2004 was (9.4) hours. rainfall on 24-2-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8 mph) (14.30) hours MST on 23-2-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25-2-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Wave height in the Bay of Bengal will be slightly to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

State acknowledges nurses, midwives, health assistants as most basic forces of health sector
Prime Minister addresses opening of Myanmar Nurses Association Conference

YANGON, 24 Feb — The 49th Nursing Conference of the Myanmar Nurses Association was opened this morning at the Institute of Nursing here with an opening address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of the committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, members of the committee, departmental officials, officers and residence representatives of the organizations under the UN, officials of the social services sector, it has been making arrangements for producing more nurses, midwives and health assistants, enhancing their skills, enabling them to pursue further studies and assigning them at higher level posts.

In the past there were seven nurses training schools and 15 midwifery training schools.

(See page 11)