**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Shweli Hydro-electric Power Project in Namhkam Township.** — MNA

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

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

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

**Yangon, 26 Feb**—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived at Shweli Hydro-electric Power Project in Namhkam Township on 22 February noon.

They were welcomed there by local Tactical Operations Commander Col San Shwe Tha, officials of the Hydro-electric Power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power, Yunnan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation (YMEC) and local people.

At the hall of the project, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported that the natural condition of Shweli River is good to generate hydro-electric power. With the generation capacity of 400 megawatts and it will produce 3,022 kilowatt hours a year.

The Hydro-electric Power Department and YMEC has signed the contract to build the concrete dam and tunnel and instal machinery at the project. At present, preliminary tasks are being carried out.

The electricity generated from the project will be supplied to Shan State (North) through 66-kv high-tension cables. A grid including 230-mile long double high-tension cable line from Shweli to Mandalay will be built to supply power to other regions.

Then, the minister reported on arrangements for construction of roads and bridges of the project. Director-General U Win Kyaw of HPD reported on construction of tunnels and other power grids and arrangements for assignment of duties sector-wise between the department and YMEC.

After hearing the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions on improvement of the road to the project to become an all-weather facility, up-grading of Shweli suspension bridge and other matters.

Then, YMEC Chairman Mr Feng Ke spoke words of thanks for assigning his company the task to build the facility, saying that the facility will be built in accord with the set standard within the scheduled period.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented fruit baskets to Chairman of YMEC Mr Feng Ke and Director U Win Kyi of Construction-2 of HPD and Deputy Director U Aung Hlaing. Later, the Chairman of YMEC presented a souvenir to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

General Maung Aye and party inspected sample stones dug at the project and viewed the main embankment.

At the project site, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party saw over the main dam, the tunnel and preliminary engineering works. Later, they posed for documentary photos.

Shweli Hydro-electric Power Project is being implemented on Shweli River near Mantet Village, 17 miles south-west of Namhkam Township, Shan State (North). The 531-foot long and 154 feet high concrete gravity dam and 33-foot diameter and 850 feet long tunnel with 33-foot diameter and 3.12 miles long tunnel with 23-foot diameter will be built.

**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
Towards speedy completion of Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawnghkio)

Nowadays, the Government and the people are working in concert for all-round development of the Union of Myanmar and for higher living standard of the people. And for parallel development of various regions across the Union, 24-region development plan, border areas development plan and rural areas development plan are being implemented.

In our drive for the development of the regions throughout the Union, special emphasis is being given to the development of border areas and higher living standard of the national people living there. In the past, border areas were behind the others. Now, as the Government has succeeded in bringing peace and tranquility to the border areas, border areas development work can be carried out much wider than before.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, urged the development of transport infrastructure. He said that transport played a pivotal role in our bid for the national development and that only with easy and smooth transport could social and economic development be realized. He added that roads and bridges were being built so that contacts among regions could be increased and development gap bridged.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye urged them to give special attention to the durability of the bridge as well as earlier completion of it.

The Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawnghkio) is situated on the road linking Shwenyaung in Shan State (North) and Nawnghkio in Shan State (South). It is going to be 468 feet long situated on the road linking Shwenyaung in Shan State (North). In his meeting with responsible personnel of the construction project, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye urged them to give special attention to the durability of the bridge as well as earlier completion of it. The Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawnghkio) is situated on the road linking Shwenyaung in Shan State (South) and Nawnghkio in Shan State (North). It is going to be 468 feet long situated on the road linking Shwenyaung in Shan State (South) and Nawnghkio in Shan State (North) and Mandalay Division. Therefore, we would like to urge all those responsible to work as hard as they can for the speedy completion of the bridge that can ensure the smooth and easy transport between Shan State (South), Shan State (North) and Mandalay Division.

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”

YANGON Division Organization for Women’s Affairs plants saplings

YANGON, 26 Feb — The Environmental Conservation Group of the Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs held a tree plantation ceremony at Shwenyaung Nursery of Yangon Division Forest Department in Mingaladon Township, Yangon North district, this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife planted a Gangaw sapling and Patron of Yangon Division OWA Daw Khin Thet Huy, a Khaye sapling to mark the ceremony.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Daw Khin Thet Huy and officials, local authorities, executives of Division OWA, and members of District and Township OWA planted species of tree saplings.

The ceremony was held to help green the areas lying in the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport, said Daw Khin Thet Huy. The commander and party observed over 50,000 thriving various species of saplings in the nursery.

Later, the commander inspected construction of Hsinphon Creek Bridge on Khayebin Road linking the city ring road, and observed the thriving summer paddy fields along it. As the road would serve as the transport facility for agricultural products of Balar region, efforts should be made to upgrade the road and for soonest completion of the three bridges on it, said the commander.

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard

Entries invited for Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo contest

YANGON, 26 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, not later than 29 February.
UN envoy in Iraq to assess humanitarian problems

BAGHDAD, 26 Feb — The UN special representative for Iraq assessed humanitarian problems on a brief visit to Baghdad Wednesday ahead of a weekend conference of donors who have pledged billions of aid dollars.

Ross Mountain — appointed fol-
lowing the death of former special en-
voy Sergio Vieira de Mello in a suicide
truck bomb attack on the UN Baghdad
headquarters last August — will meet
local staff and senior Iraqi leaders dur-
ing his visit, UN spokeswoman
Veronique Taveau said in Jordan.

“He is in Iraq to assess humanitar-
ian issues, speak to the people and meet
officials and national UN staff,” Taveau
said. Donor nations are due to meet in
Abu Dhabi to discuss the disbursement
of around $15 billion in aid to help Iraq
recover from decades of war, sanctions
and dictatorship.

Iraqi officials say aid is urgently
needed to help rebuild the country and
tackle widespread unemployment.

Gunmen kill senior Iraqi policeman in Mosul

Mosul, Iraq, 26 Feb — Gunmen assassinated one of the most senior policemen in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Wednesday as he drove to work, police said, in the latest deadly attack on Iraqis cooperating with occu-
pying forces.

Police said Brigadier Hikmat Mohammad, chief of administration in the provincial police headquarters in Mosul, was shot dead around 8 am (0500 GMT).

Mosul has been the scene of a violent conflict between a group of Sunni Muslims who want to overthrow the US-led occupation and the predominantly Shi’ite government in Baghdad.

The attack underscores the difficulty of working for the external occupation in a country where Sunni-Shi’ite tensions have been exacerbated by the US-led war and occupation.

Two killed in US helicopter crash in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Feb — Two crew members were killed as a US military OH-58 Kiowa helicopter crashed in central western Iraq Wednesday, the US military said.

The helicopter crashed within the
US 82nd Airborne Division area, “we are
aware of an incident involving a coalition helicopter” that crashed near Haditha, 200 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, a US military spokeswoman said in Baghdad.

She could not identify what caused the incident. “We don’t know the exact time
and we are investigating,” she added.

Earlier, witnesses said a US military helicopter crashed near Haditha on Wednesday noon but it remained unclear if the plane was shot down by hostile fire or by mistake.

India manufactures microprocessor-control-
diesel locomotive

NEW DELHI, 26 Feb — India has become the first country outside United States to manufacture a 4,000 horsepower new generation microprocessor-controlled diesel locomotive capable of hauling 58 BOX ‘N’ Wagons.

“The indigenously manufactured 4,000 horse power diesel locomotive at the Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, is the only freight locomotive of the Indian Railways capable of hauling 58 BOX ‘N’ Wagons,” an official release said Tuesday.

It was for the first time
that such a locomotive was manufactured outside the General Motors factory in the United States, it said adding
that it can run for three months without mainte-
nance.

The Indian Railways have completed successful trials for the introduction of a passenger train at
150 kilometres per hour speed with WDP4 class General Motors loco-
motive on the Konkan Rail-
way.

Besides, it said Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) for short distance inter-city commuter traffic have been introduced.

New airline opens in Cambodia

First Cambodia Airlines, a joint venture between Chinese Mainland and Cambodia.

In 1999 and 2000, Chi-
na’s Southern Airlines and Shanghai Airlines opened their direct services between Guangzhou and Phnom Penh, as well as Shanghai and Phnom Penh.

And China Eastern Air Group Yunnan Corp opened its direct flights be-
tween Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, and Siem Reap, home town of the known Angkor Wat temples on December 2003.

First Cambodia Airlines, a joint venture between Cambodian business and a Hong Kong firm, currently has just one leased 161-seat Airbus 320-200. It plans to have three or four by the end of the year.

Infosys in select group of companies

BANGALORE, 26 Feb — Infosys Technologies Ltd Tuesday said it is among seven international companies chosen to be in the first annual list of “top brands with a conscience”.

Infosys is the only Indian company to be part of this select group, a company statement said here.

Brought out by the Medinge Group, an international collective of brand experts who meet annually, the list is based on principles of humanity and ethics rather than financial worth, it said.

Companies were evaluated on various parameters rang-
ing from the evidence of ethical programmes and human
implications of the brand to the ability of the brand to take
risks in line with its beliefs, the statement said.

Infosys Technologies recently won two other awards recognizing its financial performance as well as overall management.
Iraq seeks non-US funding for $4b projects

Baghdad, 26 Feb — An Iraqi team will travel to Abu Dhabi on Friday to request funding for projects worth four billion US dollars at an international conference convening to channel non-US aid to help rebuild Iraq.

The international community’s long-term development, he told reporters.

Foreign delegations, such as Japan which pledged around five billion US dollars alone, will take back the proposals to their capitals to study before agreeing on financing.

Iraq expects the projects to start this year after delays partly due to concerns about the lack of security in the country.

Hafedh said the conference will regulate the relationship between the donors and Iraq, making it easier to submit more proposals to cover the 15 billion US dollars.

The pledges were made at the Madrid donors’ conference in October, which set up two funds run by the World Bank and the United Nations to manage the bulk of the money.

A US plan to give Iraqis sovereignty by July would also speed up the process, the minister added. “There will be a sovereign authority that can decide on the country’s needs without impediments,” he said.

Washington has allocated around 18 billion US dollars to Iraq’s reconstruction separately as bilateral aid after spending billions of dollars to repair Iraq’s oil industry, power plants and other infrastructure.

Contracts covering a major part of the 18-billion-US-dollar allocation are expected to be announced next month.

Iraqi businessmen have criticized the US aid, saying it did not include enough work for Iraqi subcontractors.

MENA/Reuters

Malaysian PM says prosperous China contributes to regional peace

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Feb — A prosperous China holds a historic opportunity to promote peace and stability in Asia and the world, said the Malaysian Prime Minister here.

China’s willingness to sign the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation has proved that it is committed to peace, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at the Malaysia-China Economic and Commerce Forum 2004.

China is the first East Asian country to sign the treaty in Bali, Indonesia, on 8 October, 2003.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), set up in 1967, now groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

He said China’s willingness to participate actively and constructively in the East Asian community is a beacon of hope for the future and Malaysia very much welcomes China’s involvement in the regional community building.

China and ASEAN countries are expected to set up a free trade area in 2010. In the past decade, the trade has grown between the two sides has grown 15 per cent annually.

“All of us in the region should assume responsibility to encourage the kinds of constructive behaviour that will make the region, and thus the world, a better and safer place,” he added.

The Malaysia-China Economic Conference, attended by some 2,000 local and international representatives, is organized by Malaysia National Small and Medium Industries Consultative Centre (NASMIC).

MENA/Xinhua

Blix says Blair, Bush damaged UN credibility over Iraq

EDINBURGH (Scotland), 26 Feb — Britain and the United States badly damaged the United Nations when they ignored international condemnation and invaded Iraq last year, former chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said on Tuesday.

US President George W Bush and his ally, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, continued to deny the existence of weapons of mass destruction — was undermined.

“Saddam was dangerous, but not a great, and certainly not an immediate, danger to his neighbours and the world,” Blix said.

Blix, who once headed the UN nuclear watchdog body, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), advised governments to steer clear of using the methods of the advertising world.

“We would like to be told about the real world, not to be shown a virtual one,” he said.

He deplored faulty intelligence that reinforced the idea of a huge arsenal of illegal weapons waiting to be fired and praised the impartiality of his own inspectors.

MENA/Reuters

Indian Air Force to rely less on Western jets

SINGAPORE, 26 Feb — India’s Air Force will phase out many of its Western-made fighter jets and rely more on indigenous planes such as its planned Tejas, a light combat aircraft, the nation’s Air Force chief said on Wednesday.

Russia and Israel are the main arms suppliers to India, which has the world’s fourth-largest Air Force.

MENA/Reuters

Vietnam to export less rice this year

HANOI, 26 Feb — Vietnam is expected to export 3.3 million to 3.5 million tons of rice this year, down from 3.9 million tons last year, according to local newspapers.

The rice output of the nation’s Air Force chief said on Wednesday.

Among the nations’ Air Force will phase out many of its Western-made fighter jets and rely more on indigenous planes such as its planned Tejas, a light combat aircraft, the nation’s Air Force chief said on Wednesday.

Russia and Israel are the main arms suppliers to India, which has the world’s fourth-largest Air Force.

MENA/Reuters

China offers emergency aid to quake-hit Morocco

BERLIN, 26 Feb — China offered five million yuan (0.6 million US dollars) worth of material to Morocco as emergency humanitarian aid for the African country’s earthquake-shaken areas, a spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce announced.

The quake, which struck northern Morocco Tuesday, has killed over 500 people and injured more than 300 others.

The US Geological Survey said the quake measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale, but French seismologists put it at 6.3.

It is said that most of the victims were women, children and the elderly because men in the region had gone to European countries such as the Netherlands and Germany for work. Rescue work was underway but bad traffic conditions made the task harder, according to reports.

MENA/Xinhua

Wen Jiabao meets Surinamese President

BEIJING, 26 Feb — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met here Wednesday with Surinamese President Ronald Ronald Venetiaan.

Wen said President Venetiaan’s China visit had been fruitful.

He believed the relationship would advance with efforts from both sides.

Venetiaan said his country had cultivated a brotherly relationship with China, featuring increasing political dialogue and a smoothly developed economic partnership.

He said his government would continue supporting Surinamese enterprises in extensive cooperation with their Chinese partners.

Wen said the two countries had great potential in economic cooperation.

MENA/Xinhua

China offers emergency aid to quake-hit Morocco

BERLIN, 26 Feb — China offered five million yuan (0.6 million US dollars) worth of material to Morocco as emergency humanitarian aid for the African country’s earthquake-shaken areas, a spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce announced.

The quake, which struck northern Morocco Tuesday, has killed over 500 people and injured more than 300 others.

The US Geological Survey said the quake measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale, but French seismologists put it at 6.3.

It is said that most of the victims were women, children and the elderly because men in the region had gone to European countries such as the Netherlands and Germany for work. Rescue work was underway but bad traffic conditions made the task harder, according to reports.

MENA/Xinhua

Indian Air Force to rely less on Western jets

SINGAPORE, 26 Feb — India’s Air Force will phase out many of its Western-made fighter jets and rely more on indigenous planes such as its planned Tejas, a light combat aircraft, the nation’s Air Force chief said on Wednesday.

Russia and Israel are the main arms suppliers to India, which has the world’s fourth-largest Air Force.

MENA/Reuters

Vietnam to export less rice this year

HANOI, 26 Feb — Vietnam is expected to export 3.3 million to 3.5 million tons of rice this year, down from 3.9 million tons last year, according to local newspapers.

The rice output of the nation’s Air Force chief said on Wednesday.

Among the nations’ Air Force will phase out many of its Western-made fighter jets and rely more on indigenous planes such as its planned Tejas, a light combat aircraft, the nation’s Air Force chief said on Wednesday.

Russia and Israel are the main arms suppliers to India, which has the world’s fourth-largest Air Force.

MENA/Reuters

China offers emergency aid to quake-hit Morocco

BERLIN, 26 Feb — China offered five million yuan (0.6 million US dollars) worth of material to Morocco as emergency humanitarian aid for the African country’s earthquake-shaken areas, a spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce announced.

The quake, which struck northern Morocco Tuesday, has killed over 500 people and injured more than 300 others.

The US Geological Survey said the quake measured 6.5 on the Richter Scale, but French seismologists put it at 6.3.

It is said that most of the victims were women, children and the elderly because men in the region had gone to European countries such as the Netherlands and Germany for work. Rescue work was underway but bad traffic conditions made the task harder, according to reports.

MENA/Xinhua

Malaysian PM says prosperous China contributes to regional peace

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Feb — A prosperous China holds a historic opportunity to promote peace and stability in Asia and the world, said the Malaysian Prime Minister here.

China’s willingness to sign the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation has proved that it is committed to peace, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at the Malaysia-China Economic and Commerce Forum 2004.

China is the first East Asian country to sign the treaty in Bali, Indonesia, on 8 October, 2003.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), set up in 1967, now groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

He said China’s willingness to participate actively and constructively in the East Asian community is a beacon of hope for the future and Malaysia very much welcomes China’s involvement in the regional community building.

China and ASEAN countries are expected to set up a free trade area in 2010. In the past decade, the trade has grown between the two sides has grown 15 per cent annually.

“All of us in the region should assume responsibility to encourage the kinds of constructive behaviour that will make the region, and thus the world, a better and safer place,” he added.

The Malaysia-China Economic Conference, attended by some 2,000 local and international representatives, is organized by Malaysia National Small and Medium Industries Consultative Centre (NASMIC).

MENA/Xinhua
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

A US soldier sits on an armoured vehicle while patrolling Baghdad’s Yarmuk neighbourhood. Two coalition soldiers died as a US helicopter crashed into a river, as the US-led occupation said it may delay the drafting of a security accord that would lengthen the stay of American forces. — Internet

An elderly Iraqi couple walks past a US armoured vehicle patrolling Baghdad’s Yarmuk neighbourhood. — Internet

Iraqis look at US soldiers as they patrol a street of Baghdad neighbourhood of Kazemiya. — Internet

US soldiers watch over Iraqis Community as they participate in a demonstration in central Baghdad demanding more representation of their community on the Iraqi interim Governing Council. — Internet

Children gather where a hand grenade exploded in a Baghdad compound recently. — Internet
UK drops case against Iraqi war whistleblower

LONDON, 26 Feb.—Charges have been dropped against a British intelligence translator who leaked plans of an apparent US “dirty tricks” campaign targeting UN Security Council members.

A relieved Katharine Gun, 29, on Wednesday walked free from the Old Bailey criminal court in London after prosecutors said - without elaboration - that they would be offering no evidence against her.

“I am absolutely overwhelmed and I am obviously delighted,” she told reporters at the court, where a supporter gave her tulips. “I am just goshmacked, just speechless.”

Asked if she would leak a similar memo again, Gun said: “It would probably be one of the first things I would do again, yes.”

Gun, a Chinese speaker sacked in June from her job at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), was charged in November under the Official Secrets Act 1989 of disclosing security and intelligence information.

She was accused of disclosing a request from the US National Security Agency for help from British intelligence to eavesdrop on non-aligned UN Security Council delegations in the run-up to the Iraq war.

The US memo - details of which emerged in the Observer newspaper - was sent to British authorities at the time when Washington and London were seeking a UN Security Council resolution to green-light their invasion of Iraq.

Angola, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, released by European Space Agency Rosetta, a million-dollar comet-chasing spacecraft, is due to be launched on 26 Feb, 2004 from ESA’s space base in Kourou, French Guiana. — bireport

Vietnam, China renew effort in fishing cooperation

HANOI, 26 Feb.—Vietnam and China signed a document on fishing in the South China Sea, official media said on Wednesday, renewing efforts to resolve thorny territorial issues between neighbours that have had testy ties for centuries.

The Vietnam News daily said China’s Deputy Agriculture Minister Qi Jingfa and Vietnam’s Deputy Fisheries Minister Nguyen Ngo joined in the signing of a fishing cooperation agreement.

The two signed a fishing agreement in 2000, but in August, 2002 Beijing stirred angry protest from Hanoi by imposing a ban on fishing in the South China Sea, over which Vietnam claims sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

Nine missing as Cargo ship capsizes off south China

GUANGZHOU, 26 Feb.—One person was rescued and nine are missing after a cargo ship capsized off southern China’s Guangdong Province, the Guangdong Maritime Bureau announced Tuesday.

The search for other crew members was continuing, bureau officials said.

The cargo ship, carrying 900 tons of plastics, belonged to a shipping company based east China’s Zhejiang Province. It was heading for Kaiping City, Guangdong, from Shanghai.

The ship was hit by strong winds, which displaced its cargo. It lost balance and turned over early on Monday, said the survivor, whose name was not disclosed.

China to showcase achievements by overseas-trained Chinese

BEIJING, 26 Feb.—China plans to hold its largest ever exhibition highlighting the achievements made by Chinese people trained overseas from 29 February to 2 March in Beijing, the Ministry of Personnel said Tuesday.

The exhibition will feature 1,100 achievements made by those who returned to China from their overseas study since 1978, when China began to open up to the outside world and took to the path of sweeping economic reform.

The achievements involve technological breakthroughs in aviation, space, information technology, biological pharmaceuticals, medical appliances, new energy and new materials.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Ministry of Personnel in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as the Publicity Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

A total of 700,200 Chinese studied in more than 100 countries and regions between 1978 and 2003, and 1,782,800 of them have returned home after graduation. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq prepares to regain control of poorly-run healthcare system

BAGHDAD, 26 Feb.—Iraq will regain control of its healthcare system in the coming weeks in one of the first steps by the US-led forces to hand back power to the local authorities, officials said.

The move will leave the health ministry with its hands full as it aims to restore the long-decaying medical facilities by the end of 2005 and to halve child death rates, which jumped in the 1990s due to the combination of UN-imposed trade sanctions and neglect under Saddam Hussein.

Adding to the challenge is the ministry’s restructuring plans lack sufficient funds, with just 950 million dollars earmarked for health in the 2004 budget, said Iraq’s interim health minister, Khudair Abbas.

“I wish I could have two billion dollars,” he told AFP after a news conference at the recently reopened ministry.

Abbas noted, however, that the amount was a vast improvement on the money spent on healthcare under Saddam, which came to just 16 million dollars in 2002.

The US-led coalition aims to transfer power in Iraq to a transitional government on June 30, a task that requires the physical handover of authority and management of 25 ministries.

“It just so happens that the ministry of health is out in front and will probably be one of the first ministries that will move that way,” said James Haveman, senior advisor to the health ministry for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

Asked when the actual transfer will take place, Haveman told the news conference: “I think we will see some activity in March and that gives us the chance to get the technical assist ance in place in April.”

The CPA has already cut its presence of senior advisors on the ground to less than 15 people from 37 last June and will continue to take a backseat role in future, offering help on logistical matters such as training.

UN forum on sustainable development opens in HK

HONG KONG, 26 Feb.—More than 300 overseas, Mainland and Hong Kong participants gathered here Wednesday to discuss how to take forward commitments made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The two-day United Nations Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum, “Sustainability for Economic and Social Needs” and “Sustainable Cities Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum”, was jointly convened by the Chinese government and the United Nations under-secretary-general for Economic and Social Affairs Antonio Ocampo addressed the opening of the forum.

In his opening remarks at the recently refurbished United Nations Undersecretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, Antonio Ocampo addressed the opening of the forum.

Keynote addresses will focus on the questions of "L eadership for Sustainable Development" and "Sustainable Cities of the Future". The topic-related sessions will focus on the following areas: economic growth and job creation; infrastructure for a better quality of life; planning for a better environment for urban housing and land use; meeting basic social needs; improving mobility; and tourism and cultural heritage.

The forum is jointly convened by the Chinese government and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and hosted by the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. — MNA/Xinhua

An artist impression of the Rosetta orbiter and lander Rosetta, a million-dollar comet-chasing spacecraft, is due to be launched on 26 Feb, 2004 from ESA’s space base in Kourou, French Guiana. — bireport

Katharine Gun, a former Mandarin translator with Britain’s Government Communications Headquarters who leaked a confidential memo from the United States asking Britain to spy on UN Security Council delegations before the Iraq war, is seen during a news conference in London on 25 Feb. 2004. The case against her for breaching the official secrets act collapsed at the Central Criminal Court. — Internet

Special Administrative Region of Economic and Social Affairs and hosted by the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. — MNA/Xinhua
A land with various species of birds

Chit Naing (Psychology)

About four years ago, a five-member delegation of writers from the People’s Republic of China paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar. Under the sponsorship of Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, the delegation visited Bagan, Mandalay and Inlay regions. Before their return home, the Ministry of Information hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation at one of the grand hotels in Yangon.

Members of the delegation repeatedly expressed their thanks for bringing them to interesting and beautiful places in Myanmar and having a chance to call on the minister who himself was present at the dinner. The minister said, on the occasion, that they had a lot of facts to be written about the beauty of Myanmar. The writers replied eagerly that they had a lot and would put on record the beauty of Myanmar. I was pleased to know that.

During the dinner, I had a chat with a lady writer of the delegation who was sitting next to me. She was from Shanghái. They called Myanmar Myantint. She said that previously, she did not know well about Myantint that she got informed about one year in advance about the visit to Myanmar and thus she studied books on Myantint; that although she found some historical facts and records written in Chinese, there were very few contemporary records of events on Myanmar; and thus she had to ask other writers who had returned from Myanmar.

“Did the writers who had returned from Myanmar like their visits?”, I asked.

“Of course, they did”, she replied.

“What did they like best?”

“The people of Myanmar. They said that the people were very adorable and the ones who had the heart of gold with great hospitality.”

“Go on.”

“They also liked the weather of Myanmar.”

“Did they say it was hot in Bagan and Mandalay?”

“They made their trip in winter and the weather was not too hot, they said.”

“And then?”

“They said the woods of Myanmar were amazing for them.”

“Really?”

“Yes, of course, the country, naturally, is very beautiful, they said”

“Glad to hear that, and…”

“You may think that I lack general knowledge but I will tell you.”

“I am all ears!”

“The writers who have returned from Myantint said that there were so many birds in Myanmar.”

“Carry on.”

“They said that they had found flocks of dove, sparrow, crow, and crow. Moreover, they also said they had seen birds such as common myna, crane, magpie robin, duck, brahamniny duck, common moorhen, bulbul, white-throated babbler, partridge, quail, peacock and parrot and sounds of birds could be heard easily.”

“I see!”

“I thought they were just boasting and I did not believe what they said. First, I thought that it was impossible that writers from a vast country like China found it amazing to see various kinds of birds in Myantint.”

“Now you are in Myanmar. What’s your opinion?”

“According to my general knowledge I have to admit that I was wrong.”

“Really?”

“Yes, there are so many birds in Myanmar, in urban areas, in rural areas, in farmland and lakes along the road. It is not a dream.”

“What is the difference?”

“In my country, it is very rare to hear the sound of a crow, common myna, cuckoo and dove. Here we can hear the voice of various kinds of sparrows through the window of the hotel at the start of the day. It is a sweet sound.”

Only after hearing the words of the Chinese lady writer, I came to aware of the songs of various kinds of birds in our country. I am in my fifties, I come to realize the existence of natural beauty in abundance in our country.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
Remarkable development...

(from page 16)

reported on short-term plans for development of the na-
tion implemented by the Government, exceeding the tar-
gets of the first four-year plan and the second five-year
plan, the third five-year plan being implemented, cent
per cent accomplishment of the plans in all the sectors in
the region; Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut,
on hydropower projects including Shweli Hydropower
Project for extended production of electricity during the period of the third five-year plan; and Minister for Home
Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, on the need for service person-
nel to make efforts with goodwill for the emergence of
a fine and strong administrative machinery in the interest
of respective regions and the people, the importance of
taking charge of duties in accord with the existing rules
and regulations, and accomplishment of drug elimination
tasks.

Assessing the reports, the Secretary-1 said that Shan
State (North) has enjoyed cumulative economic progress
year by year with increasing number of cultivable acres
and boosting per acre yield of crops.

Introducing high-yield hybrid paddy, the region is
raising the rate of its rice sufficiency. Endeavours are to
be exerted ensure boosting per acre yield of crops with
better income and less expenses as well as multiple crop-
ing with the use of farm machinery and implements, he
noted.

The region has achieved success in the agricultural
sector and border trade. Border trade businesses are there-
fore to be carried out effectively in conformity with the
rules and regulations, he said.

He stressed the need of exact data and figures of
agricultural produce.

At the same time, the region has made progress in
transport, education and health sectors, catching up with
other States and Divisions. In the process, continuous
efforts are to be made not to lag behind in development
momentum of other States and Divisions. Only when all
States and Divisions and national races develop, will the
nation be a peaceful and developed one, he said.

National brethren have been living together in unity
in respective States and Divisions as well as in the Un-
ion. Likewise, Shan, Palaung, Wa, Kokang, Kachin and
Bamar national races and so on and so forth live together
in unity in Shan State (North). Thus, continuous efforts
are to be made with might and main with the spirit of
national solidarity and Union Spirit for regional and
national development, he remarked.

Then, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at
the venue and delivered an address. In his address, Vice-
Senior General Maung Aye said that basically peace
and stability are to be restored in all parts of the nation
along with a strong economy in building up a peaceful
and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. That is why
the Government has been implementing plans and
projects for restoration of peace and tranquillity in the
entire nation including border areas and for enabling the
nation to be strong economically, he added.

Thanks to the special development regions project,
rural development tasks and border areas development
projects, all parts of the nation has enjoyed remarkable
progress in a short time. It needs to ensure development
of 14 States and Divisions for development of the na-
tion, and it also needs to ensure equitable development
of all districts and towns for development of the
States and Divisions, he noted.

In the past, in Shan State, only Taunggyi Region
where the office of Shan State is based and its environs
enjoyed development. But, now the Government has
striven for development of the entire Shan State after
designating four development regions — Taunggyi,
Lashio, Kengtung and Panglong. As a result, the entire
Shan State including border areas has developed signifi-
cantly, he said.

The remarkable development of the entire nation is
due to the combined and harmonious efforts of the Gov-
ernment and the people, he noted. In conclusion, Vice-
Senior General Maung Aye called on departmental of-
ficials at all levels to make field tours down to the grass-
roots level in carrying out future tasks, organizing the
cooperation of the entire people. After the meeting, Vice-
Senior General Maung Aye had a cordial conversation
with those present.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left
Lashio by helicopter for Laukkai, where they were
welcomed by Commander of Regional Control Com-
mand (Laukkai) Brig-Gen Than Win, local authorities,
Leader of Shan State (North) Special Region-1 U Phon
Kyar Shin and officials.

At the meeting between Vice-Senior General Maung
Aye and Kokang ethnic groups at the parlour of the
command, U Phon Kyar Shin reported on progress of
Kokang region, conditions of basic needs of local peo-
ple, and endeavours for elimination of narcotic drugs in
the region. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that
the Government has established Ministry for Progress
of Border Areas and National Races and Development
Affairs for effective and thorough implementation of
development projects in border areas including Kokang
region. The Government is always fulfilling all the re-
quirements for raising living standard of local brethren
in Kokang region, he said.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented gifts
to U Phon Kyar Shin and officials and cordially greeted
them. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen
Khin Maung also presented seeds of vegetables to them.

At the same venue, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye
and party also met with local authorities, departmental
personnel, members of the USDA and social organiza-
tions, and families of Tatmadaw members of Laukkai
Station. On the occasion, Chairman of Laukkai District
Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Zaw re-
ported on area and sawn acreage of the region, cultiva-
tion of monsoon paddy, corn and sugarcane as major
crops, growing of perennial crops, measures being taken
for ensuring local food sufficiency, livestock breeding,
drug elimination and better transport.

In response to the report, the Secretary-1 pointed out
the need of service personnel, Tatmadaw members and
local people to make combined efforts with Union Spirit
for development of Kokang region, local food sufficiency
fully utilizing water and land resources, and forging the
friendly relations with the neighbouring country.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that Laukkai
region was notorious for narcotic drugs in the past. But,
now national race leaders, hand in hand with the State,
have been making efforts for regional development, sta-
bility and peace and elimination of narcotic drugs in the
region.

So, departmental personnel in Kokang region are
responsible for development of the region. In conclu-
sion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said the Govern-
ment will render necessary assistance to the region as
far as it can for regional development. In the process,
Tatmadaw members and service personnel are to join
hands with local residents in carrying out regional de-
velopment tasks. After the meeting, Vice-Senior Gen-
el Maung Aye cordially greeted those present.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and
party helicoptered to Konegyan. There they also held a
meeting at local regiment with departmental officials
and families of Tatmadaw members. Vice-Senior General
Maung Aye fulfilled the requirements of township’s
education and health sectors, calling for collective ef-
forts for development of the township.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and entourage ar-
rive back here by air via Lashio in the evening.
YANGON, 26 Feb — To mark the mass sports activities on December for 2003, the prize presentation ceremony was held this morning at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township with an opening address by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

After the opening address, the minister presented shields to Bago, Mandalay and Sagaing divisions which managed to secure first, second and third prizes in state/division level sports activities.

At township level sports activities, first, second and third prizes were given away to Lashio Township in Shan State (North), Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon Division and Sittway Township in Rakhine State by Col Maung Pa. Afterwards, Brig-Gen Aung Thein and Deputy Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win awarded the winners in short story contest and article contest.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents first prize to U Soe Min (Yankin Soe Min) in 2003 mass sports activities colour photo contest. — MNA

Prizes awarded for mass sports activities

YANGON, 26 Feb — The prize presentation of the National Tennis Championship 2004, organized by Myanmar Olympic Committee, was held at Thurgeonya Tennis Plaza in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this evening, attended by Chair of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Also present were Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung, President of MTF U Zaw Zaw, Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung, President of MTF U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) and fans.

Before the prize presentation ceremony, final match of the men’s doubles open event was held.

At 5 pm, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented first and second prizes to Zaw Zaw Latt and Tu Maw and joint third prize to Min Min and Mahn Lyen Sein in the men’s singles open event and first, second and third prizes to Amy Tun, Kyi Mya Zaw and Luang Thang Vee in the women’s singles open event respectively.

MTF President U Zaw Zaw presented first and second prizes to Zaw Zaw Latt & Tu Maw, Khin Maung Win & Thet Lwin in the men’s doubles event and joint third prize to Kyaw San Win & Min Min and Aye Tun & Aung Moe. Later, the National Championship Trophy was presented to Zaw Zaw Latt.

MTF President U Zaw Zaw, Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of SPED and officials presented prizes to respective winners.

MTF President U Zaw Zaw gave away first and second prizes to Zaw Zaw Latt & Tu Maw, Khin Maung Win & Thet Lwin in the men’s doubles event and joint third prize to Kyaw San Win & Min Min and Aye Tun & Aung Moe. Later, the National Championship Trophy was presented to Zaw Zaw Latt.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and local people in Lashio on 23-2-2004. (News on page 16) — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and local people in Lashio on 23-2-2004. (News on page 16) — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greets local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and local people in Lashio on 23-2-2004. (News on page 16) — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially converses with departmental personnel and Tatmadawmen in Kongyan. (News on page 16) — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local people at the hall in Lashio. (News on page 16) — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local people at the hall in Lashio. (News on page 16) — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations, Tatmadawmen and local people at the hall of Regional Control Command (Laukkai). (News on page 16) — MNA

Zaw Zaw Latt wins National Tennis Championship Trophy

YANGON, 26 Feb — The prize presentation of the National Tennis Championship 2004, organized by Myanmar Olympic Committee, was held at Thurgeonya Tennis Plaza in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this evening, attended by Chair of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Also present were Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung, President of MTF U Zaw Zaw, Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung, President of MTF U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) and fans.

Before the prize presentation ceremony, final match of the men’s doubles open event was held.

At 5 pm, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented first and second prizes to Zaw Zaw Latt and Tu Maw and joint third prize to Min Min and Mahn Lyen Sein in the men’s singles open event and first, second and third prizes to Amy Tun, Kyi Mya Zaw and Luang Thang Vee in the women’s singles open event respectively.

MTF President U Zaw Zaw, Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of SPED and officials presented prizes to respective winners.

Next, MTF President U Zaw Zaw gave away first and second prizes to Zaw Zaw Latt & Tu Maw, Khin Maung Win & Thet Lwin in the men’s doubles event and joint third prize to Kyaw San Win & Min Min and Aye Tun & Aung Moe. Later, the National Championship Trophy was presented to Zaw Zaw Latt.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents first prize to U Soe Min (Yankin Soe Min) in 2003 mass sports activities colour photo contest. — MNA
WHO terms diseases as global health problem

Geneva, 26 Feb — Oral diseases such as dental caries, periodontitis (gum disease) and oral and pharyngeal cancers are a global health problem in both industrialized and increasingly in developing countries, especially among poorer communities, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Tuesday. Announcing the findings of the World Oral Health Report, the WHO said that an estimated five billion people worldwide had experienced dental caries. "Worldwide, losing teeth are seen as a natural consequence of ageing, but it is in fact preventable," said Catherine Le Gales-Camus, WHO’s Assistant-Director-General, Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health. The impact of oral diseases in pain, suffering, impaired function and reduced quality of life, is both extensive and expensive, the report said. Treatment is estimated to account for between 5 per cent to 10 per cent of health costs in industrialized countries, and is beyond the resources of many developing countries, it said. "In many developing countries, access to oral health care is limited and teeth are often left untreated, or extracted," said Poul Erik Petersen, co-ordinator of WHO’s Global Oral Health Programme. The report also states that, globally, most children show signs of gingivitis (bleeding gums) and among adults, the initial stages of periodontal disease are prevalent. Smoking, smoking tobacco, chewing betel, and alcohol use, are all risk factors to the prevalence of oral cancer, which has been the eighth most common cancer of men worldwide, it said. — MNA/Xinhua

Divisional Police Force meets

Yangon, 26 Feb — Yangon Division Police Force held the third four-monthly meeting at its headquarters in Kyauktada Township, Yangon, this morning with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. He said stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and the rule of law play a key role in building a modern and developed nation or a discipline-flourishing nation. The Yangon Division Police Force will have to cooperate with the local authorities and social organizations to get information about the criminal plots in advance. There was a significant decrease in the number of crimes in the division in 2003. Collective efforts are required to make Yangon Division, a model in ensuring security and the rule of law, and reducing the number of crimes. Police of the other branches are required to render cooperation to traffic police to reduce traffic accidents. Police members should take part in making Yangon a modern and pleasant city. They should not be a burden for the people, but should try to win the trust of the people.

Division Judge U Aung Ngwe and Division Law Officer U Kyaw Moe Naing explained about court and legal affairs. Division Police Commander Police Col Aung Daing explained the instructions given by the Secretary of the State Peace and Development Council, the Home Affairs Minister, the Deputy Home Affairs Minister and the MPP Director-General. Police officers of various divisions also took part in the discussions. Police Col Aung Daing made the concluding remarks. — MNA

Heavy machinery at work at the construction site of Shweli hydro-electric power plant project in Namhkam Township on 22-2-2004. (News on page 1) — MNA

Commerce Minister meets with industrialists

Yangon, 26 Feb — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone who is in-charge of South Okkala Industrial Zone met with industrialists at the Dhammayon on 2nd Street, Ward 8, South Okkala Township, this afternoon. Also present were Director-General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Arnt Kyaw, Chairman of the Management Committee of the industrial zone U Bo Hsaik and industrialists.

Delivering a speech on the occasion, the minister emphasized the importance of innovative measures for production of import-substitute parts of machines, jeeps, wagons, two-tonne trucks and buses. He called on the industrialists to be united in maintaining fine traditions of the industrial zone.

The director-general reported on necessary assistance provided by the department for industrial zones, and the chairman of the management committee, on products of the industrial zone and assembling automobiles. It was followed by a general round of discussions.

The minister gave closing remarks. — MNA
Commander inspects hostels of Kyansitha, Myawady Columns

YANGON, 26 Feb—Chairman of Management Committee for Observation of 50th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe visited this morning inspected camps of parade columns which will participate in the 50th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At 10 am, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe arrived at Myoma Ground where Kyansitha and Myawady columns were practising drills. The Commander was welcomed by Brig-Gen Min Thein Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tin Hto and Col Myat Thu of No 11 LID, Kyansitha Column Commander Col Thein Dan, Myawady Column Commander Col Kan Nyan and officials. After inspecting the drills practice, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions to officers and other ranks of the columns, saying that emphasis is to be laid on high quality practising of drill, training tasks and following of disciplines. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe then inspected hostels, messes, kitchens, ration stores, welfare shops of the two columns, documentary photos and publications, book stalls and clinics.

Afterwards, the commander urged all Thanadawmen of the columns to abide by disciplines.—MNA

Hu Jintao holds talks with Surinamese President

BRUSSELS, 26 Feb.—Chinese President Hu Jintao Tuesday suggested that China and Surinam should continue high-profile exchanges, deepen bilateral economic cooperation, strengthen exchange on science and education, culture, health and human resources, and increase coordination in dealing with international affairs.

Hu made the remarks in talks here with Suriname President Ronald Ronald Venetiaan.

Venetiaan said he fully agreed with Hu’s suggestion. He said his country is willing to implement current cooperation projects and explore new modes of cooperation with the Chinese side.

The two presidents extensively exchanged views on bilateral relations, international and regional issues and reached consensus.

Hu said since the establishment of diplomatic relations 28 years ago, the bilateral relations have been continuously developed.

The two sides greatly enhanced trade and economic and other cooperation, and supported each other in international affairs.

Hu said China greatly valued and thanked Surinam for its adherence to the “one-China” policy and for not developing official ties with Taiwan.

Venetiaan expressed his gratitude for the Chinese Government’s attaching great importance to cultivating friendship and cooperation with Surinam.

He reiterated that his government would further stick to the “one-China” policy and always support China’s endeavors in realizing peaceful reunification.

Hu and Venetiaan also exchanged views on the current situation of the Caribbean region and the relation- ship between China and the region.

After the talks, the two sides signed three documents, including the economic and technological co-op- eration agreement.—MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania supports use of English in higher schools teaching

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 26 Feb.—The Tanzanian Gover- nment has reiterated its support for using English as a medium of instruction in higher learning institutions.

The government uses both languages, Kiwanza and English as an official language, therefore could not decide to master both, it said.

He, however, stressed that the government stand is not aimed at undermining the role of Kiwahali in the Tan- zaanian society, saying using English as a teaching lan- guage in colleges and uni- versities is for the country’s good.

The argument that the use of Kiwahali in higher learning institutions will better boost the standard of edu- cation in the country does not hold water, Mungai said. According to the 1995 National Education and Training Policy, Kiwahali and English are passed as languages of instruction in primary and secondary schools. — MNA/Xinhua

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects welfare shop of Myawady Column.—MNA

Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya to make decisions on power interconnector

LUSAKA, 26 Feb.—The Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya power interconnector has reached a stage at which important decisions have to be made regarding the im- plementation, financing strategies and reaffirming the implementation sched- ule earlier adopted by the three governments, it was reported on Wednesday.

Zambian Energy Min- ister George Mpombo was quoted as saying here dur- ing a meeting of three min- isters for energy, the three countries have shown tre- mendous enthusiasm for the project.

He added that it was necessary to identify funding gaps in the prepara- tory stages of the project, attract potential investors and financiers in the develop- ment of the power interconnector. The Zam- bian minister pointed out that it was for this reason that financial institutions, donors and other organizations had been invited to the meeting so that the project could be marketed to them.

In September last year, officials from the three countries met in Zambia and signed an inter-governmental memorandum of understand- ing in which they com- mitted themselves to the ful- fillment of the project. — MNA/Xinhua
The new outbreak, known as MyDoom, emerged late last week and has been gathering steam ever since. The virus is programmed to infect personal computers and use them to unleash a crippling digital barrage known as a denial-of-service attack on select websites belonging to Microsoft Corp. and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

The attacks failed to bring down the sites, though access to the web site for the RIAA was hampered slightly on Wednesday, security firms reported. The RIAA, a lobbying group for the music industry, has drawn the ire of computer users since it began suing American online song swappers last year.

While it was not spreading as fast as its MyDoom predecessors nor as rapidly as last week’s Netsky B outbreak, MyDoom F is considered a growing risk as it deletes random Microsoft Word and Excel files, plus photos and movies stored on an infected computer.

“MyDoom F has been picking up pace since Monday and Tuesday,” said Mikko Hypponen, manager of Finnish anti-virus research firm F-Secure. “The disturbing thing is that it has a destructive payload. We haven’t seen a destructive virus like this in a while,” he said. Computer viruses rarely destroy files these days. They have instead evolved over the years to turn unsecured computers into “zombie” machines capable of carrying out the virus writer’s commands.

Typically, this army of commandeered machines is used to send out torrents of email spam messages, unleash digital attacks on targeted websites and, in some cases, host web sites that sell everything from vitamins to pornography.

---

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

NOTICE is hereby given that BANCO BILBAO VIZCAYA ARGENTARIA, S.A., a company organized under the laws of Spain and having its principal office at Plaza San Nicolas, 4, 48005 Bilbao, Espana is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:-

**BBVA**

(Reg: No. IV/1892/2003)

The above trademark is in respect of:

“Banking services, insurance services, financial, monetary and real estate services.”

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win, B.Com., B.I. for BANCO BILBAO VIZCAYA ARGENTARIA, S.A., P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon. Phone: 372416

Dated: 27th February 2004

---

**Survey says Cybercrime cost huge losses for British business**

London, 26 Feb — British companies lost hundreds of millions of pounds in Cybercrime attacks in 2003 and face what specialists described as a more severe wave of Internet attacks this year, according to a survey released by British police Tuesday.

In a police survey of 201 of Britain’s largest companies by the country’s National Hi-Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU), 83 per cent said they had experienced some form of cybercrime in 2003.

The cocaine seized last year accounted for 60 per cent of the total in the entire European Union, said the government.

These figures showed that Spain has become the main transit country for drugs to the European Union.

Police also seized some 800,000 pills of ecstasy.

Police reports said heroin did not appear in several big anti-drug trafficking operations. In 1999, some 1,170 kilos of heroin was seized, but the seizure last year decreased to only 273 kilos.

Police also arrested some 16,189 people connected to drugs dealing in 2003 while the number for 2002 was 16,293.

---

**ParmaMalaL Mexico recovers as accounts released**

Mexico City, 26 Feb — The Mexican arm of Italy’s insolvent food group Parmalat said on Tuesday it was able to free up frozen accounts and business was expected to return to near normal levels in a few days.

US-based financial giant Citigroup, via its Mexican arm Banamex, had froze the accounts of Parmalat de Mexico a few days ago, putting a cash crunch on the company and threatening its future in the country.

But the unit said on Tuesday it negotiated release of the accounts.

Parmalat Mexico starts now a reorganization period that will allow it to resume its commercial operations gradually, the company said in a statement.

Parmalat had missed payments to all 40 of its local dairy farm suppliers recently, many of which stopped supplying its Mexican plant, located in an industrial hub in the western state of Jalisco.

As a result, its daily supply of milk dropped to 50,000 litres a day from an average of 200,000 litres a day which the company was having on average before the crisis.

---

**Spain seized record amount of drugs in 2003**

Madrid, 26 Feb — Spain’s coast guard has seized a record amount of drugs last year, Madrid government ministers said Tuesday.

Spanish authorities said they had seized 738 tons of hashish and 45 tons of cocaine in 2003, breaking the record in history and tripling the seizure in 2002, the government announced on Tuesday.

The cocaine seized last year accounted for 60 per cent of the total in the entire European Union, said the government.

These figures showed that Spain has become the main transit country for drugs to the European Union.

Police also seized some 800,000 pills of ecstasy.

Police reports said heroin did not appear in several big anti-drug trafficking operations. In 1999, some 1,170 kilos of heroin was seized, but the seizure last year decreased to only 273 kilos.

Police also arrested some 16,189 people connected to drugs dealing in 2003 while the number for 2002 was 16,293.

---

**Latest MyDoom outbreak spreading, deletes files**

London, 26 Feb — Security experts issued fresh alerts over a new, file-deleting version of the MyDoom email worm that was targeting computer users with greater ferocity on Wednesday.

The new outbreak, known as MyDoom F, emerged late last week and has been gathering steam ever since.

The virus is programmed to infect personal computers and use them to unleash a crippling digital barrage known as a denial-of-service attack on select websites belonging to Microsoft Corp. and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

The attacks failed to bring down the sites, though access to the web site for the RIAA was hampered slightly on Wednesday, security firms reported. The RIAA, a lobbying group for the music industry, has drawn the ire of computer users since it began suing American online song swappers last year.

While it was not spreading as fast as its MyDoom predecessors nor as rapidly as last week’s Netsky B outbreak, MyDoom F is considered a growing risk as it deletes random Microsoft Word and Excel files, plus photos and movies stored on an infected computer.

“MyDoom F has been picking up pace since Monday and Tuesday,” said Mikko Hypponen, manager of Finnish anti-virus research firm F-Secure. “The disturbing thing is that it has a destructive payload. We haven’t seen a destructive virus like this in a while,” he said. Computer viruses rarely destroy files these days. They have instead evolved over the years to turn unsecured computers into “zombie” machines capable of carrying out the virus writer’s commands.

Typically, this army of commandeered machines is used to send out torrents of email spam messages, unleash digital attacks on targeted websites and, in some cases, host web sites that sell everything from vitamins to pornography.

---

**Colombia destroys suspected drug plane in Amazon**

Bogota (Colombia), 26 Feb — Colombian warplanes destroyed a twin-engine aircraft suspected of carrying drugs and arms from Brazil on Tuesday after it landed at a clandestine airstrip in rebel-held jungle, officials said.

The crew of the plane ignored orders to land at a military base after it was intercepted flying over thick Amazon jungle and then chased it to the clandestine strip.

It was not possible to know if any crew member was killed in the attack but a military video released to journalists showed two Air Force planes machine-gunning a huddling hangar before it caught fire and exploded.

---

**Visitors stand in front of a mock-up of the Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter on static display at the Asian Aerospace airshow, on 25 Feb, 2004 in Singapore. The Asian Aerospace, one of Asia’s major trade fairs, expected 750 exhibitors of aerospace products from 33 countries and 23,000 trade visitors.**

---
WHO says, 1% of adult Russians are HIV positive

MOSCOW, 26 Feb — One per cent of Russia’s adult population is infected with HIV, special representative for the World Health Organization’s Director-General in Russia Mikko Vienonen said Tuesday. Vienonen told a Press conference in Moscow that about 265,000 cases of HIV have been registered in Russia at present, but the actual number of HIV carriers can only be measured approximately. Russia’s “Federal Centre on AIDS Prevention” says the actual number of HIV cases surpassed the estimate by three or four times, and reaches one million, Vienonen was quoted by Interfax as saying.

MNANews

Study shows epilepsy drug effective against migraines

CHICAGO, 26 Feb — An anti-epilepsy drug that is now being tested for uses from alcoholism to weight loss can curtail the number of headaches experienced by migraine sufferers, a study said on Tuesday.

Topiramate, which is produced by Johnson & Johnson under the name Topamax, not only cut the number of days that migraine sufferers developed debilitating headaches but also reduced their reliance on pain relievers such as aspirin.

The study, which was funded by the drug maker, found daily dosages of 100 to 200 milligrams of Topiramate showed statistically significant efficacy in migraine prevention within the first month of treatment and continued to work through the six-month study, wrote study author Jan Lewis Brandes of the Nashville Neuroscience Group in Nashville, Tennessee.

Roughly 11 per cent of Americans suffer migraines, and researchers have been unable to define a cause or find a cure.

However, Topamax has previously been found to produce unwanted side effects, some of which were experienced by participants in the latest study that caused a few of them to drop out. The side effects listed were paresthesia, a tingling or pricking sensation of the skin, fatigue, weight loss, diarrhea, nausea and difficulty with memory.

Writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Brandes concluded, “Topiramate appeared to be safe and had an acceptable tolerability profile.”

MNANews

NASA OKs spacewalk for “ISS” astronauts

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 26 Feb — NASA has overcome initial safety concerns and approved a spacewalk that will leave the orbiting International Space Station empty later this week, the US space agency said on Tuesday.

The two astronauts aboard the station — one American, the other Russian — will work outside for several hours with no one inside to help them should a hatch get stuck, communications drop out, or power fail.

During past Space Station spacewalks, there has always been a crew member inside or a space shuttle docked nearby.

A top space station official told reporters that the US space agency was initially skeptical of Russian plans for the joint spacewalk, known in NASA parlance as an EVA, for extra-vehicular activity.

“We’ve had quite a lot of discussion about this EVA since it was first proposed by our Russian partners. It was met with some skepticism at that time,” said Mike Foale, who will make the spacewalk with his Russian colleague, Alexander Kaleri.

MNANews

Natural disaster deaths rose sevenfold in 2003

FRANKFURT, 26 Feb — Natural disasters caused by extreme weather claimed seven times as many victims in 2003 as in the previous year and the trend is set to continue, the world’s biggest reinsurance company said on Wednesday.

Munch Re said in its annual review of natural catastrophes that earthquakes, heat waves and tornadoes killed 20,000 people during the year, including 40,000 who died in December’s severe earthquake in Iraq. The figure was higher than the 50,000 estimate the company gave in a preliminary report in December, largely because the full effects of the Iranian earthquake were not yet known.

Then, a Munich Re spokesman said, “After three years of relative calm, it’s more than 25 per cent higher than in 2002.” The report said, saying the five events alone had accounted for about a third of all economic and insured losses.

Apart from the Iranian earthquake, a heat wave that hit central and southern Europe in the summer claimed 20,000 lives, and an earthquake off:us, largely stopped and Richter Scale killed 2,200 in Algeria in May, the report said. The most expensive disasters for insurers, however, were in the United States, where tornadoes battered the Midwest in May and a heat wave caused drought and forest fires in California in October and November, destroying thousands of homes.

The Californian fires cost the insurance industry some two billion US dollars, Munich Re said, while a massive hailstorm in Texas during the tornadoes “will go down in US insurance history” after generating insured losses of more than one billion US dollars.

In total, insured losses were 40 per cent higher than in 2002 at 16 billion US dollars, said Munich Re, which insures insurance companies for the risks from their policies. Total economic losses rose 18 per cent to 65 billion US dollars.

Munch Re said global warming would cause increasing economic damage in the future. In central Europe alone, an expected two-degree Celsius increase in temperatures by the middle of the century would cause more heat waves and floods.

MNANews

Turkmen President orders more video surveillance

ASHGABAT, 26 Feb — Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov has ordered the government to intensify video surveillance of his isolated Central Asian nation.

“We should know if a fly quietly buzzes past,” Niyazov said. “This is not due to a lack of trust, but to avoid disorder.”

Conscript soldiers have long been posted on most street corners in the capital Ashgabat and video cameras were installed on main streets.

MNANews

Don’t smoke
**Arsenal stay on treble trail with 3-2 win at Celta Vigo**

**Celta Vigo** (Spain), 26 Feb — Arsenal took a giant step towards the quarter-finals of the Champions League when they ended their Spanish jinx by winning 3-2 at Celta Vigo on Tuesday.

Two goals from their Brazilian midfielder Edu, the second a wonderfully struck curling shot from the edge of the area, and a masterfully worked winner from Robert Pires secured Arsenal, with Patrick Vieira, Edu and Kolo Toure dominating the opposition, entrance to the knockout round, first leg match on Tuesday.

With Arsenal unbeaten in the Premier League this season it is hard to imagine a quarter-final trip to Manchester United in their FA Cup fifth-round replay on Tuesday and second leg on March 10. The match was played amid tight security following a bomb blast in the Moscow metro this month that killed at least 39 people.

"It's good we scored an away goal but I must admit Lokomotiv played very well and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time but the Nigerian fired well wide with Roma at his mercy.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.

"Nevertheless, we played well as a team and aside from set pieces Monaco rarely threatened our goal," said Obiorah's miss coupled with Monaco's two-goal lead two minutes from time. But Bakos' blunder — not his first season — undid all the hard work.

"It's a pity that we wasted so many scoring chances. Lokomotiv, Ashvetia and Obiorah, just those three alone had several chances to put the game away," he added.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Friday, 27 February, 2004  15

R  489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 2230/Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon, Cable Newslight, PO Box No.43. Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).
Remarkable development brought about in entire nation, due to combined efforts of the Government and the people

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye holds talks on regional development with departmental officials in Lashio

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets Kokang national race leaders at the hall of Regional Control Command (Laukkai).— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner to mark 49th Nurses Conference

Yangon, 26 Feb—Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner to mark the 49th Nurses Conference at the hall of Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Road, here, at 6.30 pm today.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-Chairmen of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, members of NHC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, chairmen of social organizations, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, the President of Myanmar Nurses Association and CEC members, conference delegates and guests.

Prior to the meeting, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win and party met with departmental personnel at the same venue. On the occasion, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on area and location of Shan State (North), local national races living in unity, conditions of security, prevalence of law and order and peace and stability, economic progress of the region, utilization of land, food sufficiency, production of hybrid paddy, transport, construction projects including Shweli Hydropower Project being implemented, education, and health sectors, and measures being taken for elimination of narcotic drugs.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha (See page 8)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents second research paper prize to Daw Mar Mar Thi of Yangon Division.— MNA

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented first, second and third prizes to Daw Cho Cho Mar of Mon State, Daw Mar Mar Thi of Yangon Division and Daw Wa Wa Aung of Magway Division in the presentation of research papers.

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win presented first, second and third prizes to Ma Thuza Mon of Mon State, Ma Kay Zin Oo of Kayin State and Ma Khong Nan of Kachin State in the extempore talks contest.

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein gave away consolation prizes of the paper to Daw Khin Thein of Mandalay Division, Daw Naw Zin Than of Kayin State and Daw Mya Htwe Yi of Rakhine State, and consolation prizes to Ma Thuzar Lin of Magway Division, Ma Anita of Kayah State and Ma Toe Toe Tun of Kachin State in the extempore talks contest.

President of the association Daw E Babaro presented certificates of honour and gifts to Chairman of Myanmar Music Association Accordion U Ohn Kyaw who contributed to fund-raising activity of the association and MAC (Dumex) Co Nutrient Manager Dr Beauty Kyi who provided assistance to holding of the conference.

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win presents first prize to Ma Thuza Mon of Mon State in the extempore talks contest.— MNA

MNA