The Peasant Day message of the State Peace and Development Council
Chairman Senior General Than Shwe

(See page 7)

Pyigymandaing region will meet with success if five rural development tasks are carried out with might and main
Senior General Than Shwe inspects regional development in Taninthayi Division

Volume XI, Number 321                                           12th Waxing of Tabu昂 1365 ME                          Tuesday, 2 March, 2004

The new Myanmar and fisheries, and trade sectors, with agriculture as the base.
and the existence of human resources, for well-rounded
ness and success of their farming business.
The State Peace and Development Council has laid
down and implemented the economic objectives to de-
velop the national economy in leaps and bounds for the emer-
gence of a new peaceful, modern and developed
ation that is the national goal.

In doing so, it has been drawing and implementing
the short-term economic plans in accord with the ge-
ographical position and climatic condition of the nation
and the existence of human resources, for well-rounded
development of all economic sectors including indus-
trial, forestry, energy, mining, livestock breeding and
fisheries, and trade sectors, with agriculture as the base.

As the agricultural sector is the nation’s giant pro-
duction industry, the Government has given continuous
priority to its success and development, while utilizing
greater financial power to build dams and canals, sluice
gates, river water pumping stations, and underwater water
tapping projects all over the country, for the facilities are
the main requirement for the sector’s development.

From 1988 to date, the Government has used over K
68.881 million to build 157 dams, irrigating about 2.15
million acres. And plans to reinforce the irrigation sector
with the river water pumping stations has led to emer-
gence of 265 such stations in the entire nation, benefiting
about 300,000 more acres of crops.

The nation sees marked increase in the sown acreage
reaching 39.9 million acres at present, and 150 per cent
rise in cultivation of various crops thanks to the Govern-
ment that takes into account various means to ensure water
supply for crops in the whole nation; reclaims fallow,
virgin and vacant lands and wetlands, applying various
means; launches highland cultivation project to transform
slash-and-burn cultivation to terrace cultivation; and
renders assistance in multi-sectors to grow double and
mixed cropping.

Cent per cent use of the increasing acres of cultivation
fields requires switching to mechanized farming that
harnesses machines in harrowing land and cultivating,
harvesting and threshing crops. In this regard, the Gov-
ernment as well as the private sector are making ar-
rangements to boost manufacturing of farm machinery.

Instead of directly buying of paddy, the nation’s
main crop, from farmers as in the previous years, the
Government has permitted the free rice trade beginning
this year in the interest of the peasants and to help
contribute to the progress of the market-oriented
economy. The introduction of the new rice trade policy
is a means to enhance the work capacity of the peas-
ants and national entrepreneurs in accord with the as-
piration of the people, including farmers, whose busi-
ness directly or indirectly concerns the rice industry.

The Government has already made arrangements to
pay special attention to extending sown acreage, ensur-
ing adequate water supply for crops, and switching from
manual to mechanized farming, while providing chemi-
cal and natural fertilizers, farming techniques and crop
strains, in the interest of the entire national people,
including peasants.

(Bahusaccañ ca, to have immensity of knowledge; this is the way to auspiciousness.)

Established 1914

YANGON, 1 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior

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Circulation 22,714

Honouring the 2004 Peasants Day
Let’s strive for regional development and self-sufficiency

The State Peace and Development Council is taking all the possible measures to create a favourable environment for higher national economic life and for parallel development of various regions across the Union. The Head of State himself occasionally goes on inspection tours of states and divisions, meets with the grassroots and fulfills the needs of the regions concerned.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and party on 26 and 27 February visited Kawthoung and Khamaukkyi in Taninthayi Division, inspecting the development work and giving guidance on all that is necessary. In his meeting with members of the Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and entrepreneurs, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe emphasized that a region could enjoy development in form as well as in essence only if it was self-sufficient and its economy was constantly growing and that it was necessary for each and every region to meet these two requirements.

The Government has been building all the necessary infrastructures for less developed regions including border areas. For example, Kawthoung, which had only three or four hundred households in 1962, has now become a district headquarters. It is developing as all the requirements in education, health, transport and economic sectors have been met.

Kawthoung District has a lot of potential for development as it is rich in water and land resources. It is only necessary to extend sow acreage and use high-yield strains to be self-sufficient in rice. Moreover, kitchen crops and the others suitable for the climate and soil should be grown. Not only that, local people should seriously engage themselves in fish and prawn production and cultivation of oil palm, rubber and other perennials so that their region can become more and more developed.

We would like to call upon responsible personnel at different levels, entrepreneurs and local people in Taninthayi Division as well as those in other states and divisions to translate the guidance of the Head of State into action for self-sufficiency and development of their respective regions.

The fifth State Central Sangha Committee holds its fourth meeting in the Maha Pathana Cave, Kaba Aye. — MNA

The work coordination meeting for organizing the International Women’s Day continues tomorrow. — MNA

Members of Tuesday Club tour northern Shan State. — MNA

The 38-member study group comprising members of Tuesday Club who are making investment in Myanmar and Professor Helen James from Australia and invited guests from the United States, Japan, China, Switzerland and Singapore, led by Col Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence, toured Mong-Ka, Mong Paik, Mong-Pyan of northern Shan State Special Region-2 and Kengtung, Wang Hong, Yang-Ka, Pa-Hlyo Kyeik-Latt, Taclieik in the eastern Shan State on 27 February morning and arrived back yesterday afternoon. During their tour, they studied anti-narcotic drugs and opium substitute crops projects, income generating projects, border trade and development in the regions. Local authorities, officials of the national races and representatives of the UNODC briefed the study group, related to their queries and exchanged views with them.

Tuesday Club visits northern Shan State. — MNA

Organizing International Women’s Day discussed

YANGON, 1 March — The work coordination meeting on organizing the International Women’s Day which falls on 8 March 2004 sponsored by Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs was held at the meeting hall of Social Welfare Department on Kaba Aye Pa-goda Road here this morning. Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the International Women’s Day Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Re settlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Vice-Chairperson of the Leading Committee Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and committee members and members of the work committees and sub-committees.

First, Chairman Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint made a speech. Next, Joint-Secretary-1 of the Leading Committee Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win explained the purpose of holding the meeting. After that, members of the Leading Committee and leaders of the work committees reported on measures taken sector-wise, followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Leading Committee chairman. — MNA

State Central Working Committee of the Sangha meets

YANGON, 1 March — The fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of the Union of Myanmar held its fourth meeting in the Maha Pathana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacaraya Sayadaws, members Saya- daws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thu Maing, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thu Maing, Adviser U Aung Maung, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, deputy directors-general of the two departments, directors, and officials.

On the occasion, the minister supplicated on religious matters to Sayadaws. Next, the report concerning the tasks carried out during the previous year by the SSSMC was read out. The second-day session of the meeting continues tomorrow.

The work coordination meeting for organizing the International Women’s Day in progress. — MNA

The fifth State Central Sangha Committee holds its fourth meeting in the Maha Pathana Cave, Kaba Aye. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

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Iraqi donors’ conference kicks off in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 1 March — A two-day donors’ conference for Iraq’s reconstruction kicked off in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, Saturday morning to discuss proposed donor plans and mechanisms for their financing reached in Madrid last October.

Iraqi Minister of Planning Mahdi Ali Hafidh asked donor countries to disburse funds to finance 700 priority projects worth four billion dollars in the next twelve months. “We hope for the early implementation of decisions taken during the Madrid Conference, in which the donor countries pledged 33 billion dollars for rebuilding Iraq,” he said.

Addressing the opening session of the conference, UAE Minister of Finance and Industry Mohammed Khalifan bin Khbashi stressed his country’s long-standing support for Iraq and international reconstruction efforts.

He noted that all UAE institutions and firms are prepared to contribute to Iraq’s rebuilding efforts. — MNA/Xinhua

Blair under pressure to publish Iraq legal advice

LONDON, 1 March — Two British newspapers reported on Sunday that the country’s top lawyer was pressured to change his advice to Prime Minister Tony Blair on the legality of war in Iraq to say that an invasion would be legally justified.

A spokesman for Blair’s office refused to explicitly deny or confirm the reports and insisted the government would not publish the legal advice.

Details of that advice could have been revealed at a high-profile spying case which was dropped last week by the Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith, the newspapers said.

“The Observer” cited senior sources involved in providing legal advice as saying Goldsmith was “sitting on the fence” but redrafted his advice to allay fears of military chiefs who had wanted assurances the war was legal before committing troops.

The Independent on Sunday said military chiefs of staff argued for a clearer legal basis on which to go to war and Goldsmith complied days before the invasion.

A spokesman for Blair’s Downing Street office declined to answer questions on whether the advice was changed, saying the government did not discuss internal legal matters. “There is a long-standing convention followed by successive governments that legal advice is not disclosed,” he said. “The Attorney-General stands by his legal advice. As he has said many times, the advice was right then and is right now.”

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Defence said the chief of defence staff at the time, Sir Michael Boyce, would have been required to “satisfy himself that any military operation of any scale was legal” and that the war in Iraq was no different.

“As chief of defence staff and as representative of the other chiefs of staff, he was entirely satisfied with the legality,” the spokeswoman said.

Blair, who has been under almost constant pressure since the end of the Iraq conflict over his handling of the war, has consistently refused to publish Goldsmith’s advice to him but insists the Iraq invasion was legal.

Newspapers said on Sunday that advice could have been made public if a case against a former translator for Britain’s intelligence services had gone to trial.

The case was dropped on Wednesday when state prosecutors said they had insufficient evidence to show Katherine Gun broke the Official Secrets Act by leaking a memo which she revealed a US plot to spy on United Nations missions.

Internet

“Lord of the Rings” takes strong lead at Oscars as favourites win

HOLLYWOOD, 1 March — The last episode of “Lord of the Rings” movie trilogy took a resounding lead at the Oscars, as fellow favourites Renée Zellweger and Tim Robbins snatched best supporting actor trophies.

More than halfway through the glittering awards ceremony Peter Jackson’s “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” had snatched eight Oscars from its dominant 11 nominations, losing out in only one category.

The picture picked up Oscars for best visual effects, for best costume design for the double-nominated New Zealander Ngāti Dixon, best sound mixing, best make-up, best original and best original musical score for Howard Shore.

It also won for film editing and for best art direction, with many of the recipients of the golden statuettes hailing from New Zealand.

“There’s nobody left to thank in New Zealand,” quipped the Oscar’s host Billy Crystal after the unpretentious New Zealander linked to the hobbbit spectacular went up to claim a statuette.

With the film strongly tipped for the coveted best picture and best director awards, the last episode of Peter Jackson’s “Lord of the Rings” fantasy trilogy stands a good chance of sweeping cinema’s highest awards.

The favours in the twin best supporting actor categories also triumphed as predicted, with Zellweger, 34, and Robbins, 45, winning their first Oscars.

Zellweger won for her role as a spirited country girl in Anthony Minghella’s Civil War drama “Cold Mountain,” while outspoke Robbins, won his first Oscar and Hollywoood’s embrace for his supporting role as man who was abused during childhood in Clint Eastwood’s drama “Mystic River.”

Such a privilege to go to work every day with you,” a tearful Zellweger clad in white satin said of co-stars Jude Law and Nicole Kidman, to whom the Texan lost the best actress Oscar last year.

Green party activist Robbins, who caused a furore along with his partner Susan Sarandon, in their opposition to the US-led war in Iraq last year, said backstage he was surprised Hollywood had finally blessed him. “I never would have dreamt it a year ago, because so many negative things were being written when Susan and I opposed the war. I’m sure a lot of people voted for me that don’t agree with my politics,” he said.

Celebrated writer and director Blake Edwards, 81 received an honorary Oscar for his 50-year lifetime of work that includes “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” and the “Pink Panther” movies.

And Julia Roberts presented a moving tribute to four-time best actress Oscar winner Katherine Hepburn who died aged 96 last June, and “her indomitable sense of humour,” while their were also homages to Bob Hope and Gregory Peck who both died last year. But in the competition, “Rings” seems to have eclipsed its best picture rivals: Peter Weir’s 10-time-nominated seafaring adventure ”Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World,” horse-racing epic “Seabiscuit,” which has seven nominations, “Mystic River,” which has six nods, and Sofia Coppola’s wistful comedy “Lost in Translation,” which has four.

Robbins had been the clear favourite for best supporting actor for “Mystic River,” while Zellweger had also been favoured to make good on her third consecutive Oscar nomination and win best supporting actress for the Civil War drama “Cold Mountain.” — MNA/Xinhua

South African-born Charlize Theron won the Oscar for best actress on 29 February, 2004 for the drama “Monster,” in which she plays the real-life female serial killer Aileen Wuornos. — Internet

Four drug traffickers sentenced to death in Vietnam

HANOI, 1 March — Four drug traffickers in a big transnational drug trafficking case in Vietnam were sentenced to death on Thursday, following a four-day trial involving 11 defendants.

The defendants were convicted of possessing and dealing 39 kilograms of heroin, 50 kilos of marijuana, 15 kilos of methamphetamine and 6,000 ecstasy pills in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Netherlands and Japan, according to Vietnam News Agency on Friday.

The trial was held at the 31st combat hospital in Baghdad, where he later died of the wounds, added the spokesman. Earlier, the US military confirmed that a coalition soldier was killed in the incident but did not release the victim’s nationality. — MNA/Xinhua

The Vietnamese was injured and transported seems to have escaped an improvised explosive device northwest of Baghdad late Saturday, a US military spokesman told Xinhua.

The patrol encountered an assault involving small arms fire from a group of fighters at around 9:00 pm (1800 GMT), he said.

The soldier was part of a 12-man coalition joint investigating an improvised explosive device northwest of Baghdad late Saturday, a US military spokesman told Xinhua.

Four death sentence receivers are Phuong, Luan Cong Dung, Dang Van Ron, and Tran Van Thoi.

US mily says Estonian soldier killed in crossfire in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 March — An Estonian soldier was killed after he was wounded in a crossfire in central Iraq, the US military said on Sunday.

The soldier was part of a 12-man coalition joint investigating an improvised explosive device northwest of Baghdad late Saturday, a US military spokesman told Xinhua.

The patrol encountered an assault involving small arms fire from a group of fighters at around 9:00 pm (1800 GMT), he said.

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British Govt asked to probe Iraqi civilian deaths

LONDON, 1 March—Lawyers in Britain are preparing to bring cases against the British Army on behalf of relatives of 13 Iraqi civilians killed after the end of the war.

They have called on Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon to order an independent inquiry into the deaths, which they say represent only a fraction of the total number of suspicious incidents.

One of the lawyers representing the Iraqi families, Phil Shiner, has outlined some of the allegations.

“One example is a man who was out fishing with his brother and relatives one night, a dead with a rifle with a silencer,” he said.

“Another example, a man at his brother-in-law’s house, soldiers burst through the front door, knocked the door down, see him in the hallway, shoot him dead.”

The British Ministry of Defence has said the deaths of some civilians are being investigated.

Arab League chief calls for dialogue on reform plans

CAIRO, 1 March — Arab League chief Amr Moussa said here on Saturday that dialogue is needed with Arab countries on any reform initiative in the Middle East.

“There should be a dialogue with us on reform proposals,” Moussa told reporters, alluding to a US initiative aimed at fostering greater democracy and economic growth in the Middle East.

The US plan will be reportedly launched in June at a summit of the Group of Eight.

Hong Kong, Spain make liberal air services deal

HONG KONG, 1 March — An arrangement of traffic rights for unlimited passenger and cargo capacity on routes between Hong Kong and Spain has been reached by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and Spain.

The Hong Kong Government announced here Saturday that delegations representing the two sides had agreed to a progressive liberalization of the air services between the two countries.

A hand transplant operation in the US. In another operation, surgeons in Australia have reattached a young man’s hand that was severed in a brawl and found by police after he arrived at a hospital without it, doctors said. — Internet

Berkshire County soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 March—A soldier from Berkshire County was killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq.

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The Department of Defence said 29-year-old Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Wells of Egremont died on Wednesday when the helicopter he was flying in crashed in Habbiniyah, Iraq.

Wells was married with three sons. He was a 1993 graduate of Mount Everett Regional School where he ran cross country and worked on the school newspaper.

An Iraqi police runs in front of the site where some witnesses said a man was shot dead by US military convoy with his two sons injured, in Rumiyth city, 15 kilometres (9 miles) from Samawa, southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, 29 Feb, 2004. — Internet

G-15 vows to boost energy cooperation, combat poverty

CARACAS, 1 March — The 12th summit of the G-15 group ended here Saturday with a consensus to strengthen South-South energy cooperation and promote development to combat poverty.

The participants pledged in the Caracas Declaration on Energy and Development, signed at the conclusion of the summit, to promote economic and social development of the 19 member states of the group.

They agreed to launch programmes to develop their energy sectors by increasing public and private investment in line with local legislatures and development priorities.

To boost energy development, the G-15 group will also strengthen cooperation in human resources, experiences and information sharing, technology transfer, and research and market integration, the declaration said.

The G-15 group was formed in 1989 during the summit of Non-Aligned countries held in Belgrade with the aim of promoting South-South cooperation and South-North dialogue.

The declaration called on international financial institutions to grant developing nations a political space to address their specific growth needs, and urged the developed countries to honour their commitments made in Doha talks.

The G-15 members strongly demanded a fair, reasonable and transparent multilateral trade mechanism to facilitate sustained and stable economic development of developing countries.

They also stressed the need to improve dialogue and mutual understanding between the G-15 group and the G-8, comprising the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Japan, Canada, Italy and Russia.

Seven heads of state and government attended the two-day summit in Caracas, including Argentine President Nestor Kirchner, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, Ira nian President Mohammed Khatami, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson and President of the host country, Hugo Chavez.

In the closing speech, Chavez urged the bloc to take action to “potentiate the people of the South” and to achieve interdependence between the South and the North.

MNA/Xinhua

Supermarket roof collapse injures 10 in Moscow

MOSCOW, 1 March—Ten people were injured after the roof of a parking lot in a German-built supermarket collapsed north of Moscow, ITAR-TASS news agency reported Saturday.

Among them four were hospitalized and six others received medical attention at the scene of the incident, ITAR-TASS said, noting that one of them was rescued from under the debris of the collapsed metal roof.

The Moscow authorities have blamed builders for the collapse of the roof, said Sergei Tsoi, the Moscow mayor’s spokesman.

The roof “was built by specialists from the German company Metro,” he was quoted by the ITAR-TASS.

Tsoi said it was possible that the builders had failed to take account of the extreme weather conditions which can occur in Russia.

MNA/Xinhua

Regional School where he

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MNA/Xinhua
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

An Iraqi civilian cries after learning of the death of a family member injured during the US bombardment of Baghdad recently.

A Polish army soldier serving with Coalition Forces in Iraq waves at Iraqis inside a passing minibus, at a checkpoint just north of Karbala, Iraq, on Sunday, 29 Feb, 2004.

US soldiers from 2nd Infantry Division’s Striker Brigade based in Alaska, prepare to remove an unexploded ordnance following its discovery in the center of Mosul, 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday 28 Feb, 2004.

In this photo, a soldier (R) watches the traffic at a mobile checkpoint in a suburb of Kerbala on 29 February, 2004.

Iraqi boys walk past a US tank on 29 Feb, 2004 in Khadimiya north of Baghdad, Iraq. —INTERNET

British soldiers patrol a road in the southern port city of Basra, Iraq. Thousands of British soldiers have complained that they suffered equipment shortages during the war in Iraq last year because of poor planning by senior officers, a newspaper said.—INTERNET
Iraq donors commit about $1b to Iraq funds

Amid fears US embargo could cost American firms US$1 billion, the United Nations and World Bank have said they would inject about $1 billion US dollars of aid earmarked for Iraq’s reconstruction into two trust funds run by the United Nations and World Bank.

Several countries that opposed the US-led war to oust President Saddam Hussein, including France and Germany, refused to contribute any aid to Baghdad if the United States and Britain—who currently occupy Iraq—control the funds. These countries said they preferred to give aid directly to Iraq or contribute to trust funds run and audited independently.

“The will be a strong starting point... We feel grateful to donors and thank them,” Iraq Planning Minister Mohamed al-Hafez said at the meeting of the US and EU officials in Baghdad.

Hafez on Saturday outlined four billion US dollars’ worth of projects he said donors could fund to rebuild the country that has suffered from wars and UN sanctions.

“The Iraqis must be in the driving seat and they have demonstrated they have the capacity to do that,” said Andrew Golechowski, director of the donor coordinating committee of the US-led administration.

Syria rejects US reform project

Caro, 1 March—Syria has joined Arab heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Egypt in opposing Washington’s plan for political and other reforms in the Middle East, according to an interview published on Sunday.

“Our position is that we don’t want any reform project to be dictated to us from abroad. Reforms must spring from the specifics of the region and not through the diktats of external forces,” Syrian Information Minister Ahmad al-Hassan told the London-based daily Arabic newspaper al-Hayat.

No reform would accept the implementation of reforms under external pressure or diktats from abroad.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt, both with close US ties, said last week the Arab world was going through its own reforms and would reject any change imposed from outside.

They were reacting to Washington’s Greater Middle East Initiative, which proposes funding for projects which would promote free elections, civil society, the empowerment of women and the modernization of education.

Relations between Syria and the United States have been strained for years because of US support for Israel and US complaints about the presence in Damascus of Lebanese and Palestinian militant groups. However, the private carrier’s chief suggested is aimed at improving the country’s economic activity, especially in the second half of the year.

The Syrian government has asked donor countries to contribute to Iraq’s reconstruction and US funds and other aid is being used in Iraq to activate the trust funds would help improve the country’s economic activity especially in the second half of the year.

Iraq — control the funds.

The United States has allocated 18.6 billion US dollars to Iraq’s reconstruction and US officials said about 10 billion US dollars of that amount would be committed by projects by July 2005.

Japan, the single largest contributor to the UN’s Iraq reconstruction fund, has also said it would put some money in the trust funds.

The laws, in force since 1963, give the security authorities wide powers of pressure or diktats from abroad. Reforms must

The lower tax rates for exports for firms, including Boeing and Microsoft, were judged an illegal subsidy by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which ruled the US could impose four billion US dollars in sanctions on US goods.

In a move that could cost American exporters more than 300 million US dollars this year, the lower tax rates for exports for firms, including Boeing and Microsoft, were judged an illegal subsidy by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which ruled the EU could impose four billion US dollars in sanctions on its goods.

The US Commerce Department said euros serve as the driving seat.

EU imposes sanctions on US goods in trade fight

BRUSSELS, 1 March—The European Union imposed sanctions on the United States for the first time on Monday as a dispute over US beef turned into a trade war that could cost American exporters more than 300 million US dollars.

The lower tax rates for exports for firms, including Boeing and Microsoft, were judged an illegal subsidy by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which ruled the US could impose four billion US dollars in sanctions on US goods.

The laws, in force since 1963, give the security authorities wide powers of pressure or diktats from abroad. Reforms must


Based on the full 4.9 billion US dollars, the main sector to be hit would be US jewellery at an estimated 1.4 billion US dollars.

“The European Union will withdraw the withdrawal of the US illegal subsidy,” the Commission said in a statement. “The EU has asked for a response to which is measured, gradual and geared towards focussing the mind of the US legal authorities to comply.”

Officials have tried to play down the impact of the trade row, the first time since the WTO was created in 1995 that the EU has readied on US goods.

Italian town sets down pet-pampering laws

ROME, 1 March—Pettowners in a central Italian town must pamper their dogs, cats, and birds and even show mercy to supper-time lobsters or face fines as high as 500 euros.

According to a new bill regulating the treatment of animals that will be implemented next week in the wealthy town of Reggio Emilia, canary owners will have to buy a significant other for their bird, who otherwise might suffer from loneliness.

Dog owners will have to provide sufficiently spacious dog houses in shady, sheltered locations and if their pet dogs strip will be prohibited from dicing the fur of their anima. The rules, spelled out in 96 different articles, also make it illegal to throw live lobsters in boiling water.

Lebanese FM arrives in Cairo for Arab ministerial meeting

Caro, 1 March—Lebanese Foreign Minister Jean Obeid arrived here on Sunday to take part in an Arab foreign ministers’ meeting scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival, Obeid stressed the need for constant consultation and dialogues among Arab countries ahead of an Arab summit due in Tunisia on 29-30 March.

The ministerial meeting is expected to focus on post-war Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict and Finland’s rejection to grant holders of Palestinian passports entry visas into the country, an Arab League source said.

“The participants will also deal with the latest developments of the Palestinian intifada (uprising), conditions of Palestinian refugees and the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights,” he said. —MNA/Xinhua

India asks Pakistan to modify bilateral air services agreement

NEW DELHI, 1 March—India is understood to have urged Pakistan to modify the bilateral air services agreement for operation of multiple airlines in the sector, to pave the way for the launch of scheduled operations by private carriers as also to enable them to fly cricket fans to that country.

Under the present agreement, the two governments recognize only Indian Airlines and Pakistan International Airlines for operations of scheduled flights. The modification suggested is aimed at recognizing Indian private carriers like Jet Airways and Air Sahara as the designated ones to enable them operate scheduled flights, officials said. The laws, in force since 1963, give the security authorities wide powers of pressure or diktats from abroad. Reforms must

A new bill regulating the treatment of animals that will be implemented next week in the wealthy town of Reggio Emilia, canary owners will have to buy a significant other for their bird, who otherwise might suffer from loneliness.

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Pedestrians in Bologna, northern Italy, are seen during a snowfall on 28 Feb, 2004. In background is the statue of Neptune, mythological God of the seas, symbol of Bologna. —REUTERS

Ahmed Abdul Khaliq, 25, undergoes surgery at a hospital in Samawah, on 29 Feb, 2004, after US soldiers fired on a car that did not stop when a US military convoy passed in Ramusathab, 15 kilometres (9miles), north of Samawah, southern Iraq, witnesses said. One Iraqi was killed and two others injured. —INTERNET
The Peasant Day message …
(from page 1)
Here, I would like to urge the peasants to make use of the golden opportunity created by the State’s agricultural development drive, while striving to raise their social standard, and for cent-per-cent realization of the production targets of the State’s agricultural sector.

Extensive peasantry.

The State Peace and Development Council has been further consolidating peace and stability, rule of law, and national solidarity, while standing firmly on the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty.

And now, it has started the implementation of the seven-point future programme, with the building of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation as the goal. The seven-point future policy programme has been warmly wel- come and supported by a large number of countries and the entire national people.

In this regard, I urge representatives of the peasantry to actively take part in reconvening the National Convention that will pave the way for the emergence of a new Constitution that is in conformity with the seven-point future-policy programme, till the successful accomplishment of the nation task — the emergence of a new Constitution. Moreover, you, the entire mass of peasantry, are profoundly urged to accept the success of the seven-point future policy as the national duty in addition to the task of striving for the development of the agriculture sector, the State’s main economic pillar, for the Union of Myanmar to perpetually stand tall in the world, with national peace, stability, modernization and development as the des-tiny.

In like manner, I would like to urge you to join hands with all the national races in discharging the duty.

The new Myanmar and her pleasant environs

Yadanasi Sayadawu (Loilem)
The united and collective cooperation of the entire people, and encouragement, support and assistance of in-ternational community are essential for phase-by-phase implementation of the State’s seven-point road map.

“The world nations which would like to see Myanmar as a developed modern country should encourage, support and provide assistance for the country. If they are anxious to disturb and hinder Myanmar from translating the seven-point road map into reality rather than provide a helpful hand…

“With disturbance and hindrance to the nation, it will be still far away from the State’s goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern developed discipline-flourishing demo-cratic nation.”

I would, therefore, like to remind international community about the above-mentioned expressions. Now the State’s goal is in the process of being translated into ac-tion. In this regard, if the process is blocked by someone resorting to various ways and means, the perpetrator will be held responsible.

In the meditation process, a meditation centre does not need any intervention of a meditation instructor of a different meditation centre. And a nation does not need any intervention of a foreign country. In the meditation process, a lay person needs encouragement and support of good surroundings. Similarly, the State’s seven-point road map needs encouragement and helpful hands to materialize.

Here, I would also like to present some excerpts from the 57th Anniversary Union Day message sent by Senior General Than Shwe.

“The State has already declared its seven-point future policy — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty in the 57th Anniversary Union Day message filed a law suit against them together with 1.972 kilometers of marijuana.

Waibagi Police Sta-tion filed a law suit against Maung Khin, son of U Hla Maung Khin under section 15/19A/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Drug dealers behind bars

YANGON, 1 March — A combined team compris-ing members of local intel-ligence unit and Yangon and Bago Special Anti-drug Squads, acting on informa-tion, searched suspects, Maung Ngwe, Myo Myint, Maung Khin and Tin Win in a house in Street in North Oakpalla Township on 28 July 2003, and arrested them together with 1.8772 kilograms of marijuana.

Maung Khin, son of U Hla Kyaw of Honeggy Village in Indaw Township, Bago Division, and Tin Win of U Hla Maung of the same vil-lage under section 15/19A/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Supreme Court Justice tours Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 1 March — Supreme Court Justice U Tin Aye on 28 February met with district and township magistrates, and management matters. — MNA

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed
Secretary-1 inspects construction of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2, sluice gate, industrial zone, dry dock

Yangon, 1 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win this afternoon inspected round the construction project sites of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2, Kayan sluice gate, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Industrial Zone and 12,000-ton dry dock of Myanma Shipyards and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win first arrived at the briefing hall of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 construction project where he was welcomed by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy ministers, department heads and officials.

The commander reported on matters related to supply of irrigated water for the all-the-year-round greening of the 30-mile radius of Yangon City and for crops cultivation in dry season through the three ways and means — one is from Moeyungi Lake through canal system, second from the sluice gate at Kayan Creek to Kayan and Thongwa townships in summer and third from Ngamoeyeik Dam to cultivation acreage of Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships through the pipe line on Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2. The commander also reported on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, oil crops, vegetables and other crops, 17,286 acres of extended cultivation, extended construction of dams and reservoirs, sluice gates and river-water pumping stations and 34,000 acres of extended cultivation such as summer paddy, beans and pulses and oil crops.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on tasks being carried out by the ministry for the greening of the 30-mile radius of Yangon City; Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein on arrangements for supply of irrigation water from Ngamoeyeik Dam to Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships through the pipe line on Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2; and Superintending Engineer (Project) of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 construction project U Myint Lwin on progress in bridge construction and future tasks.

The Secretary-1 next fulfilled the requirements and viewed the construction works from the tower at the project site.

After that, the Secretary-1 and party went to the construction project of Kayan sluice gate being implemented by the but construction-6 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation near old Natchaungawa Village in Thanlyin Township by watercraft. At the briefing hall, Director of construction-6 U Khin Maung Myint reported on objectives and facts about the project. The Secretary-1 gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

Next, the Secretary-1 met with chairmen and members of ward and village PDCs from Kayan, Thongwa, Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships.

In his instructions, he said peace and development councils at states, divisions, districts, townships, wards and village tracts are administrative bodies to which the State assigns duties. As they are in close relation with the general public, they should take great care in their dealings with the public. Since they represent the State, their misconduct will degrade the State.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the Kayan sluice gate under construction with the help of heavy machinery. The sluice gates are designed to prevent the inflow of river water and inundation in Kayan Township in the rainy season, to protect after the rainy season. The sluice gates are being constructed by the construction group-6 of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Kayan sluice gate has 40 valves, each of which measures 6 feet by 16 feet and is of concrete type. On completion, the sluice gate will benefit 30,000 acres of farmland.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Silver Valley ratten furniture house in the industrial zone of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. There they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyin, and officials of the management committee for industrial zone.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected round the ratten furniture house and gave instructions. Next, they proceeded to Dagon Pansan auto workshop, where they viewed round the vehicles on display manufactured by Dagon Pansan auto workshop and Super Seven Stars Int'l Trading Co Ltd.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party went to the construction site of a 20,000-ton dry dock being undertaken by the Myanma Shipyards under the Ministry of Transport in Kamayut Township. At the briefing hall of the project site, the managing director of the Myanma Shipyards reported on matters related to the dry dock, progress of construction and future tasks. Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than then presented a supplementary report.

The Secretary-1 also inspected the construction of tug boats, the cutting with metal plates with the help of CNC and building of landing crafts at the workshop-1. The deputy minister and the managing director conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the shipyard. After inspecting the shipyard, the Secretary-1 attended to the requirements and left here.

Certificates presented to trainees of Drama School and State School of Fine Arts

Yangon, 1 March — A ceremony to present course completion certificates for the 2003-2004 academic year of the Drama School (Yangon) and the State School for Fine Arts (Yangon) under the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture took place at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyang Street in Dagon Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win, Maung, Director-General of the Fine Arts Department U Kyaw Win, officials of social organizations related to fine arts, and guests. U Kyaw Win spoke on the occasion. Certificates were then presented to 41 trainees. Next, the minister, the deputy minister, and guests viewed round the works created by trainees and watched the variety of dances and a drama presented by trainees. Those wishing to join the three-year courses on singing, dancing, music, painting and sculpture should contact the township peace and development councils concerned. If selected, they will receive a monthly stipend of K 300. Applications can now be sent to the director of the Research and Training Division, Fine Arts Department, on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township not later than 31 May 2004.
Pyigyi Mandaing region ...

(from page 16)

road section and Bokpyin-Taninthayi road section were upgraded into all weather roads.

The government has established good infrastructures in administrative, education and health sectors while striving for ensuring better transport in order to bring about harmonious development across the nation regardless of races and regions.

As the region has favourable weather conditions, progress has been made in economy and the local people have been able to enjoy self-sufficiency in food and this has been recognized by the people to make concerted and coordinated efforts to fully utilize natural resources.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe greeted those present on the occasion.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and party inspected located Bokpyin by car.

Next, the Senior General and party at 10.30 am arrived in Pyigyi Mandaing where they were welcomed by the Tactical Operations Commander Col Win Naing and officials.

At the briefing hall near Layhnya-Mandaing bridge in Pyigyi Mandaing, the Senior General and party met with departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, the Tatmadawmey and their families.

At the meeting, officials reported on location and area of Pyigyi Mandaing, undertaking of farming and fisheries in the region, cultivation of oil palm, rubber and pepper and self-sufficiency in foods.

In response to the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave instructions, saying that Pyigyi Mandaing is a far-flung region. He and its environs lie between the region, officials.

The service personnel are to strive together with local people for regional development. The service personnel are to organize local people to inculcate them with the nationalism and Union Spirit.

As the region is a border region, officials concerned are to strive for prevalence of law and order for bringing about regional peace and security to enable the people to live with peace of mind.

In addition, strenuous efforts are to be made to reclaim farmlands that are put aside due to various reasons for self-sufficiency of rice in the region.

Next, the Senior General greeted those present on the occasion. Later, the Senior General and party inspected Layhnya-Mandaing bridge. The Senior General and party in the afternoon arrived at Taninthayi where they were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander Col Soe Thet and officials.

At Taninthayi Basic Education High School, the Senior General and party met with departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, the Tatmadawmey and their families.

At the meeting, officials reported on location and area of Pyigyi Mandaing, undertaking of farming and fisheries in the region, cultivation of oil palm, rubber and pepper and self-sufficiency in foods.

In response to the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that Taninthayi is mainly engaged in farming undertakings as it has favourable weather conditions, adding since local people are usually engaged in farming they are not widely engaged in the tasks. Taninthayi will have to provide assistance in enabling Myeik District to enjoy self-sufficiency of rice and land is to be reclaimed to fully grow pepper.

In addition, cultivation of oil palm and rubber is to be extended and strenuous efforts are to be made to fully grow pepper that contributes to development of national economy.

Pepper is thriving in Taninthayi Division, Mon State, Kayin State and Rakhine State and efforts will have to be made to produce pepper as a new export item. Various kinds of crops can be cultivated in Myanmar as it is rich in land and water resources and has three climates and sustained efforts are to be made to fully utilize the resources given by the nature.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and party inspected the completed Taninthayi Bridge.

MWAF Vice-President meets members of Muse District OWA

YANGON, 1 March — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet and officials went to Muse in Shan State (North) on 28 February and met with members of township organizations for women’s affairs from Muse, Namkhain and Kutkai in Muse District at Muse city hall and explained organizational set-up and functions of the federation.

MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet spoke on the occasion, and Dr Daw Moe Moe Khaing of health group elaborated on matters related to the nurturing of youth girls and the preventing of violence against women and trafficking in persons. The vice-president and officials answered the queries raised by executives of Muse District Organization for Women’s Affairs. — MNA

Military parade columns practise drills

YANGON, 1 March — Military parade columns, which will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, started drilling on Myoma Grounds from 5.30 to 9 am today.

The military parade drills were performed by Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw, Kyansitha Column led by Column Commander Col Thein Tan, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Col Than Win, Nayaw Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Thaw, Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Tint Wai Oo, Hsinphyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Oo Kyaw, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Myint Ko Ko, Myawaddy Column led by Column Commander Col Kan Nyunt, and Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Maung Maung Than under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein.

Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, and senior military officers watched and inspected the drills of the military parade columns.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party also inspected the military parade drills of Kyansitha and Myawaddy parade columns at People’s Square and People’s Park.
Prime Minister urges local people...

(from page 16)

for extended cultivation of mono-crop paddy, cultivation of beans and pulses, oil crops and kitchen crops, sufficiency of rice in the region, cultivation of pepper, construction of Weikyek dam for water supply and education and health activities.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements in connection with Weikyek Dam and construction of three-storey building.

The Prime Minister upgraded basic education schools to high and middle ones in Taungup and 25-bed hospital to 50-bed one in An.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said on TV, a VCR and a set of computer to the headmistress.

In his address the Prime Minister said Taungup is the gateway to Rakhine State and it is a place where agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries can be undertaken.

The government is building infrastructures on education, health, social and economic sectors for development of Rakhine State including Taungup and raising of living standard of local people, he said.

He said the government is also building roads and bridges for ensuring better transport in Rakhine State. About three years ago, the Head of State himself formally opened the Yangon–Sittway Road.

The government has built 894 miles of roads including 537 miles of tarred roads in Rakhine State. Altogether 27 bridges which are 180 feet and above including 2,513 feet long Kissapanda Bridge and 2,003 feet Mkyunyug Bridge were opened. Another five bridges including 2,704 feet Mkyunyug Bridge and 1,154 feet Lonekawpuk Bridge are under construction. There are hundreds of medium and small bridges in Rakhine State, he added.

He said one can now travel from Sittway to Yangon through Sittway–Mrauk-U–An-Minbu–Magway Road, Sittway–An-Taungup–Padaung–Pyay Road and Sittway–An-Taungup–Thanhwe–Gw–Ngathainchau Road.

The Yangon–Kyaukpyu Road is being built with the use of geotextile process because there is a marsh land on Maei–Kyaukpyu road section.

He said roads linking Yangon and townships in Rakhine State have emerged at the time of the present government. At the same time, the government is building infrastructures that contribute towards the development of social and economic sectors of local people in other states and divisions.

The Prime Minister spoke at length about upgrading of basic education schools, opening of Sittway University, Government Technological College and Government Computer College for gaining education opportunities and development of human resources, opening of 200-bed and 100-bed specialist hospitals to promote health care services of local people, appointing doctors, nurses and staff and providing medicines and other equipment.

He said dam and river water pumping projects are being implemented for agricultural development in Rakhine State and efforts are to be made for rice sufficiency in the region and then surplus of paddy.

There are a lot of farmland and virgin lands in Rakhine State including Taungup. So those lands are to be reclaimed for extended cultivation and fisheries including prawn breeding are to be extended from manageable to commercial scale, he added.

He said the government is fulfilling requirements for development of Rakhine State and uplift of living standard of the people. He spoke of the need for the people to work hard for development of the region and progress of economic and social life.

He said the seven-point programme undertaken for extension of the hospital which is to be upgraded to 50-bed hospital from 25-bed one.

The Prime Minister and party left for Kyaukpyu.

YANGON, 1 March — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet and officials arrived at Lashio in Shan State (North) by air on 27 February to explain organizational set-up and functions of the federation to members of Shan State (North) Organization for Women’s Affairs.

Daw Khin Lay Thet and party were welcomed at Lashio Airport by Shan State’s North Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Thant Zin, local authorities and local people.

Next, at Lashio city hall, MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lin Thet met with members of state, district and township organizations for women’s affairs in Shan State (North), members of district and township PDCs and local people talking about the organization.

Secretary MWAF Daw Hla Yaw explained organizational set-up of the federation and matters related to submitting membership applications. Dr Daw Moe Moe Khang of health group matters related to health, culture and resettlements and nurturing of youth girls and preventing of violence against women and trafficking in persons. Daw Yi Yi Myint of international economic and communication group matters on environmental conservation and information. Afterwards, Daw Khin Thant Zin presented cash donated by state, district and township organizations for women’s affairs in Shan State to the vice-president.

Vice-President Daw Khin Lin Thet and party met with executives of Shan State (North) Organization for Women’s Affairs at Shweli Yeiktha in North-East Command in the evening and answered the queries raised by those present.

Reproductive Health Project Instructorship Course opened

YANGON, 1 March — The Reproductive Health Project Instructorship Course jointly sponsored by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, UNFPA and Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Families Planning (JOICFP) was opened at Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the corner of Thanbhuama and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township here this morning.

It was attended by President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Dr U Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Linn Myint. CEC members, patrons of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Rajiv M Assifi, officials of Health Planning Department, course instructors and trainees.

First, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made an opening speech.

Next, Representative of UNFPA Mr Rajiv M Assifi spoke. The five-day course is being attended by 60 trainees from Mandalay Division. — MNA
Winners named for 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Competitions

YANGON, 1 March — The list of winners for the military marching songs and military songs competitions organized by the Work Committee for the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2004 Commemorative Poetry and Arts Competition were announced today.

In the military marching songs competition, the first prize went to Saw Yan Kyaw of Thingangyun Township, second prize to Lin Kyaw of Insein Township, and third prize to Nay Mon Aye Win of IPRD (Head Office). Than Hlut and Yeabaw Myint Lwin of the Military Band (Navy) won consolation prizes.

In the military songs competition at level-1, Tektatho Maung Htay Aung of Hline Township, Maung Thet Aye of North Okkalapa Township and Letpadan Aye Than of Letpadan Township won first, second and third prizes respectively while consolation prizes went to Yeabaw Myint Lwin of the Military Band (Navy) and Soe Hlut Khome of South Okkalapa Township.

In the military songs competition at level-2, first second and third prizes went to Hsuywe Aung Kyaw Min of Taungpyin Township, Phyo Than Win of Thingangyun Township and Myat Thu Han of Pathein while consolation prizes went to Tun Tun Min of Tamway Township and Ei Shwe Zin Min of Myawady Television.

First, second and third prize winners are to attend the award presentation ceremony to be held on 27 March 2004. All the winners are requested to get in touch with U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary of the Subcommittee, for television. — MNA

Israel security cabinet approves "Phalcon" sale to India

JERUSALEM, 1 March — Clearing the decks for the sale of 1.1-billion-US-dollar Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) to India, the Israeli security cabinet headed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Sunday approved the deal.

The final terms for the deal were agreed upon during the discussions Israeli Defence Ministry Director, General Amos Yaron, had with Indian officials in New Delhi in December. Indian and Israeli negotiating teams are said to have finished drafting the agreement according to which the Israeli Aircraft Industries will receive an advance payment of some 350 million US dollars after the deal is signed. Sources here said Israeli Air Force Commander-in-Chief, Major-General Dan Halutz, is working out the "final technical details" with India on the deal, which will be concluded in the coming weeks. Under the AWACS deal, the Israeli Phalcon radar is to be mounted and integrated on the Russian-designed IL-76 plane made by Beriyev Aircraft Design Bureau, a unit of Irkut Aerospace Corporation.

"We hope to sign the contract with Israel, latest by April," a senior official of Irkut Aerospace Corporation told PTI in Irkutsk, Siberia. Irkut also produces Su-30MKI war planes for India. — MNA/PTI

Radio play hailing Armed Forces Day to be on air

YANGON, 1 March — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, ‘Einmet-he-kar-myan-yee’ (tear in a dream) radio play will be broadcast at 7.17 pm on 11 March (Thursday) and at 12.30 pm on 12 March (Friday). — MNA

Commerce Minister receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 1 March — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone received General Manager of Itochu Corporation of Japan Mr Hajime Tamanyu and party at the ministry on Strand Road here at 1 pm today. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Directorate of Trade Director-General U Nyunt Aye, Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading Managing Director U Min Hla Aung and officials of the Border Trade Department. — MNA

Deputy Attorney-General leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 1 March — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin left here by air this morning to attend the third MEC International Cyberlaws Conference to be held in Malaysia. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Attorney-General U Aye Maung, directors at the head of office of the Attorney-General’s Office, the divisional law officer of Yangon Division and families of the delegation. Assistant Director U Alone Maung of the Attorney-General’s Office is also included in the delegation. — MNA

Co-ord meeting on elimination of leprosy held

YANGON, 1 March — A work coordination meeting on elimination of leprosy was held this morning at the Health Department here. The tasks for elimination of the disease will be carried out in Myanmar during 2004. A total of 55 health officials and doctors under the Health Department attended the meeting, which will last till tomorrow. — MNA
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.
HK, Mainland establish Technology Trading Platform Strategic Alliance

HONG KONG, 1 March — The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and six Mainland technology stock exchanges signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here Friday to establish a Technology Trading Platform Strategic Alliance.

The HKPC and technology stock exchanges from Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Shenzhen signed the MoU for the establishment of the alliance to facilitate business matching, technology exchange and collaboration between the Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, KK Yeung, executive director of HKPC, said, “Leveraging on the Mainland’s technological capabilities and Hong Kong’s strengths in finance, intellectual property (IP) management and international networking, such collaboration will no doubt serve as a catalyst to enhance global competitiveness of Hong Kong and Mainland companies.”

He said, “The formation of the alliance will provide an effective technology and IP trading platform for organizations, enterprises and investors in Hong Kong and the Mainland.” According to the agreement, member organizations will encourage technology transfer, product commercialization and partnership in the areas of electronics, optoelectronics, wireless communications and automotive industries through promotional and experience-sharing activities.

Official says foreign tourism recovery in Beijing takes time

BEIJING, 1 March — The Chinese capital of Beijing saw 128,300 overseas tourists in January this year, down by 16.7 per cent in comparison with the same month of last year.

Sources from the municipal bureau of statistics said arrivals by foreign nationals totaled 95,600 in January, down by 26.9 per cent, while arrivals from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan rose by various degrees hit 32,700.

A tourism official said the drop in overseas tourists was the biggest since 1995.

Despite the rapid growth in tourist arrivals from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, the arrivals of foreign nationals account for 85 per cent of the city’s number of overseas tourists.

“So it will take some time for a full recovery in Beijing’s tourism regarding overseas tourists,” said the official —MNA/Xinhua

SNOWSTORMS IN SPAIN TRAP MOTORISTS

MADRID, 1 March — Parts of northern Spain ground to a halt on Saturday after a heavy snowfall, as the snow and accidents blocked roads and trapped motorists in biting winds and sub-zero temperatures, authorities said.

Drivers on the motorway between Madrid and the northern town of Burgos were forced to abandon their cars and take refuge in nearby sports centres and hostels on Friday night, said a source at a local traffic control centre.

Emergency services evacuated nearly 2,000 people at local villages in other areas of Spain the snow closed up to 40 mountain roads.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L., for B.L. Media Co., Ltd.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 2 March 2004

A fishing boat passes by as coast guard rescuers continue their search and rescue operations on the wreckage of a Superferry ship at Manila bay, Bayan, north of Manila, on 29 February, 2004. Hopes of finding alive any of about 100 people missing after fire gutted a Philippine ferry fded on Monday as rescuers scoured the sea near the capital Manila and divers searched the partly submerged ship. — Reuters

Porsche, VW recall SUVs due to wiring fault

STUTTGART (Germany), 1 March — Germany’s Porsche said it had recalled 22,158 Cayenne sports utility vehicles due to wiring problems on Friday, while Volkswagen said 6,500 of its Touaregs had also needed fixing.

Both vehicles, built on the same platform, had a fault that could lead to a cable fire beneath the instrument panel, but there had so far been no known accidents as a result of the defect, Porsche said.

A spring in the handbrake or a wiring fault is believed to have caused the fire risk, Porsche said, adding that the recall by the sports carmaker was voluntary and purely a precautionary measure following long-running tests.

All 22,158 Cayennes produced between its launch in October 2002 and July 2003 will have to return to the workshop, including 11,355 vehicles in the United States where the chunky vehicle is not expected to be popular with drivers, who might find the design of the electric-powered vehicle unappealing.

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VITAL

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Rivaldo leaves Cruzeiro after coach fired

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 March — Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo walked out on Cruzeiro on Saturday after less than two months at the club in solidarity with coach Vanderley Luxemburgo who was fired the day before.

I took the decision over-night,” he told reporters in a media conference broadcast on Brazilian television. “I haven’t got (another) club, nothing like that. At the moment, I’m being faithful to the coach who brought me here.”

Rivaldo failed to settle at the Brazilian champions, who he joined after spending most of the previous 18 months warming the substitutes’ bench at Italy’s AC Milan.

He played only 10 competitive games for Cruzeiro, who have made an indifferent start to the season, and scored only two goals, both in last weekend’s 7-1 win over Mamore.

He was frequently jeered by the Cruzeiro supporters.

Cruzeiro’s owner, Portuguese Valdir Barbosa, said the club had accepted Rivaldo’s decision even though he had signed a one-year contract when he joined on January 5.

But the episode raises doubts about the future of the 31-year-old former Barcelona, PSV Eindhoven and Deportivo Coruna forward, who has barely played club football since helping Brazil win the World Cup in 2002.

Rivaldo joined Milan immediately after the tournament in Japan and South Korea but barely got a look-in and described his spell there as the worst of his career. He also stands to lose $5 million in his contract.

When he left, I preferred to leave as well,” said Rivaldo.

World No. one, Justine Henin-Hardenne, right, from Belgium, holds the trophy next to her mother, left, after defeating Serena Williams of the USA in the women’s singles final at the Dubai Tennis Championship, UAE, on 28 Feb, 2004. Martine and Henin won 6-0, 6-1, 63.—INTERNET

Zaragoza claim precious win over Valladolid

MADEIRA, 1 March — Real Zaragoza eased their relegation worries by claiming a 2-1 win over 10-man Valladolid in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Zaragoza took an early lead when Valladolid keeper Albano Bizzarri failed to claim a lofted free kick and allowed midfielder David Generelo to send a looping header into the net in the 10th minute.

The home side drew level before halftime when Oscar got between two defenders to score with a fine glancing header following a neat cross from fellow midfielder Chema. But they threw away the chance to hold on for the draw when defender Pablo Ricchetti was sent off 15 minutes from time for picking up a second booking after bringing down Zaragoza striker Dani as he raced towards goal. — MNA/Reuters

Betting sponsorship

A win for Udinese would have lifted them to within a point of the Tuscans’ advantage four minutes before the break.

Despite their numerical disadvantage it was Seville who came closest to grabbing a winner in the second half, Julio Baptista heading over the bar after a swift counter-attack and fellow strikerSilvero Scuffard with a close-range shot from Antonino.

Sevilla were dealt another blow when Antonino was sent off after picking up a yellow card for a foul on Ryan Giggs.

But Ferguson’s gamble, and the enforced absences, came back to haunt the Scot after Boa Morte’s equaliser as they slumped to third in the table, just days after losing 2-1 in Porto in the Champions League.

Substitute Eider Gudjohnsen grabbed Chelsea’s winner in the 82nd minute after City had dominated possession and squandered a host of chances at the City of Manchester stadium. — MNA/Reuters

Sevilla claim 1-1 draw with city rivals Betis

MADEIRA, 1 March — Ten-man Sevilla produced a gritty performance as they came from a goal down to claim a 1-1 draw at city rivals Real Betis in a typically intense derby on Saturday.

Betis got off to a dream start when Alfonso put them ahead with a penalty in the second minute but Sevilla equalized with a neat strike from defender Javi Navarro and held on for a point despite having forward Antonio sent off late in the first half.

The result means Betis, who have not beaten their neighbours in the last seven years, have moved up one place to sixth in the table, while Sevilla are just two points behind Siena and Reggina who missed a chance to climb three in the table.

Struggling Empoli shock Udinese 2-0

ROSTO, 1 March — Serie A strugglers Empoli took a huge stride towards escaping the relegation zone with an impressive 2-0 home win over Udinese on Saturday.

A win for Udinese would have lifted them to within a point of the Champions League berth occupied by Lazio.

Instead 16th-placed Empoli dominated the first half and took the lead in the 22nd minute when midfielder Antonio Busce headed in from a corner. Defender Sanchez Cribari nodded a free kick past keeper Morgan De Sanctis to double the Tuscan’s advantage four minutes before the break.

Udinese continued to miss their passes after the break and needed to wait until the 84th minute before coming close when striker Dino Favai hit the woodwork with the goal at his mercy. The victory gave Empoli 20 points from 23 games, just two behind Siena and Reggina who missed a chance to climb the table when they drew 0-0 earlier in the day. — MNA/Reuters

Arsenal go nine clear as Fulham hold United

LONDON, 1 March — Arsenal soared nine points clear at the top of the Premier League on Saturday after beating Charlton Athletic 2-1 while title rivals Manchester United were held to a 1-1 draw by Fulham.

Big-spending Chelsea snatched a late and barely deserved 1-0 win at Manchester City to take second place, edging ahead of champions United on goal difference.

Saturday’s results could prove to be the turning point in the Premier League season as they left Arsenal on 67 points and Chelsea and United on 58 with just 11 games left to play.

But the spotlight was clearly trained on London, where Arsenal remained unbeaten in their 27 games this season after scoring twice in the opening four minutes.

Robert Pires, scoring his 50th goal for the club, and French team-mate Thierry Henry soon had Charlton on the ropes at Highbury, then the visitors rallied in the second half and Claus Jensen’s strike could easily have been followed by an equalizer.

But Arsenal hung on for a seventh consecutive league win, rounding off an excellent week after beating Celta Vigo 3-2 away in the first leg of their Champions League first knockout round tie.

By contrast, United’s season is running into trouble after a second half equalizer from Fulham’s Portuguese forward Luiz Boa Morte cost them victory at Loftus Road.

As part of a script, striker Louis Saha put United ahead in the 14th minute, just a month after his acrimonious departure from Fulham, and the Frenchman had to put up with the constant boos and jeers of his former fans.

United boss Alex Ferguson rescheduled his plan for the game, surprisingly deciding to leave top scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy, winger Ryan Giggs and goalkeepers Tim Howard on the bench.

Ferguson’s gamble, and the enforced absences, came back to haunt the Scot after Boa Morte’s equaliser as they slumped to third in the table, just days after losing 2-1 in Porto in the Champions League.

Substitute Eider Gudjohnsen grabbed Chelsea’s winner in the 82nd minute after City had dominated possession and squandered a host of chances at the City of Manchester stadium. — MNA/Reuters

Siena, Reggina play out edgy goalless draw

ROSTO, 1 March — Serie A strugglers Siena and Reggina missed a chance to climb the table when they drew 0-0 in a tense match on Saturday.

The result left both sides hovering above the relegation zone with 22 points from 23 games. Promoted Siena had lost their last five league matches but created the lion’s share of the chances.

Five minutes before the break Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flie headed goalwards but the ball was easily held by Reggina goalkeeper Ferdinando Coppola.

Coppola again saved the visitors from falling behind in the 67th minute when he dived to block a long-range shot by striker Nicola Ventola. — MNA/Reuters

Chilean coach Bravo returns to Palmeiras

SÃO PAULO, 1 March — Brazil coach, who had been fired on Friday, barely a week earlier in his career, returned to Brazil to their first Brazilian tournament in Japan and South Korea for the 2004 AFC Asian Cup.

If you would like to learn more about the World Cup, please visit the official FIFA website or access relevant news articles. For training and practice exercises, you can visit the official training app. If you need assistance with your training or have questions about the World Cup, feel free to ask.
Tuesday, March 2

View today:
7:00 am 1. Reception of Parittas by Missionary Sayaw U Omattama
7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 3. Morning news
7:40 am 4. Myanmar news
7:50 am 5. ဗိုလ်ချုပ်ဦးစီးချီး
8:00 am 6. ဗိုလ်ချုပ်ဦးစီးချီး
8:05 am 7. Song of yesteryear
8:15 am 8. ကြည့်စွဲမှုများ

8:30 am 1. International news
8:45 am 2. Grammar Made Easy
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. နိုင်ငံရေးဦးစီးချီး
6. နန်းမှူးများ
5:15 pm 6. Dance of national races
5:25 pm 7. ကြည့်စွဲမှုများ
5:40 pm 8. ကြည့်စွဲမှုများ
5:50 pm 9. Sing and Enjoy
6:30 pm 10. English news
7:00 pm 11. Weather report
6:05 pm 12. မြန်မာ့လိုင်စာ
7:20 pm 13. The mirror images of the musical oldies
7:35 pm 14. မြန်မာ့ဟောက်ဦးစီးချီး
7:45 pm 15. ကျန်းမာရေးဦးစီးချီး
8:00 pm 16. News
7:00 pm 17. International news
8:00 pm 18. Weather report
9:00 pm 19. နိုင်ငံရေးဦးစီးချီး
9:00 pm 20. The next day's programme

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Tuesday, 2 March, 2004

WEATHER

Monday, 1 March, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fine all over the whole country. Day temperatures were 15°C above normal in Bagan, Bago, and Taungyi Divisions, 3°C above normal in lower Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Mandalay, Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 29-2-2004 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature on 1-3-2004 was 17.7°C (64°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs M.S.T on 1-3-2004 was 83%. Sun shine hours on 29-2-2004 was 95 hours approx. Rainfall on 1-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport. Bago-Myeik and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-4-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Bago-Myeik and central Yangon. Yangon Airport at 3288 Hours. (2004) Bay reference. Weather is cloudy in the South Bay, generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening 2-3-2004:

The day temperatures rise markedly all over the country from early March till middle of May. Strong winds are likely locally in the afternoon/evening over most of the country. Surface wind speeds may reach 40 m/h (50 m/h) in strong winds need to be accompanied at times by gusty showers.

Strong Wind Warning
(Issued on 1st March, 2004)

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**Pyigyimandaing region will meet…**

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party met with departmental official members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations at the office of the Township Peace and Development Council.

At the meeting, Senior General Than Shwe made a speech. He said that the government has been giving priority to development of Pyeikpyin region since the region is difficult of access and has potential for development. He added that Pyeikpyin has now possessed the characteristics of a major town and it is in stark contrast with the past. Steps have been taken for development of roads, waterways and airways in the region.

To ensure better transport, Pyeikpyin-Kawthuang (See page 9)

**Prime Minister urges local people to work hard for development of the region and social and economic progress**

YANGON, 1 March—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments left here yesterday and arrived in An at 11 am on that day.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were welcomed by Chairman of Rakhaing State Peace and Development Council Command-in-Chief of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, members of Kyaukphyu District and Ar Township Peace and Development Councils and departmental officials.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by the commander, arrived in Taungup where they were welcomed by Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station, members of Thandwe District and Taungup Township PDCs and departmental officials.

The Prime Minister tendered a ceremony to open Shwe Myitta Home for the Aged in Taungup.

Also present were members of the Sangha led by member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Kaingshe Sayadaw (Mahatma-katikadhara Saddhamma-jotikadhaja Kanmathana-cariya Bhadanta Vayamida, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, local authorities and wellwishers.

The commander and donor of the Home for the Aged Thiri Myo Htun and members of Sangha and presented offerings to them.

Wellwisher U Khin Maung Win and Daw Soe Moe Thu formally opened the Home.

The Prime Minister formally unveiled the stone inscription of the home.

Wellwisher U Khin Maung Win and Daw Soe Moe Thu presented K 10 million for the fund of the Home and K 5 million each for construction of three-storey building of Taungup Basic Education High School and new building of Kyaukminaw BEHS in Yanbyu to the commander.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the homes and development of Pyeikpyin, population, industrial and airways in the region.

The Prime Minister inspected three-storey building under construction. Next, he met members of Thandwe District and Taungup Township PDCs, departmental officials and members of social organizations at the hall in the school.

Chairman of Thandwe District PDC Lt-Col Hla Tin reported on location and area of Thandwe, population, cultivation of monsoon paddy, per acre yield, arrangements (See page 10)