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

YANGON, 3 March — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria which falls on 3 March 2004. — MNA

Excerpts from Senior General Than Shwe’s addresses

— It is important for the nation to have qualified human resources to advance with leaps and bounds.
— Teachers should also understand the sector-wise requirements of the Government and its goodwill.
— They will have to teach and train their pupils to become human resources capable of serving the national interest and building the nation.
— Only the nations having qualified human resources achieve progress in the long run.
— If the natural resources in the division can be utilized effectively, Taninthayi Division will become the one on which the State can rely.
— Effective exploitation of natural resources in Taninthayi much contributes towards the national economic progress and individual income in the division will considerably increase.
— The government has fulfilled the basic requirements in education, health and transport sectors for the development of the division.
— It is sure that Taninthayi Division will become a prosperous division on which the State can rely if the tasks can be implemented with might and main after realizing the better prospects for development.

Myanmar will have to leapfrog to catch up with global developments and changes

Senior General Than Shwe inspects institutions of higher learning, hospitals in Myeik

YANGON, 2 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe arrived at the Government Computer College in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, at 9 am on 28 February.

He was accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office.

The Senior General and party met with officials, the acting pro-rector of Myeik University, professors, and principals and teachers of Government Computer College and Government Technological College.

Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin reported to them on the brief account of the university, classes, major subjects and other academic matters, Principal of GCC Daw Mya Mya Zin and Principal of GTC Daw Nu Nu Swe on academic and (See page 8)

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

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**Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Bulgaria**

**YANGON, 3 March — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Symonee-Saxe-Coburg Gotha, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria which falls on 3 March 2004.**

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**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**Fifth State Central Working Committee of Sangha meeting continues**

**YANGON, 2 March —** The Fifth Central Working Committee of the Sangha of the Union of Myanmar continued its fourth meeting for the second day in Maha Pathana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

On the occasion, Chairman of the Central Committee for Construction of Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe said it was unprecedented in the history of the Buddha Sasana in Myanmar that the first plenary Sangha meeting was held successfully in 1980 with the aim of promoting and propagating the Sangha to Sasana. To mark the successful completion of the meeting and the unity among the different sects of the Sangha, the Maha Wizaya Pagoda was built. He continued the major donor for religious edifices of the pagoda was families of All Bus lines Control Commander (Yangon). Then, the meeting went into recess. The meeting resumed at 1 pm, and the report on activities of the SSNMC during the previous year was read out. Then, general round of discussions were held. The meeting continues tomorrow.— MNA

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**Delegation leaves for Vietnam**

**YANGON, 2 March —** To attend the First GMS Trade Fair in Hanoi, Vietnam, UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin, CEC member U Tun Aung and executive U Myo Than left here by air this morning and Vice-President U Zaw Min Win and Joint-Secretary-2 Dr Maung Maung Lay left here by air this evening. They were seen off at the airport by UMFCCI President U Win Myint and officials.— MNA

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**CASH DONATED**

Chargé d’Affaires a.i of Pakistani Embassy in Myanmar Mr Habib U Rahman donated K 100,000 to Myanmar Hockey Federation. On behalf of the wellwishers, U Kyaw Naing and U Kyaw Naing Oo handed over the cash donation to Myanmar Hockey Federation President No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint on 2 March morning at the meeting room of the Federation. — mna

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**Delegation leaves for Vietnam**

**YANGON, 2 March —** At the invitation of Vietnamese trade minister, Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tun Tun left here for Vietnam this morning to attend the opening ceremony of GMS Trade Fair to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 4 to 7 March, meeting with the executives of the Greater Mekong Sub-regional economic forum and trade promotion conference.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, departmental heads and officials saw the delegation off at the Yangon International Airport.

The delegation was also accompanied by Director of the Directorate of Trade U Kyaw Soe Lin.— MNA
Soldiers link baby deaths to jabs

BAGHDAD, 2 March—Some UK Soldiers who served in Iraq have expressed fears for their unborn babies after claiming a number of child deaths are linked to anthrax jabs.

There have been two miscarriages, three premature births, one still-birth and a medical termination associated with one Hampshire unit since last year.

At least one of the parents had received the anthrax jab in each case.

A spokesperson for the MoD said there was no link between a higher rate of congenital disabilities and vaccines.

The National Gulf Veterans and Families Association (NGVFA) is calling for a public inquiry into the deaths.

It follows claims that women in the first Gulf War were advised by the Army not to conceive children for at least one year after they or their partner received the vaccine.

A total of 105 soldiers from the Gosport based 33 Field Hospital were stationed on the Kuwait-Iraqi border and then Basra at the beginning of last year.

The unit includes medics, chefs, Royal Engineers, drivers, clerks and quartermasters.

Charles Plumridge, spokesman for the NGVFA, said several worried parents—too bad had called him.

He said: “I had several calls yesterday on our helpline from mothers and husbands whose wives are now pregnant and are worried their babies may be born with some form of defect.

“One woman was due in four weeks and she was very, very upset.

“They were all inoculated for Gulf War Two with anthrax and all the other vaccines associated with the Gulf.”

Among the cases is Lance Corporal Andy Sauppe’s son, who was born 10 weeks premature with growth problems and limb defects.

Baby Kye survived only five weeks before his life support machine was switched off, 1 March, 2004.

Iraqi women walk past a Polish soldier at a mobile checkpoint some 15 km north of the southern Iraqi town of Kerbala on 1 March, 2004.

List of Academy Award winners

LOS ANGELES, 2 March — The following is a list of winners at the 76th Annual Academy Awards, the film industry’s top honours, presented by Hollywood’s Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Sunday.

“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” the final installment in director Peter Jackson’s blockbuster fantasy trilogy, took 11 Oscars, tying a record set by “Titanic” and “Ben Hur.”

Best Motion Picture:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” (New Line); produced by Barrie M Osborne, Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh

Best Actor:
Sean Penn for “Mystic River” (Warner Bros.)

Best Actress:
Charlize Theron for “Monster” (Newmarket Films)

Best Director:
Peter Jackson for “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” (New Line)

Best Supporting Actor:
Tim Robbins in “Mystic River” (Warner Bros)

Best Supporting Actress:
Richard Taylor and Peter King

Best Art Direction:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” (New Line); Grant Major, Dan Hennah and Alan Lee

Best Animated Feature:
“Finding Nemo” (Pixar/Buena Vista); Andrew Stanton

Best Costume Design:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” (New Line); Ngila Dickson and Richard Taylor

Best Supporting Actress:
Rene Zellweger in “Cold Mountain” (Miramax)

Best Live Action Short Film:
“Two Soldiers,” (Shoe Creek Picture Company); Aaron Schneider and Andrew J Sacks

Best Animated Short Film:
Harvie Krumpet,” (Melodrama Pictures); Adam Elliot

Best Visual Effects:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” (New Line); Jim Rygel, Joe Letteri, Randall William Cook, Alex Funke

Best Make-up:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” (New Line), Richard Taylor and Peter King

Best Sound Mixing:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” (New Line); Christopher Boyes, Michael Semanick, Michael Hedges, Hammond Peek

Best Sound Editing:
“Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World” (20th Century Fox); Richard King

Best Live Action Short Film:
“Chernobyl Heart,” (Downtown TV Documentaries); Maryann DeLeo

Best Documentary Feature:
“The Fog of War” (Sony Pictures Classics); Errol Morris and Michael Williams

Best Original Score:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” (New Line); Howard Shore

Best Film Editing:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” (New Line); Jamie Selkirk

Best Original Song:
“I Want It That Way” from “Austin Powers in Goldmember” (Universal Music Group); Oregon Free State

Best Cinematography:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” (New Line); Mauro Fiore

Best Original Screenplay:
“Chocolat,” (New Line and Warner Bros) held their Oscar statues backstage at the Kodak Theatre after winning Oscars at the 76th annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, on 29 February, 2004. Zellweger won best supporting actress for her role in the film “Cold Mountain.” Penn won best actor for his role in the film “Mystic River.”

Penn, who won the best actor award for “Mystic River,” took a shot at the Bush administration’s failure to find Iraq’s suspected weapons of mass destruction. “If there’s one thing that actors and actresses know -- apart from the fact that there were no WMDs -- is that there are no bests in acting,” he said. —Internet

Iowan injured in grenade attack in Iraq

MOUNT PLEASANT, 2 March—An Iowa native was injured in a grenade attack in Iraq.

Army Capt. Michael Messer, who grew up in Mount Pleasant, was wounded in the foot and leg on 17 February. The grenade was reportedly thrown from the top of a building.

Messer is with the 116th Infantry Battalion based in Fort Riley. Kan. He returned to his unit the next day.

Messer’s parents, Melvin and Barbara Messer, of Mount Pleasant, said their son told them he will make a full recovery. He has been serving in the central part of Iraq, but his parents didn’t know if that’s where the attack occurred. Messer joined the Army after graduating from Mount Pleasant High School in 1991. —Internet

Hollywood takes swipes at Bush, Iraq war

HOLLYWOOD, 2 March—Sunday’s Oscars was an opportunity for Hollywood stars to slam President George W Bush and the U.S-led war in Iraq.

The first salvo came from master of ceremonies Billy Crystal, who opened the show with a reminder about the first Oscar show he hosted 13 years ago.

“Everything was so different,” the comic said. ‘Bush was President, the economy was tanking and we’d just finished a war with Iraq.” Of course, he was referring to the current president’s father, the first Gulf War and the economic downturn in 1991.

Crystal compared his absence from the Oscars in the last few years with the controversy over accusations that Bush did not always show up for duty during his military service. “They let me come and go as I please,” Crystal said. “It’s kind of like the Texas National Guard.”

Director Errol Morris, who won an Oscar for his Vietnam war documentary “The Fog of War,” compared the Vietnam conflict with Iraq. “Forty years ago this country went down a rabbit hole, and I fear we’re going down a rabbit hole once again,” said Morris, who was visibly moved.

Sean Penn, who won the best actor award for “Mystic River,” took a shot at the Bush administration’s failure to find Iraq’s suspected weapons of mass destruction. “If there’s one thing that actors and actresses know -- apart from the fact that there were no WMDs -- is that there are no bests in acting,” he said. —Internet

Charlie Theron, Sean Penn, Renee Zellweger and Tim Robbins (L-R) hold their Oscar statues backstage at the Kodak Theatre after winning Oscars at the 76th annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, on 29 February, 2004. Zellweger won best supporting actress for her role in the film ‘Cold Mountain.’ Penn won best actor for his role in the film ‘Mystic River,’ Robbins won best supporting actor for his role in the film ‘Mystic River,’ and Theron won best actress for her role in the film ‘Monsters.’ —Internet

Original Screenplay:
“Lost in Translation,” (Focus Features); Sofia Coppola

Best Foreign Language Film:
“The Barbarian Invasions,” (Canada/Cinemaginaire); Adam Elliot

Best Adapted Screenplay:
“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King.” (New Line); Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens and Peter Jackson

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MENA/Reuters
Survey finds declining support for Iraq occupation

Omo, 2 March — Confidence in America’s military involvement in Iraq has dropped to its lowest level since the war began — slightly more than a quarter of US adults say they are “very certain” the occupation of Iraq was the right thing to do.

According to the latest in a series of surveys about Iraq conducted by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University, nearly half say they are “not certain” the nation has done the right thing in sending troops into Iraq.

Support for a pre-emptive strike — engaging a country like Iraq because of concerns that it may attack the United States in the future — has also declined in recent months.

The paper appears to be evenly divided on whether the United States should consider deploying troops to countries other than Iraq or Afghanistan, if necessary, to combat terrorism.

President Bush’s approval rating has also dropped in recent months with 48 percent saying they approve of the job he has done in the White House, the lowest of his presidency.

Scripps Howard began surveying public support for Iraq operations starting in late 2002 during the military buildup for a US-led invasion. There has never been a majority expressing strong confidence in the campaign.

The latest poll, conducted the final two weeks of February, found 28 percent “absolutely certain” it was the correct thing to do “to send troops into Iraq to force it to disarm its weapons of mass destruction,” down from 41 percent in May immediately after Bush declared an end to major military operations in Iraq.

Twenty-two percent said they were “pretty certain,” down from 25 percent in May; 47 percent said “not certain,” up from 31 percent in May. Three percent were undecided in both polls.

Men are much more likely to support military operations in Iraq than are women, with 31 percent of males saying they are “very certain” compared to 23 percent of women.

Non-Hispanic white people tended to be twice as likely to support the military operations than are blacks or other racial minorities.

The latest survey was conducted at the Scripps Survey Research Centre at Ohio University among 1,013 adult residents of the United States interviewed 15-29 Feb by telephone. It was funded by a grant from the Scripps Foundation. — Internet

Parents of murdered soldier demand inquiry into son’s death

London, 2 March — The parents of a British soldier murdered by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan have called for an inquiry into their son’s death after it emerged that repeated requests for armoured vehicles were refused by the British Ministry of Defence, the British Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported on Sunday.

Jonathan Kitulagoda, 23, a Private in the British Territorial Army died on January 28 in an attack near Camp Souter, the British base in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Kitulagoda was in an open-topped Army Land Rover with “soft-skin” canvas sides when he overtook a suicide bomber driving a taxi.

“If the British Government is going to send soldiers into dangerous countries, it should ensure that they have the right equipment to do the job and that they are adequately protected,” Ranjith and Susan Kitulagoda told the paper in their first comments since their son’s death.

According to the paper, acting on intelligence of a resurgence of Taleban attacks, British officers made several formal requests to the Army for armoured Land Rovers to be dispatched to Afghanistan. But the requests were turned down because all of the Army’s armoured Land Rovers were in Iraq or part of a consignment held in reserve for a potential resurgence of terrorist activity in Northern Ireland.

However, the paper said, within days of Kitulagoda’s death, the order was given for several armoured Land Rovers to be sent to Afghanistan.

“I want to know why they were sent out after Jonathan’s death and not before. If this is correct, there should be a full investigation. We are still waiting to hear the full facts,” the paper quoted Ranjith as saying.— MNA/Xinhua

Israeli security Cabinet approves “Phalcon” sale to India

Jerusalem, 2 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. Israeli and Indian negotiating teams are said to have finished drafting the agreement according to which the Israel 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 Hahut, 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 Beriev Aircraft Design Bureau, a unit of Iktok Aerospace Corporation.

“We hope to sign the contract with Israel, latest by April,” a senior official of Iktok Aerospace Corporation told PTI in Irkutsk, Siberia. Iktok also produces Sukhoi Su-20MKI warplanes for India.

The payment for the planes for the Phalcon system is to be spread over a number of years, Israel Radio reported. — MNA/PTI

US wants unlimited guarantees for military bases in Iraq

Paris, 2 March — US plans on the redeployment of its military bases from Saudi Arabia to Iraq are coming up against serious international legal problems.

According to the information obtained here, the lawyers working for the World Federalists and the Pentagon recently that any decisions within the framework of the talks, now being held with the Provisional Governing Council of Iraq, on a special status of US bases on the Iraqi territory would be invalid from the point of view of international law.

As a result of it, US servicemen in Iraq will be unprotected against legal action taken by international legal institutions, including the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The United States, which decided to move its military bases away from Saudi Arabia, is completing preparations for the creation of a network of military bases on the territory of Iraq. According to information from reliable sources, Washington is trying to get unprecedented concessions from Iraq, including the removal of US officers and men from the jurisdiction both of the Iraqi authorities and international law.

Along with it, the United States wishes to get guarantees for a freedom of movement of the US troops by the Iraqi territory, for the creation of military bases and testing grounds anywhere in Iraq and for the unlimited duration of its military presence in that country.

The lawyers, who provide legal advice to the US Administration, maintain that such agreements could be signed only with an internationally recognized government of Iraq, which is to be formed no earlier than July 1, this year.

Thai House Committee calls on govt to withdraw troops from Iraq

Bangkok, 2 March — Thai House Committee on Foreign Affairs called on the government to review the deployment of troops in Iraq, saying a withdrawal could ease tension in the south by distancing Thailand from the United States, The Nation newspaper reported Monday.

Committee Vice-Chairman Kobsak Chuttikul said the government should not dispatch a second contingent of troops to Iraq as schedule because the first Thai contingent had sufficiently demonstrated Thailand’s commitment to the efforts of the United States and the international community.

Invited by the United States, 400-plus Thai troops travelled to Iraq in last September to participate in the reconstruction there, they are living in the Lima camp in Karbala under orders of Polish troops.

Thailand plans to send a second contingent of more than 400 troops to Iraq by March 17 to replace the first contingent, which has worked there for six months. — MNA/Thinsa

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Wellington, 2 March — The New Zealand Defence Force has begun training a 50-member special forces group to be deployed to Iraq — the first for the country’s military to serve in combat.

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British troops in Iraq complain lack of planning by officers

LONDON, 2 March — Thousands of British soldiers have complained that they were failed by their senior officers whose lack of planning had led to equipment supply failure during the war in Iraq, the British Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported on Sunday.

The newspaper reported that the unprecedented criticism was contained in a confidential document which would be presented to General Mike Jackson, head of the British Army, next month.

Following weeks of face-to-face conversations with soldiers who served in the Iraq war, a select group of officers and senior non-commissioned officers compiled a report, stating that troops who fought in Iraq believed the kit crisis that affected thousands of British servicemen was caused by a lack of planning by senior officers.

Many soldiers were “frustrated that they were not properly equipped” when they crossed the front line, the paper said. The report also said many soldiers believed that too much “government spin” supporting the need for war was passed down along the chain of command.

The Sunday Telegraph story comes as the government denied claims that British military chiefs put pressure on British Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith to strengthen his advice on the legality of the war in Iraq.

Amid media reports that Goldsmith formed up his legal opinion before the Iraq war due to concerns that troops could be prosecuted for fighting an illegal war, British Cabinet minister, Commons leader Peter Hain told the GMTV that “we have a fog of fabrication and allegation not backed up by any evidence at all”.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the staunchest US ally on Iraq, has insisted that there was “never any question” of Britain being able to go to war without the clear advice of the attorney-general, whose advice has never been published.

Egyptian FM says Arabs do not need guides for reform

CAIRO, 2 March — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said on Sunday that the Arabs do not need guides for reform.

“The Arabs would not await to be guided for reform,” he told reporters, referring to a US initiative aimed at fostering greater democracy and economic growth in the Middle East.

“The US plan would be under discussions during meetings of Arab foreign ministers,” he said, while extending a welcome to external cooperation in the reform process in the Arab world. The US plan will be reportedly launched in June at a summit.

Arab leaders have given a cold shoulder to the plan, saying that Arab nations reject any pattern of reform imposed from outside.

Manila urged to stop sending contingent replacements to Iraq

MANILA, 2 March — A Philippine senator urged the government Sunday to scuttle its plan to send 43 humanitarian and peacekeeping replacements to Iraq following the failure of the US Government to release the needed funds.

Manuel Villar, chairman of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations, said there was no need for the country to maintain such a mission in Iraq and that the government is risking the lives of volunteers by sending them to Iraq.

“The government should abort its plan immediately. It should not insist on deploying Filipino soldiers and health workers,” he said in a statement.

The replacement personnel were supposed to leave Sunday for Baghdad as part of the government’s plan, but their deployment was deferred due to Washington’s failure to provide funds.

The Philippines has a 96-member contingent in Iraq, whose stay in the war-ravaged country was originally set for six months. But the government decided to extend their stay for another six months last month.

Those who will be replaced are 14 soldiers, 18 policemen and 11 doctors and nurses while the remaining 53 contingent members have to stay in Iraq until the mission is over.

Villar also demanded the return of the contingent from Iraq, recalling that 12 members of the Philippine mission in Iraq were wounded earlier this month in the twin suicide car bombings of a coalition base to the south of Baghdad.

“There was no reason for the government to send a peacekeeping mission last year and there is no reason why we should continue to maintain one in Iraq,” he said.

China’s emergency aid arrives in Morocco

RABAT, 2 March — Emergency humanitarian aid from China arrived at an airport in northern Morocco Sunday and it will be immediately sent to the Mediterranean nation’s quake-hit Al Hoceima region.

The supplies, worth 5 million yuan ($600,000 US dollars), are mainly tents, generators and water purification and lighting equipment.

The Chinese Government decided to offer emergency humanitarian aid to Morocco shortly after the northern African country was hit last Tuesday by a 6.3 magnitude quake, which claimed at least 572 lives and left 427 injured and 30,000 more homeless.

Rescue work has nearly come to an end and the Moroccan Government is busy dispatching aid materials offered to the victims by the international community.

By Sunday, more than 20 countries had offered humanitarian aid to Morocco, according to officials from the Interior Ministry.

China pledges medical insurance to benefit rural people

BEIJING, 2 March — The Ministry of Health has pledged to widen medical reforms to allow most Chinese, especially those living in rural areas, to benefit from proper medical services, reported Monday’s China Daily.

The government will give priority to joining the new, co-operative medicare system, according to the English-language newspaper.

A recent survey shows that only 12 per cent of farmers covered by medical insurance, compared with 54 per cent among urban people.

The central government is determined to set up an effective welfare system to offer medical care to 780 million farmers and be expanded to cover all farmers by 2010.

Nigeria to launch second satellite in 2006

LAGOS, 2 March — Nigeria is planning to launch its second communications satellite in about two years, local newspaper The Guardian reported Sunday.

Its first satellite, Nigeria SAT-1, which was launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in Russia last September for data-gathering and other scientific researches, made Africa’s most populous country the third on the continent to join the space age, after South Africa and Algeria.

The Guardian quoted Federal Minister of Science and Technology Turner Isoum as saying that the launch, which would cost less than 100 million US dollars, would be another window of opportunity in the country’s quest to compete with the international community in the telecommunications sector.

“This will have some far-reaching implications on the nation’s communications policy thrust aimed at making it another major tool for economic and social growth,” Isoum said.

The launching of communications satellite would make the (Nigerian) e-Government’s dream realistic,” he added.

He said the government would help improve Nigeria’s poor rating in the information technology world and move the country towards a cashless society, which would reduce the incidence of armed robbery attacks, as many banks would settle payment using e-Government option.
Many problems await returning Iraqi refugees

Baghdad, 2 March — For many of the Iraqis who dispersed out of Iraq during the former regime of Saddam Hussein, the way back home would not be an easy one. "Saddam Hussein's regime has been toppled, every day, the number of refugees growing," said a UN official. "It has been a long and costly war, and the process of return is not yet complete." The United States has said that it approves the return of the refugees, but considers it still very early yet, pointed out that it would not allow them to return unless a certain mechanism is set for them to return with dignity, respect and safety. The US occupation authority fears that accepting the return of tens of thousands of families would mean that they would reclaim the properties that were taken from them.

Swiss cities deemed best for living, Baghdad worst

London, 2 March — Baghdad, which suffered war and occupation in 2003, ranked the worst place to live in the world in a survey just published. Concerns over security and precarious infrastructure were among the reasons putting Baghdad at the bottom of a survey on the quality of life in 215 world cities by Mercer Human Resources Consulting. Zurich and Geneva in Switzerland were one and two in the poll, which takes into account factors such as the political and social environment, the level of education, the efficiency of transport systems and standards of recreational facilities. Vancouver, on Canada's Pacific Coast, was pushed down into third.

A separate poll on top cities for health care was conducted, with Singapore and Zurich and Geneva in Switzerland standing at the top of a list of 10, along with Swiss capital Bern, Zurich and Geneva. The top cities for health and sanitation have a combination of excellent hospital services and medical supplies and low levels of air pollution and infectious disease, said Slagin Parakatil, senior researcher at Mercer. The lowest ranked for health and sanitation was the Azerbaijan capital Baku because of the short supply of medical services and poor water removal, the report said.

In a statement, Anti-illegal Drugs Task Force chief Deputy Director-General Edgardo Aglipay said police forces swooped down on the suspected laboratory early Monday, confiscating at least 148 sacks, or 3,700 kilos of ephedrine, a raw material for manufacturing shabu, and some 30 kilos of the finished product of the illegal drug.

Aglipay said the raid was conducted after the apartment has been put under surveillance since September last year and the clandestine laboratory was abandoned by Taiwanese nationals, and no suspects were arrested in the raid. Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo arrived at the apartment to congratulate the police on the successful raid.

The Philippine Government has intensified anti-illegal drugs operations as drug lords ravaged across the country, where there were about 3.4-million drug abusers among the total population of over 80 million, and 70 per cent of the jailed were drug-related, according to the official statistics released last year.

Jordan, Kuwait agree to set up regional logistic storing facility

Amman, 2 March — Kuwait and Jordan have signed an agreement to set up a regional logistic storing facility in the kingdom’s southern port of Aqaba, local newspaper Jordan Times reported Sunday. The agreement was inked by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority and the Kuwait Public Warehouse housing Company on Saturday. The facility, which is expected to provide a logistic hub for the two countries in the Middle East region, will serve as a gate for the countries by offering services of freight, distribution, transportation and storing in Aqaba from Europe, Asia and Africa. About 400,000 Kuwaiti citizens have visited the Arab kingdom during the past two years, many of whom have rented or bought real estates in Jordan.

UNDP to locate regional headquarters in Kathmandu

Kathmandu, 2 March — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has decided to locate in Nepal’s capital Kathmandu its regional headquarters for Asia in the areas of poverty, crisis prevention and fight against HIV/AIDS, an UN official said.

The decision to develop Nepal as the headquarters has already been finalized, and will be implemented from July 1 this year, The Kathmandu Post newspaper on Monday quoted Hafiz A. Pasha, UN Assistant Secretary-General, as saying here Sunday. "Nepal had been a centre for South Asia, now it will be serving as the centre for all of Asia in the areas of poverty alleviation, crisis prevention, recovery and fight against HIV/AIDS," said Pasha, who is participating in a regional workshop in Kathmandu.

"We have already acquired a new premise just opposite of the UN centre in Kathmandu City, and the number of staff has also been doubled for the purpose," he noted in an exclusive interview by the independent English daily.

India lowers excise, Customs duties on steel products

New Delhi, 2 March — In a bid to check spiralling steel prices, India Sunday notified a package including drastic cut in excise and Customs duties on whole gamut of steel, iron and coal products.

Central Excise duty has been reduced to 8 per cent from 16 per cent now, virtually across the board, including pig iron, ferro alloys and pellets. In the Customs duty cut, pig iron, a major input in steel making has been the major gainer as it has been lowered to 5 per cent from existing 10 per cent, which had come into effect only three days ago.

It may be recalled that on February 24, the Union Government had reduced import duty on pig iron to 10 per cent from 20 per cent prevailing at that time. The package, which was finalized on Friday at a high level inter-ministerial meet- ing chaired by Prime Minis- ter Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is aimed at enhancing supply of steel in the domestic market and check the prices which had skyrocketed in the recent past.

Customs duty on non coal coke, including anthracite, bituminous coal and steam coal has been reduced to 5 per cent from 15 per cent. Coking coal of ash content below 12 per cent, which was subject to 5 per cent duty has been exempted from Customs duty while the cok- ing coal of ash content of over 12 per cent has been prescribed at 15 per cent import duty.

The duty rates come into effect from Sunday.
The western mountain ranges, the central mountain ranges, the eastern mountain ranges and the Taninthayi mountain ranges help balance the climate of Myanmar, serving as walls to prevent the entering of extreme cold and heat waves, while letting the monsoon come at the right time. The rivers including the Ayeyawady, the Chindwin and the Sittungo serve as the means of transport and provide water for the people and farming. Likewise, the sea brings monsoon rains and is also useful for maritime transport. The national races living in the land of plenty have extended economic, social and cultural relationships among themselves, while depending on one another for prosperity and existence. They have driven out all the enemies trying to harm the freedom, peace and safety and safeguarded the independence and sovereignty at the risk of their lives.

Under the instigation of the colonists, Sandara Kantashem of Assam launched an armed opposition against the Myanmar King in 1820. Over 7,000 Myanmar soldiers under the command of General Maha Bandoolla marched to Assam and crushed the armed uprising. On arrival at Mogao, chief of Taungsar of the land of Manipur, and Ran Maung 24,000 troops with 1,000 forces with his army. Over 1,000 Kachin-Jainghaw soldiers, including Haungsa Bo Nay Myo Thwin Paza joined forces with the General’s troops. The Kachin troops were led by Bo Thaung Hlaing and Bo Thaung. Lawton Zawri, Insein Lawt Hsunndu, Zawja Madophydi and Lawkthun Zawtaung, who were Nay Myo Thwin Paza title recipients. It is history that the national races’ endeavors were rewarded. The colonists plotted to encroach upon the sovereignty before the First Anglo-Myanmar War.

The British declared war on Myanmar on 5 March 1824, igniting the First Anglo-Myanmar War. The colonialist troops under the command of General Morrison and Sir Archibald Campbell opened the battle front in the land of Manipur with 9,343 troops, ten naval ships and 124 guns attack forces. When Myanmar won the victory, the campaign was prolonged to the land of Bago, and the colonialist troops had to retreat to the land of Sittungo. The Tatmadaw born of the anti-colonialist struggle and the bravery of the Myanmar patriots including Bo Myat Tun was acknowledged by a governor-general. The anti-colonialist struggle in Yangon, Danubyu, Bago, Pathein, Mawlamyine and Mottama regions. They included Kayins, Bo Thaung Hlaing, Bo Thaung and Kayins and local chief Aing Thahtaung, who was the Pabbata Thohan of the land of Taninthayi.

Bo Shwe Pan had 2,000 troops, totalling 9,000 men. Bo Myat Tun was planning to attack the colonialist troops from the other bank of Yangon. But the colonialist troops did not find any faulty manpower and firepower. There emerged many famous leaders of the anti-colonialist struggle in Yangon. Danubyu, Bago, Pathem, Mawlamyine and Mottama regions. They included the colonialist army in the battles.

The Tatmadaw born of the anti-colonialist struggle and the bravery of the Myanmar patriots including Bo Myat Tun was acknowledged by a governor-general. The anti-colonialist struggle in Yangon, Danubyu, Bago, Pathein, Mawlamyine and Mottama regions. They included Kayins, Bo Thaung Hlaing, Bo Thaung and Kayins and local chief Aing Thahtaung, who was the Pabbata Thohan of the land of Taninthayi.

Chin soldiers including two officers fell and another 20 were wounded. The Myanmar troops seized cannons and ammunition from the colonialist contingent.

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But the colonialists had already seized Yangon before the arrival of the colonialist troops. The Tatmadaw born of the anti-colonialist struggle and the bravery of the Myanmar patriots including Bo Myat Tun was acknowledged by a governor-general. The anti-colonialist struggle in Yangon, Danubyu, Bago, Pathein, Mawlamyine and Mottama regions. They included Kayins, Bo Thaung Hlaing, Bo Thaung and Kayins and local chief Aing Thahtaung, who was the Pabbata Thohan of the land of Taninthayi.
Myanmar will have to leapfrog...

(from page 3)

management matters, Head of Marine Biology Department Dr Huy Aung on his subject and the islands in Myeik Archipelago.

Minister for Education U Than Aung said the Myeik University has the best opportunity among the universities that teach Marine Biology in Southeast Asia, and explained the extension program of the department.

academic and research work.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thant explained the current condition of the GCC and GTC and extension plans.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that qualified human resources are essential to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Institutions of higher learning being being set up to narrow the gap between the regions in terms of development and in producing human resources. The world at present is seeing rapid developments and changes. A developing country like Myanmar will have to leapfrog to catch up with global developments and changes, and ordinary steps alone may not be enough. The nation should make five or more steps forward for every step taken by others. It is important for every step taken to be alive.

He stressed the importance of providing effective health education, preventive care, and treatment with sense of duty. By doing so, national health standard will improve, he said.

The Senior General and party met members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, townswelders and entrepreneurs at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik at noon.

Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on development tasks in Taninthayi Division, measures undertaken for rural development, collection of tax, paddy cultivation acreage in the division, sufficiency of rice, cultivation of oil palm, rubber, pepper, construction of 12 oil palm factories, mining, meat and fish, and transport sectors, economic development, per capita income and arrangements for regional development.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on State economy and production, contribution of Taninthayi Division in the State economy, per capita income and economic sector.

Senior General Than Shwe then gave guidance. He said he and his entourage came to the region to inspect development of Taninthayi Division and to fulfil the requirements on 25 February. If the natural resources in the division can be utilized effectively, Taninthayi Division will become the one on which the State can rely, he said.

There are plenty of land, human and sea resources. Fish andrawn, petroleum and natural gas contribute much towards national development. Pearl culture is a reliable and potential business of the division. Mineral resources can still be explored not only in the sea but also in the land. Exploiting the land resources, paddy cultivation is to be extended so that there will be sufficiency of rice in Taninthayi Division. Lands where oil palm and rubber can be grown are still available. Rubber and palm oil can be exported through the extended cultivation. Pepper which earns foreign exchange can be grown well in the region, he added.

Effective exploitation of natural resources in Taninthayi Division contributes towards the national economic progress and per capita income in the division. It is sure that Taninthayi Division will become a prosperous one on which the State can rely if the tasks can be implemented with might and main after realizing the better prospects for development, he said.

He spoke of the need to work hard. The government is implementing the tasks spending a large sum of money with the aims of developing even the far-flung areas. In response to the government’s goodwill, local people are to make efforts of development through hardwork. He urged them to make endeavours for local rice sufficiency, regional and national development hand in hand with the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Senior General Than Shwe and party toured Myeik and inspected fish and prawn factories there.

Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Kyunzu by air via Myeik and met with departmental staff, USDA members, those of social organizations and Tatmadawmen and their families at Kyun Yadana Hall in Kyunzu Township Peace and Development Council Office.

At the meeting, on behalf of the Senior General, General Thura Shwe Mann said in the time of Tatmadaw Government, not only the whole country but also Taninthayi Division has developed in all aspects thanks to the cooperative efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Next, he urged those present to make efforts for the development of their region and the State. Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted those present. Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed round Kyunzu by car, and proceeded to the township people’s hospital and met with doctors and nurses.

Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived back in Myeik by helicopter.
Prime Minister makes inspection…

(from page 16)

Model fish and prawn breeding is to be conducted in the region for promotion of livestock breeding sector. Organizing measures are to be taken in the interest of local people who are engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding, and assistance is to be provided for the farmers, he remarked.

A new natural gas deposit has been found in the sea adjacent to Kyaukpyu region recently, and so the region will be prosperous with oil production process soon. Besides, being blessed with good conditions to establish a deep sea port, Kyaukpyu region will be a prosperous one. Thus, officials are to make preparatory measures in creating good conditions for regional economic progress, he said.

At a time when the Government has been making efforts for raising the economic and living standard of the people, departmental personnel and the people, on their part, are also to make endeavours with goodwill for regional development and elevating the socio-economy life of the people, he urged.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV set and a video cassette player each to Kyaukpyu Basic Education High School Nos. 1 and 2 through respective principals. The Prime Minister and entourage also viewed computer aided instruction, computer application and e-Mail, video system, electronic media (language lab), reading corner (printed media) room of Kyaukpyu BEHS No. 1.

They arrived back at An in the evening.

Yesterday morning, the Prime Minister looked into development projects in An. The Chairman of the MEC and party arrived at An BEHS No. 2 at 8.30 am. They inspected the multimedia teaching classrooms and left instructions on construction of new lecture rooms and academic matters to the teachers.

The Prime Minister proceeded to An Civil Engineering Project site. Officials reported on points about the project, of allocation of land plots, construction of roads and bridges, work being done, future tasks, distribution of water from Hinywet Dam and construction of town hall in An. The Prime Minister fulfilled the needs and gave necessary instructions.

The Chairman of the NHC headed for the site of An Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Myol Monastery Sayadaw Bhuddanta Panha Dhika and members of the Sangha.

They went to the immigration control centre No 25 in An. Officials reported on border trade businesses and immigration work. The Prime Minister gave instructions and met with local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations and townswelders. On the occasion, the Township Peace and Development Council Chairman reported on facts about the region, cultivation of monsoon paddy, edible oil crops and beans and pulses, education and health sectors, forest conservation and nursing trees plantations.

The Prime Minister attended to the needs for construction of new buildings for An BEHS Nos 1 and 2, and dealt with highland reclamation, boosting per acre yield of the crops, planting such cash crops as green gram and pepper, conservation of forests, and establishing tree plantations.

Next, the Prime Minister presented a TV set, a video cassette player and a computer set each to An BEHS Nos 1 and 2, saying that during the inspection tour of Rakhsin State, he fulfilled the requirements for development of Taungup and Kyaukpyu townships the previous day and An Township earlier in the morning.

Agriculture thrives in An Township and officials are to encourage the people to extend growing of seasonal and perennial crops. He stressed the importance of transforming hill-side cultivation to highland cultivation in An Township. He said that the officials concerned are to organize local farmers so as to replace the strains of crops with high-yield ones. He called for measures to be taken for local food sufficiency and extension of more tree plantations in An Township.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the departmental officials to strive with goodwill to ensure rapid development of the region, to win the trust of local people and to raise socio-economic life of local people. The Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the afternoon via An.
Buddha Pujiyana of Myat Mawtin Pagoda held

YANGON, 2 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials, attended the Buddha Pujiyana of Maha Makutaramsi Hsandrwsih Myat Mawtin Pagoda in Ngapudaw Township on 28 February morning. Present on the occasion were the chairman Sayadaw and member Sayadaw of Ayeyawady Division Sangha Nayakya Committee, Lt-Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife Daw Tin Tin Latt, senior military officers, departmental officials, members of the pagoda board of trustees, social organizations, townswomen and guests.

After opening the ceremony with the three-time recitation of Namu Taissa, Lt-Khin Maung Than, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife offered flowers, water, lights and alms to the Sayadaws of the pagoda to the next, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party paid homage to the pagoda. The congregation received the Five Precepts from member Sayadaws, who later recited parittas. Lt-Khin Maung Than and the commander presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who made donations for all-round renovation of the pagoda. Lt-Khin Maung Than also supplanted on religious matters to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. After the ceremony, Pathein District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Hla Thwin presented the paintings of the pagoda to Lt-Khin Maung Than, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Col Maw Oo Lwin of Local Battalion. Next, Lt-Khin Maung Than, Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife performed rituals of golden and silver showers.

He arrived at Kanchaing village, where he attended a ceremony to hand over the newly-built basic education middle school (branch). On the occasion, outstanding students opened the school buildings and presented the motto that an education is the key to modern and developed nation through education. Next, the commander and the assistant education officer of Ayeyawady Division formally opened Thita Hall at the school. On the occasion, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Ngayokkaung Taung Village where they cordially greeted those present at the meeting. After the ceremony, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party viewed the regional development conditions in Kanchaing village.

Later, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Thamaehlayagun in Ngapudaw Township. At the briefing hall there, officials reported on measures being taken for control and care of turtles in Ayeyawady Division, for preventing the turtles from extinction, environmental conservation tasks, and the population of turtles along Myanma seashore. After hearing the reports, Lt-Khin Maung Than gave instructions. Next, they proceeded to Ahnchaing village of Pynkyhayang station and met with local people.

He received the Five Precepts from member Sayadaws, who recited parittas. Lt-Khin Maung Than and the commander handed over to Col Maw Oo Lwin the commemorative pennant to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. He also visited the 16-bed Station Hospital and gave encouragement to in-patients. He also inspected the operation theatre and medical storehouse at the hospital. He also provided K 100,000 to the hospital fund.

After that, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Chaungwga village, where he cordially met with the local authorities, presented a donation of K 100,000 to the band troupe of the affiliated high school. Lt-Khin Maung Than and party then left there by Tatmadaw vessel and arrived at Haigyikyun in Ngapudaw Township in the evening. At the battalion hall there, Lt-Khin Maung Than cordially met with officers and other ranks of the battalions and units.

Lt-Khin Maung Than inspects development of Haigyikyun and Ngayokkaung region

YANGON, 2 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and members, inspected agricultural and livestock breeding tasks in local battalion in Haigyikyun Station on 29 February morning.

First, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the pepper farm No 3 and inspected cultivation of 1,000 pepper duckings and the poultry farm where 100 ducks are raised in the local battalion. Next he gave necessary instructions to officials. Lt-Khin Maung Than viewed the thriving crops plantation and local chicken breeding farm on the local battalion on Haigyikyun. pepper, betel vines, carrot, water, crescent pool and perennial rice such as thaitseint, mango trees and other trees are cultivated and 1,000 ducks, 374 goats, 10 buffaloes are bred. There are also 49 acres of sea prawn breeding ponds in the battalion.

Next, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party went to Haigyikyun Station Hospital where they viewed round the X-ray room and operation theatre and donated K 100,000 to the funds of the hospital. He then inspected the radio and telegraph station of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and greeted the staff.

He proceeded to Haigyikyun Police Station, Lt-Gen Maung Than and party viewed the development of Haigyikyun by car. They next went to Win Kyaw Kyaw Ice Factory in the model village which produces 160 300- pound ice blocks per day. Lt-Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Khamaukmaw Village by boat and inspected road construction tasks along Pathein-Mawtinsun Road by car.

He also inspected Haigyikyun basic education middle school and party arrived at Ngayokkaung Taung Village where they cordially greeted departmental officials and townswomen at the village basic education school and fulfilled the requirements. At the briefing, he met with the townswomen, Lt-Khin Maung Than made cash donation for the village basic education school and opening of the library. Later, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Ngayokkaung where they were welcomed by local people.

Afterwards, Lt-Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials and townswomen at Nagyokkaung Basic Education High School. Also present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and division level official officers.

Ngapudaw Township PDC Chairman U Nyunt Tin and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported on monsoon paddy cultivation, and health and administrative affairs of the region.

Lt-Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said to ensure the smooth transport of the Ngayokkaung region, the State has constructed Pathein-Mawtinsun Raing Village to Pathein and Mawtinsun. He said the State has laid down five rural development, agricultural and livestock breeding.

In conclusion, he said local people are to cooperate with departmental officials in implementing the tasks for their regional development.

After that, Lt-Khin Maung Than donated K 100,000 for the fund of Ngayokkaung Station Hospital. Later, Lt-Khin Maung Than and party inspected the new basic education high school at Ahnchaing village of Pynkyhayang station. Lt-Khin Maung Than cordially met with locals, members of social organizations, and donated K 100,000 for the school through the schoolhead.
The successive eras of history. The MWAF has been founded with the invaluable force and to take the task of sharing leadership role.

Of the nation’s population of over 52 million, about 27 million are women, and 15 million of them are young ones or in their prime age. Thus, such a large volume of human resources should be united to become a single mighty force.

In addition, the women have been serving the national interest as a strong force throughout the course of history. Thus, if we will try to federate consolidate the strength. The MWAF has been formed for the women to lead the invaluable force and to take the task of sharing responsibilities by themselves, till the Federation has become a united organization on which the womenfolk can rely.

The MWAF has been formed with the fine principle to promote the women’s sector in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation; to protect the rights of women; to develop the economy, health and education of women and to ensure a secure life for them; to nurture train them to promote their spirit of cherishing and valuing the traditions and culture; and systematically carry out the task of preventing violence against them and rehabilitation; to launch the task to eliminate trafficking in women and children; and to cooperate with international organizations for Women’s Affairs MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, vice-presidents and members, work committees and guests.

First, the Prime Minister spoke on the occasion. He said not long ago, the MWAF and State/Division Organizations for Women’s Affairs held a conference. The future programmes and the sectors which requires remedial measures will have to be discussed. The State founded the MWAF to extend the functions to develop the women’s sector.

The State values and honours the spiritual ability and fine traditions of the womenfolk who have energetically taken part in the respective sectors throughout the successive eras of history. The MWAF has been founded to organize the women mass to become a national force, while enabling them to take part in the nation-building task in the respective sectors.

As the Government has been making systematic efforts for the progress and firmness of the Myanmar women’s sector, the women’s spirit to love the nation and the race, patriotism to preserve the race, and the spirit to serve the well-being of the nation and the people have been further vitalized, and their tradition of actively taking part in the activities related social organizations promoted.

At present, the sector of Myanmar women are entering a new age; their ability is rising and their fine traditions flourishing. In this regard, the Government has been making arrangements to promote the women’s organization as a means to accelerate the developing momentum of the sector and enhance its essence and leadership role.

The sectors are education, health, prevention of violence against women, culture, conservation of environment, information and communication, young girls and women, international communications, scrutiny of laws, prevention of human trafficking, nurturing and resettlement, organizing national races affairs, discipline and finance and administration.

She said organizational set-up and functions, fundamental rules were compiled. She said central executive members led by President and Vice-President of MWAF made field trips to states and divisions. They met members of state and division organizations for women’s affairs and explained procedures on finance and expenditure, indicators needed in compiling reports and fundamental rules of the federation. They also replied to the queries.

The Prime Minister, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the Yangon mayor, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, Chairperson of the leading committee for organizing the plenary Meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women’s Affairs MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, vice-presidents and members, work committees and guests.

The First Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with delegates to the plenary meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women’s Affairs at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Kommyintha at 3 pm yesterday and gave necessary instructions.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the deputy chief justice, the vice-mayor, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, Chairperson of the leading committee for organizing the plenary Meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women’s Affairs MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, vice-presidents and members, work committees and guests.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the meeting to coordinate measures for holding plenary meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women’s Affairs.

Myanmar women entering a new age; their ability rising, their fine traditions flourishing

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets delegates to plenary meeting of State and Division Organizations for Women’s Affairs

Military columns continue practising drills

YANGON, 2 March — The military columns which are going to participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade continued practising drills in the Resistance Park from 7 am to 10 am today.

Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein led the practising drills of the columns — Anawratha Column headed by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansitha Column by Column Commander Col Thein Dan, Bayinnaung Column by Column Commander Col Than Win, Nawadya Column by Column Commander Col Aung Thaw, Aung Zeya Column by Column Commander Col Tint Tai, Hsinbyushin Column by Column Commander Col U Kyaw, Bandoola Column by Column Commander Col Myint Ko Ko, Myawady Column by Column Commander Col Kan Nyunt, and Aung San Column by Column Commander Col Maung Maung Than.

Chairman of the management committee for the observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade 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 inspected the drills.
Japan okays poultry imports from four Thai plants

Tokyo, 2 March — Japan has given the green light for a resumption of imports of heat-treated poultry products from four Thai factories, halted since an outbreak of bird flu, an Agriculture Ministry official said on Monday.

Japan barred all poultry product imports from Thailand in January but agreed last month to accept shipments of cooked products if the processing facilities met Japanese hygiene and quality standards.

Officials from Japan’s Agriculture Ministry are due to complete checks on 25 facilities in Thailand by Tuesday.

“The remaining (21) facilities will probably resume shipments to Japan once we can confirm that there is no problem,” a ministry official said.

Japan imported 70,000 tons of heat-treated poultry products and 170,000 tons of chilled or frozen poultry products from Thailand, its largest overseas supplier, in the year to March 2003.

The ban on chilled or frozen poultry products from Thailand will remain in place.

Japan is also in talks with China, its third-largest supplier, for a resumption of heat-treated poultry product imports. The Farm Ministry official said the two countries were still discussing conditions for the restart.

MNA/Reuters

President says agri priority for Zambia’s eco revival

LUSAKA, 2 March — Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa has reiterated that agriculture is the priority sector of Zambia’s economic revival and poverty reduction, Zambia News Agency reported Sunday.

Mwanawasa was quoted as saying this is the reason why his new administration is reviewing the policies concerning input distribution and rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure.

He promised that his government would continue to increase financial allocation to the sector because he was convinced that agriculture was the only remedy that would turn the economy of the country around and reduce poverty.

MNA/Xinhua

Nine Indians in “Forbes” billionaires list

New York, 2 March — Nine Indians led by software major Wipro’s Chairman Azim Premji have found a place in the list of billionaires worldwide this year, which once again topped by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is worth $66.6 billion dollars.

Premji with a net worth of 6.7 billion dollars occupied 58th position followed by steel baron Lakshmi Mittal who is worth 6.2 billion dollars and found 62nd slot on overall Forbes’ list of a record number of 587 billionaires, including 64 newcomers.

Lakshmi and Anil Ambani of Reliance Industries are worth six billion dollars and placed 65th followed by industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla who found 147th position and is worth 3.2 billion dollars.

Sunil Mittal of Airtel, a leading mobile phone service provider, is placed at 186th position and has a net worth of 2.7 billion dollars followed by Pallonji Mistry who is worth 2.3 billion dollars and found 231st position.

Adi Godrej and family, according to Forbes, is worth 2 billion dollars and got 277th slot. Shiv Nadar is worth 1.8 billion dollars and Anil Agarwali one billion dollars and they respectively are placed at 310 and 552 positions.

Together, Indian billionaires are worth $31.9 billion dollars — MNA/PTI

China sets up group to fight snail fever

BEIJING, 2 March — China established on Sunday a national snail fever prevention group to quell and rapid spread of schistosomiasis or snail fever, according to Monday’s edition of the China Daily.

The group will draft policies and rules for snail fever prevention and co-ordinate related major issues in mobilizing the national resources to push forward control of the disease throughout China, said Vice-Premier Wu Yi, also the group head.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SITTWE VOY NO (4)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SITTWE Voy No (4) arrived on 3-3-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

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China drives safely

Beijing, 2 March — China has established on Sunday a national snail fever prevention group to quell and rapid spread of schistosomiasis or snail fever, according to Monday’s edition of the China Daily.

The group will draft policies and rules for snail fever prevention and co-ordinate related major issues in mobilizing the national resources to push forward control of the disease throughout China, said Vice-Premier Wu Yi, also the group head.

MNA/Xinhua
**UN panel enlists private sector in war on poverty**

**UNITED NATIONS, 2 March** — A UN commission seeking to enlist local businesses in the global war on poverty urged developing nations on Monday to pursue policies that encourage savings, investment and innovation.

“The private sector can alleviate poverty by contributing to economic growth, job creation and poor people’s incomes,” the panel reported.

“It can also empower poor people by providing a broad range of products and services at lower prices,” said the panel headed by Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin and ex-Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo.

Local businesses in impoverished nations are typically overtaxed and overregulated, the commission found, recommending that governments ease the burden on entrepreneurs trying to start up a company and cope with myriad regulations they are required to meet.

In Angola, for example, it now takes 146 days and 5,531 US dollars — more than eight times the average per capita income — to start a business, compared to 28 US dollars — far less than 1 per cent of the per capita income — in New Zealand.

Impoverished countries and the international agencies trying to help them develop can encourage private-sector development “only by fostering properly functioning competitive markets,” the panel said.

Martin, in a statement, said the panel focused on the need for new and innovative partnerships between governments and small and medium-sized firms, saying they would “contribute significantly to the creation of jobs and prosperity for the least advantaged where it really counts — in their local communities.”

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan launched the commission last July, asking it to report back to him on how to build strong local private sectors in poor countries.

Annan said poor nations were falling short of UN demands for more foreign aid, increased trade and greater private sector investment, preventing them from achieving ambitious goals set for them by the United Nations at a 2000 summit.

The UN-organized Poverty Commission will present its report on June 28.

**OPEC oil price keeps strong on US unchanged crude reserve**

**VIENNA, 2 March** — The average crude oil price rose to 30.61 US dollars per barrel last week, up 41 cents compared to the previous week, the Vienna-based Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said Monday.

The crude oil price, based on the average price package of seven market-monitored crudes, was pushed high by the unchanged US crude oil reserve, according to OPEC’s Secretariat.

A report by the US energy department said last week that the United States had not raised crude oil reserve and had reduced import.

By the end of last week, OPEC prices had climbed above the 22 to 28 dollars per barrel range for 60 consecutive trading days, and the post-Iraq war high of 31.13 dollars per barrel appeared last Friday.

OPEC’s President and Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro said Monday that the cartel will raise its oil output temporarily to check the rising momentum.

Confronted by the situation, OPEC assured that there was no supply shortage.

Ali bin Al-Naimi, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister of Saudi Arabia, OPEC’s largest crude oil exporter, said Monday, “It is extremely important for the market to remain stable. The world’s economic growth depends on a very reliable supply of energy.”

Despite the current price hike, OPEC made a surprise decision on 10 February in Algeria that it would lower output quotas by one million barrels a day effective from 1 April. The decision would reduce the cartel’s oil output from the present 24.5 million barrels a day to 23.5 million barrels.

Some ministers believed that the cut is a necessary step to prevent oil prices from falling due to the end of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and a reduced demand for fuel.

However, some analysts said that the measure would push higher the oil prices that have already been rising in the international market.

The action drew immediate reaction from the United Nations, which said it would be “detrimental to the world economy.”

**UN unemployment, growing problem in Central, East Europe**

**UNITED NATIONS, 3 March** — Workers in Central and East Europe are more mobile than they used to be and unemployment is a growing problem in the region, said a UN report released here Monday.

In developed countries, job turnover increases during economic boom times because higher demand for labour encourages people to leave their jobs for better ones, while during recessions labour turnover decreases due to low demand, according to the report. Labour markets in transition are balancing flexibility and security in Central and Eastern Europe.

The United Nations International Labour Organization said in the report that job markets in the region have increased their flexibility, but the forms of flexibility are different from those to be found in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries.

In the transition countries, however, people do not trust the economic health of many of the companies offering new jobs.

“They know that if they become unemployed their loss of income would be dramatic and the support provided by their local social welfare institutions is poor,” said the report, “for these reasons, they prefer work at lower incomes even during an economic upswing.”

**Putin picks ex-tax chief for PM**

**MOSCOW, 2 March** — Russian President Vladimir Putin made a surprise choice for prime minister on Monday, picking a bureaucrat with credentials to appeal to the powerful law and order lobby while courting Western investors.

Putin, catching Kremlin watchers on the hop, picked Mikhail Fradkov, a former chief tax policeman and seasoned trade official, to succeed Mikhail Kasyanov, whom he sacked last week.

Putin said Fradkov, 53, Russia’s envoy to the European Union and a former trade minister, had “strong experience in fighting corruption”, adding that the job required “a good international profile with wide-ranging government experience.”

**Venezuelan President threatens US with oil weapon**

**CARACAS, 2 March** — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that Venezuela would block the US access to its oil resources if the United States imposes sanctions or invades the country.

Chavez was responding to a recent threat from the United States that it would impose sanctions on Venezuela if it cut off oil sales to the US.

If Mr Bush is possessed with the madness of trying to blockade Venezuela, or worse, to invade Venezuela in response to the desperate song of his lackeys... sadly not a drop of petroleum will come to them from Venezuela in response to such threats.

The Venezuelan President also accused Bush’s administration of providing financial aid for opposition parties and terrorists in Venezuela.

Chavez said Venezuela is a free and democratic country and not afraid to defend the country with blood and lives.

Pro-government supporters held a rally Sunday in Caracas to back the government and oppose US interference in the country’s internal affairs.

**About 2,900 journalists flock to upcoming NPC, CPPCC sessions**

**BEIJING, 2 March** — About 2,900 journalists from home and overseas had registered to cover the upcoming annual sessions of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) by Monday, according to the meetings’ Press centre.

The number of journalists is almost same as that for last year’s sessions in which the new generation of leadership was elected and administrative reform was deepened.

Constitutional amendments widely regarded as the most important agenda of the Second Session of the 10th National People’s Congress (NPC)

Other hot issues on the agenda of both sessions include fighting corruption, increasing farmers’ income, helping laid-off workers find jobs, improving social security, protecting the local environment as well as coping with land requisition.

Sources: MNA/Xinhua
Juninho settles his debt with Middlesbrough, himself

CARDIFF, 2 March — For Juninho it was third time lucky when he finally won a trophy in his third stint at his beloved Middlesbrough with a 2-1 victory over Bolton Wanderers in the League Cup final on Sunday.

Just as he had said before the match, this victory was as important to the little Brazilian as winning the World Cup with his national team two years ago.

“It's because of the relationship I've had with the club from the first time I came from Brazil, and trying to win a title. In the second year we lost two finals so the feeling had remained (with me) of a lack of success,” Juninho told Reuters.

He returned to Middlesbrough on loan from Atletico Madrid in 1999 and after loan spells in Brazil with Vasco da Gama and Flamengo he signed a permanent deal with Boro in 2002.

“Coming here (to Boro) for a third time and getting another opportunity... I feel this title is as important as the World Cup,” said Juninho, a member of Brazil’s team that won a record fifth crown in Japan in 2002.

Juninho, who turned 31 a week ago, has two more years on his contract but said he would not see out his career at Middlesbrough. “I have always said I will go back to Brazil.”

The Brazilian said Boro, who raced into a two-goal lead inside seven minutes but were pulled back to 2-1 in the 21st, deserved their victory but that they nearly paid the price for failing to kill off their opponents.

“I think in the second half we deserved to score another goal, we didn't get it so always when the ball went to our box the hearts beat faster,” he said.

Against all expectations Radomir Antic’s Celt took Real by storm in the opening minutes at the Bernabeu, creating a string of early chances.

Carles Queiroz’s side did not manage a shot on goal until Raul fired a snap shot from the edge of the area after a quarter of an hour and it was the visitors who took the lead three minutes later. Ilic made the most of some slack marking from the Real defence to poke in from close range after an Alexander Mostovoi corner had fallen to his feet.

Real, who were jeered off by their own fans at half time, continued to look a little shaky after the restart and Casillas had to react quickly to block a sharp shot from Savo Milosevic.

But a minute later they got the breakthrough that changed the course of the match when Ronaldinho stabbed in from close range after Pinto had failed to hold a David Beckham header.

Real immediately began to ooze confidence and nine minutes later they took the lead when Zidane met a pinpoint Luis Figo cross with an expert header.

Figo himself scored Real’s third when he raced on to an excellent lofted pass from Beckham, controlled with his thigh and beat Pinto with a low, angled shot.

Although Milosevic cut the Real lead with a well-taken goal in the 90th minute, Zidane made it 4-2 with a great finish from the edge of the area after yet more good work from the outstanding Figo.

Middlesbrough's Chairman Steve Gibson is held up by Franc Quyard (l), Juninho (C) and Bozo Zenden as Middlesbrough celebrate winning the Carling Cup final football match, on 29 February, 2004 in Cardiff, Wales. Middlesbrough defeated Bolton 2-1. — INTERNET

Middlesbrough wins up keep pressure on Milan

ROSM, 2 March — AS Roma came from behind to crush Parma 4-1 and champions Juventus brushed aside Ancona 3-0 to keep up the pressure on Serie A leaders AC Milan on Sunday.

The results gave second-placed Roma 53 points from 23 games, one more than Juventus and two behind Milan, who take on Lazio at Rome’s Olympic Stadium in a later match.

Roma’s form during February had been blighted by the kind of inconsistency highlighted by the scoreless draw with bottom-placed Ancona that followed their sparkling 4-0 defeat of Juventus.

A 30th-minute lob by striker Alberto Gilardino put Parma ahead and threatened a torrid afternoon for the 2001 champions, but Italian international Antonio Cassano equalized seconds before the interval. He latched on to a Francesc Totti pass before rounding goalkeeper Sebastien Frey and firing into the roof of the net.

Roma grabbed the lead seven minutes after the break, when Emerson poked an Oliviero Dacourt cross into the ball past Frey.

A 70th-minute free kick by Totti and an opportunistic goal from a rebound by Brazilian midfielder Mancini sealed the victory.

At Turin’s Stadio delle Alpi Juventus gave a convincing response to criticism by their president Umberto Agnelli that they had fallen short of last season’s standards, recording a comfortable victory over Ancona.

Midfielder Mauro Camoranesi gave the home team the lead in the seventh minute with a loopy right-footed drive.

Newcastle, Liverpool both miss out

LONDON, 2 March — Newcastle United missed the chance to strengthen their grip on fourth place in the English Premier League on Sunday when they were held 1-1 at relegation-threatened Portsmouth.

With Liverpool, one of Newcastle’s main rivals for the final Champions League spot, drawing 2-2 at bottom club Leeds earlier, Newcastle seemed on course to widen the gap after Craig Bellamy’s 34th-minute effort.

But Lomana LuaLua, who is on loan to Portsmouth from Newcastle, pounced in the 89th minute to volley an equalizer and secure a precious point for the south coast club to lift them out of the relegation zone.

Newcastle remain in fourth place on 42 points, 16 behind third-placed Manchester United but two ahead of Charlton Athletic and three more than Liverpool.

“How don’t know whether he’ll be pleased or not,” Newcastle manager Bobby Robson told Sky Sports, when asked about LuaLua’s contribution.

“His team missed a two points we’ve lost today.”

Harry Kewell put Liverpool in front against his old club with a superb solo goal after 21 minutes of a thrilling draw at Elland Road.

Goals from Eirik Bakke and Mark Viduka turned the game on its head before Czech striker Milan Baros powered in an equalizer shortly before the end of a pulsating first half. Liverpool pressed hard for a winner after the break but it was Leeds who almost snatched the points when Alan Smith headed powerfully against the crossbar.

Chelsea plan to use PSV as nursery club

LONDON, 2 March — Chelsea are close to striking a deal which will effectively lead to Dutch side PSV Eindhoven acting as their nursery club, according to newspaper reports on Sunday.

As part of the proposed agreement between the two clubs, Chelsea are helping to finance a big-money move by Santos defender Alex to PSV, said the reports.

“Nothing’s been properly finalized just yet but there are clear advantages for everyone concerned,” PSV chairman Harry van Raaij was quoted as saying in the News of the World.

“It is true Chelsea are behind this signing of Alex for PSV. Everyone’s hopeful we can continue to work together for the good of both clubs.”

Brazilian Alex, 21, will spend a maximum of two years with PSV before joining Chelsea, said the newspaper reports.

Chelsea won 1-0 at Manchester City on Saturday to climb up to second in the Premier League table, nine points behind leaders Arsenal. — INTERNET

Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane, centre, is congratulated by his teammates Roberto Carlos, left, and David Beckham after he scored a goal against Celta Vigo during their Spanish League soccer match in Madrid, Spain, on Sunday, 29 February, 2004. — INTERNET

Massimo Ambrosini (L) of AC Milan is airborne as he scores a diving header against Lazio's goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi during their Serie A clash at the Olympic Stadium in Rome, on 29 February, 2004. — INTERNET

Real stretch lead as Valencia slip up

MADRID, 2 March — Real Madrid took full advantage of a slip-up by title rivals Valencia when they stretched their lead at the top of the Primera Liga to eight points following a 4-2 victory over struggling Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Celta struck early with a goal by Savo Milosevic, but Real roared back into life in the second half and worked goals from Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo put them 3-1 in front.

Celta striker Savo Milosevic grabbed a consolation with a cool finish on the break, but Real had the final say when Zidane notched his side’s fourth in injury-time.
16:00 National News
16:05 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Aukak Mountain)
16:10 Song of the “Nat” Spirits
16:15 National News
16:20 Biological Expedition to Hpakant Razi Region (1) (Yangon-Patoo-Upper Shan-gaung)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Naughty Girl”
16:30 National News
16:35 Pickled Featherback
16:40 Mandalay, The Golden City
16:45 National News
16:50 Bamboo Parquet
16:55 Mosaic Painting of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
17:00 National News
17:05 Reclamation & Cultivation in the Uplands
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song “Naughty Girl”
17:15 National News
17:20 Bagan Our Pride and Glory of the Past
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
17:30 National News
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18:50 National News
18:55 National News
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19:15 National News
19:20 National News
19:25 National News
19:30 Signature Tune Getting
19:35 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
19:40 Myanmar-Roasted Beef
19:45 National News
19:50 National News
19:55 National News
20:00 National News
20:05 Art in Glass Bottles
20:10 Myanmar Modern Song “Rice Flowing Like a Canal”
20:15 National News
20:20 National News
20:25 “Ayeyawady”
20:30 National News
20:35 National News
20:40 National News
20:45 National News
20:50 National News
20:55 National News
21:00 National News
21:05 Ancient Htoke Kan Their Temple
21:10 Song “Bagan the Wonder Land”
21:15 National News
21:20 Tour In Myanmar “Pyin Oo Lwin”
21:25 A Song of the “Nat” Spirits
21:30 The Pathein Umbrella
21:35 National News
21:40 Art of Carving On Fruits
21:45 National News
21:50 Tour In Myanmar “Pyin Oo Lwin”
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22:05 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Aukak Mountain)
22:10 Song “Hill Steps Town”
22:15 National News
22:20 Biological Expedition to Hpakant Razi Region (1) (Yangon-Patoo-Upper Shan-gaung)
22:25 Song on Screen “Mu-sical Maes”
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23:00 Mosaic Painting of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
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23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
23:30 National News
23:35 National News
23:40 National News
23:45 National News
23:50 National News
23:55 National News
4:00 am
9. Learning English the easy and happy way for children and beginners
4:00 pm
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Demonstration
4:45 pm
Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. National News
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International News
18. Weather report
19. National News
5:30 pm
7. “Song of the “Nat” Spirits”
20. next day’s programme
8:45 am
9. Learning English the easy and happy way for children and beginners
8:45 am
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
8:00 pm
16. News
17. International News
18. Weather report
19. National News
5:30 pm
7. “Song of the “Nat” Spirits”
20. next day’s programme
8:45 am
9. Learning English the easy and happy way for children and beginners
4:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. Religous News
8:05 am
6. ights and news
8:15 am
7. National News
8:30 am
International news
Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Maha Theikdizaya Pagoda in Myeik

YANGON, 2 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, with his entourage, visited Maha Theikdizaya Pagoda on 29 February morning and inspected the pagoda, which is under construction in Myeik.

Senior General Than Shwe and party first paid homage to Buddha statues kept in the cave of the pagoda and then to relics which will be enshrined in the pagoda.

After signing in the visitors’ book, Senior General Than Shwe viewed round the pagoda and inspected progress made in construction works.

Officials presented reports on construction works of the pagoda to Senior General Than Shwe, who later gave guidance. Next, the Senior General greeted departmental officials, and members of religious associations, the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations.

At 10 am, Senior General Than Shwe and party went to the Buddha Sasana Beikman Building at Laykyunshee Pagoda and paid homage to Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the pagoda.

On the occasion, Townships Sangha Nayaka Committee (Thudama) Chairman, Myeik Sankyung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja invested the Senior General and the congregation with the Five Precepts, followed by the recitation of parittas by Sayadaws. Next, Senior General Than Shwe offered provisions to the Sankyaung Sayadaw.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Deputy Minister for Education Col Myo Tint reported on location, area and population of Kyaukpyu District, saying that measures are being taken for opening new educational institutions and upgrading old ones. In the process, the Prime Minister gave instructions on adopting the plans for appointing sufficient number and high quality of the teachers.

On arrival at Kyaukpyu District People’s Hospital (100-bed), Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looked into wards, operation theatre and medical store, and gave instructions to the officials on meeting the standards of health care services of a district level hospital (100-bed).

At the Ramawady Hall in Kyaukpyu, the Prime Minister held a meeting with local administrative bodies, service personnel and social organizations.

On the occasion, Kyaukpyu District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Myo Tint reported on location, area and population of Kyaukpyu District, average annual rainfall, land utilization, cultivation of monsoon paddy, preparations for extended paddy cultivation, condition of local rice sufficiency, growing of various kinds of fruits, pepper, cold season crops, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and kitchen crops, education and health (See page 9).

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects construction of Ann Township Hospital (100-bed) in Rakhine State on 1-3-2004. — MNA

Prime Minister makes inspection tour of Rakhine State

YANGON, 2 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, arrived at Kyaukpyu via Taungup, Rakhine State, on 29 February afternoon.

They were welcomed there by local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations. They proceeded to Kyaukpyu Education College and inspected the computer training centre and presentation room. Principal Daw Khin Khin Wai reported on courses being conducted in the college.

Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for construction of a new building, saying that measures are being taken for opening new educational institutions and upgrading old ones. In the process, the Prime Minister gave instructions on adopting the plans for appointing sufficient number and high quality of the teachers.

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