Government has already provided infrastructures in various sectors for development of Taninthayi Division

Senior General Than Shwe meets departmental personnel in Palaw, Dawei, inspects Maungmagan Beach in Launglon Township

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 Taninthay 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, arrived at Palaw via Myeik at 12.30 pm on 29 February.

They were welcomed thereby Staff Officer (Grade I) (Q) of the Coastal Region Command Lt-Col Tun Ohn, Myeik District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Kywe and officials.

The Senior General and party held a meeting with local authorities, service personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, town elders, Tatmadaw members of Palaw Station and their families at Kanyodan Yadana Hall in Palaw.

On the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann delivered an address, saying that Senior General Than Shwe and entourage dropped in Palaw, while touring Taninthay Division to fulfil the requirements for regional development.

After taking over the State’s responsibilities, the Tatmadaw Government has been systematically implementing the development projects, and now the magnificent development images in all spheres have stood witness to the government’s efforts, he said.

Based on the current achievement, continuous efforts are to be made with added momentum for greater development, he said.

(See page 16)

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

Thursday, 4 March, 2004

Strive for regional security and economic development

Rich in natural resources, the Union of Myanmar enjoys favourable environments for self-sufficiency and regional development. The State recourses to the Departmental Council on its part, making the best use of these conditions, has been building economic and social infrastructures region-wise for the harmonious development of the entire Union.

Prevalence of peace and stability has paved the way for the execution of more economic and social work.

Therefore, regional administrative organs and the local people on their part should work together to widen the horizon of peace and stability and rule of law in their respective regions.

In his meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations, Tatmadawmen and their families during his visit to Bokpyin, Karathuriya, Pyigymandaing and Taninthayi in Taninthayi Division on 26 and 27 February, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe emphasized that it was necessary for the local people to cultivate their love for the motherland and for the responsible personnel to safeguard their regional peace and stability and rule of law so that the local people can live in peace and security.

As the Bokpyin region is away from the capital and difficult of access, the Government has given special emphasis to development work in the Bokpyin region.

Now the Bokpyin-Kawthoung and Bokpyin-Taninthayi motor roads can be used in all weather. And all the requirements for the development of transport, administration, education and health infrastructures have been fulfilled in Bokpyin, Pyigymandaing and Taninthayi.

As Taninthayi township enjoys a favourable climate, gardening is the main industry being fulfilled in Bokpyin, Pyigymandaing and Taninthayi.

Ranbaxy, Indian multi-national Pharmaceutical, celebrated its decade of presence in Myanmar at Traders Hotel in Yangon recently. There was also a scientific conference on 26 and 27 February, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe emphasized that it was necessary for the local people to cultivate their love for the motherland and for the responsible personnel to safeguard their regional peace and stability and rule of law so that the local people can live in peace and security.

The third day session of the Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha concludes

YANGON, 3 March— The Fourth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continued for the third day at Maha Pasana Cave Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning and concluded in the evening.

Present were State Ovaďaľārya Sayadaw, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, adviser U Aung Maung, directors-general and officials, Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Dawei Gwathitayama Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Acharāṇabhivamsa presided over the meeting and Joint-Secretary Nyaungdon Ponnamayama Zakyauṅ Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Ovaďaľārya Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Acharāṇabhivamsa acted as master of ceremonies.

Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundalajoti sought the approval on the report of the SSMNC. Then, Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kuma submitted lists of vice-chairmen Sayadaws and joint-secretaries Sayadaws for the second three-year term and the meeting chairman Sayadaw sought the approval of the lists. The meeting ended in the afternoon.

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, March — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padeha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there.

Pamphlets and booklets on scientific cultivation of crops, mechanized farming, utilization of natural and chemical fertilizers are also available there.

The Nursery Market Festival is drawing more and more visitors and attracting people to get interested in agriculture and livestock breeding works. — MNA

Measuring the impact of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Deputy Minister U Thein Sein and officials select the prize-winning colour photos. — MNA

WINNERS IN COLOUR PHOTO CONTEST ANNOUNCED

YANGON, 3 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Colour Photo Organizing Working Committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein announced the winners today.

AK Moe (Zoology) won the first prize, Sein Win Htay in the second and Khin Maung Than (Masala myine) in the novel class of the contest entitled ‘Prosperous Myanmar’, and Saw Thein Win (City News) the first, NyaungU Po Cho the second and Shweintha Khin Maung Win the third in the class of the contest for those who have already won the prizes.

U Lu Maung (MPS) won the first prize, U Than Aung (IPRD) the second and Ko Aung Than (Ayeya) the third in the novel class of the contest entitled ‘Preserve Cultural Heritage’ and NyaungU Po Cho won the first prize in the contest for those who have already won the prizes.

The winners are to contact Secretary of the Working Committee U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, not later than office hour on 7-3-2004. Prizes will be presented to first, second and third winners at the prize presentation ceremony to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. Consolation prizes will be presented to winners at the respective military commands. — H

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

U Aye Lwin and U Moe Kyaw were seen off at the Yangon International Airport. — (H)

Officials leave for Bangkok

YANGON, 3 March — Executive of UMFFCCI Secretary of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association U Aye Lwin left here by air yesterday morning for Thailand to attend the Bangkok Furniture Fair 2004 in Bangkok from 4 to 7 March. CEC member of UMFFCCI U Moe Kyaw also left here by air to attend the Leadership Forum 2004 in Bangkok from 3 to 5 March. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by UMFFCCI President U Win Myint and officials. — (H)
UN diplomats say Iraq had no WMD after 1994

WASHINGTON, 3 March—A report from UN weapons inspectors to be released today says they now believe there were no weapons of mass destruction of any significance in Iraq after 1994, according to two UN diplomats who have seen the document.

The historical review of inspections in Iraq is the first outside study to confirm the recent conclusion by David Kay, the former US chief inspector, that Iraq had no banned weapons before last year’s US-led invasion. It also goes further than prewar UN reports, which said no weapons had been found but noted that Iraq had not fully acceded for weapons it was known to have had at the end of the Gulf War in 1991.

The report, to be outlined to the UN Security Council as early as Friday, is based on information gathered over more than seven years of UN inspections in Iraq before the 2003 war, plus postwar findings discussed publicly by Kay.

Kay reported in October that his team found “dozens of WMD-related program activities” that Iraq was required to reveal to UN inspectors but did not. However, he said he found no actual WMDs.

The study, a quarterly report on Iraq from UN inspectors, notes that the US teams’ inability to find any weapons after the war mirrors the experience of UN inspectors who searched there from November 2002 until March 2003.

Many Bush administration officials were harshly critical of the UN inspections “will be a sham.”

The Bush administration also pointedly declined UN offers to help in the postwar weapons hunt, preferring instead to use US inspectors and specialists from other coalition countries such as Britain and Australia.

But UN reports submitted to the Security Council before the war by Hans Blix, former chief UN arms inspector, and Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the UN’s nuclear watchdog agency, have been largely validated by US weapons teams. The common findings: Iraq’s nuclear weapons programme was dormant.

No evidence was found suggesting Iraq possessed chemical or biological weapons. UN officials believe the weapons were destroyed by UN inspectors or Iraqi officials in the years after the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraq was attempting to develop missiles capable of exceeding a UN-imposed limit of 300 miles.

Demetrios Perricos, the acting executive chairman of the UN inspection teams, said in an interview that the failure to find banned weapons in Iraq since the war undercuts administration criticism of the UN’s search before the war.—Internet

CPC calls for understanding inner-party supervision regulations

BEIJING, 3 March — Wu Guanzheng, a senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC), has called on all party members to implement their supervision rights effectively to guarantee the effect of the supervision.

Wu, secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, said that the party will continue to expand inner-party democracy as an important basis for improved inner-party supervision.

The regulations make it clear that the emphasis should be on supervising the leading Party organizations and officials, which holds the key to solving difficulties in supervision implementation, Wu said.

Wu said the regulations underlined the important role of institution building for inner-party supervision and also are vital to guarantee the effect of the supervision.

Wu, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said the regulations stress the need for members to abide by both the Party’s disciplines and the law.

No organization or individual will be allowed to enjoy privileges above the Constitution and the law, said Wu.

He described the inner-party supervision as the basis for the outside supervision of the party, and called on the coordinated combination of both kinds of supervision.

The target of supervision is to strengthen the solidarity and unity of the Party, so supervision of Party members should be combined with the support and protection work. Party members should implement their supervision rights according to the regulations, said Wu.—MNA/Xinhua

India’s exports surge 8.74% in January

NEW DELHI, 3 March — Continuing the forward march, India’s exports surged 8.74 per cent to $117.86 billion US dollars in January 2004 over 47.06 billion US dollars in the same month last year.

In rupee terms, exports went up by 3.12 per cent to 2,853.05 billion rupees in the review month over 2,499.65 billion rupees in January 2003, an official release said on Monday. Cumulative exports (April-January 2003-04) expanded 12.8 per cent to 57,025 billion US dollars.

Growth in April-January 2003-04 over the corresponding period last year was 7.11 per cent, the trade deficit narrowed further to $57.75 billion US dollars in the period from $63.79 billion US dollars in April-January 2002-03.

The trade surplus in the April-January period 2002-03 over the correspoonding period last year was $9.04 billion US dollars.

Export growth was seen in the bulk of the countries, according to the release.

Men react near the scene of several bomb blasts which exploded in densely-occupied areas, in the holy city of Karbala, Iraq, on 2 March, 2004.—Internet

Shiite leaders blame US for deadly Iraqi attacks

KARBALA, 3 March—Three Iraqi Shiite Muslim leaders blamed the United States and its security policies as the occupying power for the devastating attacks in Karbala and Baghdad that killed more than 180 people.

“Until now, it is the occupation forces responsibility because they are dealing with the Iraqi police in an unsuitable way,” Saif said, without saying whether Sistani endorsed his comments. “The existence of the occupation encourages such attacks,” he added.

At least 112 people were killed and 235 wounded in Karbala in a suicide attack backed by mortar fire and bombs detonated at road sides leading to the Shiite holy city south of Baghdad.

Internet

More than 180 killed, hundreds wounded in bomb attacks in two Iraqi cities

BAGHDAD, 3 March—More than 180 people were killed and hundreds were wounded in simultaneous bomb attacks in two Iraqi cities on 2 March, with some blaming US forces for lax security.

In Karbala, at least 112 people were killed and 235 wounded in several coordinated blasts.

Karbala blasts

In Baghdad, at least 70 people were killed and 321 wounded in coordinated suicide attacks.

Baghdad blast

The Islamic government of central China’s Henan Province pledged vigorous assistance to “AIDS” patients

ZHENGZHOU, 3 March — The government of central China’s Henan Province has pledged to improve the living conditions of its AIDS patients as soon as possible.

Government officials said that a group of 76 officials from Henan Province went last month to a one-year mission to help improve AIDS control and treatment work in the most seriously affected villages of Najaf, one of Iraq’s four main Shiite clerics, Bachir Najafi, blamed the attacks on the United States for failing to protect the country’s borders from foreign terrorists. — Internet

Henan Province pledges vigorous assistance to “AIDS” patients

They will team up with local officials to fan out into the 38 most affected villages in the province, including Wenlou village of Shangcai county, which has AIDS patients in nearly every household and has hit the headlines of worldwide media in recent years.

These officials are expected to supervise village authorities to offer free medical treatment to AIDS patients, free and匿名ous HIV/AIDS tests, free education for orphans of AIDS patients and to take care of the elderly who have lost children to AIDS.

They would also help the villagers build basic infrastructure, including a paved road, a well, a school, a clinic and an orphanage and a home for the elderly in each village. The provincial government has earmarked over 30 million yuan (3.6 million US dollars) to finance building of the clinics.

So far, 4,352 AIDS patients in Henan have received free medical treatment. Henan, China’s most populous and a largely agricultural province reported a population of nearly 93 million at the 2000 national census.—MNA/Xinhua

Women react near the scene of several bomb blasts which exploded in densely-occupied areas, in the holy city of Karbala, Iraq, on 2 March, 2004.—Internet

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Ex-Iraq WMD hunter says Bush should ‘come clean’

LONDON, 3 March—Former chief US weapons inspector David Kay said in an interview on Wednesday President Bush should come clean and admit he was mistaken about Iraq having stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons.

Kay told Britain’s Guardian newspaper that the failure to accept that the intelligence was wrong was giving the impression people had been deliberately misled.

“When you don’t say you got it wrong, it leads to the general belief that you manipulated the intelligence and so you did it for some other purpose,” he told the paper.

Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction was the main reason given by the Bush administration for the war in which more than 500 US troops have died. In January, Kay resigned his post saying he now believed no such arms existed and the failure to find any such arms has raised serious questions about the quality of pre-war intelligence.

Bush has since defended the war saying Saddam Hussein had the capability to develop banned weapons even if he did not actually possess them.

But Bush’s Democratic challengers have accused him of hyping the threat to justify the invasion and undertook pressure in an election year he had ordered an independent investigation to examine the issue.

Kay, who says he still believes the war was justified and that Bush had acted in good faith, said the President had to go further to regain public trust.

“It’s about confronting and coming clean with the American people, not just slapping a phrase into the state of the union speech,” Kay said. “He should come up and it is good that the American people are being asked to come in and reflect on independence.”

The self-governing colony has been under British control since 1684.

Bermuda’s Premier calls for break from Britain

HAMILTON (Bermuda), 3 March — Bermuda’s Premier has called for a national debate on independence from Britain and said the wealthy island can fully develop only if it breaks centuries-old colonial ties.

Premier Alex Scott said the centre-left Progressive Labour Party supports independence but has not put the issue on the agenda since winning power for the first time in 1998.

“It is for the people of Bermuda to decide whether or not they wish to become independent,” Scott told supporters on Sunday. “But we consider it our duty to declare our conclusion that only with independence could our national unity be fostered and pride in being Bermudian fully develop. We call on the people of Bermuda to act boldly in fashioning their future.”

549 US service members killed since the beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 March—As of Tuesday, 2 March, 549 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. Of those, 378 died as a result of hostile action and 171 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Thailand, two; Denmark, Ukraine, Estonia and Poland have reported one each.

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 411 US soldiers have died — 263 as a result of hostile action and 148 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,727 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures. Non-hostile injured numbered 419.

The latest deaths reported by the military were from the 1st Armoured Division. One 1st Armoured Division soldier was killed and another wounded Tuesday after insurgents threw a grenade into a Humvee in Baghdad.

Australian Defence Force signs contract with Boeing

CANBERRA, 3 March — The Australian Defence Force (ADF) signed a contract with Boeing Monday for a most advanced air defence command and control system.

The contract involves the complex task of integrating and installing high technology systems and will bring together capabilities developed both overseas and within Australia, said Hill.

The system will provide high-tech communication facilities which will be networked with other ADF and allied surveillance and combat assets, according to the Defence Minister.

The 88 million US dollars Vigilare system would enable the ADF to support surveillance and air defence of the entire country from two operations centres in New South Wales and Northern Territory, Australian Defence Minister Robert Hill said in a statement.

“This means we will be able to better respond to possible future incursions into Australia’s airspace, not only by aircraft but also by any missiles that are detected,” Hill said.

The system will provide high-tech communications facilities which will be networked with other ADF and allied surveillance and combat assets, according to the Defence Minister.

Shao Lin Temple under repair in Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 3 March — Extensive renovations of the Shao Lin Temple, the cradle of the famous Shaolin Boxing, have started in central China’s Henan Province.

Located in the Songshan Mountain area in Dengfeng City, the temple was built in 496 in the period of the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-581). The temple was originally constructed for the Indian monk Bodhidharma, who came to China to spread Buddhism and introduce an Indian form of exercise. The Chinese monks that gathered as followers combined this with Chinese techniques to produce the unique form of "wu shu" or martial arts. The fame of Shao Lin Temple attracts millions of visitors every year.

The temple has a mountain gate, guest rooms, Dhara Pavilion, Baiyin Hall, Ksitigarbha Hall, and a hall housing 1,000 statues of Buddha and murals depicting 500 arhatas. The renovation project includes dismantling buildings on 5,000 square metres, laying 40,000 square metres of high quality grey bricks, building houses on 1,000 square metres and installing a fire-fighting system. It will cost an estimated 40 million yuan (4.8 million US dollars).

The temple has undergone repairs on many occasions since the founding of new China in 1949. The current renovation aims to improve infrastructure facilities and provide a bigger area for martial arts demonstrations and exhibitions.

US soldier killed in Iraqi attack

BAGHDAD, 3 March — A US soldier was killed on Tuesday in Baghdad after resistance fighters tossed a grenade at an army Humvee as it drove down a road in the capital.

According to the US occupation forces, another soldier was injured and taken to a military hospital where he was listed as being in a serious condition. There was no word on Iraqi casualties.

Both soldiers were part of the 1st Armoured Division.

The occupation military said it did not believe the attack was related to the bombings at Shia shrines in the capital and in Karbala, which left several dead and injured.

Most of that number have died since US President George Bush declared an end to major combat on 1 May.
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

A US soldier prepares to extinguish a fire that engulfed a Hummer military vehicle following an attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday morning, 2 March, 2004 killing a US soldier. — Internet

US Army soldiers from the 1st Armoured Calvary Division run to reinforce the gate of Camp Bonzai after a stone-throwing mob attacked US forces in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 2 March, 2004. — Internet

An Iraqi woman cries as she waits for news of her relative, a victim of the explosion in Baghdad, at the Medinat hospital on 2 March, 2004. — Internet

Iraqis carry a victim to a hospital as US soldiers rush to the scene moments after a series of explosions in Khadimiya, Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 2 March, 2004. — Internet

Captain Jason Deel from the 4th Infantry Division Ironhorse replaces an anti-USA and ICDC (Iraqi Civil Defense Corps) graffiti with supporting ones during a joint night patrol with ICDC members in Tikrit, the former stronghold of ousted leader Saddam Hussein in northern Baghdad, on 28 February, 2004. — Internet

The flash from an explosion is seen between two buildings in Karbala, Iraq, on Tuesday, 2 March, 2004. — Internet
IATA says international air traffic in healthy recovery

GENEVA, 3 March — The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released traffic figures for January 2004 on Monday, which reflect the air industry's sound recovery from last year's Iraq War, SARS eruption and global economic recession.

The figures for January 2004 show a 5.9 per cent growth in passenger traffic and 11.2 per cent increase for freight, as compared to January 2003.

"These results confirm the steady recovery trend of the last quarter of 2003," said IATA Director General and CEO Giovanni Bisignani.

"It is a good start towards achieving the 7 per cent annual growth in global passenger traffic and 3 per cent growth in cargo that we have forecast for 2004," he said.

LAAW asks ICC to probe Blair’s war crime claims

LONDON, 3 March — The British pressure group Legal Action Against War (LAAW) asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague on Tuesday to probe allegations of war crimes by British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

As well as Blair, the staunchest US ally on Iraq, the LAWS was also targeting British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon and Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith, who advised that the US-led war against Iraq was lawful.

According to the LAWS, the ICC should investigate whether the bombing campaign in Iraq, the use of cluster bombs and depleted uranium bullets constituted war crimes.

The LAWS, which has been set up by a group of concerned British citizens to investigate and utilize every possible legal avenue available to prevent Britain using military force to resolve international disputes, said a "principle charge" was "intentionally launching an attack knowing it will cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians".

None of the reasons given for the war, including Blair's alleged weapons of mass destruction, violation of United Nations resolutions and removing Iraqi former president Saddam Hussein, provided a satisfactory legal basis for attacking Iraq, lawyer Michael Mansfield, who supported the LAAW, told a news conference here.

Although the ICC did not have jurisdiction to rule unlawful aggression was a war crime, the context of considering the particular individual war crimes had to be set against what the LAWS claimed was an unlawful war, Mansfield said.

The court should not just address alleged war crimes in "banana republics" but should investigate the world's powerful nations too, Mansfield argued.

The legal petition from the LAWS was launched as the British Government continued to defy pressure to publish the full legal advice it received on the war’s legality.

The British Foreign Office on Tuesday declined to comment on the petition, saying only that it stood by the legal basis given for the war.

Brazil calls on IMF to help against hunger

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 March — The Brazilian Government Monday urged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help curtail the misery of hunger ravaging the country.

Patrus Ananias, the Brazilian Social Development and Hunger Fight Minister, seized the opportunity of IMF Director Horst Kohler's attendance to a ceremony in northern Monte Clarito City to request "more efforts" in the disbursement of resources to fight poverty.

Ananias pointed out that the ministry’s main target was to aid more than 40 million Brazilians living below the line of poverty, defined by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

China to open special rehabilitation sections for drug addicts

BEIJING, 3 March — A special section would be opened in China’s rehabilitation centres for drug addicts with HIV/AIDS, said a Chinese public security official Monday.

In some places, special centres will, if possible, be established for drug addicts with HIV/AIDS disease, said Liao Feng, Vice-Minister of Public Security, at a Press conference, when decribing China’s measures in drug control in 2004.

In 2004, China would push forward drug abuse control and rehabilitation, as well as the programme of Drug-free Communities and Villages, said Liao.

Cracking down on drug-related crimes and intercepting drug sources were still important measures that China would take in drug control in 2004, according to Liao.

Heilongjiang registered over 12% industrial growth in 2003

HARBIN, 3 March — The northeastern province of Heilongjiang reported a 12.2 per cent rise in its total industrial added value in 2003, the latest statistics show.

The province’s industrial added value in 2003 stood at 224.9 billion yuan (7.1 billion US dollars), according to the provincial economic commission.

The total industrial output accounted for over 50 per cent of the province’s gross domestic product last year, and the industries contributed nearly 60 per cent to the province’s GDP growth in 2003. The province’s GDP grew by 10.3 per cent in 2003.

Total taxes and profits from the industries of the province reached a record 87.73 billion yuan (10.6 billion US dollars) and 59.49 billion yuan (7.2 billion US dollars), up respectively 23.4 per cent and 28.9 per cent from a year earlier, according to the provincial economic commission.

It is high on the Chinese Government’s agenda to revitalize the three traditionally industrialized northeastern provinces that include Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning.

UN Iraq inspectors say US has not cooperated

UNITED NATIONS, 3 March — UN Arms inspectors on Tuesday complained that a lack of cooperation by the United States had stymied their efforts to completely account for Iraqi weapons.

The latest quarterly report by the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, known as UNMOVIC, says Washington never gave the commission a copy of US inspector David Kay’s findings on Iraqi weapons, and it failed to seek any UN information for Kay’s team.

UN inspectors withdrew from Iraq a year ago, long before the US-led invasion of the country. After the war, the United States deployed its own team under Kay and refused to allow UN inspectors to return. Kay’s team of inspectors will now hoped to get a copy of Duelfer’s findings.

"The commission hopes that this report will be provided to it," he said.

"During the period under review, no official information was available to UNMOVIC on either the work of, or the results of, the investigations of the United States-led Iraq Survey Group in Iraq.

Nor has the (US) survey group requested any information from UNMOVIC," the UN report said.

It sets out Kay’s findings that it was unlikely large stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons were deployed in Iraq after 1994, but makes no comment on them.

The report also said it was hoping for more cooperation from the new US search for Iraqi weapons, and it failed to seek any legal basis given for the war.

"The commission hopes that this report will be provided to it," he said.

"During the period under review, no official information was available to UNMOVIC on either the work of, or the results of, the investigations of the United States-led Iraq Survey Group in Iraq.

Nor has the (US) survey group requested any information from UNMOVIC," the UN report said.

It sets out Kay’s findings that it was unlikely large stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons were deployed in Iraq after 1994, but makes no comment on them.

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“Is that so, Maung Ka Lu?” “It’s more than that”

Maung Ka Lu: You are welcome, Maung Ka Lu. I am expecting you.
Maung Ka Lu: I was also thinking about a visit to you. Not only the TV and the radio broadcasting and dailies were featuring a variety of articles honouring the Independence Day and then the Union Day. Did you read them?

Grandpa: Why not? We need to know all the news about our Grandpa:

Grandpa: Yes Grandpa. The combination of the spirit to regain independence and the Panglong Spirit is the Union Spirit. Because of Union Spirit, our national races have become more united.

Grandpa: The nation regained independence due to strong Union Spirit and consolidated national solidarity. When our nation regained independence, all we needed was just to properly and collectively utilize the land and water resources and fertile crop fields and to fully enjoy the taste of freedom. But unfortunately, our nation passed a period of nearly half a century for nothing, because of the external attempts to cause internal disagreements, extreme ideologies of some persons from inside the nation and some persons who ignored the independence and the people’s interest. Now it is just within a 15-year or 16-year period that we have achieved marked progress. I think you can tell me about it.

Maung Ka Lu: In brief, as the 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold, peace has been pre-

Maung Ka Lu: What you said is true Grandpa. First, the Tatmadaw has restored peace and stability in the nation. Then, it faced a lot of difficulties in bringing the businesses of the people back to normal. Soon, the nation achieved peace and stability, and the armed groups returned to the legal fold. The result of peace and stability is the national development.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin˚+˚Kyemon: 3-3-2004)

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

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

Efficient use of fuel
- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased
- Do not be applied whenever approching

All this needs to be known

Htidaws to be hoisted atop pagodas in Mingaladon Garden City

YANGON, 3 March — The opening of the Seminar on TB in Myanmar took place at the Health Staff Training School on Ayezaray Street in Dagon Township here this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

In his address, the deputy minister said that the National Health Committee is giving high priority to combating tuberculosis. Myanmar is using the WHO recognized most effective DOTS Strategy to combat TB. The WHO set Global TB Target By 2005 identify 70 per cent of all people with active TB and cured 85 per cent of those detected. In 2002, Myanmar case detection rate was 70 per cent and cure rate was 82 per cent which is very close to WHO target. The achievement is due to high political commitment, efforts of health personnel, and community involvement and participation of NGOs and INGOs.

The seminar was held under the third joint program of RIT and JATA (Japan). At the seminar, the presentation on anti-TB including the JATA project which covers six townships — Mingala Taungnyunt, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Chamayathawi, Annarapura and Aungmyethazan townships were submitted. The seminar continues till 4 March. — MNA

Htidaws to be hoisted atop pagodas in Mingaladon Garden City

YANGON, 3 March — Under the patronage of Abhidhaja Agga Jutika Bhadra Pibulbi, Paanla Dpa Kyakhithsasung Sayawad, a ceremony to hoist Htidaws atop Jaba Ushuha Myathonehauk Myoal Pagodas in Mingaladon Garden City will be held on a grand scale from 5 to 7 March.

In the garden city, replicas of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Mandalay Maha Muni Buddha Image, Kelasa Hsandawin Pagoda, Bagan Dhamma Rajaka Pagoda, Kyakhithsasung Hsandawin Pagoda and Kyakhithsasung Hsudawin Pagoda, and Sun Upagutta Image, Shinshivali Image, Thatthana, Dagundakingya and pagodas have been built. At the ceremony, Htidaws will be hoisted atop 171 pagodas including enshrining pagodas.

Starting from 29 February, the Htidaws (tiered and ornamented finials), Hsingpyatmaindawas (Vanes) and Seinbudaws (Diamond Orbs) are being kept temporarily at the Kyakhithsasung Pagoda, the Kyakhithsasung Pagoda and the Shwedagon Pagoda. The religious objects will be conveyed back to the garden city at 4 pm tomorrow.

Panleandaws (pivots) and Htidaws will be hoisted atop the pagodas at 7 am on 5 March morning, and Seinbudaws and Htingpyatmaindawas, at 8 am on 7 March. On 5 and 6 March evenings, those present will enter-
Government has already...
(from page 16)

On 1 March, Senior General Than Shwe and entourage paid obeisance to members of the Sangha at Lawkamarazein Pagoda. Senior General Than Shwe presented offerings to Agga Maha Kamaha Nagara Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arinama of Zayarwady Kyaungthik in Dawei.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) presented offerings to the members of the Sangha.

Secretary of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sagara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Senior General Than Shwe presented cash for offering Shwedagon to Shwetaungsa Pagoda to the Board of Trustees. He then signed in the visitors’ book.

Senior General Than Shwe and party met departmental officials, Chairman of district and township Peace and Development Councils, members of USDA and townswelders at the town hall in Dawei. Chairman of Dawei District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo reported on cultivation of crops including rice, rice sufficiency in the region, and energetic efforts are required for regional development. He cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

At the briefing hall in Maungmagan Beach in Launglon Township, the Senior General and party heard a report on salient points of the pleasant beach, which is eight miles long, presented by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyi, who also explained that plans are under way to make the beach as beautiful and developed as the Ngapali and Ngwe Hsaung beaches. Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association U Khin Shwe explained arrangements to develop the beach.

Senior General Than Shwe said a master plan should be presented to make further discussions for the development of the beach. Further improvement of the transport to the region will ensure its long-term progress. The Senior General and party then inspected the beach.

In Dawei, they met with the heads of Dawei University and the colleges and faculty members at the university. Pro-Rector of the university U Kyaw Kyaw Htay, Principal of Dawei Education College U Mae Aung, Principal of Government Computer College Daw Myint Myint Maw presented reports on the location, classes, major subjects of the institutions of higher learning, provision of teaching aids, academic matters and strength of faculty members.

The Senior General provided guidance on the need of adequate human resources like well-rounded intellectuals and intelligentsia in building a new nation, the building of necessary infrastructure by laying down the special four-year national education promotion plan and the need of making efforts to bring about highly-qualified human resources.
General Thura Shwe Mann meets departmental officials and local people at Town Hall in Dawei. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to Tatmadawmen and family members of Heinze Station at the station hall in Yebyu Township. — MNA

More ancient Buddha Images of Inwa Period excavated

YANGON, 3 March — A team led by U Hla Kyi Maung Maung, director (admin) of the Archaeological Department has been taking measures for renovation of deteriorating Aungsikhon Pagoda built by King Swazawke of Inwa near Zaga-in village of Pinya ancient city, TadaU Township, Mandalay Division, since the second week of December 2003. A total of 32 ancient Buddha statues of Inwa era had been found during the period from 11 January to 7 February 2004. On 28 February, seven more Buddha statues were found from south-west corner of the pagoda. To date, 39 Buddha statues have been found from the pagoda. — MNA

203 drug cases exposed in January

YANGON, 3 March — The Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, and the Customs Department exposed 203 drug-related cases during January 2004.

The cases were: 30 cases with 56.2 kilos of opium, 73 cases with 25.1 kilos of heroin, 1 case with 0.97 kilo of morphine, 6 cases with 2.76 kilos of opium oil, 4 cases with 11.27 kilos of low-grade opium, 17 cases with 0.84 kilo of marijuana, 1 case with 3.75 litres of phensedyl, 46 cases with 343,696 stimulant tablets, 0.1 kilo of ephedrine, 59 kilos of stimulant powder, 6 cases with 5.281 kilos of opium dust, 1.5 kilos of chemical powder, 8 cases for failure to register, and 11 other cases. Action was taken against 314 persons — 271 men and 43 women. — MNA

Government has already ...

(From page 8)

Next, the Senior General signed in the visitors’ book of the Dawei University.

Senior General Than Shwe also cordially greeted teachers, trainers and students who were welcoming them.

On 2 March, the Senior General and party arrived at Heinze Station in Yebyu Township by helicopter and there he met with Tatmadawmen and their families. At the get-together, the punctual broadcasting of television programmes. The minister also looked into the IPRD in Bokpyin Township on 26 February and the construction of the subprinting house in Mynam on 27 February.

On hearing the reports presented by officials concerned and inspecting the printing house, the storehouse, the generator, the water tank and progress of the construction of staff quarters, the minister gave instructions. He also inspected the IPRD and the television relay station in Myeik. — MNA
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivers an address at the meeting with Tatmadaw officers and other ranks and their families at Pathein Station hall. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development undertakings in Ngayokkaung, Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 3 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence inspected development undertakings in Ngayokkaung town, Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Division on 1 March.

Accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, he met with local elders in the town and attended to the needs in constructing a two-storey school building.

At the station hospital, he inspected the store room, a solar-powered freezer, and operation theatre and visited the patients. After inspecting the farming work at the police station, he inspected construction of an earth road, 19 miles and five furlongs long, linking the town and Ngayokkaung village. At the village, he cordially met with members of social organizations.

At the meeting, he said the regional transport is improving thanks to the assistance of the Government. As the village’s location is good, it will develop in the near future. Local people are required to strive for progress of their own region. The social organizations should render cooperation sector-wise. General Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service Dr Nyi Nyi and Ayeyawady Division Manager U Hla Myo disseminated scientific cultivation methods to the farmers.

During the inspection of Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road Project, he heard a report on the tar laying of the section, 30 miles and three furlongs long, being undertaken by Asia World Co Ltd, presented by officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the road by car. The Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road is 30 miles and three furlongs long. The gravel road is 21 miles and tarred road 9 miles three furlongs long. The gravel road is being upgraded to 14 feet wide concrete road on the Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected cultivation of summer paddy in Tunpalun Village, Pathein Township, Li-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected laying of concrete on the Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung road section and approach road to the Pathein Bridge by Asia World Co Ltd. They spent the night in Pathein.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met Tatmadawmen and families in the Pathein Station Hall. He gave instructions on education, health, social affairs and livestock breeding on a manageable scale.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back here in the afternoon. — MNA

Military parade columns continue practising drills

YANGON, 3 March — The parade columns which will take part in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade continued their drills in the Resistance Park here this morning from 7 am to 10 am.

Aung Swe Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansitha Column led by Column Commander Col Thein Tan, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Col Than Win, Nawade Column led by Column Commander Capt Aung Thaw (Navy), Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Tin Wai, Hsinphyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Oo Kyaw, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Myint Ko Ko, Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Kan Nyunt, and Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Maung Maung Than practised parade drills under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein.

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

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Observance Management Committee Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the drill of parade columns. — pyn
Prime Minister visits fourth meeting of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha

YANGON, 3 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visited the fourth meeting of the fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha at the ordination hall of Maha Pasana Cave in Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill this afternoon.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office arrived at the ordination hall at 1:40 pm. They were welcomed three by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Tun, Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Hway, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members, officials of periodicals. Resident Representative Mr Jean-Luc Lemahieu of UNODC and officials.

At the press conference, Resident Representative Mr Jean-Luc Lemahieu said that as illegal cultivation areas of poppy plantation continued to decline in east and south-east Asia regions in 2003, there was the two-thirds decline of poppy cultivation in Myanmar in 2003 compared with the cultivation in 1996 due to endeavours in narcotic drugs elimination being undertaken by the Government of the Union of Myanmar. Similarly, it was obviously seen that seizures of production and trafficking of amphetamine stimulant tablets declined in Myanmar in 2002.

He welcomed Myanmar and Mongolia which joined as members in the narcotic drugs control treaty (1988) and drug eradication treaty (1982). Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, members of Mekong Basin Countries, signed the MoU on cooperation in drugs elimination in 1997 and approved to implement that MoU in September 2003. He supported regional cooperation such as control of transnational smuggling of narcotic drugs, matters related to amphetamine tablet and prevention against HIV infection.

In addition, he was satisfied with eradication of narcotic drug production jointly carried out in April 2003 by Myanmar and Chinese police forces.

As there were 81,400 hectares of poppy plantations in Myanmar in 2002 and 62,200 hectares in 2003, cultivation of poppy plantation was obviously reduced by 24 per cent. UNODC, on its part, is carrying out drugs elimination tasks in Myanmar with the assistance being provided by the US, Germany, Japan and Italy. It is estimated that out of US$ 26 million which will be spent on drugs elimination in Kokang and Wa regions, UNODC has already fetched about US $ 6 million. Later, the resident representative answered the queries raised by journalists.

Press conference on narcotic drugs reports of INCIB held

YANGON, 3 March — The press conference related to the narcotic drugs reports of International Narcotic Control Board-INCIB was held at the hall of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-UNODC on Malikha Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

Present were Director (News) of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Hla Tun, Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Hway, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members, officials of periodicals. Resident Representative Mr Jean-Luc Lemahieu of UNODC and officials.

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Later, the resident representative answered the queries raised by journalists.

Upgrading of sports grounds inspected

YANGON, 3 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected construction of football grounds and livestock breeding tasks at Yangon Division Vegetable and Livestock Farming Special Zone near Nyaungshapin Village, Hmawby Township, yesterday. At Hmawby Hsan Hall in Fish Breeding Special Zone-1, he met with officials concerned and gave instructions. So far, 5,405 acres of land have been put under vegetable plantations at the Special Zone. Similarly, over 1.1 million of broilers and layers have been bred and over 900,000 broilers have been sold. Over 1.2 million of fish are being bred in 566 acres of ponds.

Vegetable & Livestock Farming inspected

YANGON, 3 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected cultivation of vegetable plantations and livestock breeding tasks at Yangon Division Vegetable and Livestock Farming Special Zone near Nyaungshapin Village, Hmawby Township, yesterday. At Hmawby Hsan Hall in Fish Breeding Special Zone-1, he met with officials concerned and gave instructions. So far, 5,405 acres of land have been put under vegetable plantations at the Special Zone. Similarly, over 1.1 million of broilers and layers have been bred and over 900,000 broilers have been sold. Over 1.2 million of fish are being bred in 566 acres of ponds.
Beijing drivers pay no more “towing fee” for illegally-parked cars

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Natural disasters killed 2,259 in China in 2003

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Indonesia’s export, import slightly down in January

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Indonesia’s foreign tourist arrivals decreases in January

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TRADE MARK CAUTION

NORAUTO A Company incorporated in France, of Centre de Gros Lesquin, Rue du Fort, 59262 SAINGHIN EN MELANTOIS (France), holder of the following Trade Mark:

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for NORAUTO P.O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 4 March, 2004

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Indonesia’s export, import slightly down in January

Jakarta, 3 March — Indonesia’s export in January reached 5.03 billion US dollars, but 3.66 per cent lower than that of December 2003, the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) said here Monday. But the figure in January was still 0.74 per cent higher than the same month last year. The deputy said that the decrease in January compared to December 2003, was caused by the decrease of non-oil and gas export, which totalled 3.837 billion US dollar, 5.44 per cent lower than the previous month. However, Indonesia’s oil and gas export in January increased to 1.19 billion US dollars, 2.54 per cent more than December last year, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Indonesia’s foreign tourist arrivals decreases in January

Jakarta, 3 March — The number of foreign tourists visiting Indonesia in January reached to 358,400, 1.9 per cent lower than December last year, said Slami Mekuno, the Deputy of Economic Statistic of the Ministry of Tourism here Monday. But the figure was significantly 28.29 per cent higher than of that of January 2003, said Slami Mekuno, the Deputy of Economic Statistic of the Ministry of Tourism here Monday. The number of foreign tourists to the beautiful resort of Bali Island in January also increased to 109,600, 10.24 per cent higher than December last year, he said. Indonesia’s tourism industry was first hit by the financial crisis in Southeast Asia in 1997 and now by the global economic downturn.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
**Rosetta spacecraft launched from French Guiana**

**KOUREOU (French Guiana), 3 March—** Europe’s Rosetta space mission, which aims to chase and land on a comet to try to unlock the mysteries of the solar system, blasted-off aboard an Ariane rocket from French Guiana on Tuesday, space officials said.

The rocket departed from the European Space Agency’s (ESA) launch centre in Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America at 4:17 am (0717 GMT) on the first stage of a seven-billion-kilometre, 10-year journey to reach the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

Two launch attempts last week were cancelled due to bad weather and technical problems.

The Ariane-5 rocket lit up the partly cloudy equatorial night sky and was visible from the ground for over a minute.

It is scheduled to fly over two hours before its upper-stage re-ignites and then releases the Rosetta spacecraft.

Scientists believe comets may contain chemical and physical records from the time the solar system was formed some 4.6 billion years ago. The Rosetta mission will attempt to discover the secrets of how life began on Earth and perhaps even elsewhere in the universe.

“This mission will attempt to see material that dates from the formation of the solar system,” said Philippe KlKezine, ESA’s lead scientist for Rosetta’s comet-landing probe.

Comets are small masses far from the sun in a sort of deep freeze. For four-and-a-half billion years they have been kept in deep freeze. The importance of this mission to identify and analyse this material, as it was during the formation of our planet and at the beginning of life,” KlKezine said.

**China has over 17,000 centenarians**

**BEIJING, 3 March—** The number of centenarians in China has climbed past 17,000, hitting a record high, according to the latest statistics from China’s National Committee on Aging.

By the end of 2003, Beijing alone boasted 257 centenarians, with three of them over 110 years old, a rise of 57 over 2001.

Female centenarians account for approximately 80 per cent of the total, including three aged over 110 years old, and 209 centenarians, or 84.6 per cent of the total, are urbanites, according to statistics of the Beijing Municipal Committee on Aging.

According to a recent survey conducted by the Beijing Municipal Research Centre on Aging, the secret for longevity of those centenarians could be due much to, among other things, a natural way of living, good-quality sleep and rational eating, open-mindedness and a good temper, as well as fine family living environment, Liu Ruoqun from Chaoyang District in Beijing said.

Liu gave up the habit later and never caught any serious diseases after that.

Statistics from the Ministries of Civil Affairs show that China has already become an aging society with a high-age population rate, and the country now has 134 million people, or 10 per cent of the national total, at and over the age of 60. Experts said the figure could keep rising at an annual rate of 3.2 per cent in the next half century.

**Study says breast-fed babies have lower blood pressure**

**WASHINGTON, 3 March—** Breast-fed babies grow up to have lower blood pressure than bottle-fed, British researchers reported on Monday.

“This could mean they will have lower blood pressure as adults, and thus a lower risk of heart disease, the No 1 killer in the industrialized world, the researchers said.

For every three months a child was breast fed, his or her systolic blood pressure reading — the top number — went down 0.2 point, on average. Breast-feeding time did not significantly affect diastolic blood pressure — the lower number.

“Even this small reduction may have important population-health implications,” said Richard Martin, a senior lecturer in epidemiology and public health at the University of Bristol in Britain, who led the study.

“A 1 per cent reduction in population systolic blood pressure levels is associated with about 1.5 per cent reduction in all-cause mortality,” Martin added, equivalent to a reduction in premature death of about 8,000 deaths per year in the United States and 2,000 deaths per year in Britain.

Lower blood pressure is directly linked to lower risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease and other related illnesses.

Breast-fed babies are also less likely to be overweight, have fewer behavioural prob-lems and may show differences in intelligence, other studies have shown. Therefore, groups such as the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that all mothers breast-feed their babies for the first year, and two years if possible.

“Writing in the journal Circulation, the researchers said the nutritional content of breast milk may be responsible,” said Philppe KlKezine, ESA’s lead scientist for Rosetta’s comet-landing probe.

Breast-fed children tend to consume less sodium, which is one factor that can influence blood pressure. Breast milk also contains long-chain polysaturated fatty acids, which are compounds that can affect the development of blood vessels.

Formula milk substitutes with these fatty acids has been associated with lower blood pressure.

Formula feeding can also cause babies to eat more than they need and can, in some babies, cause too-rapid weight gain.

“Excess weight is also associated with higher blood pressures and promotes insulin resistance, which often precedes development of diabetes in adulthood,” the American Heart Association, which publishes Circulation, said in a statement.

**Indonesia’s dengue fever outbreak unlikely to be new strain**

**JAKARTA, 3 March—** Indonesia’s dengue fever outbreak, which has killed hundreds of people in the past two months, is not likely to be the result of a new and deadly strain of the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

He said the outbreak was likely part of a five-year cycle common in tropical countries. “The main reason for the outbreak is the immunity of the population (is lower),” Petersen said. “If you have a peak or large outbreak around every five years,” he said. Indonesia’s Government has come under heavy criticism in the local media for its handling of the disease and many say the outbreak highlights loopholes in the country’s underfunded and hobbled health care system.

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**Chinese President congratulates Theron on Oscar win**

**JOHANNESBURG, 3 March—** The whole country of South Africa, including President Thabo Mbeki, on Monday congratulated Charlize Theron on winning an Oscar for best actress Sunday.

Mbeki was among the first to congratulate Ther on her role in “Mon ster.”

“In this film, we see her drawing on her innate toughness and mindlessness and her own emotional stamina in order to overcome the tragic personal circumstances of her own early life in order to shine,” Mbeki said in a statement.

Mbeki said: “Raisied in the small town of Benoni, near Johannes burg, Ther overcame trag eley in her own childhood — her mother fatally shot her father in self-defence during a violent argument 13 years ago — to pursue her dreams in Hollywood.”

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“In this film, we see her drawing on her innate toughness and mindlessness and her own emotional stamina in order to overcome the tragic personal circumstances of her own early life in order to shine,” Mbeki said in a statement.

Mbeki said: “Raised in the small town of Benoni, near Johannesburg, Ther overcame tragically in her own childhood — her mother fatally shot her father in self-defence during a violent argument 13 years ago — to pursue her dreams in Hollywood.”

**Indian scientist gets top French honour**

**NEW DELHI, 3 March—** Indian physicist PS G M Monda was Monday awarded one of France’s most prestigious awards, the ‘Chevalier de l’Ordre national de la Légion d’Honneur’, for his contribution in promoting cooperation between the two countries in the area of science and technology.

Mony, Director of the Indo French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research, search, supported by both the governments, is the first Indian to get this French honour in the category of scientists.

The Centre is a joint organisation with equal participation between the two countries which takes up research projects involving the two sides in various areas of science.

**Indonesia’s dengue fever outbreak unlikely to be new strain**

**JAKARTA, 3 March—** Indonesia’s dengue fever outbreak, which has killed hundreds of people in the past two months, is not likely to be the result of a new and deadly strain of the virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

He said the outbreak was likely part of a five-year cycle common in tropical countries. “The main reason for the outbreak is the immunity of the population (is lower),” Petersen said. “If you have a peak or large outbreak around every five years,” he said. Indonesia’s Government has come under heavy criticism in the local media for its handling of the disease and many say the outbreak highlights loopholes in the country’s underfunded and hobbled health care system.

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Bulgarian coach hit by bottle suffers broken nose

Sorry, 3 March — The coach of Bulgarian club Botev Plovdiv suffered a broken nose when he was hit by one of the bottles thrown by Chernomorets Varna fans as he left the stadium after their First Division match in Varna on Saturday.

Local television station Nova Televizia showed coach Trifon Pachev with his nose bandaged as he told the channel in an interview on Sunday that it had been broken in the incident.

After Saturday's match supporters from both clubs fought in the streets of the city and two fans were arrested.

The Bulgarian Football Union is expected to look into the incidents.

Cherno More won 3-1 to move up two places to seventh after 18 matches, while Botev stayed bottom after their 13th defeat.

MNA/Reuters

Protest turns eye on Lazio bonuses and transfer deals

Rome, 3 March — Serie A club Lazio may have received funds diverted from food company Cirio before it plunged into insolvency, a judicial source said on Monday.

The source said they believe they have found evidence that Lazio paid bonuses to their players for their 2000 Italian championship win using cash diverted from Cirio.

Lazio and Cirio are both listed on the stock market although Cirio shares have been suspended since mid-2003 and the company is in the process of being liquidated.

Lazio declined to comment.

Rome investigators are also looking at transfer dealings between Lazio and Parma in recent years, the source said.

Parma is owned by dairy company Parmalat, which is struggling to survive a multimillion-euro hole in its accounts which has led to the arrest of its founder Calisto Tanzi and his son, former Parma president Stefano Tanzi. — MNA/Reuters

World Cup, WADA agreement get FIFA’s green light

London, 3 March — A revamped FIFA Club World Championship will start in December 2005 and be held annually although the venue for the first competition has yet to be finalized, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Sunday.

At an executive committee meeting, world soccer’s governing body also agreed to sign WADA’s anti-doping declaration in Paris on May 21 and temporarily lift the international suspension imposed on Guatemala.

Despite some opposition to an enlarged Club World Championship from the South American Confederation (Conmebol) last week, Blatter announced that FIFA’s Executive Committee had unanimously approved its inauguration during a London meeting on Sunday.

The championship, held once in January 2000 in Brazil with eight teams involved, was not staged in either 2001 or 2003 because of financial and then logistical difficulties.

The first round will consist of knockout matches between the champions of Africa, Asia, the North American and Caribbean federations (Concacaf) and Oceania.

The two winners of those matches will play the South American and European champions in a knockout semifinal.

The losers of the first-round matches will play off for fifth and sixth places, while the semifinal losers will play off for third and fourth places which means that every team will play two matches during the eight-day competition.

The tournament is likely to put an end to the intercontinental Club Cup played by European and South American champions almost every year since 1980. Blatter said discussions would be held among organizers to see what the future of the competition might be.

Most of the decisions taken by the executive committee were expected. The committee approved the latest stage of the negotiations with WADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency, and Blatter reiterated that the FIFA would sign up to WADA’s code at the FIFA Congress in Paris on May 21.

He also said that the concept of individual case management in doping cases, rather than an automatically imposed blanket ban, would be part of the agreement with WADA. — MNA/Reuters

Robert Carlos handed two-match ban by UEFA

Munm, 3 March — Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos will miss the return leg of his side’s Champions League knockout tie against Bayern Munich after he was handed a two-match ban by UEFA on Monday.

If the ban is upheld Roberto Carlos will miss the return match against Bayern at the Bernabeu on March 10 and the first leg of the quarterfinal if Real reach the next round.

It is not the first time the left-back has been in trouble with the football authorities.

Last year he was given a three-match ban by world soccer’s governing body FIFA for pushing Israeli referee Alon Yefet during Brazil’s 2-1 defeat to Portugal after being sent off for protesting about the award of a free kick. — MNA/Reuters

Curfew-breaking Japan players face JFA probe

Tokyo, 3 March — Seven Japan players who allegedly broke curfew in a late-night drinking session will be asked to explain why they flouted team rules, the Japan Football Association (JFA) said on Sunday.

The players were said to have thrown sushi and verbally abused female staff during a night out on February 9, during a Japan training camp in Kashima, north of Tokyo.

“The JFA will speak to all the players and ask them to explain what happened. If true, then it’s important for them to know how serious it is to break JFA rules,” JFA Press manager Hideto Teshima told Reuters.

“However, they did not commit a traffic accident and nobody got injured, so I doubt it will be too much of an issue,” Teshima said.

The JFA will probably just give them a warning,” he added.

Weekly magazine Shukan Gendai is set to publish an article of the incident on Monday, reporting that the seven players, including World Cup midfielder Mitsuo Ogasawara, acted improperly during their curfew-breaking visit to a local bar. — MNA/Reuters

Russia’s Marat Safin ousts as he misses a point against Switzerland’s Roger Federer during the Dubai Tennis Championship on 2 March, 2004. in Dubai. Federer won 7-6, 7-6. — Internet

Jorge Daniel Guagua, right, of Ecuador’s El Nacional soccer team fights for the ball with Alberto Garcia, of Argentina’s Independiente, during their Libertadores Cup soccer match at Centenario Stadium in Montevideo, on 2 March, 2004. — Internet
4-3-2004 (Thursday)  Programme Schedule
Morning Transmission 9:00 - 9:30
9:00 Signature Tune
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenics Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiments"
9:06 Swewayian Pagoda Festival
9:10 Headline News
9:12 The Wonderful Peikchin Rave
9:15 National News
9:20 Novitiation of 1000 novices in Mawlamyine Yoke Zone, Lon Yon Festival Dance
9:25 Lon Yon Festival Dance
9:30 National News
9:35 The Art of Stone Sculpture
9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "A Compassion- love Boat"
9:42 Hot Springs in Lashio and Nam-Kham
9:45 Cultural Dance
9:50 Biological Expedition to Hpakkan Razi Region (II) (Upper Shan-guang - Awadam)
9:55 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Gems of Myanmar"

4-3-2004 (Thursday) Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission (19:30 - 21:30)
15:30 Signature Tune
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenics Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiments"
15:36 Swewayian Pagoda Festival
15:40 Headline News
15:42 The Wonderful Peikchin Rave
15:45 to 16:00 broadcast of 1000 novices in Myan Maw Race
15:55 Lon Yon Festival Dance
16:00 National News

Weather

Wednesday, 3 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Daytime temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan, Kayin, Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions and above normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (40°C) in Putao.

Maximum temperature on 2-3-2004 was 36.3°C (97°F). Minimum temperature on 3-3-2004 was 18.2°C (65°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-3-2004 was 29%.

Sun shine hours on 2-3-2004 was (7.8) hours approx. Rainfall on: 1-3-2004 at Yangon Airport, and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inches) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon: 31 knots.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-3-2004: Expect for the possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy. For the whole country: Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slightly to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated rain are likely in the entire country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-3-2004: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-3-2004: Generally fair.
Government has already ...  

(from page 1)

In the process, the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to be united in making combined efforts for ensuring food sufficiency in respective regions and then for development of the entire nation, he added.

Next, the Senior General said that he toured Palau three or four years ago, adding that the government has been attending to the needs for regional development.

While the government has been striving constantly for regional and national development, divisions, districts and townships, on their part, are also to endeavour for progress of respective regions, he noted. Measures are to be taken to be able to accelerate the development momentum by making better arrangements after reviewing the previous undertakings sector-wise, he remarked. After the meeting, the Senior General had a cordial conversation with those present.

Next, the Senior General and party inspected progress of Palau and Palau Bridge. On arrival at Palau Station, they met with departmental personnel, members of the USDA and social organizations, Tatmadaw members of Palau Station and their family members.

Township Officer of Palau Township General Administration Department U Myint Khaing reported on conditions of the township, efforts for regional development, education, health and transport sectors, rice sufficiency and surplus in the region and requirements. Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann explained about the purpose of the tour of Senior General Than Shwe and entourage.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 3 March—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt yesterday morning inspected all-round upgrading tasks of environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Garden and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At 9.30 am, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the briefing hall of the construction of Water Plaza at Central Symbol Zone at Kandawgyi, where they were welcomed by Chairman of the Working Committee for all-round Upgrading of Environments of Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the deputy ministers, members of the working committee and departmental officials.

First, the commander reported to the Prime Minister on progress of upgrading tasks at the Recreation Zone, the Education Zone and the Central Symbol Zone. Next, officials reported on tasks being carried out by respective groups and future tasks. After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister attended to their needs and gave instructions that officials are to coordinate timely completion of the upgrading tasks applying technology and using their experiences for enabling the public to take a rest in the modern garden and durability of the grand garden. Then, the Prime Minister inspected completion of the water plaza and left there in the morning.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

The Prime Minister gave guidance to departmental personnel, local people, Tatmadawmen and families of Kanyoedan Yadana Hall in Palau. — MNA

Excerpts from
Senior General Than Shwe’s address

* Government has been giving priority to development of Dawei region.
* The Ye-Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung Union Highway reaching Kawthoung in the southernmost tip of the nation has already been built, and necessary bridges on it has been constructed.
* The Government has been narrowing the development gap between all regions of the nation to the most possible degree, and striving for their simultaneous progress, without taking into account the distance or condition of any region.
* Completion of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) will ensure direct link between Dawei and Yangon, and will contribute to the progress of the Taninthayi region.
* Efforts should be made to add value to the natural resources in the region, and energetic efforts are required for regional development.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects all-round upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Garden

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected upgrading tasks at environs of Kandawgyi Garden. — MNA