University and colleges opened in Hpa-an to ensure education within reach of students in the region

Senior General Than Shwe tours Kayin State

Yangon, 6 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, together with members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thita 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, Chairmen of State Peace and Development Councils and Commanders of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived in Hpa-an in Kayin State by helicopter on 3 March.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed by Commander of No 22 LID Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and officials. Senior General Than Shwe and party met Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and officials. Senior General Than Shwe and party met Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and officials.

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Moreover, the government opened schools and colleges for students to receive both basic education and higher education in Kayin State. It is promoting health standard by opening hospitals and dispensaries, he said.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on economic development during the short-term economic plan, development of Kayin State and data of other economic sectors.

General Thura Shwe Mann spoke at length on national development, region-wise boosting production, new export items and minimizing losses. He said the people have witnessed that Kayin State including Hpa-an region has developed. The government built roads and bridges in Kayin State spending a great deal of money to catch up with the development of other states and divisions.

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Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress in building Hpa-an University.— MNA

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

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

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

Circulation
22,654
59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

Practising of drills by parade columns inspected

YANGON, 6 March — Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observation of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Li-Gen Kyaw Win this morning inspected drills practising of parade columns at the Resistance Park.

Also present together with the Chief of Armed Forces Training were Chairman of the Management Committee for Observation of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chairman of the Parade Work Committee Mr Win and senior military officers.

Next, Li-Gen Kyaw Win gave necessary instructions to the parade columns. — MNA

Paunglin Dam (Ngamoeyik Supporting Dam) Project inspected

YANGON, 6 March — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspected rare herbal plantations grown by departments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on a manageable scale near Ngamoeyik Dam in Hlegu Township this morning.

Then, the minister inspected the wetland area near the confluence of Ngamoeyik Creek and Paunglin Creek. Moreover, the minister saw over water supply, storage of water and building of dams. Next, they proceeded to Paunglin Dam (Ngamoeyik Supporting Dam) Project being built near Ohn-inhein Village in Hlegu Township.

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

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspects construction of Paunglin Dam. — MNA

Measures for conducting Japanese language course co-ordinated

YANGON, 5 March — A meeting to co-ordinate measures for conducting Japanese language course under the aegis of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry was held at the UMFCCCI training centre here at 1 pm yesterday. UMFCCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Mr Nakagami Yoshika of Koeki Shoji Co Ltd and officials were present at the meeting.

The Japanese language course (first year and second year classes) will be conducted under the joint sponsorship of the UMFCCCI and Koeki Shoji Co Ltd beginning April this year. Reading, writing and speaking skills will be taught by faculty members from Japan. — MNA

A meeting to co-ordinate measures for conducting Japanese language course in progress. — UMFCCCI
Blix says Blair lacked ‘critical thinking’ over Iraq war

London, 6 March — British Prime Minister Tony Blair lacked “critical thinking” in the run-up to the Iraq war, former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said in an interview.

Speaking from his home in Stockholm, Blix told the London-based Guardian daily that he was not accusing Blair of bad faith in taking Britain to war, but added: “What I am saying was a lack of critical thinking.”

The Guardian said that in extracts published of Blix’s memoirs, Blair emerged as a man convinced “to the point of credulity” by intelligence reports of Iraq’s pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and as a leader fuelled by a religious enthusiasm to do battle with evil.

Blix told the Guardian that it had seemed at times Britain and the United States were acting like “witch doctors”.

Blix, the closest ally of US President George W Bush in the Iraq crisis, cited Saddam Hussein’s pursuit of banned weapons as the main justification for taking Britain to war last March. The failure to find such weapons has continued to dog the prime minister and prompted accusations that he took the nation into the conflict on a false pretexts.

In his memoirs, Blix described Blair as the holy man in the holy month before the war as saying “the intelligence was clear that Saddam had reconstructed his weapons of mass destruction programme”. Gradually (the British and US governments) ought to have realised there was nothing. Gradually they would have found that the defectors’ information was not reliable,” Blix added.

French President Jacques Chirac by contrast, said that the West’s intelligence services, including his own, were “intoxicating each other”, believed that banned weapons did not exist in Iraq, and predicted that a war would be the worst outcome, inflaming anti-Western feeling among Muslims, according to Blix, cited by the Guardian.

In one of his most detailed defences of his decision to take Britain into the Iraq conflict, Blair on Friday insisted that it was the right move given the threat from global terrorism.

But Blix asked how would the Iraqis have been able to “prove a negative” — proving they did not have weapons the US and Britain said they possessed.

Iraq’s Chalabi says ‘blame CIA, not me’ about WMD

New York, 6 March — Iraqi Governing Council member Ahmed Chalabi says he is tired of being blamed for misleading the United States about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and points the finger instead at the CIA in an interview with CBS’s “60 Minutes” to be aired on Sunday.

Chalabi, who heads the Iraqi National Congress exile group and has close ties to the Bush administration, says the CIA should have done a better job analyzing information received from defectors he steered their way.

“This is a ridiculous situation,” says Chalabi, who still maintains that weapons of mass destruction will be found in Iraq. Chalabi said the CIA knew defectors could be biased and that even the press was saying “defectors have an ax to grind, don’t believe them.”

“Now you’re telling me that despite all this public evidence, the United States government took our word without checking out the people?” Chalabi said incredulously. “Intelligence people who are supposed to do a better job for their country and their government did not do such a good job.”

Chalabi, who was born into a prominent Iraqi family but spent 45 years outside Iraq before returning in April, denies coaching defectors, something the CIA believes he’s done for years, according to a former CIA analyst interviewed on the show.

The analyst, Ken Pollack, who now works for the Saban Center for Middle East Policy and for CNN, said the Bush administration used the information to label Iraq an imminent threat.

Pollack said they were looking “to summarily confirm a preconceived notion of an extremely threatening Iraq … on the cusp of acquiring the most advanced … dangerous weapons.”

Pollack blames senior US officials, not Chalabi.

Oil prices ease after record high

Vienna, 6 March — The average crude oil price retrofitted a little Wednesday after hitting the highest level in nearly a year, the Vienna-based Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said Thursday. It contracted 66 cents to $31.82 US dollars a barrel from the previous day, the secretariat said.

The crude oil price was based on the average price package of seven market-monitored crudes.

News reports said OPEC officials were shocked at the rising oil prices in recent weeks. If prices stay at high levels in the coming two weeks, the cartel will consider increasing output.

OPEC decided on February 10 in Algiers to cut its combined output quota of 24.5 million barrels per day (BPD) by one million BPD from April 1.

Some analysts say OPEC underestimated the market supplies and made the wrong decision to lower oil production.

However, officials in Iran, the No. 2 OPEC producer, said his country is ready to implement the decision to cut oil production.

The head of Iraq’s Governing Council says the country’s US-led occupiers must do more to provide security following bomb attacks that killed at least 271 people in two cities.

Internet

UNSC holds debate on anti-terrorism

United Nations, 6 March — The UN Security Council held Thursday an open debate on the work of the UN anti-terrorism committee, members agreed to “revitalize” the committee’s work in order to adapt to the evolving nature of its mission.

Ambassador Inocencio Arias of Spain, current chairman of the Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), told the meeting that a plan aimed to enhance his panel’s ability to help countries implement the first UN anti-terrorism resolution is urgently needed.

He stressed that the proposal to rejuvenate the committee’s work had originated from a dual conviction, that terrorism was one of the major threats to international peace and security, and that the United Nations must play a central role in the fight against that threat with the 15-member Council leading the effort.

MNA/Xinhua

Arab countries agree to boost maritime cooperation

Amman, 6 March — A total of 13 Arab countries have signed a memorandum of understanding to boost their maritime transport cooperation, Jordan Times reported on Friday.

“This will consequently help enhance the trade movement among Arab countries, which currently does not exceed more than 10 per cent of the overall Arab trade,” Akaz Batayneh, Secretary-General of Jordanian Transport Ministry, was quoted as saying.

The memorandum, which was recently inked at the fourth meeting of the Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia’s Transport in Lebanon, would be approved by member countries’ transport ministers.

Among the list of the participants are Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians, Egypt and Yemen, which would get priorities and competitive privileges in the maritime field, and would form a unified stand toward developments in the international shipping market.

MNA/Xinhua

Five Iraqis killed in Mosul gun fight

Baghdad, 6 March — Soldiers from the US-led occupation military force in Iraq shot dead five Iraqis in a gun fight in Mosul.

A US military spokesman said on Friday morning that soldiers sustained no injuries in the overnight armed confrontation.

It was unclear whether the troops had been American, the spokesman added.

“We are still trying to find out more details,” he said, about the attack in the Iraqi city 370 kilometres (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

In the gun battle, “three were killed on the Iraqi side and no injuries on the coalition side,” the spokesman said.

But other reports said that US soldiers opened fire on Iraqis trying to hijack a Turkish truck. According to local police on the scene, five were killed.

A loud boom was heard on Friday in Baghdad just hours before the nation’s leaders were due to sign officially an interim constitution for the nation’s immediate future, but the cause of the noise was unclear.

A US army spokesman was unable to confirm the source of the boom, which shook the centre of the city. Elsewhere in Iraq, at least three Iraqi civilians were killed in Baghdad on Thursday when a rocket slammed into a street near a telephone exchange.

Police at the scene of the attack said the rocket had skidded along the ground after the initial impact, hitting a car and killing its occupants. Another two people were injured.

As a crowd gathered around the mangled remains of the vehicle, people began chanting anti-US slogans, saying “America is the enemy of God”.

Anti-US sentiment has been running high in Iraq since a series of anti-Shia attacks killed around 200 civilians in the holy city of Karbala and Baghdad during ceremonies commemorating Ashura on Tuesday.

They were the worst attacks since the fall of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.
**UN Council weighs arms inspectors’ return to Iraq**

UNITED NATIONS, 6 March—Several Security Council members suggested on Friday the time had come to send UN inspectors back to Iraq to try to answer, once and for all, whether Baghdad had stockpiles of unconventional arms.

But the United States and Spain objected, saying it was too soon to take up the matter. Council diplomats said.

During a closed-door briefing on the latest quarterly report by the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, known as UNMOVIC, “many countries called for a review of UNMOVIC’s mandate to enable it to go back to Iraq for the first time since the war,” Russian Ambassador Sergi Lavrov told reporters.

“We do want to make sure the threat (of Iraqi weapons) is over,” Lavrov said. “But some delegations said it was still premature.”

“We haven’t addressed the issue and we don’t think its time to address it,” US Deputy Ambassador James Cunningham told Reuters.

UN inspectors withdrew from Iraq a year ago, shortly before the US-led invasion. After the war, Washington deployed its own team of inspectors to look for evidence of weapons of mass destruction.

Whether Iraq had unconventional arms has ballooned into a major political issue both in Britain, Washington’s close ally in the invasion, and the United States, where Bush is up for re-election in November. The UN group wants to complete its accounting of Iraqi arms and also hopes to install a permanent monitoring system to ensure Iraq does not again launch programmes to develop biological, chemical or nuclear arms.

Security Council resolution 1483, adopted 22 May after the fall of Saddam Hussein’s government, “re-affirms that Iraq must meet its disarmament obligations” and states the council’s intention to revisit UNMOVIC’s mandate at some future point.

The issue was revived because the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority governing Iraq is scheduled to dissolve on June 30 so that Iraq can regain its sovereignty. On July 1, when an interim government takes power in Iraq, “do the inspections go on? Are we going to use UNMOVIC or is the American inspection team going on?” asked German Ambassador Gunter Pleuger after the closed-door council session. — Internet

**UN Council weighs arms inspectors’ return to Iraq**

**Four British soldiers injured in Iraq**

LONDON, 6 March—Four British soldiers were injured when they came under attack on Friday while patrolling a village in southeast Iraq, the Ministry of Defence said.

“We can confirm that UK patrols came under fire while patrolling the village of Qal al Sahil in the Maysan province,” a ministry spokesman said. “The patrol returned fire after receiving fire from heavy machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades,” the spokesman said, adding the injured soldiers were from the First Battalion of the Light Infantry. The four soldiers, whom the spokesman declined to identify, were admitted to the Shiaibah military hospital near Basra where they were being treated for “non-life threatening injuries,” the spokesman said. The British sector in the southeast corner of Iraq has been relatively quiet for the past few months. In June 2003 six British military policemen were killed in an attack in Majar al-Kahya. — Internet

**Sino-French relations at best period in 40 years**

PARIS, 6 March—Chinese Ambassador to France Zhao Jinjun said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua that the Sino-French relations are at the best period at present since the two countries established diplomatic relations four decades ago.

“Chinese President Hu Jintao’s state visit to France in January, also his second trip to France in seven months, highly demonstrated the close, special and mature relations between China and France,” Zhao stressed.

The visit, timed to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Sino-French diplomatic ties, was marked by many first-ever events: Hu was invited to deliver a speech at the National Assembly, Lower House of the French Parliament, which was the first time for a Chinese and Asian leader. More than 7,000 Chinese and overseas Chinese were allowed to parade along the Champs Elysees avenue; The Eiffel Tower was lavished with oriental decorations and lanterns for one week.

Those events were a vivid manifestation of their close ties, as the two countries celebrated their anniversary in the grandest and unique way, said Zhao.

The ambassador noted the “Chinese Culture Year” opened last October in Paris as a magnificent event in China’s history of cultural exchange. The project lasted five months.

**Libya to stick to one-China policy**

TRIPOLI, 6 March—Libyan leader Moammar Kadhafi pledged that Libya will continue to stick to the “one-China” policy.

He made the pledge Wednesday night when meeting with a visiting Chinese delegation.

Kadhafi highly praised the friendly and cooperative relations between China and Libya, and reiterated Libya’s stand on the one-China principle. Wang Jiarui, leader of the Chinese delegation, and head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, conveyed Chinese leaders’ greetings to Kadhafi, and stressed that China attaches importance to the develop-ment of friendly and cooperative relations with Libya in all fields.

The Chinese delegation arrived here Monday night for a five-day working visit, at the invitation of the General People’s Congress of Libya, and will continue the trip to Turkey and Iran. — MNA/Xinhua

**Libya to stick to one-China policy**

**Violent crimes in Australia**

The Spirit of Ontario is seen in Perth, Australia, in 2004. The ferry, nicknamed the Breeze, will carry travellers across Lake Ontario between the United States and Canada. Daily, year-round voyages between Rochester to Toronto are set to launch on 30 April, 2004. — Internet

**Violent crimes in Australia**

**Sino-French relations at best period in 40 years**

**Four British soldiers injured in Iraq**

**American inspection team in Iraq**

A US soldier guard during reopening at a police station, destroyed by a suicide attack a month ago in the town of Moul, some 390 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, March 3, 2004. — Internet

**Vietnamese PM to visit Singapore**

SINGAPORE, 6 March—Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai will make a four-day working visit to Singapore from 8 March, Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Friday. During his stay here, Prime Minister Phan Van Khai will meet with his Singaporean counterpart Goh Chok Tong, President S R Nathan and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

The Vietnamese Premier will also witness the signing of a joint declaration between the two countries on comprehen-sive cooperation framework in the 21st Century. — MNA/Xinhua

**Vietnamese PM to visit Singapore**

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

An Iraqi fireman battles a blazing car following an exchange of fire between US troops and Iraqis in the town of Mosul, some 390 km north of Iraqi capital Baghdad, late 4 March, 2004. — Internet

Iraqi young and old, shout slogans at Sadr city in Baghdad, Iraq on 5 March, 2004. — Internet

Iraqis carry an injured man following a series of bomb explosions which rocked the Iraqi city of Karbala on 2 March. — Internet

An Iraqi arranges personal items of victims of Tuesday's suicide attacks in Baghdad, and displayed in a cordoned off area on 5 March, 2004. — Internet

US soldiers stand guard during a reopening at a police station, north of Iraqi capital Baghdad, 3 March, 2004. — Internet
Egyp
The developing transport sector of Rakhine State

Moe Htet Myint (Beya)

I was in Ngapali Beach Resort. Skimming over the white waves of the blue sea, the cool breeze came to the shore. And the trees that lined the beach made the area green and pleasant. In every direction, the view in and around Ngapali was beautiful.

Our passenger jet took off from Yangon International Airport at 7 am. Soon the plane was flying over Thadlu Lake and Yangon-Bago Highway. An air hostess showed us all the beautiful scenes of the landscape of our country we could see from the plane high above the ground. It was my first flight to Thandwe, and all the scenery I had seen were marvelous. After the flight-time lasted 15 minutes, the hostess announced that we were flying over the Ayeyawady River. “On the right bank of the Ayeyawady, we can see Danubyu town, and we will soon be flying over Hinthada town,” she said. When I looked from the window, I saw the Ayeyawady meandering peacefully below us. Down there, Danubyu was lying faintly in the distance.

After flying at an altitude of over 23,000 feet for 45 minutes, the plane touched down at Maizin Airport. While hovering over the airport, the hostess explained to us all we saw from the plane. A pamphlet I had read during the flight informed me that my country, Myanmar’s 7,700-kilometre long coastline were welcoming vacationers with breathtaking views of the sun-sea, the white sands and the coconut palms dancing in the wind.

I was embraced by the cool breeze from the blue sea as soon as I ascended from the plane. A large number of tourists enjoyed their vacation at Ngapali. After a 20-minute drive, we arrived at the Ngapali Beach.

The Kissapanadi River Bridge, 2,512.5 feet long was built at a cost of over K 2,500 million and about US $ 2.5 million. Without taking any foreign assistance, the Yangon-Sittway Highway was built by the strength of the people alone. The Government spent over K 9,500 million and over US $ 100 million to build the highway which stands as a significant accomplishment in Myanmar history.

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Lontha, located at a place six miles from Ngapali is the largest marine product trading centre in Rakhine State. With its six cold storage facilities, the centre is exporting various species of aqua creatures netted in coastal waters and high-sea. A seaport has been built at gulf of Mayoe near Lontha.

Hsatthwa Bridge near Hsatthwa village in Gwa Township is the 19th major bridge that has been built in Rakhine State. The 660-foot bridge supports a 24-foot motorway, flanked by a three-foot pedestrian lane on either side. The clearance is 85 feet wide and eight feet high. It is a reinforced concrete bridge. It was built at a cost of K 340 million.

Yangon was famous as Dwarawady in the past. Thandwe was famous as Dwarrawady in the past. But as time passed 15 minutes, the hostess announced that we were flying over the Ayeyawady River. “On the right bank of the Ayeyawady, we can see Danubyu town, and we will soon be flying over Hinthada town,” she said. When I looked from the window, I saw the Ayeyawady meandering peacefully below us. Down there, Danubyu was lying faintly in the distance.

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The completion of Thandwe-Gwa-Ngathangchaung Road, Taungup-Thandwe Road, Taungup-Maei-An Road and Minbu-An-Tattaung Road has facilitated better transport in Rakhine State.

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

Yangon, 6 March— The Development Affairs Committee under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are makings concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245429 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Director (Sagaya Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Introduction to molecular biology

Yangon, 6 March — An introduction to molecular biology — genomics & proteomics — will be made from 9 am to 12 am on 13, 14, 20 and 21 March 2004 at the Hall B of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Road here. Those interested can get themselves enrolled at the MMA and Institute of Medicine-1 during the office hour, it is learnt. — MNA
University and colleges opened in Hpa-an...

He said the government with goodwill built necessary infrastructures for development. He spoke of the need for officials to make efforts for sufficiency of rice in the region and economic progress.

In the afternoon, Senior General Than Shwe and party went to Hpa-an University where they were welcomed by Minister for Education U Than Aung and faculty members. They inspected the university and colleges opened for producing human resources and development of the region, he said. Only when there are a lot of educated persons without any gap in educational opportunities among states and divisions, will all the Union develop. In the future the nation that can catch up with other nations will emerge. He urged the faculty members to nurture the students to be outstanding, hoping the bright future.

With increased production in agriculture, fish and meat and industrial sectors in the region Kayin State will develop and living standard of the people will improve, he said.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe greeted those present. They then went to Mebaung Kyaungtaik and paid obeisance to Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abbidiha Agga Maha Saddhama Majita Satkya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indriya and members of the Sangha in Hpa-an. Senior General Than Shwe and party took the Five Precepts from Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitabha Hpa-an Lumbini Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavidiha. Senior General Than Shwe presented offerings to Mebaung Kyaungtaik Sayadaw General Thura Shwe Mann and party presented offerings to the members of the Sangha.

Next, he met Pro-rector and professors of Hpa-an University, education college, government technological college and government computer college and faculty members. Pro-rector of Hpa-an University U Saw Han Shein, Principal of Hpa-an Education College Daw Than Htay and Principal of Govt. College Daw Soe Soe Min reported on location and areas of the university and colleges, courses conducted, modern teaching aids, receiving education of students, strength of teaching and management staff.

In his guidance, the Senior General said opening of university and colleges in Hpa-an region aims at enabling the students in the region to receive education within the reach. In fact, Hpa-an is not very far from Yangon and Mawlamyine. Most of the people in the region are simple and honest. They paid obeisance to the Kyaukhtiyoe Pagoda. Senior General Than Shwe presented cash for the pagoda and signed in the visitors’ book. He then greeted pilgrims. They arrived back here in the evening.

Senior General Than Shwe being welcomed in Hpa-an by officials... MNA

With increased production in agriculture, fish and meat and industrial sectors in the region Kayin State will develop and living standard of the people will improve, he said.
Prime Minister attends ...

(from page 16)

The Prime Minister designated the traditional medicine hospital as one under the Ministry of Health and fulfilled the requirements.

Then, the opening of Shwesin Tipitaka Kyangdawgyi built in the compound of Tipitaka Dhammanada Pariyatti Monastery followed.

At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and wellwisher Chairman of Tipitaka Nikaya Missionary Upathaka Group (Manda- lay) Chairman of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association U Thu Taw-Daw formally opened the building. Then, the Sayadaw, the Prime Minister and party visited the building. Then, the Prime Minister and party viewed certificates of religious titles, treaties and equipment of the late Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadaw at his Kyangdaw. Afterwards, the ceremony to share merits followed at Maha Bandooola Dhammayon of Tipitaka Dhammanada Pariyatti Monastery.

The Prime Minister and party including the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Then, members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Next, the Prime Minister supplicated on religious matters. In his supplication, the Prime Minister expressed his great delight and pleasure to pay reverence to Sayadaw Ovadacariya Sayadaw, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Tipitakadhara Sayadaws and members of the Sangha who were present at the ceremony.

He said that the Dhamma Nada Monastery could produce first Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadaw. Residing in the monastery, the Sayadaw passed Government Pahtamabavan exams, Dhammacariya exam, Mandalay Sakka Niha Dhammacariya exam and Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida exam. He added that he learnt that Ninth Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Bhaddanta Gandhamala Lankara passed over the Dhamma Nada Pariyatti Monastery. U Thu Taw-Daw Khin Sein of Myeptya Ward in Mandalay donated cash for construction of the building. So the merit-sharing ceremony for the building was held in conjunction with the 36th birthday anniversary of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandhamala Lankara, he said.

The Jivitadana Traditional medicine hospital constructed in the compound of Mingun Village Station Hospital under the aegis of Dhamma Nada religious association led by the ninth Shwesin Tipitakadhara Sayadaw with the donations of the people who had been handed over to the State. And the opening of the hospital was also held, he said.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister wished the Sayadaw able to perform religious duties like first Tipitakadhara Mingun Sayadaw and to produce more Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaws. Afterwards, the Prime Minister presented offertories to the Magway Sayadaw and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandhamala Lankara. Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the ministers and wellwishers also presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

U Thu Taw and family donated K 10 million to Thitagu World Buddhist University through Lt-Gen Ye Myint. K 3.5 million donated by Mandalay Tini Upatihaka group for the funds through Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. U Thu Taw presented the documents related to the hospital to Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Chancellor of Thitagu World Buddhist University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahunjma Hitadhara Maha Gantahavacana Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister performed rituals of golden and silver showers. — MNA

69 tourists arrive by chartered plane

YANGON, 6 March— Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, assistance provided by the Ministry of Transport and arrangements of Adventure Myanmar Travels & Tours Co Ltd, 69 tourists arrived here by First Choice Air chartered plane.

They were welcomed at the airport by officials of the ministries concerned and Adventure Myanmar Travels & Tours Co Ltd and traditional cultural troupes.

The tourists will leave for Maldives at 10 am on 9 March after visiting Yangon and Bagan-NyaungU.

MNA
The Prime Minister

tours Sagaing...

(from page 16)

The Prime Minister said new basic education schools were opened and some schools were upgraded in the whole country. Therefore the teachers are needed. He gave instructions on laying down plans for appointment of more teachers.

Managing Director of Myanmar Industrial Construction Services U Ye Tun reported on construction of lecture halls, practical hall, administration office, hospital and entrance road and arrangements for construction of archway of the institute.

The Prime Minister gave instruction on construction of three-storey main building. He inspected e-Education resource centre, language lab and computer centre of the institute.

The Prime Minister and party went to Tagun Wood-based Industries Co Ltd. Members of the board of directors U Thein Tun and U Khaing Min reported on location and areas, the lay-out, raw materials, installation of machines, value added sewn timber and production of finished wood products. The Prime Minister then gave instructions and inspected the production process in the factory.

The Prime Minister arrived at Thitagu World Buddhist University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Sadaddhammajotika-dhaja, Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahunja Hitadha Maha Gathavacaka Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Sannasara.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the halls of the University. The Prime Minister inspected scale model and signed in the visitors’ book. The Prime Minister and party went to Mingun and attended the opening of Jivatadana Traditional Medicine Hospital.

The Prime Minister went to TadaU where they were welcomed by members of District and Township PDCs, departmental personnel and social organizations. They proceeded to TadaU Basic Education High School where they were welcomed by members of the board of trustees and Headmaster U Zaw Win and teachers. Next, the Prime Minister met with members of TadaU Town- ship Peace and Development Council, departmental officials and members of social organizations at the hall of TadaU Basic Education High School.

First, Chairman of TadaU Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Myint reported to the Prime Minister on the background history of TadaU, location and area, population, total sown acreage, cultivation of ten major crops, monsoon paddy and summer paddy and production rate, cultivation of cotton, pulses and beans, groundnut, sunflower and sesameum, measures taken for boosting the production rate and water supply for agricultural purpose, rainfall, self-sufficiency in food, transport, education, health, generating of biogas, use of electricity, water supply for the town and requirements. Next, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report.

After that, the Prime Minister upgraded Myaynnyu BEHS (Branch) into BEHS, Htanlontat BEMS (Branch) into BEMS and upgraded the laboratory of TadaU People’s Hospital.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister made a speech. He said that TadaU region was developed and prosperous one in the time of Myanmar kings, adding that the region was degraded from a city level, lagging behind in development. But the region has a great historic tradition and is filled with ancient cultural heritage and ancient cultural works. In addition, the region is not very far from Mandalay, the second capital. With better transport, the region has potential for development, he stressed.

He said that sound economy is of paramount importance for development of a township. Only when there is sound economy in townships and divisions will the Union made up of states and divisions develop. Therefore, the township level departmental officials are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts with goodwill for economic development and development of own township and own region.

Those in charge at township level in-charges are to behave as good leaders in managing the staff for successful realization of the tasks assigned and they are to make strenuous efforts for regional and national development, reviewing weak points and strong points and potentials for development.

Keeping pace with the times, the departmental officials are to report what they are not able to do to higher levels while striving for development of own region. Nowadays, the State level officials are fulfilling the requirements for regional development making field trips right down to townships and villages that are the basic regions. Likewise, he said, he and his party were there to fulfill the needs for development of TadaU Township.

But, the State level officials and heads of department will not be able to make field trips to every township that are the basic regions and townships will make progress only through concerted and coordinated efforts exerted by township level officials and higher level officials.

The township level departmental officials who are dealing with the public are to serve the interests of the people with goodwill and only then, will they win public trust and acquire public cooperation.

That is why all township level officials and departmental officials enlisting the public cooperation are to make collective and concerted efforts for successful realization of the national objectives while striving for development of own township and own region with goodwill and diligence.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented TV set, Vedio set and a computer set for TadaU BEHS to the headmistress and the ceremony ended. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the audio lab, the visual room and the computer skill room of the school. Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at TadaU People’s Hospital and inspected round the health facility.

Next, the Prime Minister gave instructions on sanitation and beautifying the hospital. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Mandalay International Airport, and left Mandalay and arrived back here in the evening.
Title recipient Sayadaws, nun, laity honoured

YANGON, 6 March—A ceremony to honour three Sayadaws and one nun on whose religious titles were conferred in year 2004 by the State Peace and Development Council was held at Myeik Association (Yangon) at the hall of the association on Hledan Street, Lannadaw Township, here, at 1 pm today. Myeik College Kokko Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tiloka, Myeik Phaya Ngahu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesava and Kyunus Kizatanyana Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kanjana and Bahan Thameikdawaya Nunnery Nun Daw Nabanhsi were honoured at the ceremony.

Likewise, a ceremony to pay homage to title recipient Sayadaws including Shwekyin Nikaya Sasanabing Sayadaw and to honour Sasana Nuggaha title recipient lay persons was held at Maha Adhisilakari Ordination Hall of Thin Lekhanyayna Dagon Sasana Yekitha in Ward 4, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, this morning. Biographies of

Abhidhajha Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhajha Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Shwekyin Nikaya Sasanabing Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aghgiiya, Abhidhajha Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Saganig Hill Thitsanawadya Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sijjanabhivamsa and Agga Maha Kammathanacaraya Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotkdah Jagon Myothit (East) Thin Lekhanyayna Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Lekkkhha were read out and they were honoured at the ceremony.

Sasana Nuggaha title recipients Durian U Soe Myint, Daw Aye Aye Kyi, Daw Kyin Myint Myint, Daw Tin Tin Wa, Daw Khin Than Myint and Daw Khin Saw were also presented with certificates of honour — MNA

Poppy-substitute Crops Cultivation and Livestock Breeding Training School opened in Laukkai

YANGON, 6 March—A ceremony to open the Poppy-substitute Crops Cultivation and Livestock Breeding Training School for the purpose of drug elimination, built by the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar, was held at the school in Laukkai, Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Kokang Region, on 3 March morning, attended by Member of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Deputy Director-General Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win of Myanmar Police Force, on behalf of the CCDAC.

Also present on the occasion were Laukkai Regional Command Commander Brig-Gen Than Win, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, Director Police Col Sit Aye of CCDAC, local authorities, Kokang Special Region-1 national race leader U Phon Kyar Shin and local people, departmental personnel and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win said that Myanmar has laid down and is implementing the drug elimination 15-year plan. In addition, the New Destiny Project is being implemented in five poppy growing states beginning April 2002. According to the New Destiny Project, poppy cultivation has been reduced by 24 per cent in the entire nation in 2002-2003. Poppy cultivation season in comparison to that of 2001-2002, the data on illegal poppy cultivation, jointly collected by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Myanmar.

Poppy cultivation obviously declined by 50 per cent in Shan State (North). Therefore, Kokang region could be designated as the opium free zone in 2003.

It can be seen that remarkable progress has been made in the infrastructures such as economic, social, education, health, transport etc at all border areas that were unprecedented in the past because the people residing in border areas are making concerted efforts not only for carrying out poppy-substitute cultivation and livestock breeding tasks but also for joining hand with the Government in undertaking regional development tasks after abandoning poppy cultivation.

The excursion groups comprising diplomats, ambassadors, heads of missions in Myanmar and local and foreign journalists led by CCDAC member ministers, have visited border areas for three times to view drug elimination and regional development tasks being implemented in the border areas.

In this regard, they have personally see successes in carrying out drug elimination tasks thanks to undertakings of the local people who cooperated with the Government. In addition, international communities have learned about development of the border areas through the excursion group member diplomats and media. In recognition of success and tasks in drug elimi-
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Australia records largest seizure of Take card credits

Canberra, 6 March — The Australian police have seized about 6,942,000 card credits in Melbourne in the largest haul of the type for the country.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio quoted police as saying Thursday that a man was arrested for alleged involve ment in making the cards during a raid on a flat in North Melbourne, capital of the Victoria State. — MNA/Xinhua

Wen Jiabao says China to open wider to outside world

BEIJING, 6 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao Friday called for adapting to the new situation and opening still wider to the outside world, saying that efforts must be made to coordinate domestic development with opening up, fully exploit domestic and foreign markets and resources, and expand development and cooperation beyond our borders.

Wen said the government should continue to follow the strategy of market diversification, compete on quality, optimize its export mix, and promote the transformation and upgrading of the processing trade, improve foreign trade coordination among foreign trade entities, and strive to overcome the current trade friction to create a fair trade environment for our enterprises, said the Premier.

Wen said the government is committed to promoting its的各项 services and products in the international market. He also said efforts could be made to speed up the implementation of the strategy of “going global” and guiding Chinese investment abroad. Enterprises that get their hands in ownership are encouraged to invest in overseas operations in various forms and expand their international market shares.

Wen said, “We will do all our work to bring the country’s first manned spaceship and the realisation of the strategy of “going global” closer to reality.”

He added that the government would continue to enforce policies that encourage foreign investment and further improve its investment environment.

The Premier said that more rational and appropriate use of foreign capital is necessary to raise the performance of foreign investment. Despite the Premier’s call, China’s foreign direct investment had been rising and accounted for 6 percent of the country’s GDP in 2004.
**Needles removed from man's brain after 29 years**

GUANGZHOU, 6 March— Doctors in south China's Guangdong Province have removed three sewing needles that had been embedded in a young man's brain for nearly 29 years.

The patient, surnamed Guo, was from Quingshan City, said Zhang Zhiquiang, one of the neurosurgeons, at the 999 Hospital for Emergency Medicine. Guo had travelled to several cities seeking medical help over the past ten years, but none could get rid of the needles from his brain, Zhang recalled. Guo could not tell when or how the needles had got into his brain, nor could his parents.

"But an X-ray he took in 1994 for a brain injury showed they were there," said Zhang. Guo had travelled to several cities seeking medical help over the past ten years, but none could get rid of the needles from his brain, Zhang recalled. Guo could not tell when or how the needles had got into his brain, nor could his parents.

**Florida's Disney World gets rid of Janet Jackson Mickey statue**

LOS ANGELES, 6 March—The Disney World in Florida has replaced a statue of Mickey Mouse dressed like US singer Janet Jackson in the aftermath of her breast-baring incident, the Eonline com web site reported here.

The six-foot statue used a tight black outfit Jackson wore in 1990 after the release of her album, “Rhythm Nation 1990.”

The statue was one of 75 unveiled at Disney World last fall to celebrate the 75th birthday of Mickey Mouse.

They were inspired by celebrities such as Andre Agassi, James Toney and Ellen DeGeneres.

Janet Jackson has been severely criticized for her breast-baring incident during half time Super Bowl performance on 2 February with singer Justin Timberlake.

Disney spokesman Gary Foster cited the Super Bowl controversy in its decision to replace Jackson’s Mickey with a new one.

**Sargasso genome study finds 1,800 new species**

WASHINGTON, 6 March—Genome experts who took on a patch of ocean for a mass gene-sequencing project said on Thursday they had discovered at least 1,800 new species of microbes and changed some of their fundamental ideas about ocean biology.

Most surprising, they said, was the discovery of 800 new genes for photoreceptors—structures used by creatures to collect light. To date, only about 150 photoreceptor genes have been found in all the known species.

This suggests microbes in the area they analyzed use sunlight in unique ways, Venter said.

"Perhaps sunlight plays a far more important role in Earth’s biology, in Earth’s ecosystems, than any of us previously imagined," Venter told a news conference.

Raymond Orbach of the US Department of Energy, which helped fund the study, said this could lead to new energy sources.

**Michael Jackson's big collection sold to Europe**

LOS ANGELES, 6 March—A huge collection of stage costumes, photographs, documents and props used by US pop superstar Michael Jackson and his family has been sold and shipped to Europe, the CNN TV network reported Thursday.

The collection, which was claimed to be the largest accumulation of Jackson memorabilia in the world, was shipped Wednesday after spending 18 months under wraps in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

The collection’s owner, Henry Vavero, declared to The New Light of Myanmar, Sunday, 7 March, 2004
Late blemish leaves Woods six off early pace

DUBAI, 6 March — Tiger Woods missed a five-foot putt to save par at his final hole and had to settle for a three-under-par 69 in the Dubai Desert Classic second round on Friday.

The world number one had ventured into contention with four birdies in the first 12 holes but was unable to gain further ground before ending up six shots off the early lead held by Ireland’s Paul McGinley.

Woods, having completed an opening 70 in the morning after the scheduled start was put back for the second day running because of thick fog, finished at five-under 139.

That left him six adrift of McGinley, who set the pace by mixing nine birdies with two bogeys in a seven-under par 65. Twice major winner Mark O’Meara was a further stroke back at 10-under 134 after scrunching round the par-72 layout in a nine-birdie 64.

First-round leader Bradley Dredge of Britain, who opened with an eight-under par 64, was among the day’s late starters and, along with world number three Ernie Els, must unlikely to finish his second round round Friday.

Woods, who won his first title of the year at the WGC-Match Play Championship in California on Sunday, said he had not played particularly well as a glorious day of sunshine burned off the early mist at the Emirates Golf Club.

McGinley, who held the winning putt for Europe at the 2002 Ryder Cup, produced 13 birdies in 36 holes.

Having also teed off at the 10th, McGinley mixed six birdies with a solitary bogey to reach the turn in five-under 32.

Although he slipped with another bogey at the par-four first, he hit back with further birdies on three, five and six to move one clear of the chasing pack.

Woods, who finished second behind Denmark’s Thomas Bjorn at the 2002 Dubai Desert Classic, teed off at the 10th and picked up shots at the first two par-fives.

He then birdied the par-five 17th, after nearly driving the green, to get to five under before wasting a chance to pick up another shot at the par-five last where he pulled his drive into the left rough.

A further birdie followed at the par-five third before he recorded the only blemish of his round at the 463-yard ninth.

Earlier he had continued his six holes in round one after the scheduled start was delayed for just over an hour and a half.

Resuming at level 12 holes, he birdied the final two holes to close to within six shots of Dredge’s overnight pace. — MNA/Reuters

Over one million Euro 2004 tickets sold

LISBON, 6 March — One hundred days before the start of the Euro 2004 football tournament and over one million of the 1.2 million tickets available have already been sold, organizers said on Thursday. “Ticket sales have surpassed our expectations. It’s a huge financial success,” said Portuguese Football Federation president Gilberto Madail.

Madail said that even apart from sponsorship deals and the sale of television retransmission rights for an estimated 380 million euros (US$507 million US dollars) the “budget is very comfortable.”

Of the tickets already sold 400,000 have been purchased by the public, 130,000 by Euro 2004 partners and 350,000 distributed to football federations.

Another 108,000 tickets have been reserved by the national football federations of the finalists.

Tickets for the finals, which will be held between June 12 and July 4, are available only through the official Euro 2004 Web site or the national football federations of the 16 participating countries. Organizers added that tickets are still available for 11 matches.

Tournament organizers last month warned fans not to buy their tickets through unofficial Internet sites because these were most likely scams.

To combat counterfeiting, the tickets themselves will only be distributed two weeks before the tournament begins. — MNA/Xinhua

Six Leicester players in Spanish court

CARTAGENA (Spain), 6 March— Six soccer players from the English club Leicester City appeared at a Spanish court on Friday after spending the night in police cells following allegations of sexual assault.

They were among nine players from the struggling Premiership club who were arrested after three women said they had been sexually assaulted by a group of men who broke into their hotel room in the resort of La Manga.

The players, who were in Spain for a training camp, were called to give evidence to a judge at a courtroom in the southeastern city of Cartagena on Thursday.

Three were released.

The other six were released for a second day of evidence on Friday. They were taken into the courtroom one by one, a reporter said inside the building.

British Vice-Consul George Outhwaite told reporters that some were also at the court on Friday.

The hearing was closed to the media.

The club said the three other players who had been arrested were free to leave Spain.

One of them, named by Leicester City as Steffen Freund, was released without charge having been accused of failing to provide help. — MNA/Reuters

Maradona refuses to return to Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 6 March— Soccer legend Diego Armando Maradona who lives in Cuba said he would not return to his motherland Argentina amid fears of imprisonment over a paternity legal procedure.

In statements from the island published Thursday by the Press, Maradona, 43, said Argentine courts were filing against him “a trial for alleged paternity” of a six-year-old girl.

The former World Player of the Year said that this girl had never received food pensions of 130,000 US dollars that he had ordered his former manager Guillermo Coppola to give.

“That is why I could go directly to jail,” said Maradona who has been living in Cuba for several years.

Maradona was instrumental in the 1986 World Cup-winning Argentine team and migrated to Cuba on January 18, 2000.

The charges against Maradona were filed by a woman who held a short relation with him and Argentine justice ruled the girl was Maradona’s daughter. — MNA/Xinhua

Manchester United out for FA Cup revenge on Fulham

LONDON, 6 March— English champions Manchester United will be out for revenge on Fulham while holders Arsenal tangle with Portsmouth at Fratton Park as FA Cup final returns in this weekend’s quarterfinals.

The four Premier League clubs who reached their respective Division Two teams while the geography of UEFA.

A just week after their last encounter with Fulham at Loftus Road, United will turn out at Old Trafford looking to clip the wings of a side close to within six shots of Dredge’s overnight pace. — MNA/Reuters
20:40 Conservation of Sea- turities.
20:45 National News.
21:00 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments (Brass Instruments, Cymbal) (Lingum).
21:05 Signature Tune.
21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Summertime".
21:15 Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas.
21:20 Myanmar Modern Song "Summertime".
21:25 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments (Brass Instruments, Cymbal) (Lingum).
21:30 Myanmar Modern Song "Summertime".
21:35 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments (Brass Instruments, Cymbal) (Lingum).
21:40 Myanmar Modern Song "Summertime".
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Prime Minister attends opening of Mingun Tipitaka Jivitadana Traditional Medicine Hospital, Shwesin Tipitaka Kyaungdaw in Sagaing

YANGON, 6 March— The ceremony to open Mingun Tipitaka Jivitadana Traditional Medicine Hospital and Shwesin Tipitaka Kyaungdaw was held in conjunction with the ceremony to share merits gained at the respective venues this afternoon, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Nayaka Sayadaws of Tipitaka Nikaya Management Board and members of the Sangha, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations, Tipitaka Nikaya Missionary Upathaka Group, wellwishers and disciples. First, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandhamala Lankara, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the hospital.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveiled the stone inscription of the hospital.

Then, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandhamala Lankara and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sprinkled scented water to the stone inscription.

The Prime Minister unveiled the signboard of the hospital. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party inspected the hospital and the herbal plantations. (See page 9)

Prime Minister tours Sagaing, TadaU Townships

YANGON, 6 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments left here this morning and arrived at Mandalay International Airport at 8 am. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and military and civilian officials.

The Prime Minister and party went to Sagaing where they were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Commander of No 33 LID Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, members of Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

The Prime Minister went to Padamya Industrial Zone in Sagaing. Leader of Industrial Zone Construction Supervisory Group Chairman of Sagaing District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Naing reported on location of the industrial zone, plot of land and land for entrepreneurs, construction of wire, concrete lamp-post, torch light, wood-based, textile and dyeing factories and other factories.

Next, industrialists reported on operations of the factories, distribution and sale of finished goods.

The Prime Minister gave instructions. He inspected production process at the Cable Wire Factory.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee the Prime Minister proceeded to Institute of Education (Sagaing). They were welcomed by Director-General of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Dr Thein Myint, Rector Dr Myint Thein and faculty members.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt reported on brief history of the institute, courses conducted, population of students, courses of Human Resource Development Centre, IT room with 144 computers, organizational set up and academic and administration matters.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views production of value-added wood products of Dagon Wood-based Industrial Co Ltd in Sagaing. — MNA

MWVO Central Organizing Committee meets

YANGON, 6 March — The Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee held the regular meeting No 1/2004 at the meeting hall of the MWVO Headquarters on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township here at 9 am today, with an address by Chairman of MWVO COC Sec-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present on the occasion were MWVO COC member ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials.

First, the Chairman of the MWVO COC gave instructions on the aims of the organization, extended organizing tasks, training, economic matters, carrying out community services and active participation of members of the organization in undertaking the seven-step policy future programmes of the State with Union Spirit. Joint-Secretary Vice-Adjoint-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe read and sought approval of the minutes of the COC meeting No 4 of 2003, implementation of the tasks and reports submitted to the meeting No 1/2004. The group leaders reported on matters related to five tasks of the organization and regional organizing leaders and officials on their respective sectors. The Chairman gave necessary instructions. — MNA