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Sayadaws attend the 95th birthday of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita.—MNA

95th birthday of Myingyan Sayadaw celebrated

YANGON, 8 March — A ceremony to celebrate the 95th birthday of Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Myingyan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita was held in conjunction with the tenth founding anniversary of Five Nikayas and Tri Pithakas Sarhintaik in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and to honour two brilliant members of the Sangha at the Sarhintaik in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than

Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and also Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, attended the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were SSMNC Vice-Chairman Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara, Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, member Sayadaws of the SSMNC; Daw Mya Mya San, wife

(See page 8)

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

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



Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party sharing merits at 95th birthday of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita. — MNA

F & R Minister receives guests

YANGON, 8 March — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met Mr Hiroshi Kanematsu, Managing Director of Nissho Iwai International (Singapore) Ltd of Japan, at his office at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and officials concerned.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects extension of irrigated area of Thittetgon Diversion Weir in TadaU Township

YANGON, 8 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence left here by air on 7 March morning and arrived at Mandalay International Airport at 7.30 am. Lt-Gen Ye Myint was welcomed there by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and senior military officers and

departmental officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by the commander and officials, arrived at the briefing hall of Thittetgon Diversion Weir's irrigated area extension project in TadaU Township being undertaken by Irrigation Department Construction Group-7 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. They were welcomed there by Deputy Director of ID U Myo Tun and officials.

Deputy Director U Myo Tun reported on progress of work in extending the irrigated area and future tasks to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who gave instructions on timely completion of the work.

After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected progress in digging the new canal at milepost No 17 and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of Mezali diversion conduit

being undertaken at milepost No 15/4 and gave instructions on timely completion of the work.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the extension of the main canal with heavy machinery at milepost No 13/4 where Deputy Director U Myo Tun and officials reported on matters related to the extended project.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction of Aungtha diversion

conduit at milepost No 12/4, water supply to the farmlands at milepost No 11/4 and preparations for cultivation of summer paddy.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with local farmers and gave instructions on extended cultivation of paddy and cotton.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected water supply to the farmlands at milepost No 11.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 9 March, 2004

To boost production for higher living standard

The Union of Myanmar is a land where national people have been living in unity and amity for ages. Today is the time when all-out efforts are being made so that peace and stability prevails all over the nation and it can keep abreast of the development of other nations of the world. At such a time like this, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to cooperate with the government in keeping the peace and stability already achieved, raising the momentum of national development and strengthening the national economic life.

The government is meeting all the requirements for parallel development of various regions across the Union and for enhancement of social and economic life of the national people.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe went on an inspection tour of Taninthayi Division, Mon State and Kayin State from 25 February to 3 March and inspected the development tasks being carried out in respective regions, giving guidance on work to be done.

In his meeting with members of Kayin State Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, Tatmadawmen and their families at the hall of No 22 Light Infantry Division, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that, as the government has laid down all the necessary foundations for development, all those at regional levels are required to strive for self-sufficiency and economic development of their respective regions.

The government has been spending a lot on the construction of roads and bridges in Kayin State. Moreover, primary education schools, the Hpa-an University, the Government Technological College and the Government Computer College have been opened there so that more and more youths can pursue their education easily.

The Hpa-an region has favourable conditions for development because it is suitable for the cultivation of pepper and rubber on a commercial scale. Therefore, we would like to call upon all the responsible personnel and people in Kayin State to put their energies into the task of boosting production in all the economic sectors in their region.



Daw Lin Zar Ni Zaw and Ma Myu Lin Ko Ko, who win the third prize in kindergarten, present K 300,000 for No 10 BEPS, Bahan Township, to Headmistress Daw Sein Myaing at the Parent-Teacher Association annual meeting and prize-presentation ceremony of the school for 2002-2003 academic year, held on 7 March. — H

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'

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

International Women's Day observed



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe speaks at the ceremony to observe the 2004 International Women's Day. — MNA

YANGON, 8 March — A ceremony to observe the 2004 International Women's Day under the aegis of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was held at the International Business Centre on Pyay

Road, here, this morning. It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Educa-

tion U Than Aung, members of MNCWA and members of working committee, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Professor Dr Daw May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, central executive committee members, Adviser to the MNCWA Daw Khin Than Nwe, advisers, Ambassador of the Philippines Mme Phoebe A Gomez, resident representatives of the United Nations Agencies, wives of ambassadors, wives of military attachés, and wives of the resident representatives of UN agencies, officials of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delegates of social organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, members of the working committee for prevention of human trafficking, and guests.

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an opening speech.

Next, Coordinator of the United Nations System's Operational Activities for Development in Myanmar Mr Charles James Petrie read the message sent by the Secretary-General of the UN.

Afterwards, President of MNAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave an address on health care services for women being carried out in Myanmar. — MNA



Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivering an address. — MNA

Victorious footballers of YCDC honoured

YANGON, 8 March — A work coordination meeting of the Central Sports Committee of the Yangon City Development Committee was held in conjunction with a ceremony to honour victorious athletes of YCDC, who took part in the first BIMST-ECU-18 South Asia Six-nation Football Tournament held in Thailand, at the meeting hall-4 of YCDC this afternoon. YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the ceremony and gave away prizes.

It was also attended by YCDC Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, the chairman of the CSC and chairmen of sports subcommittees and prize winning

footballers, Tun Tun Lin (goalkeeper), Aung Zaw Myo (defender) and team

captain Zaw Zaw (forwarder) and assistant coach U Kyi Lwin. At the ceremony the

mayor presented K 100,000 each to the three footballers and the coach. — MNA



YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presents cash awards to the victorious athletes of YCDC. — YCDC

Guerilla attack injures American in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 March— Guerilla fired at least seven rockets on the US coalition headquarters in Baghdad Sunday night, hitting a hotel used by US occupation officials and wounding one American, the military said. It was the biggest attack on the Green Zone in weeks.

A series of explosions echoed across central Baghdad from the strike, sirens blared, and smoke and flames were briefly visible in the Green Zone, the heavily guarded area where the US-led coalition is based.

Five rockets hit the Al-Rasheed hotel, where some civilian contractors are living and a coalition dining hall is located. A US civilian contractor was wounded, the military said.

The rockets were fired around 7:30 pm from a white SUV parked outside the Green Zone near the former Foreign Ministry building. The SUV burst into flames during the barrage, and US troops found two rockets in a rack on the vehicle. The troops then blew up the vehicle, a military spokesman said.

The Al-Rasheed is located across the street from the Baghdad Convention Centre, where many coalition offices are located. The centre was where Iraq Governing Council intended to sign an interim constitution on Friday, but a last-minute political dispute delayed the ceremony. Council members said they hoped to sign the document Monday.

Earlier Sunday, some 500 US soldiers, backed by tanks and helicopters, raided Baghdad's biggest dairy processing plant, in the western suburbs of the capital, looking for

specific militant suspects. Four people were arrested, battalion commander Lt Col Tim Ryan told *The Associated Press*.

Troops entered the grounds of the eight-building plant without incident and checked identity papers of the workers, separating men and women.

After the raid, soldiers handed out Arabic-language newspapers printed by the coalition, and handbills offering rewards for information about suspected militants or bomb makers. The Green Zone comes under occasional mortar or rocket fire, but Sunday night's barrage was the biggest attack in weeks.

Inside the Green Zone, employees at the Baghdad Convention Centre, where the US military press office is based, fled into the basement, said Army 1st Sgt Stephen Valley, a military spokesman.

"Everyone's OK. Everyone's been accounted for," Valley said. "They're all down in the basement."

Shortly after the blasts, a US Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopter, a surveillance aircraft, and an Apache helicopter flew low over the nearby Tigris River, possibly in an attempt to seek out the heat signature of the rocket launchers. The helicopters use infrared sights to seek out the heat left by the rocket tubes. —*Internet*

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US reportedly ignored contrary reports on Iraq illicit arms

WASHINGTON, 8 March— The US intelligence agencies, in the two years before the Iraq war, reviewed but ultimately dismissed reports that Saddam Hussein's government did not possess illicit weapons, *The New York Times* reported Saturday.

The reports, from Iraqi scientists, defectors and other informants that ran contrary to the conclusions of the intelligence agencies and the Bush Administration, were not acknowledged publicly by top government officials before the invasion in March last year.

In public statements, the agencies and the administration cited only reports from informants who supported the view that Iraq possessed so-called weapons of mass destruction, which the administration cited as a main justification for going to war, *The New York Times* report said.

The first public hint of those reports came in a speech on Friday by Jane Harman, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee.

"Indications" were emerging from the panels inquiry into prewar intelligence that "potential sources may have been dismissed because they were telling us something we didn't want to believe: that Iraq had no active WMD programmes," she said at the American Enterprise Institute.

Other government officials said they knew of several occasions from 2001 to 2003 when Iraqi scientists, defectors and others had told US intelligence officers and other intelligence agents that Iraq did not possess illicit weapons.

The officials said they believed that intelligence agencies had dismissed the reports because they did not conform to a view, held widely within the administration and among intelligence analysts, that Iraq was hiding an illicit arsenal.

A senior government officials was quoted as saying that the view Iraq possessed illicit weapons had been "treated like a religion" within US intelligence agencies, with alternative views never given serious attention.

In a speech last month, Central Intelligence Agency director George Tenet acknowledged for the first time that intelligence agencies might have been mistaken about whether Iraq possessed illicit weapons. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Syria, Turkey start preparation for free trade

DAMASCUS, 8 March— Syria and Turkey on Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on preparations for free trade between the two countries, official SANA news agency reported.

According to the MoU, the two sides agreed on forming a joint committee, which holds meetings once every six months. Its first meeting was set at the end of April in Ankara. Meanwhile, a work team was also formed to deal with the establishment of an agricultural free zone between the two countries.

The MoU was signed after two-day talks, during which the two sides discussed various issues, such as the establishment of border commercial centres, a free agricultural area and gas energy networks, as well as Turkish investment in Syria, air transportation and how to transfer Turkish expertise in the stock market.

—*MNA/Xinhua*

Belgian boy, 11, saves mother after heart attack

BRUSSELS, 8 March— An 11-year old Belgian boy managed to resuscitate his mother after she collapsed with a heart attack, just days after he received first aid training in school, a Belgian daily said on Saturday.

"I'm no hero. I just did what I had to do," Ayrtton Steenhout told *Het Laatste Nieuws* paper.

His 37-year-old mother collapsed on a family outing to the coastal town of Blankenberge.

"If it wasn't for our son, my wife wouldn't be sitting here any more," his proud father said. Ayrtton's mother received a pacemaker and is now out of hospital. —*MNA/Reuters*



Huge smoke billows at the heavily-fortified area known as the 'Green Zone,' a base for Coalition forces and civilian personnel, after another explosion Sunday evening on 7 March, 2004 in Baghdad, Iraq. —*INTERNET*

China to add corn, cotton on futures market

BEIJING, 8 March— Corn futures will likely be put on China's commodity futures market as early as April or May and cotton futures may get the green light shortly.

Zhu Yuchen, president of the Dalian Commodity Exchange, one of China's three futures exchanges, was quoted by Monday's *China Daily* as saying that they are preparing for the corn futures trading.

"We are not sure of the timetable yet since it needs final approval from the State Council but hopefully it will be in April or May," Zhu said. "Or if regulators need more time, it may be settled in autumn."

The exchange also plans to launch a new soybean contract soon to enrich its soy product series, insiders said.

Another futures exchange Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange, located in central China's Henan Province, has been applying for cotton futures.

The application is in progress and may be allowed within the year, or even in the first half of the year, the exchange source said.

It also has a new wheat contract to be launched and is working on new products like sugar and rapeseed, said Ji Guangpo, a manager at the marketing department of the exchange.

Some foreign companies have dabbled in the futures market in China indirectly though the country does not allow them to conduct futures trading.

"We are considering making some foreign companies special members of our exchange but they can not be dealers," Zhu said.

Foreign companies can be either foreign producers or consumers of the commodities traded in the country's futures market.

—*MNA/Xinhua*

HK's Jumbo Restaurant revamped for tourist spot

HONG KONG, 8 March— The Jumbo Floating Restaurant in Aberdeen, south of the Hong Kong Island, has been planned to re-emerge in late May as a "theme park on the sea" to attract more tourists, local Hong Kong media reported Saturday.

South China Morning Post said the new spot would offer diversified cuisine, a new array of shops and Moulin-Rouge-style cabaret shows.

The restaurant's owner Melco International Development expected the 35-million-Hong Kong-dollar (4.5-million-US-dollar) revamp would increase business.

The company said it was also considering opening a floating restaurant in Beijing at an investment of 60 million Hong Kong dollars (7.7 million US dollars), as well as others in Southeast Asia.

—*MNA/Xinhua*



US military inspectors examine and photograph the remains of failed rockets, which were left behind after several were fired the night before into the heavily-fortified area known as the 'Green Zone,' a base for Coalition forces and civilian personnel located a few hundred metres away, on Monday, 8 March, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq. —*INTERNET*

Fire chief witnesses Sunday's attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 March—Rick Morris grabbed his flak jacket and combat helmet, then headed for the nearest bunker Sunday when rockets were fired into Baghdad's Green Zone.

"I could see the flashes and hear the explosions," Morris, formerly of Lawrence, told the Journal-World a few hours later in a telephone interview.

Morris, the American fire chief for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, estimated he was about a quarter of a mile away at one of the fire personnel's "man camps" when the attack took place. He had been talking to someone who was cooking chicken over a

barbecue grill.

Officials said rockets were fired from a sport utility vehicle parked just outside the zone near the Al-Rasheed hotel. The explosions caused some trees and brush to burn, but it "wasn't a big deal," Morris said, and his firefighters were not called out.

"Unless we get toned (called) out specifically for something, we stay put," Morris said. "We're not going to risk ourselves for a

bunch of trees. We're here for the buildings."

The Green Zone is about a 4-mile square area of buildings that includes the US Embassy and other US, international and Iraqi provisional government offices. It is noted for its trees and wide boulevards, but it also is surrounded by razor wire, berms and armed checkpoints. It still periodically is hit by rocket and mortar fire.

Internet

Bush accused of failing to fully equip US troops

WASHINGTON, 8 March—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry accused the Bush Administration on Saturday of failing to adequately prepare and equip US forces for the war in Iraq.

Kerry, giving the Democrats' weekly radio address, said US President George W. Bush had misplaced priorities in Iraq, spending billions of dollars on contracts to Halliburton Co, but not providing troops enough body armour and other protective equipment.

The Massachusetts Senator said helicopters were flying dangerous missions without top-notch anti-missile systems, National Guard units were getting donated steel from local businesses to put homemade steel armour on their vehicles, and families were buying body armour for their sons and daughters.

"Families should be sending pictures and care packages to Iraq and the Department of Defence should be sending the body armour," Kerry said.

"If I am President, I will be prepared to use military force to protect our security, our people and our vital interests," he said. "But I will never send our troops in harm's

way without enough firepower and support."

Kerry called on Bush to support a bill in Congress to reimburse families who "had to buy the body armour this administration failed to provide".

He said he will introduce legislation later this month called the Military Family Bill of Rights "to prevent anything like this from ever happening again".

And to ease the strain on the reserves from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, Kerry said active duty forces should temporarily be expanded by 40,000 troops.

The Pentagon has said it will expand active duty forces by up to 30,000 over four years, but has resisted calls by many in Congress for a permanent increase.

"We cannot let the strongest Armed Forces in the world be weakened," Kerry said. "We must resolve that America's leaders will never let them down."

MNA/Reuters

China to open border trade with Tajikistan

URUMQI, 8 March — China will open its first border trading port with neighbouring Tajikistan in May, according to the port administration office of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The Kalasu Port will open on 25 May on the border along State Highway 314. Roads of both countries met at the port, said administration official Li Xinheng. People, goods and vehicles from both countries will be allowed to pass through the port, but the port would remain closed to third country nationals for the time being, said Li.

Chinese goods like rice, fruit and stationery were in demand in Tajikistan, but the lack of a direct trading port in the past meant goods had to be transported via a third country, which doubled or tripled costs.— MNA/Xinhua



Actress Mary Tyler Moore (C) poses with cast members Ed Asner, Valerie Harper, John Amos, Moore, Cloris Leachman, Betty White and Gavin MacLeod (L-R) after accepting the Ground Breaking Show award for her series 'The Mary Tyler Moore Show' during a taping of the second annual TV Land Awards in Hollywood on 7 March, 2004.

INTERNET

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A US soldier stands guard at the scene of a rocket attack in the Iraqi capital Baghdad on 7 March, 2004. Guerillas fired 10 rockets at the headquarters of the US-led administration in Baghdad on Sunday.—INTERNET

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trading. "We are considering making some foreign companies special members of our exchange but they can not be dealers," Zhu said.

Foreign companies can be either foreign producers or consumers of the commodities traded in the country's futures market. As one of the representatives of the securities and futures industry at the 10th National People's Congress, Zhu submitted several proposals over the weekend to the legislature to amend the provisional regulation on futures trading management.

MNA/Xinhua

China to beef up human resources development in 2004

BEIJING, 8 March — China will beef up human resources development this year through implementing the strategy of relying on talented personnel to strengthen the country, the country's top legislature was told Saturday.

Ma Kai, Minister in charge of the State Development and Reform Commission, made the remarks in his report to the legislature on the implementation of the 2003 Plan for National Economic and Social Development and on the 2004 Draft Plan for National Economic and Social Development.

"The top priority for our work in education will continue to be rural education. We will lose no time in improving the mechanism for ensuring adequate funding for rural education to make it more regular and institutionalized."

He acknowledged that China will intensify its efforts to make nine-year compulsory education basically universal and to basically eliminate illiteracy among young and middle-aged people in the western region, he said.

"We will continue the project to renovate dangerous primary and secondary school buildings in rural areas and the national programme to make compulsory education universally available in poverty-stricken areas."

Ma went on to say that China will work harder to develop high-quality universities and key disciplines and improve the quality of higher education, increase the number of key senior secondary schools and vigorously develop vocational education and continuing education.

Plans call for enrolling of four million undergraduate students and 330,000 graduate students in regular institutions of higher learning in 2004, the minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia rescues stranded polar scientists

MOSCOW, 8 March — Russian helicopters plucked a team of stranded scientists from deep within the Arctic Circle on Saturday after their research station was all but crushed beneath a wall of ice, officials told Reuters.

Emergency teams flew four hours from one of Europe's most northerly settlements to reach the Severny Polyus-32 station, where the 12 unarmed researchers huddled for three days in temperatures of minus 39 Celsius (minus 38 Fahrenheit).

"Two helicopters on Saturday evening delivered the 12 explorers from Severny Polyus-32 to (Norway's Arctic Spitzbergen archipelago)," an Emergency Ministry spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq death spurs push for Humvee armour

BAGHDAD, 8 March—In the days before his death, Private First Class John D Hart called his father to tell him how unsafe he felt riding around Iraq in a Humvee that lacked bulletproof shielding or even metal doors.

It would be the last conversation Brian T. Hart would have with his 20-year-old son.

On Oct. 18 near Kirkuk, Saddam Hussein loyalists ambushed his son's Army convoy, killing two. A hail of bullets felled the Bedford High School graduate while he fought from his Humvee.

For Brian Hart, a 44-year-old Bedford businessman, his only son's last words have come to haunt him, especially after learning that other families who lost loved ones in Humvee attacks had complained to the Pentagon about the lack of armor in vehicles.

In fact, an average sport utility vehicle found on US

roads provides more protection than Hart's Humvee. "He would have been better off in a Toyota Highlander," the father said.

Turning grief into action, Hart cobbled together a loose network of soldiers, their relatives, politicians, and defense contractors to pressure the military to beef up its Humvees. Since his son's death, Hart has seen results: Since January, the Marine Corps has ordered \$9 million worth of bulletproof Humvee door panels from Foster-Miller Inc. of Waltham, and last week the Army said it would double its order of heavily armoured Humvees from its contractor.

More Humvees in Iraq

still need extra protection, but Hart's headway is remarkable for how quickly he has navigated the byzantine military-procurement system. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, whom Hart enlisted in his cause, believes the father's success can come only from a parent who "feels a desperate sense of loss that he doesn't want it to happen to another parent."

Most versions of the military transport known as the Humvee, short for High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, use body panels made from thin aluminum or fiberglass. That reduces weight but stops few bullets.

Internet

Iraqi killed, one wounded in Mosul attack

MOSUL, 8 March—A shootout between Iraqi police and gunmen claimed the life of one civilian and left another wounded here, police and medical sources said.

Meanwhile, the 4th Infantry Division said it detained 27 individuals north of Baghdad in the region stretching from former dictator Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit to the Iranian border.

The attackers fired a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) at a police station in the Sukar neighbourhood in the centre of the city of Mosul, said police spokesman Abdel Azal Haffudi. "As they traded fire, a civilian passing in a car was mortally wounded and a passenger in a second car was hurt," Haffudi said.

The man who died was struck by bullets to the head and shoulder, said Mosul hospital doctor Ahmad Abdullah Rajab.

A second doctor, Yazen Babeli, said the wounded

man was hit in the hand and was in a stable condition.

Mosul, 370 kilometres (230 miles) north of Baghdad, is the regular scene

of attacks on Iraqi police by insurgents wishing to wreck US efforts to stand up a post-Saddam security force.

Internet

UAE invests \$11b in industrial sector over three years

ABU DHABI, 8 March—The United Arab Emirates has invested about 11 billion US dollars in industrial sector over the past three years to ease its leaning upon crude export earnings, the official WAM news agency reported Saturday.

Most of the investments were channelled by the private sector, which has become the focus of a government programme to diversify its oil-reliant economy and ensure a stable income in the long term, according to a report released by the Ministry of Finance and Industry on Friday.

The industrial capital grew from around 2.6 billion dollars in 2000 to 2.7 billion dollars in 2001, to 2.83 billion dollars in 2002 and

nearly 2.92 billion dollars in 2003, the report said.

During that period, the industrial capital accounted for nearly 15 per cent of the total funds of around 63 billion dollars invested by the public and private sector, it said.

Such heavy investments, which have steadily grown over the past 15 years, have sharply expanded the manufacturing sector to become the second largest component of the country's



A US Special Forces Chinook helicopter hovers low above the Tigris River near the former Presidential Palace (background right) of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein located at the 'Green Zone' in Baghdad, Iraq late afternoon on 7 March, 2004. —INTERNET

GM, SAIC merge two auto companies in China

BEIJING, 8 March—General Motors (GM) and its Chinese partner Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp (SAIC) signed agreements to merge an engine plant and a vehicle plant in China Sunday.

Monday's *China Daily* said the two companies and their joint venture Shanghai GM will acquire a Daewoo Motor's engine joint venture

plant in Yantai, a port city in east China's Shandong Province, according to the agreement signed in Beijing Sunday.

The engine venture will be renamed Shanghai GM Dongyue Automotive Powertrain Co Ltd and will have an annual capacity of 300,000 engines and transmissions, GM said in a statement Sunday.

GM will have 25 per cent stake of the plant while SAIC has 25 per cent and Shanghai GM has 50 per cent.

The engine plant, founded in 1996 with an investment of 2.28 billion yuan (275.3 million US dollars), was equally owned by Daewoo Motor, an auto maker of South Korea, and the First Automotive Works Corp (FAW), China's biggest vehicle producer based in northeast China's Jilin Province.

The two partners sold the company to the Shandong International Trust and Investment Corp. in 2002 after Daewoo's bankruptcy in 2000.

The deal came after GM

and its Chinese partner bought a Daewoo vehicle plant in Yantai at the end of 2002, which now produces the Buick Sail compact car.

According to the other agreement signed Sunday, GM, SAIC and Shanghai GM took over Jinbei GM, GM's joint venture in Shenyang, the capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province.

Jinbei GM, set up in 1998, had 50 per cent stake owned by GM, 25 per cent held by Jinbei Automobile, a domestic van maker, and 25 per cent held by the Liaoning Development Group, Liaoning Energy General Co and the Shenyang Automotive Industry Asset Management Co.

With Sunday's agreement, GM reduced its stake to 25 per cent while SAIC acquired 25 per cent and Shanghai GM got 50 per cent.

The vehicle plant started to produce GM's Chevrolet Blazer sport utility vehicles and pickups in 2000.

Shanghai GM will be in charge of the management of the two new companies, GM said.

"The two deals represent a significant extension of our strategic partnership with SAIC and Shanghai GM," said Phil Murtaugh, chairman of GM China Group.

Shanghai GM, half-and-half held by GM and SAIC, is the third largest passenger car maker in China.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepali man killed by rhino

KATHMANDU, 8 March—A Nepali young man was killed by a rhino Saturday morning in central Nepal, the *Nepal National News Agency* reported.

Juthe Lopchan, 25, was attacked by a one-horned rhino in Bachhauli Village of Chitwan District while he was going to campus, the news agency quoted Shivraj Bhatta, chief conservation officer of the district, as saying.

The young man was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, but he died on the way, Bhatta said.

A total of 14 persons died and 11 others were wounded in the attacks by tigers and rhinos around the Royal Chitwan National Park in the past few months, he noted.

MNA/Xinhua



Ramnath Choudhary, an Indian artist, shows off his long mustache during an elephant festival in Jaipur, the capital of India's desert state of Rajasthan on 6 March, 2004. — INTERNET

Kerry says Iraq trip possible but not on 'front burner'

JACKSON, 8 March—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Sunday left open the possibility of making a trip to before the November 2 election, but said he wanted to avoid any "sense of politicization."

The four-term Massachusetts senator and decorated Vietnam War veteran said he would prefer to have a group of congressional colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—assess the situation in Iraq to help him formulate policy.

"I don't have the power to 'send' people, but as a US senator and the essential nominee of the party ... I do have a responsibility to get the best information possible," he told reporters in Jackson, Mississippi.

Asked if he would go himself, Kerry replied: "That's a possibility and it's something that's been discussed, but the time's difficult and I don't want any sense of politicization in that regard."

Kerry, who voted for the war in Iraq but has since been highly critical of the way President Bush conducted it, said he would like an assessment by "people that I trust"

with the experience and knowledge "to make some judgments as to where we are today."

"So, my first instinct is really not to go. My first instinct is to try to have a group of respected people do this because they have to anyway in the course of congressional business and simply do this as part of that."

He said he was not ruling out his own trip to Iraq, adding: "It's just not on the front burner right now."

Republican Sen John McCain of Arizona said on Sunday any member of the House or Senate ought to be allowed to go to Iraq and take a look at the situation.

"Obviously we're in a very politically charged period, but I think any member of Congress should be able to go and see what's going on there because of their responsibility to their constituents," he said on the ABC television program "This Week."—*Internet*

Book of 407 handwritten letters of Soong Ching Ling to be published

BEIJING, 8 March—A book containing 407 letters handwritten by Soong Ching Ling, former honorary president of China and wife of Dr Sun Yat Sen, will be published, *Beijing Daily* reported on Saturday.

These letters, written by Soong between 1942 and 1981 when she died, were sent to her relatives and friends at home and abroad.

Exchanging letters with relatives and friends was one of the most important things during Soong's late years, and she used to write about a dozen letters one day sometimes, said He Dazhang, deputy director of a study centre under the Soong Ching Ling Foundation. Specifically, letters helped relieve her pain in her late life when she suffered from serious diseases, He said.

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia, China sign natural gas deal

RIYADH, 8 March—The Saudi government signed on Sunday morning a deal on natural gas drilling and production with the China National Petrochemical Corp (SINOPEC), according to a SINOPEC official.

The deal was inked by Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Bin Ibrahim Al-Naimi and chief of SINOPEC Wang Jiming.

The agreement, covering an area of 40 square kilometres in the south of Saudi Arabia's Rub Al Khali Province, was also signed by the chairman of the leading Saudi Arabia oil provider, Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO), Wang told reporters after the signing ceremony.

Wang said the project was a landmark in the Sino-Saudi ties in general and in the bilateral economic and trade co-operation in particular.

He hailed the deal as a strong link which further cements the full-fledged relations between China and Saudi Arabia, saying he is

confident in the success of the deal and the project would hopefully bear fruits for both sides when it goes into operation.

He disclosed the total spending in the first phase of the project was set to be 300 million US dollars, adding that SINOPEC has already made contacts with several banks over the funding of the scheme and some Saudi banks showed willingness to step in. He said on 27 January, SINOPEC secured an international tender staged by the Saudi government for gas excavation and production at the contracted zone.

Under the deal, SINOPEC and ARAMCO will launch a company for drilling and production at the contracted zone with ARAMCO holding a 20-per cent quota.—*MNA/Xinhua*

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Chinese expert proposes measures against global warming

BEIJING, 8 March—China must take urgent measures to avoid the worst effects of global warming, said Qin Dahe, meteorologist and director of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

CMA statistics showed temperatures in China had risen by 0.4 to 0.5 degree Celsius over the past century, slightly lower than the global average increase of 0.6 degree.

Qin called on the government to increase investment in research on climate change, its causes, its impact on China and effective measures against it.

"The government should have a plan to monitor the climate system, which is crucial for meteorological research and forecasts. China should start monitoring atmospheric aerosol and chemical elements as soon

as possible," he told a seminar on measures against climate change.

He also suggested accelerating the development of a national climate system model, which would improve climate forecasts.

The government should coordinate strategies and actions in foreign affairs, energy resources and economic fields, which would benefit sustainable development and national security, Qin said.

The government should improve strategic research on meteorological issues. "China urgently needs to strengthen its capability to

deal with the changing climate," Qin said.

Meteorologists said further global warming would influence the Earth's water cycle by increasing evaporation and changing the quantity and distribution of regional rainfall, which would make disasters like floods and droughts more frequent and serious.

China would face worse water shortages as global warming would increase evaporation in its seven major valleys, of which the annual natural runoff has been declining in recent years, according to the CMA.

MNA/Xinhua



US military vehicles block a highway as a US soldier collects evidence at the scene of a roadside bombing in Baghdad recently. —INTERNET

Japan to resume launch of weather satellite

TOKYO, 8 March—Japan plans to resume the use of its H-2A rocket and launch a new satellite for weather observation as early as in November to replace an aging satellite.

According to Japan Space Activities Commission, Japanese experts have almost completed investigations on a failed launch last year.

The commission will complete a report Monday on the cause of the failed launch last November of the domestically built H-2A rocket that was going to place into orbit two spy satellites.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has told the Japan Meteorological Agency it is aiming for a launch of the new multifunctional transport satellite in November or December, the commission said.

The multifunctional satellite will support weather observation and air traffic control over vast areas of Asia and the Pacific and is expected to begin operation about two months after the launch, it said.

Japan has been relying on the US satellite GOES-9 since May last year to provide visual images for weather forecasts since it shut down the Himawari (Sunflower) 5 satellite, which had developed imaging problems as its five-year service life expired.

The commission has determined that the rocket launch failure last November was caused by a hole in a booster nozzle in the H-2A rocket.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Gibson's Jesus movie races past \$200m

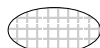
LOS ANGELES, 8 March—Filmmaker Mel Gibson fed the hungry multitudes at the North American box office as his gritty biblical epic "The Passion of the Christ" smashed past the 200 million-US-dollar sales mark after just two weeks.

According to estimates issued on Sunday, the movie has sold 212-million-US-dollar worth of tickets since its February 25 release (including three million US dollars in private group sales the prior two days), placing it in the same blockbuster league as recent Oscar-winner "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King".

The total includes estimated sales of 51.4 million US dollars for the current Friday-to-Sunday period, a dip of just 39 per cent from the previous weekend. Most big films usually lose about half their business in the second weekend.—*MNA/Reuters*



Beyonce Knowles accepts the Entertainer of the Year award at the NAACP Image Awards, Saturday night, on 6 March, 2004, in Universal City, Calif.
INTERNET



My defective heart — myocardial infarct — that needs treatment abroad

Myat Tun Oo

The day was Friday 17 October 2003, all of a sudden, I was drained and felt tired on the sofa settee while listening to the Pali Patthana. I experienced pain inside my chest. Therefore, I rolled out a locally made mat with fine texture on the floor, and lay down for a while, I sensed that some one was squeezing my heart out.

My better-half Nwe asked me "what was happening", and I replied, 'I am tired', while I was still lying down on the mat. At that moment, I felt pain in the stomach and would like to release, and therefore I went to the toilet. My whole body was sweating profusely as if I came out of a shower.

I started experiencing severe pain in my chest that continued to radiate out into my arm and up to my jaw. My wife took blood pressure with a sphygmomanometer, and found out it was falling down to a very low level. My heartbeat was less than forty beats in a minute.

Never in my lifetime, I have had ever encountered such malady. In the context of my experience — in reading and in witnessing — I assumed that it might be a deadly heart attack.

I myself had witnessed on many occasions that heart attack could kill people instantaneously. My mind went into chaos when I thought that I might possibly die of such heart attack, and that I was in disorder. I was scared that I might die. My vision was dim and the darkness was creeping over me as if it was going to swallow my whole body.

My wife phoned my daughter and my son-in-law, who resided at the next lane.

My son-in-law informed over the phone to Dr Daw Myat of the Bahosi Medical Centre — which is nearest to my apartment — about the condition of my health.

On arrival at the Bahosi Medical Centre, I was received into their care and the Electro Cardio Gram was immediately taken as Dr Daw Myat had arranged in advance. An oxygen pipe was put into my nostril to ease my breathing. The medication drip was being infused into my veins. I could not read the name of the medication given to me as my eye was blurred.

The doctor on duty was reading and evaluating the result of my ECG and that it was found out that some of my arteries were blocked.

Over the past years, I have read a bit here and a bit there on some medical articles and medical short stories and — with this backdrop — I am sure that I was hit with myocardial infarct. The medical officer on duty at the Bahosi Medical Centre reported the conditions of my ECG to the Senior Physician (cardiology) and sought directive, and it was being advised to send the patient to Yangon General Hospital immediately.

Despite the severe pain inside my chest, I was much relieved to hear and learn that I was to be escorted as soon as possible to the Yangon General Hospital. Straight away on learning that I was hit with myocardial infarct, I was desirous to be treated at the Yangon General Hospital, and for that matter I have had strong reason.

Words that were told recently by my friend — are still fresh in my mind with firm impression.

"Hey brother! Nowadays a lot of private medical clinics are booming in Yangon. Of course they are fine. However, we have to keep in mind that if someone fallen into either neurology case or heart attack case, then rush the guy to the Yangon General Hospital. You may take the patient to any private clinic and consult your favorite physician, provided that the nature of illness is not in a hurry. Whatever you say, the Yangon General Hospital is the best institution for emergency neurology problem and urgent situation of heart problem".

At the strike of 1100 hours, I was at the Emergency Unit of the Yangon General Hospital.

No later than 1130 hours, I was in the Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) of the Cardiac Medical Unit.

The October sun radiated heat, but I did not slip into unconsciousness.

At the Cardiac Care Unit — which is called CCU in short form — a team of doctors consisting of Senior Physicians (cardiology), Heart Specialists, doctors, professionally trained medical staff, competently trained nurses, totalling seven to eight persons were hovering over me and gave emergency

medical treatment. My vision was blurred, but I am sure that they were working in high gear to save my life from the angel of death.

A couple of days later, I came to the knowledge from a young nurse that the responsible persons in charge to accept and receive new heart patients at the Cardiac Medical Unit for that day were Senior Physician (cardiology) Dr U Myo Win and First Assistant Physician (cardiology) Dr Daw Nwe Nwe.

On that day, the team was working in precision and in lightening speed, and that their operational style was highly synchronized.

Around noon at 1200 hour, someone exclaimed that my blood pressure was coming up to high rhythm. The Senior Physician instructed, 'Give the intravenous shot'. Sheltering at Cardiac Care Unit or CCU, I was treated intensively for five days. Cardiac Care Unit is a sanctuary for heart patients, who came there day in, day out due to heart problem and heart attack. I have had the opportunity to witness that all heart patients were taken care indiscriminately by the Physicians (cardiology), Heart Specialists and nurses, and that they worked in harmony to save lives.

Under the shower of these loving kindness, I felt that all my illness melt away. After getting treatment for five days at the Cardiac Care Unit, I was moved to the medical ward for further treatment.

On that beautiful morning when I moved to the outer medical ward, a young doctor came to my bed and checked my health and put on record in the medical chart. Then she asked "Uncle Gyi, Did you know what had happened to you?" I replied in a meek voice "I think it was myocardial infarct". The doctor flashed a beautiful smile.

"Yes, you are right! According to your personal history as told by the family members, you have been smoking cigarettes for forty years. And you are a diabetic person for more than ten years. In the laboratory report, your cholesterol level is in the upper limit. Therefore, you are indeed very high-risk persons to be afflicted with myocardial infarct. Uncle Gyi, "when you discharge from the hospital, we will let you know what to avoid and what to abide".

Around 6:00 am in the morning, Assistant Surgeons went around the ward and made clinical examination to the patients and put the records in the chart.

Taking regular oral medications for the treatment of myocardial infarct, I thought and also felt that I am totally fine. However, all my daily ECGs was indicating on records that I am a defective heart patient.

After taking treatment for (14) days at the Yangon General Hospital, I was back at home for (10) days taking oral medication. I was at the Cardiac Medical Unit of the Yangon General Hospital again on 11 November 2003 as an in-patient. On the second occasion at the hospital, I underwent for a surgical intervention to measure the extent of damage inflicted in my heart with the new and modern apparatus. The monitoring of the heart is called "Angiogram".

(To be continued)

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.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased



The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

11 killed in tanker crash in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 8 March — At least 11 people were killed in Nigeria's southern state of Oyo on Saturday evening when a petrol tanker ran into a crowded market, local newspaper *Sunday Punch* reported.

The accident, which occurred at Ojoo along the highway between Ibadan, the capital of Oyo, and Lagos, was caused by a brake failure, said Oluwasusi Familoni, an official from the Federal Road Safety

Commission (FRSC).

The bus was then out of control and ran into the market and a building. The driver, however, survived the accident. There was no report how many people were injured. But Oluwasusi estimated the figure at more than 10. The accident came barely 10 days after about 70 passengers of a luxury bus were killed when the bus ran into a stationary petrol tanker along the Ibadan-Ife Expressway at

about midnight.

Poor conditions of roads and motor vehicles plus over-speeding, overloading and reckless driving by drivers are blamed to the main cause of the frequent road accidents in the West African country.

According to the FRSC, Nigeria loses over 7,000 of its citizens to death and another 27,000 to severe injury annually to road traffic accidents.

MNA/Reuters

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.**

95th birthday of Myingyan Sayadaw...

(from page 1)

of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army); Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt; Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo; Daw Khin Lay The, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence; Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council; Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein; wives of members of the State Peace and Development Council; wives of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-

in-Chief (Air); Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials, wellwishers, religious associations and social organizations, and guests.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara, on behalf of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita, invested the congregation led by Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, with the Five Precepts, followed by the recitation of *parittas* by Sayadaws.

Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered provisions to Sayadaws. The wives of the Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Lt-Gen Tin Oo, General Thura Shwe

Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe also presented offertories to Sayadaws.

Later, Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered provisions to the two brilliant members of the Sangha — Agga Maha Akyaw Bhaddanta Sunanda and Mccjhimaniyayavidu Bhaddanta Janeya.

Laity also presented offertories to the two outstanding members of the Sangha, followed by a sermon delivered by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. After the ceremony, the congregation led by Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered robes and provisions to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. *MNA*



Daw Kyaing Kyaing presenting offertories to a Sayadaw at the 95th birthday of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita. — MNA



Daw Mya Mya San presenting offertories to a Sayadaw at the 95th birthday of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presenting offertories to a Sayadaw at the 95th birthday of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects ...

(from page 1)

After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into water supply to the farmlands at milepost No 9/7.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived at small canal No 1 at milepost No 7/4 and inspected water supply there.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Thittetgon Diversion Weir and inspected water supply there.

At the briefing hall of Thittetgon Diversion Weir, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report presented by Chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn on inflow of water into the diversion weir and water supply to farmlands.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on effective use of irrigated water and extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected inflow of water into the diversion weir and gave necessary instructions.

Thittetgon Diversion Weir is situated near Thittetgon Village, Myittha Township, Kyaukse District and it is of reinforced concrete type.

The diversion weir is 12.5

feet high and 400 feet long. Its catchment area is 949 sq-miles. 86.37 per cent of extension project has been completed. On completion, additional 6,000 acres of irrigated area will emerge.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at milepost No 385/5 on Kyaukse-Myittha road section and inspected paving the road there. General Manager of Honpan Co Ltd U Sai Philip reported on work being carried out to Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of two concrete bridges at milepost No 380/1 and the tar melting centre of the company at milepost No 376 near Kwetat Village, Wandwin Township.

U Sai Philip reported on collection of tar, gravel and sand, running of tar melting plant, and paving of the road.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction of the toll gate at milepost No 349/5 at the entrance to Meiktila.

After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left there and arrived in Meiktila in the afternoon. — MNA

MPT opens courses

YANGON, 8 March — Myanma Posts and Telecommunications opened e-Government Workshop Training Course for Senior Officials, Introduction to Internet Course, Metallic Cable Testing and Fault Location Course, General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) Course, Fax Machine Maintenance Course and Multimedia Web Content Development Course this morning at its training school.

The opening ceremony was attended by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, the managing director of MPT and the director-general of Directorate of Telecommunications, officials, the principal of the training school, instructors and 69 trainees. The minister spoke on the occasion.

The e-Government Workshop Training Course for Senior Officials is being attended by 20 officers of respective departments and it will last one week. Other courses are being attended by 49 trainees. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue meets departmental personnel

YANGON, 8 March — Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe met with service personnel of Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Small Loans Enterprise and

Internal Revenue Department at the office of District Peace and Development Council in Mawlamyine on 2 March and made a speech.

On 5 March, the deputy

minister met with departmental staff of Kalay and Kalewa and gave necessary instructions.

The deputy minister arrived at Mandalay by air on 6 March afternoon and inspected the paper factory in Paleik. Officials reported on functions of the factory. Next, the deputy minister inspected regional office-1 of state/division Customs Department.

The deputy minister proceeded to Mandalay Division Customs Department and Internal Revenue Department and met government's employees under the ministry and gave necessary instructions. Later, the deputy minister also inspected Myanma Economic Bank in Sagaing Division. *MNA*



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects digging of a feeder canal from Thittetgon Diversion Weir to extend sown acres in the area. — MNA



Lt-Gen Tin Aye attends ceremony to donate cash for the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade while Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address. — MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye attends cash-donation ceremony for 59th Anniversary Armed Force Day Parade

YANGON, 8 March — A ceremony to donate cash for the first time for the 59th Anniversary Armed Force Day Parade was held at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here this afternoon, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence.

It was also attended

by Chairman of the management committee for the observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Force Day Parade Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces

Day Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein, military columns commanders, senior military officers, Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, departmental officials, wellwishers and guests.

First, on behalf of Myakyauk Sayadaw of Yankintaung in Mandalay

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemacara, lay persons donated 50,000 bottles of Myakyauk Kaba special natural drinking water worth K 9 million to Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Maj-Gen Myint Swe, who then presented a certificate of honour. Then followed the cash donations ceremony at the museum. The donations included 10 sewing machines worth K 353,000 by MWAF, K 1 million each

by North East Command, Yangon City Development Committee and Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, K 500,000 each by the Ministry of Industry-2 and Development Affairs Bank Ltd of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, K 3 million by Kanbawza Bank Ltd, K 500,000 by Myanmar Universal Bank, and

K 100,000 each by Myanmar Industrial Development Bank and AWB Bank. Lt-Gen Tin Aye accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers. Next, wellwishers also donated cash and kind. Later, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe spoke words of thanks.

Today's donations included K 37,207,000 and materials worth K 25,517,050 by 92 wellwishers. — MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects the soap factory of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Industries in Mayangon Township. — MNA

Minister inspects soap factory

YANGON, 8 March — The special course No 1/2004 for electricians conducted by Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department was opened at the training hall on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung spoke on the occasion.

Also present were Deputy Ministers for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win,

the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, course instructors and trainees. Minister U Aung Thaung said the special courses were conducted for development in technology, human resources and utilization of energy resources. He urged the trainees to learn the subjects at the course and apply the knowledge in the respective fields.

Altogether 59 trainees

are attending the four-week course.

The minister inspected soap factory of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Industries in Mayangon Township.

Managing Director of MPI U Myint Oo and the factory manager reported on matters related to the factory. The minister and the deputy ministers inspected the sites for soap and purified oil factory projects and gave instructions.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspects the computerized banking services at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank. — MNA

Minister inspects computerized banking system

YANGON, 8 March — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and party met service personnel at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank on Maha Bandoola Park Road this evening.

Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Col Than Nyein reported on matters relating to remittance through online network among Central Bank of Myanmar, Myanmar Eco-

nomic Bank, Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank and other related banks.

The minister said online network was installed for speedy and precise banking services. He spoke of the need of service personnel to

study computerized banking system thoroughly.

The minister inspected the computerized banking system at MFTB. Deputy General Manager Daw Kay Thi explained about it. The minister then gave instructions.

MNA

UMFCCI meets CCPIT officials

YANGON, 8 March — General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint General Secretary-I U Myo Nyunt and executives of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met with Senior Adviser Mr Chao Zhenwei and officials of CCPIT Guangdong Sub Council of Guangdong

Province, the People's Republic of China, at UMFCCI today.

They discussed promotion of cooperation, exports, imports and transport, holding of trade fairs, and invitation of Myanmar entrepreneurs to trade fairs to be held in Guangdong Province, and gems trade.

MNA



UMFCCI officials meet with officials of CCPIT Guangdong Sub Council.



Prize winners in ASEAN quiz: Ma Zin Mar Lwin (first), Maung Zaw Win Khaung (second), Maung Aung Kyaw Oo (third), and Maung Thaya Aung (consolation prize).

The quiz was held on 4 March at MRTV. — H



Evidence confirms ancient Tagaung city situated on west bank of Ayeyawady

YANGON, 8 March — It is shown in Myanmar old history books such as the book on the 'History of Tagaung' and the book on the 'History of Momeik' that ancient Tagaung city had thrived many years before Christi that at that time the city was situated on the west bank of Ayeyawady river. In reality, Tagaung city, however, is located on the east bank of Ayeyawady river.

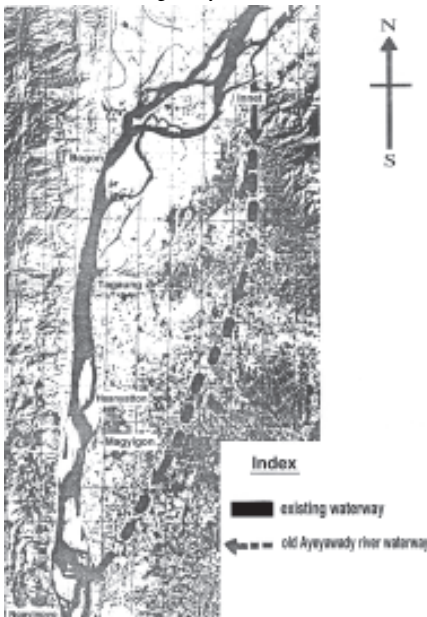
Teaming up with geologists, experts, historians and archaeologists, the Ministry of Culture made field trips to nearby areas of Tagaung city under the close supervision of Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung from 23 to 26 February 2004 in order to justify the actual location of the city.

According to research findings, it is concluded that there must have been an old water course of Ayeyawady river flowing in the east of present Tagaung city. Geologists also estimated that the time in which the change of the water course of the river occurred between 4000 and 6000 years ago.

It has therefore been proved that people had been settling in the original Tagaung city, an ancient city in Myanmar, which has been located in the vicinity of the present Tagaung city on the west bank of Ayeyawady river since over 4000 years ago before the water course of Ayeyawady river changed.

Pyu-Myanmar tribes have been settling on the soil of Myanmar with the start of their own civilization since time immemorial. As the change of the water course of Ayeyawady river has been brought to light, the people of Myanmar can now take pride in the higher civilization of ancient Tagaung city.

Such findings will also be able to rebut with evidence the scoffs at Myanmar history books as though what was said in them were legendary. — MNA



The map shows the change of Ayeyawady River course.

MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein sees off Tatmadaw football and volleyball teams. (News on page 16).—MNA

Military parade columns continue drills

YANGON, 8 March — The military parade columns which will be taking part in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade continued practising their parade drills at the Resistance Park from 5.30 am to 9 am today.

Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansittha 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, Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Tint Wai, Hsinphyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Oo Kyaw, Bandoola Col-

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

FAO to disseminate advanced technologies on dairy products production in Myanmar

YANGON, 8 March — A ceremony to sign an agreement on Small-scale dairy technology transfer and training- TCP/MYA/3001(T), which will be conducted under the sponsorship of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, took place at the meeting hall of the office of the director-general of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister U Aung Thein, Resident Representative of FAO in Myanmar Mr Tang Zhengping, heads of departments under the ministry, the general secretary of the Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation, and officials.

U Maung Maung Nyunt, Director-General of the LBVD, and Mr

Tang Zhengping made speeches on the occasion. Next, they signed the agreement and exchanged the documents.

The programme will be launched for two years from 2004 to 2005 with US\$ 0.356 million funded by the FAO under the technological cooperation. The programme will provide breeders with such advanced techniques as the preservation of the quality of cattle milk for long-term consumption, and the manufacturing of value-added milk-based products. The programme will also help the breeders manufacture standard and wholesome milk products on a greater scale and introduce new lines of milk products as import-substitute goods. — MNA

Drive safely



Daw Khin Than Nwe presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Daw Khin Lay Thet presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Daw Than Than Nwe presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Thai minister and party conclude visit

YANGON, 8 March—A Thai delegation headed by Minister of Sports and Tourism Mr Sontaya Kunplome, who was here on a study tour at the invitation of Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, left here by Thai Airways this evening.

The Thai minister and party were seen off at

Yangon International Airport by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, heads of department under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and officials of Thai Embassy.

MNA

Russian oil tycoon sued in Switzerland

GENEVA, 8 March — Jailed Russian oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, former chief of Russian oil giant YUKOS, has been sued for money laundering and funding crime groups in Switzerland.

A former Swiss banker and a Luxembourg financier filed the lawsuit against Khodorkovsky and his two complices with Swiss judiciary authorities. They said Khodorkovsky embezzled tens of millions of US dollars in a 1995 deal to buy

Russia's Avisma company and transferred most of the money into bank accounts in Switzerland, according to media reports here Saturday.

A Swiss Government spokesperson confirmed the reports but declined to say whether Khodorkovsky's bank accounts have been frozen. The spokesperson would not provide details of the action Swiss judiciary authorities have taken.

Swiss police carried out simultaneous raids on companies across four Swiss

cantons on Thursday in connection with a Russian probe into YUKOS.

Officials said the investigation was authorized after receiving a request for international judicial assistance last August from Russian authorities investigating the embattled oil company.

The former head of YUKOS and Russia's richest man, Khodorkovsky was jailed in Russia last October on charges of tax evasion and fraud.

MNA/Xinhua

Overnight explosion in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 8 March — A loud explosion was heard in Baghdad just before midnight on Sunday, but the US military confirmed it was a controlled one. The powerful blast was heard at midnight (2100 GMT), which rattled windows and shook buildings in the centre of the capital city of Baghdad.

The US military confirmed the blast, saying it was a controlled explosion, not a guerrilla attack.

"That was a controlled explosion by US forces," said a spokesman for the 1st Armoured Division in charge of security in Baghdad. Earlier, the US military said they had no immediate information on the cause of the explosion.

The blast came less

than five hours after the US-led coalition headquarters in Baghdad was hit by a barrage of rockets.

Earlier on Sunday evening, several explosions followed by warning sirens were also heard in central Baghdad. Iraqi police later confirmed that the blasts were caused by at least 10 rockets fire, but there were no casualties. The police said the rockets were fired from a parked car and the attackers had already fled. They found explosives in the car along with two rockets that had not been fired.

The place being attacked is near the headquarters compound of the US-led coalition authority, or the "Green Zone", where the Iraqi Governing Council is due to sign the interim constitution Monday in the nearby conference centre.

A building near the conference centre was seen on fire, and US helicopters are being seen on the sky to search the attackers.

On the eve of the repeatedly delayed signing ceremony for the interim constitution, US-led forces have been on high alert for possible attacks aimed at disrupting the signing of the first post-war basic law for Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Guangdong has China's biggest transient population

GUANGZHOU, 8 March — South China's Guangdong Province has the biggest transient population in China, figures from the provincial committee for comprehensive treatment of social order show.

Guangdong is home to 21.3 million transients, or one-third of the national total. The province has 2.75 million rented apartments, and over 40 per cent of transient population live rented accommodation.

Guangdong is a global base for processing trade, offering many opportunities to job seekers.

MNA/Xinhua

Chavez talks warns US over oil supplies

CARACAS (VENEZUELA), 8 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez warned Washington to stop backing anti-government protests he said could affect oil supplies to the United States.

He once again accused US President George W. Bush's Government of financing efforts to oust him

and recalled that Venezuela, the world's No 5 oil exporter, was traditionally a leading supplier of oil to the US market.

"So what is it this (US) Government is trying to do? Destabilize its secure (oil) supplier?" Chavez asked during his weekly "Hello President" television and radio show. — MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua



World Boxing Council (WBC) super bantamweight champion Mexico's Oscar Larios (R) lands a punch onto the face of Shigeru Nakazato of Japan during their 12-round title bout in Saitama, north of Tokyo, on 6 March, 2004. Larios defeated Nakazato by unanimous decision. — INTERNET



The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Cuban Vice-President expresses support for unification of Africa

KAMPALA, 8 March — Cuban Vice-President Lazo Hernandez on Saturday expressed his country's support for the unification of Africa as a single unit if the continent is to compete with the rest of the world.

The Cuban Vice-President made the remarks when he paying a courtesy call to Ugandan Vice-President Gilbert Bukenya at the Parliament Building in Kampala, according to Radio Uganda on Saturday.

Hernandez asked the government of Uganda to reconsider the reopening of its embassy in Havana to facilitate relations between the two countries.

He commended the leadership in Uganda for initiatives aimed at providing solutions to the social and economic welfare of the people and pledged his country's support in ensuring that the country attains its aspirations.

He said that Cuba and Uganda have enjoyed harmonious relations.

MNA/Xinhua

စေတနာရှင်ပြည်သူများခင်ဗျား

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသော ကျေးလက်ဒေသများတွင် သန့်ရှင်းသော သောက်သုံးရေဖူလုံစွာ ရရှိရေးကို ဆောင်ရွက်လျှက်ရှိပါတယ်။ ရေလျှံဒဏ်ခံရခြင်းမရှိစေရန်နှင့် မတောင်းဘဲနှင့် ပြည်စုံနိုင်သော အကျိုးဆယ်ပါးကို ရရှိနိုင်ပါတယ်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါးမှာ-

- (၁) လျင်မြန်ခြင်း၊
- (၂) သန့်ရှင်းစင်ကြယ်ခြင်း၊
- (၃) ကျော်ကြားလူသိများခြင်း၊
- (၄) ဆာလောင်မွတ်သိပ်မှုကင်းခြင်း၊
- (၅) အခြေအရံများခြင်း၊
- (၆) အသက်ရှည်ခြင်း၊
- (၇) အဆင်းလှခြင်း၊
- (၈) ချမ်းသာကြီးခြင်း၊
- (၉) ခွန်အားဗလကြီးမားခြင်း၊
- (၁၀) ဉာဏ်ပညာကြီးမားခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

စည်ပင်သာယာရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် ရေရှားပါးသောဒေသများမှာ သန့်ရှင်းသော ရေဖူလုံစွာရရှိရန် စီမံချက်များချမှတ်ပြီး အင်တိုက်အားတိုက် ဆောင်ရွက်နေပါတယ်။ ရေအကျိုးဆယ်ပါးရရှိစေရန်၊ ရေရှားပါးသည့် ကျေးလက်ဒေသများသို့ စက်ရေတွင်းများ လျှံဒဏ်ခံရခြင်းမရှိစေရန်အတွင်း လျှံဒဏ်ခံနိုင်ပါသည်-

၂လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ)ကျပ် ၂၅သိန်း၊
၂လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၄၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ)ကျပ် ၅၀သိန်း၊
၄လက်မ စက်ရေတွင်း အနက် ၂၀၀ပေ တစ်တွင်း (စက်ပစ္စည်းစုံ)ကျပ် ၅၀သိန်း ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။

မည်သည့်မြို့နယ်တွင်မဆို စေတနာရှင်များအနေနှင့် ပါဝင်လျှံဒဏ်ခံနိုင်ပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်လျှံဒဏ်ခံနိုင်ကြောင်း အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါတယ်-

- (၁) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၅၄၂၀၊ ၂၅၃၀၈၈။
- (၂) ဒုတိယညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်၊ ၀၁-၂၄၀၁၁၈။
- (၃) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (အင်ဂျင်နီယာ)၊ ၀၁-၂၉၁၉၆၇။
- (၄) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၇၁-၂၁၀၁၂။
- (၅) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မကွေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၆၃-၂၃၁၆၄။
- (၆) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (မန္တလေးတိုင်းစည်ပင်သာယာရေးအဖွဲ့)၊ ၀၂-၅၄၆၅၇။

DRIVE SAFELY

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Study highlights global threats to bird populations

JOHANNESBURG, 8 March — A new report by BirdLife International says more than 1,000 of the world's birds face extinction and that agricultural expansion in Africa and unsustainable forestry in the tropics pose grave threats.

The report, "State of the World's Birds 2004", brings together for the first time in one document the existing research about the status and distribution of the world's birds.

Some of its key findings include:

— One in eight of the world's birds — or 1,211 species in total — faces extinction.

— Over 7,500 sites in nearly 170 countries have been identified as important bird areas.

— Agricultural expansion and intensification threaten 50 per cent of important bird areas in Africa.

— Sixty-four per cent of globally threatened birds, most of them in the tropics, are threatened by unsustainable forestry.

— Alien invasive species threaten 67 per cent of the

endangered species on oceanic islands.

— In total, 129 bird species have been classified as extinct since 1500.

"State of the world's birds presents firm evidence that we are losing birds and other biodiversity at an alarming and ever increasing rate," said BirdLife Director Michael Rands.

The report, which was released on Monday, also highlights some success stories which it says show what can be done to save species from extinction.

For example, it says the short-tailed albatross was thought to be extinct until its rediscovery in small numbers on Tori-shima, off Japan, in the 1950s.

Since then, habitat management in the Pacific and improved commercial fishing methods which do

not accidentally hook birds have helped numbers recover to around 1,200 pairs.

The black robin, endemic to the Chatham Islands off New Zealand, was reduced to just five individuals in 1980 — the smallest population of any bird species for which precise numbers were known.

It was pulled back from the brink of extinction through nest protection and supplementary feeding and now numbers around 250.

Birds are recognized by biologists as "indicator species" as their status highlights the health of the broader environment. "The decline of bird populations in many parts of the world is of considerable concern, indicating a fundamental flaw in the way that we treat our environment," says the report. — MNA/Reuters

More damage found in babies of moms who drink

WASHINGTON, 8 March — US researchers said on Monday they had found a whole new level of damage in babies born to mothers who drank heavily during pregnancy — this time to the nerves in their arms and legs.

The study, published in the *Journal of Pediatrics*, is the first to look beyond the well-known damage to the brain and spinal cord in babies of mothers who drink and to find damage outside the central nervous system.

"Infants born to mothers who drink heavily during pregnancy are known to be at risk for mental retardation and birth defects," Dr Duane Alexander of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which directed the study, said in a statement. "This is the first study to show that these infants may suffer peripheral nerve damage as well."

Working with a team at the University of Chile, the researchers found the damage was still there when the children were a year old. The experts examined 17

full-term, newborn infants whose mothers drank heavily during pregnancy and compared them to 13 newborns whose mothers did not drink. They defined "heavy drinking" as four standard drinks a day or more, a standard drink being a can of beer, one glass of wine or one mixed drink.

The drinkers were counselled about the dangers and offered help, but many continued to drink heavily anyway, the researchers said.

The children's upper and lower limbs were examined with a machine that stimulated the nerves using a machine that passed a mild, painless electric current through the skin and recorded the electrical activity of the nerves to determine if they were damaged.

MNA/Reuters

UN says Lesotho needs international aid for survival

MASERU, 8 March — About a third of Lesotho's population will need food aid this year due to a drought in the tiny African kingdom where the farming industry has already been badly hit by an AIDS epidemic, UN officials said.

"Any hopes have been dashed by yet another drought," James Morris, executive director of the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP), said on Saturday.

"Hundreds of thousands of people, many of them infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, will once again need the help of the international community to survive."

The WFP has helped to feed some 375,000 people in Lesotho over the past year, and estimates that as many as 700,000 will need food help in the coming year.

MNA/Reuters

Baltimore water taxi sinks, 7 missing

BALTIMORE, 8 March — A water taxi carrying about 25 people capsized in Baltimore harbour during a brief storm on Saturday afternoon and rescue officials said seven people were missing, feared dead.

Baltimore Fire Department said 18 people were rescued, two of whom suffered cardiac arrests. Police and Coast Guard search and rescue teams, including divers, were looking for the missing. Fire Department spokesman Kevin Cartwright said the small boat sank about 4 pm. off Fort McHenry in Baltimore's scenic Inner Harbour, a popular tourist destination in Maryland's biggest city.

MNA/Reuters



People try computers at an IT fair. UN member nations should promote longer-lasting computers and recycling of old hardware, to avoid high-tech environmental hazards, said a study. — INTERNET

Unwashed for 10 years, smelly Kenyan gets scrubdown

NAIROBI, 8 March — A Kenyan villager who has not bathed in 10 years was stripped and scrubbed clean by neighbours sickened by the stench, local media reported on Saturday.

Four neighbours swooped on the 52-year-old man in rural western Kenya, tying him up with a rope before washing him in public, the daily *Kenya Times* said.

It took four hours to clean the man, whose body was also scoured with sand to remove a thick layer of filth.

The man, a bachelor, has promised to wash once a day and now hopes to find a wife, the newspaper said.

MNA/Reuters

British Customs arrest Gambian woman with illegal animal products

LONDON, 8 March — A Gambian tribeswoman has been arrested at a London airport with her bags crammed with illegal snails, catfish and goat meat.

Nenneh Nyana Jaiteh, 48, was arrested after arriving on Friday from Banjul, Gambia, with 85 kilos of illegal animal products in her bags, Customs and Excise said on Sunday.

"That's a significant amount of meat — more than the weight of an average adult male," said spokeswoman Kathryn Corcoran.

MNA/Reuters

Rock musician arrested on gun, drug charges in NY

NEW YORK, 8 March — Rock musician David Crosby was arrested early on Saturday on marijuana and gun possession charges at a Times Square hotel, New York police said. Police said Crosby, who previously served prison time on drug charges, was freed after appearing in court and posting bail of 3,500 US dollars.

The 62-year-old musician, who rose to fame with the Byrds and later Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young in the late 1960s and 1970s, was charged with criminal possession of a weapon and unlawful drug possession, said Manhattan District Attorney spokeswoman Barbara Thompson.

A hotel manager at the Doubletree Guest Suites hotel called police after a maid searching for identification in a green canvas bag Crosby left in a room discovered a small quantity of marijuana, a .45-caliber gun, ammunition and knives, Thompson said.

MNA/Reuters

James Bond is too tall to be a modern British spy

LONDON, 8 March — James Bond, Britain's most famous fictional secret agent, would be feeling rather shaken and stirred to learn he would be too tall to be a real modern day spy in the country's domestic spy agency.

New guidelines for MI5 — British domestic intelligence service — stipulate that Britons applying to be field agents should be no taller than five feet 11 inches so they do not stand out, Britain's *Sunday Telegraph* reported.

That would rule out all the actors to have starred as the suave, unflappable Bond who worked for MI5's sister foreign spy agency MI6 in the 007 movies. Bond stars Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan are all 6 feet or taller, the paper said.

"You should be able to blend into the background. Applicants would ideally be no taller than five feet 11 inches for men and five feet eight inches for women," the application form reads. — MNA/Reuters

(၇) (၈) (၉) (၁၀) စာသင်သားများအတွက်
သင်ရိုးညွှန်းတမ်းနှင့်အညီ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ သင်ခန်းစာများပါရှိပါသည်။

JUNIOR LEADER

ပြန်လည်ထူထောင်သော (ပုဒ်မိ)

ပြန်လည်ထူထောင်သော (ပုဒ်မိ) ဆိုသည်မှာ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်၏ နိုင်ငံတော်အတွက် အကျိုးရှိစေရန် ရည်ရွယ်ချက်ဖြင့် စာသင်သားများအတွက် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ သင်ခန်းစာများကို ပြန်လည်ထူထောင်သော (ပုဒ်မိ) ဖြစ်သည်။

Myat Shwe Zagon Pagoda (Pattin)

Myat Shwe Zagon Pagoda is a famous ancient pagoda in Patheingyi, Yangon. It is one of the most important religious sites in Myanmar. The pagoda is known for its beautiful architecture and its historical significance. It is a place where many people go to pray and to see the famous 'Shwe Zagon' (Golden Pagoda) which is said to contain the remains of the Buddha.

အတွဲ(၅) အမှတ် (၅) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာမေးပွဲစနစ်၊ လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်များအားလုံးကို အင်္ဂလိပ်စာဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

ဂိုဏ်းသားများအတွက် လက်လီယေယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လိုသူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။

Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

SPORTS

Real held to draw at Racing

MADRID, 8 March — Real Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw away to Racing Santander on Saturday and suffered a further blow to their bid for a domestic and European treble when Ronaldo hobbled out with a thigh injury.

Real, who play Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday, edged nine points clear in Spain with the draw but Valencia were looking to cut that back to six in a later game at home to third-placed Deportivo Coruna.

A bigger concern for coach Carlos Queiroz will be the fitness of leading striker Ronaldo, who went down clutching his left thigh after jumping for the ball in the 73rd minute.

The Brazilian hobbled from the field, with the help of a team physiotherapist, and ruled himself out of the second leg of the tie with Bayern at the Bernabeu, when Real will aim to build on the 1-1 draw they claimed in Munich.

Real doctor Alfonso del Corral said Ronaldo was also likely to miss the club's games against Real Zaragoza, in the league next weekend and in the final of the King's Cup on March 17.

MNA/Reuters



Valencia's Juan Sanchez, right, scores against Deportivo la Coruna during a Spanish league soccer match in Valencia, Spain, on 6 March, 2004. Valencia won the game, 3-0. —INTERNET

Arsenal swagger into FA Cup semifinals

PORTSMOUTH (England), 8 March — Holders Arsenal swaggered into the FA Cup semifinals after outclassing Portsmouth in a 5-1 win at Fratton Park on Saturday.

France striker Thierry Henry and Sweden midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg both scored a goal in each half and Ivory Coast defender Kolo Toure drilled another in first-half stoppage time.

Substitute Teddy Sheringham, who also scored in a 1-1 league draw with Arsenal at Highbury in September, got Pompey's consolation goal in the closing minutes.

The Premier League leaders, who followed champions Manchester United into Monday's draw after their 2-1 quarterfinal win over Fulham, were simply too good on the night for a side battling to avoid relegation.

Victory brought Arsene Wenger's men closer to a third league and Cup double under their French manager and their goal of becoming the first club to win three consecutive FA Cups.

Their fluid passing and movement off the ball left the Pompey defence chasing shadows in a game that had already slipped from

the hosts' grasp as they headed in at halftime.

Arsenal's new Spanish forward Jose Antonio Reyes signalled their intent just two minutes after the kick-off when he smacked a shot against the Pompey crossbar.

Though Arsenal did not settle quickly, Henry poached their first after 25 minutes when a deflected ball fell into his path and the France striker cracked his shot past a helpless Shaka Hislop.

Arsenal kept up the pressure, with skipper Patrick Vieira heading just wide from a corner, but they had their only close call of the half just minutes later when Ivica Mornar failed to get on the end of Nigel Quashie's low cross from the left.

Ljungberg, who had been playing on the left in place of rested France winger Robert Pires, coolly slotted the second past Hislop after Edu worked a neat one-two with Vieira to put the Swede clean through in the 43rd minute.

MNA/Reuters

Ajax nine points clear after 1-0 win at RKC

AMSTERDAM, 8 March — Ajax Amsterdam moved nine points clear at the top of the Dutch First Division after a 1-0 win at RKC Waalwijk on Saturday.

Ajax have 58 points with 10 matches remaining, though second-placed PSV Eindhoven (49) could reduce the gap on Sunday if they beat Utrecht away.

AZ Alkmaar stay third, 13 points behind Ajax, after two goals in the final four minutes gave them a hard fought 3-2 win at ADO Den Haag. Fourth-placed Feyenoord (42) meet fifth-placed Heerenveen (40) on Sunday.

Ajax, who had lost their last two games, struggled again on Saturday and it was only an own goal from RKC defender Steve Olfers from a Rafael van der Vaart corner six minutes before the break gave them the points.

ADO Den Haag took an early lead against AZ as Roy Stroevé scored in the 11th minute before Barry van Galen levelled the score 18 minutes later. Winger Romeo Castelen restored the lead for the home side six minutes into the second half before AZ skipper Peter Wijkers equalized with four minutes remaining while Martijn Meerdink sealed AZ' 14th win of season in the final minute.

Roda JC Kerkrade were held to a 1-1 draw by bottom side Zwolle, after Iwan Redan, on loan from RKC, opened the scoring for Roda six minutes after the break before Ivar van Dinteren equalized 12 minutes later. —MNA/Reuters

Van Nistelrooy double sinks Fulham

MANCHESTER (England), 8 March — Dutchman Ruud van Nistelrooy struck twice to give Manchester United a 2-1 victory over Fulham in a full-blooded FA Cup quarterfinal at Old Trafford on Saturday.

The Premier League champions overcame the concession of an early penalty to reach the semifinals for the first time since 1999, finally beating Fulham at the third attempt this season.

United had the better of the early exchanges, with Cristiano Ronaldo enjoying space on the right and the Portuguese winger created a good opportunity for van Nistelrooy who steered a shot wide.

Fulham, who won 3-1 at Old Trafford in the league in October, earned a penalty after 22 minutes when United captain Roy Keane, playing as a central defender, had failed to usher the ball out of play and was dispossessed by Brian McBride.

The American forward passed to Luis Boa Morte who was upended by Wes Brown and Steed Malbranque calmly converted the spot kick.

The visitors' lead lasted only two minutes, however.

Ryan Giggs found space down the left and his whipped cross was turned high into the net by Dutchman van Nistelrooy from

close range for his 25th goal of the season.

Fulham's giant central defender Zat Knight skimmed the crossbar with a spectacular dipping volley and the London side continued to cause problems for the champions' injury-ravaged defence.

After the interval Giggs was foiled by Edwin van der Sar after being put through by Darren Fletcher and Ronaldo rattled the crossbar with a curling 20-metre free kick.

United's pressure finally told on 62 minutes when Ronaldo burst down the right and crossed for van Nistelrooy to finish again from close range.

United survived a few anxious moments, goalkeeper Tim Howard diving full length to tip the ball away from three onrushing Fulham forwards.

The biggest cheer of the day came in the dying seconds when United's Norwegian striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was brought on as a substitute for his first appearance since September.

MNA/Reuters

Italy fraud probe focuses on transfer deals

MILAN, 8 March — Investigators in Italy's nationwide soccer fraud probe have identified around 10 transfer deals they wish to look into, a judicial source said on Saturday.

Italian financial police recently raided and took away files from all Serie A and B clubs and Football League and Football Federation offices and the source said they had already identified some transfers they wanted to look into.

The transfers under scrutiny involve fees considered to be well above the market value of the player and which could have been used to manipulate club accounts.

On Monday magistrates will interview three officials under investigation for possible "abuse of office" including Salvatore Pescatore a former functionary with Italian soccer's financial watchdog Covisoc.

As well as the far-reaching fraud probe, Serie A club Lazio are being investigated by Rome magistrates looking into the collapse of food company Cirio who owned the Rome club.

MNA/Reuters

Nedved seals Juve comeback win at Brescia

MILAN, 8 March — European Player of the Year Pavel Nedved struck the winner as champions Juventus came back from two goals down to beat Brescia 3-2 in Serie A on Saturday.

The win sends Juve above AS Roma into second place on 55 points, three behind leaders AC Milan who host Sampdoria on Sunday.

Roma, who are third on 53 points, face Inter Milan at the Olympic stadium on Sunday.

Stefano Mauri put Brescia ahead in just the third minute after an error from Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon whose attempted punch out merely fell to the midfielder who slotted home.

Brescia had a 2-0 lead at the break as Andrea Caracciolo converted after Roberto Baggio had set him up with a pass from a Luigi Di Biagio free kick.

Juve's comeback began when they were awarded a penalty after Nedved was barged over by Di Biagio and Fabrizio Miccoli slotted home at the third attempt.

Miccoli's first two penalties, which both found their

net, were ordered to be retaken as the Italy international had stopped in his run-up.

Just a minute later, Marco Di Vaio brought Juve level with a fine shot on the turn from a Miccoli pass before Nedved crowned the comeback with a fierce drive in

the 75th minute after Brescia keeper Luca Castellazzi's clearance fell to him on the edge of the area.

A Matteo Ferrari equalizer three minutes from time gave Parma a 2-2 draw in their rain-drenched local derby with Modena.

MNA/Reuters



Italian Flavia Pennetta makes a forehand return to Maria Sanchez Lorenzo of Spain during their semifinal match of the Mexican Open tennis championships, in Acapulco, Mexico, on 6 March, 2004. Pennetta won, 6-2, 6-3.

INTERNET

9-3-2004 (Tuesday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30	Signature Tune Greeting
15:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights 'Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sentiment'
15:36	Myanmar's Ancient City Bagan
15:40	Headline News
15:42	Myanmar Natural Re- source Spirulina
15:45	National News
15:50	Cultural Museum (Keng Tong)
15:55	Ah- Hla-Kabya-Pan- Pawah
16:00	National News
16:05	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species In- habiting in Fresh And



Tuesday, March 9
View today:

7:00 am

1. ကော့ဖူးရင် ဖော်စွန်းဆရာတော်
ဆရာကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ
နာယက အဦးအင်္ကျီတော်ဆောင်ရွပ်၊
အဘိဓမ္မာဟုဋ္ဌပတ် အဘိဓမ္မအဋ္ဌ
မဟာသဗ္ဗမဟာတိက တိပိဋကရ ဓမ္မ
ဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်အပ္ပမင်္ဂါဇ္ဇ
သရာဇာဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်ဆရာတော်
- 7:15 am
2. တိပိဋကရဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိကအဋ္ဌမဟာ
ပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိနိဗ္ဗာဓဝံသ
(ဓမ္မာဆရာတော်)မဟာကြီးတော်
ဗုဒ္ဓဝံသော ဥပ္ပါတဿပိဂါဋီတော်
- 7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
6. ကဗျာပန်းသယာဉ်

16:10	Seawaters (I)
16:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Feel like an Earthquake"
16:15	National News
16:20	Myanmar Rattan Furni- ture for the Connois- seurs
16:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30	National News
16:35	Excursion in Yangon River
16:40	Early Silver Jubilee Era of Myanmar Mo- tion Picture
16:45	National News
16:50	Folk Art of Pottery
16:55	Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
17:00	National News
17:05	Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
17:10	Songs On Screen "Flourishing"
17:15	National News
17:20	Discussion Points on Lacquerware College
17:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Evening Transmission

19:30	(19:30 - 23:30) Signature Greeting
19:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar (KJa Nu)"
19:36	Ngwe Hsaung Wel- comes Everyone
19:40	Headline News
19:42	Myanma Traditional Tamarind Juice
19:45	National News
19:50	Outstanding Myanmar Women (I)
19:55	Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
20:00	National News
20:05	A Journey to Research Taron Race
20:10	Song "Missing you so much"
20:15	National News
20:20	Outstanding Myanmar Women (II)
20:25	Song "Golden Land, Myanmar"
20:30	National News
20:35	Myanmar's Pride: The Art of Carving
20:40	Ancient Pakhangyi Monastery
20:45	National News
20:50	Clothes decorated with Sequin-like Colourful Plastics

20:55	Myanma-Ah-Hla-Yat-taung-Ahka
21:00	National News
21:05	Fabulous Glassware Decorations
21:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Come to Myanmar (The Golden Land)"
21:15	National News
21:20	Myanma Traditional Handwork of Casting
21:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
21:35	Myanmar's Ancient City Bagan
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Myanmar Natural Resource Spirulina
21:45	National News
21:50	Cultural Museum (Keng Tong)
21:55	Ah- Hla-Kabya-Pan-Pawah
22:00	National News
22:05	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (I)
22:10	Song "Feel like an Earthquake"
22:15	National News
22:20	Myanmar Rattan Furniture for the Connoisseurs
22:25	Song "Moonlight"
22:30	National News
22:35	Excursion in Yangon River
22:40	Early Silver Jubilee Era of Myanmar Motion Picture
22:45	National News
22:50	Folk Art of Pottery
22:55	Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
23:00	National News
23:05	Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
23:10	Songs On Screen "Flourishing"
23:15	National News
23:20	Discussion Points on Lacquerware College
23:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

**9-3-2004 (Tuesday) &
10-3-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30-1:30)**

23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

	Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
23:36	Myanmar's Ancient City Bagan
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Myanmar Natural Resource Spinrulina
23:45	National News
23:50	Cultural Museum (Keng Tong)
23:55	Ah- Hla-Kabya-Pan-Pawha
24:00	National News
00:05	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (I)
00:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Feel like an Earthquake"
00:15	National News
00:20	Myanmar Rattan Furniture for the Connoisseurs
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30	National News
00:35	Excursion in Yangon River
00:40	Early Silver Jubilee Era of Myanmar Motion Picture
00:45	National News
00:50	Folk Art of Pottery
00:55	Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
01:00	National News
01:05	Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
01:10	Songs On Screen "Flourishing"
01:15	National News
01:20	Conservation Points on Lacquerware College
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**10-3-2004 (Wednesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

03:30	Signature Tune Greeting
03:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36	Ngwe Hsaung Wel- comes Everyone
03:40	Headline News
03:42	Myanma Traditional Tamarind Juice
03:45	National News
03:50	Outstanding Myanmar Women (I)
03:55	Kayin Dance (Ton Pana (or) Kywe Min Don Dance)
04:00	National News
04:05	A Journey to Research

04:10	Taron Race Song "Missing you so much"
04:15	National News
04:20	Outstanding Myanmar Women (II)
04:25	Song "Golden Land, Myanmar"
04:30	National News
04:35	Myanmar's Pride: The Art of Carving
04:40	Ancient Pakhgyi Monastery
04:45	National News
04:50	Clothes decorated with Sequin-like Colourful Plastics
04:55	Myanma-Ah-Hla-Ya-taung-Ahka
05:00	National News
05:05	Fabulous Glassware Decorations
05:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Come to Myanmar (The Golden Land)"
05:15	National News
05:20	Myanma Traditional Handiwork of Casting
05:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
05:35	Myanmar's Ancient City Bagan
05:40	Headline News
05:42	Myanmar Natural Resource Spirulina
05:45	National News
05:50	Cultural Museum

05:55	(Keng Tong) Ah- Hla-Kabya-Pan- Pawah
06:00	National News
06:05	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species In- habiting in Fresh And Seawaters (I)
06:10	Song "Feel like an Earthquake"
06:15	National News
06:20	Myanmar Rattan Fu- niture for the Connois- seurs
06:25	Song "Moonlight"
06:30	National News
06:35	Excursion in Yangon River
06:40	Early Silver Jubilee Era of Myanmar Mo- tion Picture
06:45	National News
06:40	Early Silver Jubilee Era of Myanmar Mo- tion Picture
06:45	National News
06:50	Folk Art of Pottery
06:55	Khame Traditional Cultural Dance
07:00	National News
07:05	Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
07:10	Songs On Screen "Flourishing"
07:15	National News
07:20	Discussion Points on Lacquerware College
07:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 8 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Chin, Kachin States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Tanintharyi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (40°C) in Aungmyan.

Maximum temperature on 7-3-2004 was 37.5°C (100°F). Minimum temperature on 8-3-2004 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 8-3-2004 was 65%. Total sun shine hours on 7-3-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 8-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southeast at (15:10) hours MST on 7-3-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9-3-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Shan and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-3-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-3-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

5:45 pm
8. (ဥရ)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု
အစီအစဉ်

5:55 pm
9. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm
10. Evening news

7:00 pm
11. Weather report

7:05 pm
12. The mirror images of the
musical oldies

7:20 pm
13. သားငါးခွံဖြိုး ပြည့်အတိုင်း

7:30 pm
14. Musical programme

7:45 pm
15. (ဥရ)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု
အစီအစဉ် (အစုံစုံ၊ စစ်ချေး၊ စစ်တေး၊
တဗျာ (အပိုင်း-၂)၊ စီတလုလင်
အကယ်ဒမီ ဦးစိုကိုနှင့်ယဉ်ကျေးမှု
တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသား/သူများ)

8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားတက်လမ်းစဉ်
“အရန်ဆိုသည့်မှာ” (အပိုင်း-၈)
20. The next day's
programme

**Radio
Myanmar**

Tuesday, March 9
Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music
8.50 am National news/
Slogan
9.00 am Music
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
 -Jambalaya
 (Carpenters)
 -Real love (Kennedy Rogers)
9.00 pm English Lesson: Look
Ahead (8)
9.15 pm Article/Music
9.25 pm Weekly sports reel
9.35 pm Music for your
listening pleasure
 -Written in the star
 (Elton John)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Koichi Kato, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan, and party. — MNA



Armed Forces Day Special Features

The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day falls on 27 March 2004. The day is commemorated every year in recognition of and tribute to the relentless efforts and the spirit of sacrifice of the Tatmadaw in safeguarding independence and sovereignty.

In honour of the occasion, *The New Light of Myanmar* will feature articles, perspectives and poems of historical significance supported by the documentary photos as from 12 March 2004 under the programme “**The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people**”.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 8 March — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Mr Koichi Kato, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan, and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta Hall here at 4 pm today.

Present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U

Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

Mr Koichi Kato and party were accompanied by Mr Yuji Miyamoto, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, and Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Japanese Counselor.

MNA

Prime Minister receives foreign guests

YANGON, 8 March — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Mr Francis Maupain, Special Adviser to the director-

general of ILO, and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta here at 5 pm today.

Present at the call were Minister for Foreign Af-

fairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Francis Maupain, Special Adviser to the director-general of ILO, and party. — MNA

Secretary-2 sees off Tatmadaw football and volleyball teams

YANGON, 8 March — Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Administrative Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein this morning saw off the members of Myanmar Tatmadaw football and volleyball teams led by Col Aung San Tin of the Adjutant-General's Office of the Ministry of Defence, who will participate in the friendly tournaments to be

held in India, at Mingaladon Airbase.

Together with the Secretary-2, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Director of Medical Services Col Than Aung, Director of Resettlements Maj-Gen Aung Thein, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla and senior military officers, officials of Tatmadaw soccer and volley subcom-

mittees and Indian Military Attaché' Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra

also saw off the athletes. Before their departure, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein

Sein met the athletes and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Advocacy and Training Workshop on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT) of HIV opened

YANGON, 8 March — The opening ceremony of Advocacy and Training Workshop on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT) of HIV, jointly organized by the Health Department and UNFPA, was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Signal Pagoda Road here this

morning.

Present on the occasion were Health Department Director-General Dr Wan Maung, project managers of the ministry, UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Najib M Assifi and officials of UN agencies, heads of state and division health de-

partments, township medical officers of Kalaw, Pyin Oo Lwin, Taungoo, Taungdwingyi, Kalay, Thanphyuzayat, Kyaikmaraw, Hinthada and Sittway townships, officials and those of social organizations. The workshop continues till 12 March. — MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

To boost production for higher living standard
Page 2

Article

My defective heart — myocardial infarct — that needs treatment abroad
Page 7

Circulation

22,722

Pre-primary children's skill contest

YANGON, 8 March — The 12th pre-primary children's skill contest of Maternal and Child Welfare Association (branch) of Defence Services General Hospital was held at the hospital in Mingaladon this morning. The children entertained the guests and the teachers and officials presented prizes and gifts to them. — MNA