

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 331

7th Waning of Tabauing 1365 ME

Friday, 12 March, 2004



Serve the interests of the people

These are the times when the Tatmadaw is making endeavours in every aspect to enhance the political, economic and military might of the nation. Our genuine goodwill and efforts have been proved and are being proved with deed, not words. While there is an opportunity to discharge your duties in the service of the nation, I would like to urge you comrades to serve the interests of the people as the true patriotic Tatmadawmen that you are.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address at the parade of the 57th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Mauritius

YANGON, 12 March — On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Mauritius, which falls on 12 March 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of the Republic of Mauritius. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects accommodation, drills practising of parade columns

YANGON, 11 March — Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win this morning inspected parade columns which will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

At 8 am, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win arrived at Yangon Command Headquarters

where parade columns are being accommodated.

The Chief of Armed Forces Training was welcomed there by Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein, Reserve Parade Commander Col Nyi Tun, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, Deputy Adjutant-General Col Khin Soe, Deputy Quartermaster-General Col Lin Maung, col-

umn commanders of Kyansittha and Myawady columns and senior military officers.

At the hall of the Yangon Command Headquarters, Staff Officer (Grade-I) (Q) Lt-Col Thein Hsint of Yangon Command reported on accommodation of the parade columns in the compound of the headquarters.

Next, the column commanders reported on accommodation of parade companies and drills practising.

(See page 10)

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

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative special features on pages 7, 8 and 9.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects drills practising of Tatmadawmen of Nawade Column. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 12 March, 2004

Tatmadaw always in the service of the nation and its people

When we study the history of mankind, we will see that there emerged organized groups for defence purpose because of the requirement to safeguard their own families and collectively defend their own communities. Hence, the armed forces have been indispensable for every independent people and nation since early history.

If we look at the current world affairs, we will see that there still exists the use of force in solving problems. In this regard, all the countries of the world are striving to defend themselves.

The Tatmadaw was born of the anti-colonialist struggle, the anti-fascist resistance and national liberation movements. It was also born of the people in accordance with the historical needs. The Tatmadaw was founded with the aim of carrying out national political tasks.

It was the rallying point of patriotic politicians and youths, who have vowed to sacrifice their lives for the nation and its people.

As the Tatmadaw was formed with the good sons of the national people, it has always safeguarded and protected the people in times of emergency. It had to save the nation once in 1948 when the internal strife was on its prime time, again in 1958 when political crisis broke out, another time in 1962 when the Union was on the verge of disintegration and once again in 1988 when plots were made to break up the nation and the Tatmadaw.

In the successive eras, the Tatmadaw has possessed the three capabilities namely the military capability, the organizational capability and the administrative capability and has always served the interests of the people.

Upholding the Three Main National Causes— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty— the Tatmadaw is safeguarding the nation and carrying out its three main tasks—to discharge national defence duty, to undergo training and to implement public welfare tasks.

At present, the Tatmadaw Government is striving with might and main for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the national goal, and thanks to the united efforts the people, the Government and the Tatmadaw, people are now witnessing the fruitful result of these endeavours.

Nowadays, science and technology has been in the process of change and progress with rapid momentum. At such a time, the Tatmadaw is trying to be a modern one to protect the lives and properties of the people while efforts are being made to build a new nation.

We firmly believe that the Tatmadaw, which has always protected and safeguarded the nation and the people, will always serve the interests of the State and its people.

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'

Ambassador U Khin Maung Aye presents credentials to President of Portuguese Republic

YANGON, 12 March — U Khin Maung Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Portuguese Republic, presented his credentials to His Excellency Mr Jorge Fernando Branco De Sampaio, President of the Portuguese Republic, on 26 February 2004, in Lisbon. — MNA

Symposium on soft tissue lesions

YANGON, 11 March — The Society of Rehabilitation Medicine of the MMA (Myanmar Medical Association) will organize a Symposium on soft tissue lesions at Auditorium (A) of the MMA on Theinbyu Road here from 8 am to 12 noon on 14 March 2004. All interested medical students, doctors, physiotherapists and medical personnel are welcomed to participate. — MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein meets with departmental personnel at Talay assembly hall. — MNA

TV relay stations inspected in Tachilek

YANGON, 11 March — Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, accompanied by Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, Deputy Chief Engineer of Myanmar Radio and Television U Myint Aung and officials, arrived at Talay town in Tachilek Township on 9 March morning.

Brig-Gen Aung Thein met with departmental em-

ployees at the assembly hall and heard reports. Later, he attended to the requirements and inspected departmental offices.

Next, the deputy minister and party went to Nantai village in Mongpaliu region, where he met with townsenders and members of Maternal and

Child Welfare Association of the village and inspected Nantai TV relay station. Arriving at Kyainglat in Tachilek Township in the afternoon, the deputy minister met with local national races. He also met with departmental staff, village heads and townsenders at the assembly hall and heard re-

ports. Later, he oversaw the TV relay station there.

In his meeting with departmental staff and townsenders at Talay and Kyainglat, the deputy minister urged them to work hard for regional development in concert with local people like a family.

MNA

Myanmar Trade Fair 2-5 April

YANGON, 11 March — The Myanmar Trade Fair 2004, to be organized by Quartz International Co Ltd, with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, will be held at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road from 2 to 5 April. Local and foreign-made cosmetics and consumer products, textile, fashions, plastic goods, foodstuff, electric and electronic equipment, construction materials, household goods, stationery and packaging materials, machinery and parts, traditional medicines and so on will be displayed at the fair. — MNA

KNPP opens fire on bus in Loikaw

YANGON, 11 March — About five KNPP terrorists opened fire on a GMC bus with number plates Kha/6597 driven by Ko Maung Oo en route from Loikaw to Bawlahe, Kayah State, at a place four miles away from Bawlahe with 40mm launcher and small arms at 8 pm on 8 March.

Although the bus stopped when its front tyre on the right side was hit and burst, they continued to fire it with 40mm launcher and small arms. Therefore, Ma Redeer, 19, daughter of U Maung Ko of Kyithaya Ward, Loikaw, was dead as she was hit at the head.

Ma The Ei Hlaing, 18, daughter of U Chit Hlaing of Nantaw, Loikaw, Ko Win Ko, 28, son of U Myint Swe of Dawtama Ward, Loikaw, U Thein Aye, 42, son of U Sit Tar of Kyithaya Ward, Loikaw, and Ma Chaw Su Hlaing, 18, daughter of U Bo Cho of Ngwetaung Ywathit, Phruso Township, were wounded.

The wounded persons are under medical treatment at Loikaw General Hospital. The Tatmadaw column is in hot pursuit of the terrorists. — MNA



MS Crystal Serenity of US-based Crystal Cruises Ltd with 439 passengers and 636 crew members on board arrives Thilawa Port on 11-3-2004 morning. — N&T

Disguised gunmen kill two Americans, translator in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 March—Gunmen posing as police at a makeshift checkpoint south of Baghdad killed two American civilians and their Iraqi translator—all employees of the US-led coalition, US officials said Wednesday. In another southern area, four Iraqi policemen died in a shootout with a local militia.

The deaths at the checkpoint came when the gunmen stopped the car Tuesday night outside Hillah, 35 miles south of Baghdad, Polish Col Robert Strzelecki said. The attackers shot the passengers and then took the vehicle, he said.

Polish troops later intercepted the car, arrested five Iraqis in it and found the bodies inside, said Strzelecki, speaking from the Camp Babylon headquarters of the Polish-led multinational force in Iraq. In Baghdad, a coalition spokesman confirmed the deaths.

Authorities did not immediately release the victims' identities. The

Polish News Agency reported that one of those killed worked for the coalition Press office.

Checkpoints manned by Iraqis or coalition forces are common on Iraq's main roads, and this appeared to be the first time gunmen have posed as police at a roadblock.

Further south, Iraqi police tried Tuesday night to enter a building where a Shiite militia was holding two civilians in the city of Nasiriyah, a coalition spokesman said. In a shootout, four Iraqi policemen were killed and two wounded.

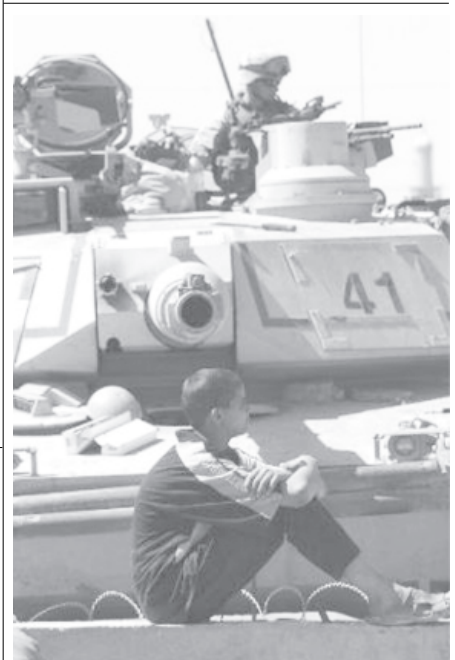
The standoff finally ended when Italian security forces stormed the

building, rescued the civilians and arrested eight militia members, the spokesman said. One Italian Carabinieri officer was slightly injured.

The militia, known as Citizens' Security Group, acts as a security force for a number of Shiite political parties. Such militias, which in some towns try to enforce a brand of Islamic law, often have tense relations with the US-trained Iraqi police force.

In the western town of Qaim, near the Syrian border, gunmen killed two police officers and critically wounded a third Wednesday while the police were having lunch in a restaurant, police said. —Internet

ထိုက်တိုက်နှစ်သက် မိုးမြင့်မြင့်



A US soldier on security duty in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 10 March, 2004. —INTERNET

Iraq's US-backed police force targeted

KHALDIYAH, 11 March—The police chief of this restive town west of Baghdad was recovering at home Wednesday after a roadside bomb hit his car this week. He's lucky—his predecessor was killed in an ambush about six months ago.

Back in the station, a ramshackle one-story building on the outskirts of Khaldiyah, officers explain their predicament: they are a small and poorly equipped force caught between a US military they don't trust and a public that resents America and its "collaborators."

Iraq US-backed police force has been the primary target in a recent spate of deadly bombings and assassinations blamed on foreign fighters and Iraqi insurgents—attacks that have raised questions about the preparedness and experience of the Iraqi security forces.

The questions are more pressing because of the

expectation that Iraqi security forces will take over more responsibility when the US-led coalition hands political power to Iraqis on June 30.

Nationwide, coalition officials report reduced crime rates and more Iraqi security forces deployed, but bombings against police stations have exposed the inadequacy of their defences.

Maj Gen Mark Kimmitt, the US military's deputy director of operations, told reporters in Baghdad on Wednesday that coalition troops will keep patrolling Iraqi cities after June 30. He said their withdrawal was not tied to any date, but to the Iraqi forces' capabilities.

Even a larger role—not to mention sole responsibility—could prove too much for Iraqi forces in a place like Khaldiyah, a conservative town of 100,000 on the Euphrates River.

It's a hotbed of anti-US resistance in the Sunni heartland, a vast swath north and west of Baghdad where Iraqis are proud and deeply tribal. US troops in the area have come under almost daily attack for months.

As in other restive cities nearby like Fallujah and Ramadi, many residents take out their anger at the Americans on the local police force who lack the firepower and resources to protect themselves.

In Fallujah, for example, rebels launched simultaneous attacks on a police station and a security forces headquarters last month, killing 25 people and freeing dozens of prisoners. —Internet

US occupation hinders Iraqi agriculture

BAGHDAD, 11 March—Once the region's most prosperous people, Iraqi farmers, are suffering under harsh living conditions since the occupation of Iraq last April.

In provinces such as Diyala and Tikrit, which have witnessed Iraqi resistance attacks, thousands of hectares of farmland and forest have been razed by the US occupation forces, who claim they have been used as hideouts for Iraqi resistance fighters.

Hundreds of farmers have lost their income overnight. They are neither able to ask for compensation, nor have they been given a date by which they can replant their destroyed crops and resume work.

"They flattened our farmlands in front of our eyes," said an Iraqi farmer in Diyala. "We are unable to work and feed our families anymore. They allege that Iraqi fighters had been using our farms as hideouts, it is not true."

Arrests have also badly affected the rural population in Iraq. Thousands of rural workers believed to be involved in anti-US forces attacks are being kept in US custody. One Iraqi farmer in Diyala says people from his community have been arrested and imprisoned for unlimited periods of time.

"Dozens of farmers in the area have been taken away from their homes. Their wives and children are lost and do not know what to do, especially since no charges are being made against the detainees and no one knows when they are going to be released," he said.

"We want to know if our people are really guilty or not, and how long they are going to be detained. That would let us

determine how we are going to help their families."

While levelled farmlands have heavily restricted the flow of fruit and vegetables to the cities, active farms are also suffering serious obstacles preventing farmers from running their businesses efficiently.

A potato grower near Baghdad has complained of harsh practices by US forces pursuing alleged Iraqi resistance fighters.

An Iraqi farmer "We often wake up to see our harvest of potatoes destroyed by US tanks. They have no hesitation about driving their heavy machines into planted farms," he said.

"Normally we water during the night but we are unable to do that anymore, the coalition forces are all over the land during the night. You know that they might shoot anyone and then tell you afterwards that they are sorry."

Prices of agricultural products have reached unprecedented levels in Iraqi cities amid widespread unemployment and scarce resources.

Sabiha Qasim, an Iraqi employee of the former Iraqi Airways company, said: "Prices of vegetables and fruits are too high to us. My family of six is living on my salary, because my husband was dismissed with thousands of Ministry of Information employees. We can not afford to buy fresh produce like fruit on a regular basis."

Internet

Over 10% of firms in Shanghai want to hire staff from HK

HONG KONG, 11 March—More than 10 per cent of enterprises in Shanghai intend to employ Hong Kong professional and executives in the next 12 months, the China Daily Hong Kong Edition reported Wednesday.

The newspaper made the report quoting the finding of a survey newly released by the Hong Kong Professionals and Executives Association and a Shanghai human resources weekly.

The survey conducted last month also shows that Hong Kong staff are welcomed because of their good command of English,

global perspective and management skills.

In the survey, the Hong Kong Professionals and Executives Association and the Shanghai human resources weekly interviewed 800 enterprises in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, of which 250 are located in Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police inspect the damage to the office of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, following an explosion in Baqouba, 34 miles northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, early on 10 March, 2004. —INTERNET

China's Mainland contributes largest source of tourists to Macao

MACAO, 11 March—The Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) received 5.74 million visitors from China's Mainland last year. The Mainland has become Macao's number-one source of visitor arrivals.

Macao's annual number of visitor arrivals from the Mainland has risen 3.5 times in the past four years since Macao's return to its Motherland in 1999, when they totalled 1.64 million, according to the latest statistics from the Macao Tourism Office.

Joao Costa Antunes, director of the office said that Macao's aim is not just to increase the number of visitors from the

Mainland but also to extend their stay in Macao, which is currently averaged to just one night.

Under its work plan, the Macao Tourism Office will carry out a series of tourism-promotion activities targeting at Mainland tourists, including an advertising campaign on newspapers, magazines, television and radio stations in the Mainland. —MNA/Xinhua

Pentagon pressed for Iraq war's costs

WASHINGTON, 11 March—Pressed to estimate the cost of future operations in Iraq, the Pentagon has repeatedly said it is just too hard to do.

Now the ranks of disbelievers are growing — in Congress and among private defence analysts. Some say the Bush administration's refusal to estimate costs could erode American support for the Iraq campaign, as well as the credibility of the White House and lawmakers.

"It is crucial that we have every bit of information so we can level with the taxpayer," Democratic Representative David Obey of Wisconsin recently told Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld. "We don't have that information now." "The White House plays hide and

seek with the costs of the war," said Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W Va.

The object of their ire is President Bush's proposed defence spending for the budget year beginning October 1 — a \$402 billion request that did not include money for the major military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is not just Democrats who disagree with the administration's approach.

Republican chairmen of the House and Senate budget committees have penciled in tens of billions of dollars for the two military campaigns — \$30

billion in the Senate, an expected \$50 billion in the House — in spending plans they began pushing through Congress this week.

Asked at a recent congressional hearing why costs for Iraq were not included in the administration's budget, Pentagon comptroller Dov Zakheim replied: "Because we simply cannot predict them."

Yet many contend the administration at least knows that roughly 100,000 soldiers will remain in Iraq for another year and could have budgeted an estimate or a placeholder request for that. —Internet



Iraqis are frisked by security personnel on 10 March, 2004.

INTERNET

Singapore launches new destination brand to woo more visitors

SINGAPORE, 11 March — Singapore on Tuesday launched its new destination brand, "Uniquely Singapore", to celebrate the special blend of traditions, cultures, modernity and all things intrinsic and unique to the island state of around four million people.

Speaking at a launching ceremony, Lim Neo Chian, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), said that Singapore has transformed and evolved dramatically over the years and today it is a city that thrives on modernity against a backdrop of rich history and tradition.

With the new destination brand, Singapore wants to share all these unique aspects about the city state with the world and invite everyone to come to the country to experience the quintessential Singapore experience for themselves, Lim said.

The launch of the new destination brand comes shortly after the announcement that the number of foreign visitors in Singapore hit more than 6.1 million, exceeding the STB's efforts to promote Singapore as a premier travel destination to the world.

The STB believes that the new brand positioning will help Singapore achieve its targets of 7.6 million foreign visitors this year, a significant increase of 24 per cent from last year. — MNA/Xinhua

China's foreign policy serves China's development

BEIJING, 11 March — China's foreign policy serves China's development, said Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Wang made the remarks at a lecture on international situation and China's foreign policy to 1,400 Chinese university students at Beijing University.

China's foreign policy needs understanding and support from the Chinese people, especially young people, who are the future of the nation, said Wang Yi.

China's diplomacy will help create a long-term stable international environment and reciprocal cooperation for China's economic development, he said.

While safeguarding national interests, China will also keep up with international trends, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ပွင့်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

China's foreign trade surges 35.4 % in first 2 months

BEIJING, 10 March— China's foreign trade volume totalled 147.64 billion US dollars in the first two months of 2004, up 35.4 per cent year-on-year, latest figures from the General Administration of Customs show.

The volume included 69.87 billion US dollars in exports and 77.77 billion US dollars in imports, up 28.7 and 42 per cent respectively over the same periods last year. The General Administration of Customs attributed the sharp increase to the rapid growth of China's bilateral trade with key partners, growing exports of mechanical and electrical products and soaring imports of crude oil, iron ore and other raw products. — MNA/Xinhua

Blix likens Iraq war to witch hunt

BARCELONA (Spain), 11 March—Former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix on Tuesday likened the runup to the war in Iraq to a witch hunt, and argued that the subsequent failure to find weapons of mass destruction would dent the public's faith in the US and British governments.

"The governments were like the witch hunters of past centuries. They were so convinced that there were witches in Iraq that every black cat became proof of it," Blix said in Barcelona where he was honoured by the United Nations Association of Spain.

"The tendency was to view any evidence in a more serious light than was the reality. It's clear that the September 11 attack on the United States drove the analysis," he added.

The White House dismissed the criticism.

Blix said that intelligence information from the United States and other countries was exaggerated, and that politicians should have asked more critical questions.

"They were mistaken in their views, but I don't think they acted in bad faith," Blix said, referring to President Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and other leaders who supported the war. "The consequences of that are political. Now people have less confidence in them."

Internet

Supervision primary task for Chinese legislature in 2004

BEIJING, 11 March — It is the primary task of the National People's Congress (NPC) and its Standing Committee, China's top legislature, to strengthen and improve its supervision over the government and judicial organs in 2004, Wu Bangguo, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said here Wednesday.

"We should explore still better ways of supervision and further improve our supervisory mechanism in order to promote a law-based administration and judicial justice," said Wu in a report on his committee's work over the past year to the ongoing annual full session of the lawmakers.

The top legislator noted that the NPC Standing Committee could also enhance its supervision over the government and judicial organs through other means like hearing and examining their budgets, work

sory education, trade unions and statistics.

"Inspections on law enforcement constitute a basic form of supervision of the NPC Standing Committee," he acknowledged, adding that in 2003 the committee carried out nationwide inspections on the enforcement of five laws.

Meanwhile, the NPC Standing Committee could also enhance its supervision over the government and judicial organs through other means like hearing and examining their budgets, work

reports and handling letters of complaints from the general public.

"In the past year we heard and deliberated 11 special-topic work reports from the State Council and other government and judicial departments, including reports on the prevention and control of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and bird flu (highly pathogenic avian influenza)," said Wu.

In 2003, the NPC Standing Committee also received more than 31,000 visitors

reporting various problems and handled over 57,000 letters of complaints from the public, he added.

"This year we plan to hear and examine reports of the State Council on the establishment of a quick-response mechanism for public health emergencies, the increase of farmers' income and development of agriculture, the maintenance of market economic orders, law education among the public, as well as the saving and protection of water resources," he noted.

MNA/Xinhua

"AIDS" cases increase in Fiji

CANBERRA, 11 March — Over ten new AIDS cases have been reported in Fiji so far this year, bringing to 142 the total HIV/AIDS cases in the tiny South Pacific island country. The country's Health Ministry has expressed concern over the increasing number of young people contracting HIV, the Pacific Islands News Association reported Tuesday.

According to the ministry, 78 per cent of HIV and AIDS sufferers are in the age group of 20-39, with women accounting for 37 per cent of the cases.

MNA/Xinhua



Hot air balloons of all shapes and sizes float above Canberra during the annual Balloon Fiesta in the Australian Capital Territory on 10 March, 2004. The fiesta has attracted pilots and balloons from Europe, United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Singapore to create a truly international fiesta with a total of 48 balloons registered to fly. —INTERNET

US media performance on Iraq slammed in report

WASHINGTON, 11 March — Major US newspapers failed to challenge government assertions about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, both before and after the 2003 war, according to a study by the University of Maryland released on Tuesday.

The study, by the university's Centre for International and Security Studies, concluded that newspaper coverage generally failed to adequately question the US Administration's efforts to link its campaign against Iraq and the "war on terror".

It also concluded that media coverage often echoed the administration's argument that Iraq's chemical and biological weapons were a serious and immediate threat.

"Too many journalists acted as virtual stenographers for the current administration, in effect validating

President (George W) Bush's linkage of terrorism, Iraq and weapons of mass destruction," said University of Maryland journalism professor Susan Moeller, the report's author.

Moeller analyzed reporting by the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek* and *US News and World Report*, and also by National Public Radio.

Moeller said she found coverage before and after the war tended to lump suspected Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological weapons into a sin-

gle category. Such reporting, she said, obscured the major differences between the potential harm, availability and ease of use of such weapons.

At the same time, major media provided too little coverage of policy options other than war.

"The 'inverted pyramid' style of news writing, which places the most 'important' information first, produced much greater attention to the administration's point of view on WMD issues at the expense of alternative perspectives," Moeller said.

MNA/Reuters



US mortar misses target, kills civilian in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 March — A mortar fired by US troops in northern Iraq missed its target and killed a civilian earlier this week, the US military said on Wednesday.

A statement said the mortar, fired during a mission against insurgents, accidentally struck a building in Ejba, killing one person and injuring another.

US military officials planned to meet the family and local leaders on Tuesday, and were investigating the incident. Washington says it does not keep records of the number of civilians killed since the US-led invasion of Iraq.— MNA/Reuters

Iraq firefight kills four police, Italian wounded

BAGHDAD, 11 March — Four Iraqi policemen were killed in a midnight firefight which ended when Italian Carabinieri paratroopers stormed the offices of a security militia in Nassiriya, a coalition official said Wednesday.

One Italian and two Iraqi policemen were wounded in the incident in the southern town about 235 miles southeast of Baghdad.

The shootout in front of the offices of an authorized security organization, the Citizens Security Group (CSG), which protects political parties, began at around 10:30 pm (2:30 pm EST) Tuesday.

"The shootout, that lasted more than an hour, involved local police who allegedly tried to rescue two Iraqi citizens held illegally by the CSG," said Andrea Angeli, the coalition spokesman in

Nassiriya.

He said Italian forces based nearby responded and were caught up in the firefight.

"The situation was brought under control at around 1:00 am when Carabinieri special paratroopers stormed the CSG building, rescued the two alleged hostages and arrested eight members of the CSG," Angeli said.

Italy has sent around 3,000 troops to Iraq as part of the around 150,000-strong US-led occupation force.

Internet



Iraqi police inspect the damaged SUV van of police chief Brig Ismail Turki Mattar on 10 March, 2004 in Khaldiya, west of Baghdad, Iraq. A roadside bomb hit Ismail's van two days ago injuring him.

INTERNET

Vietnam's automobile sales down in first two months

HANOI, 11 March — Vietnam recorded total sales of 3,389 automobiles in the first two months of this year, a year-on-year decline of 24.1 per cent, the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association (VAMA) said on Tuesday.

Higher special consumption taxes imposed on automobiles and value-added tax on imported automobile components since January 2004, which pushed up vehicle prices, were mainly attributed to the decrease.

Automobile producers and assemblers in the country predicted that their sales would fall by 40-50 per cent

this year. They sold 42,557 vehicles last year, up 59.4 per cent.

Between January and February this year, automobile companies posted sales of 2,096 passenger cars, 1,111 commercial vehicles and 182 multi-purpose vehicles, VAMA said.

Toyota Vietnam continued recording the largest sales

of 1,572 automobiles, holding a market share of 46.4 per cent; followed by Vidamco, famous for Daewoo brand, with 471 and 13.9 per cent; and Visuco, famous for Wagon brand with 339 and 10 per cent.

In the two-month period, Vietnam imported 75 million US dollars worth of automobiles and their components,

including 2,000 automobiles, down 7.5 per cent in value, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

Vietnam now has 11 automobile joint ventures that have combined investment of 574 million dollars, and annual capacity of 148,000 vehicles. It has around 700,000 automobiles on roads.—MNA/Xinhua

Macao's economy forecast to grow by 7%

MACAO, 11 March — The economy of Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) was forecast to grow by 7 per cent in the Year 2004, according to a senior economic official.

"Bolstered by a rosy prospect of the tourism sector, a steady performance of export and a surge of investment in both the public and private sectors, Macao's economy will sustain a strong growth momentum this year," said Francis Tam Pak Yuen, Secretary for Economy and Finance Tuesday.

The SAR government has planned to invest 3.5 billion patacas to upgrade infrastructures this year, and two foreign casino operators will pool millions of US dollars to build their enter-

tainment attractions in Macao, said Tam.

The strong investment is expected to give a greater charm to Macao's tourism, which has been invigorated by the Mainland's facilitated individual travel scheme on Hong Kong and Macao-bounded tours.

The tourism boom has contributed greatly to Macao's record-high economic growth rate of 14 per cent last year. With a land area of 26.8 square kilometres, Macao received over 11.9 million visitor arrivals last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to facilitate state enterprise equitization

HANOI, 11 March — The Vietnamese Government will speed up process of equitizing state-owned enterprises (SOEs), including large ones in important industries in the next two years.

It has targeted to equitize 713 SOEs, including businesses in the fields of electricity, cement, chemical, fertilizer, metallurgy, telecommunications, insurance, transport, insurance and banking between 2004 and 2005, local newspaper *Vietnam Agriculture* reported Tuesday.

Some State-owned corporations will have all their affiliates sold while still acting as a parent company. Others will be entirely equitized with all of their capital and assets being sold. Other forms of equitization include corporations which can still hold their legal capi-

tal but issue shares, or will both sell their assets and issue shares.

The government will initially allow the new models to be applied to some major SOEs, including the Bao Minh Insurance Company, the Cuu Long Housing Development Bank, Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam, the Sai Gon Tourism Corporation, and the Vietnam Construction and Import-Export Corporation. In the 2001-2003 period, Vietnam restructured 1,766 SOEs, of which 905 were equitized. Small-scale SOEs have become more efficient after being equitized.—MNA/Xinhua



Pedestrians are reflected in a puddle in central Frankfurt, Germany, on 10 March, 2004, after light snowfalls in the morning and overnight. Snow and low temperatures are also expected during the next days.—INTERNET

Matsushita to present 3-in-1 DVD recorder

TOKYO, 11 March — Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co announced Tuesday it will put on market five new digital versatile disc (DVD) recorder models, including the world's first three-in-one model.

The Panasonic DMR-E1 50V three-in-one DVD recorder is equipped with an 80 gigabit built-in hard disk drive (HDD) and a video cassette recorder. It also features two tuners enabling simultaneous recording of two different television programmes.

The DMR-E95H DVD

recorder has a 250 GB HDD and is able to record 428 hours of video, longer than any other ones in the world, the company said.

The five products will be released separately in Japan between March 20 and June 21.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

Deadliest attacks in Iraq

Deadliest attacks in Iraq

Date	Location	Incident	Casualty
9-10-2003	Baghdad	car bomb attack	9
27-10-2003	Baghdad	suicide bomb	40
12-11-2003	Nasiriyah	bomb attack	30
20-11-2003	Kirkuk	road side bomb	5
22-11-2003	Baghdad	bomb attack	12
14-12-2003	Khaldiyyah	car bomb attack	17
31-12-2003	Baghdad	suicide bomb	8
17-1-2004	Baghdad	suicide bomb	5
18-1-2004	Baghdad	car bomb attack	31
31-1-2004	Mosul	road side bomb	9
1-2-2004	Irbil	car bomb attack	109
10-2-2004	Iskandariyah	road side bomb	53
11-2-2004	Baghdad	suicide bomb	47
18-2-2004	Hillah	suicide bomb	10
23-2-2004	Kirkuk	suicide bomb	8
2-3-2004	Karbala	car bomb attack	143
Total			145

The unipolar world dominated by a super power nation is leading the world to economic chaos, political anarchy, uncertainty and fear. The people of the world are not going to recover, and have peace for as long as threats are used for political and economic reforms that most of the world is not ready for and not willing to accept.



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



About 50 people were killed and dozens wounded when a car bomb ripped through a police station south of Baghdad on February 10, 2004.



Children gather where a hand grenade exploded in a Baghdad school yard on 25 February 2004.



The remains of the car of the suicide bomber that struck the Rahimawa police station is seen at the site of the attack in the Iraqi northern city of Kirkuk on 27 Feb, 2004.



A suicidebomber attacked the police station in the town of Kirkuk, north of Baghdad, on February 23, 2004.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Tatmadaw serving the interest of the people



Transport facilities constructed across the nation

Subject	1988	2004
Tarred road (mile)	5543	8398
Gravel road (mile)	1569	3194
Bridge (above 180 feet)	16	167
Railroad (mile)	2793	3897
Airport	21	27
Airport (jet)	6	18

Tatmadaw members constructing Taunggyi-Shwenyaung Railroad for better transport in Shan State (South).



Roads built by Tatmadaw members

No	State/Division	Railroad	Motorway
1.	Taninthayi Division	Dawei-Yebyu Ye-Kalawtgyi Yebyu-Kalawtgyi	Taninthayi-Taungpharu Taungpharu-Mandaing Layhnya-Bokpyin
2.	Magway Division	Magway-Taungdingyi Gangaw-Yaymyetni Natchaung-Gangaw Pakokku-Minywa Pakokku-Myosoe-Zeebya Aunglan-Hsatthwa	Patheingyi-Monywa Thayet-Mindon Pakokku-Kyunchaung-Seikphyu
3.	Mandalay Division	TadaU-Myingyan Myohaung-Mytng Kyidaungkan-Pyinmana Bagan-Myingyan Bagan-Kyaukpadaung Pyawbye-Yanaung	Bagan-NyaungU-Myingyan Patheingyi-PyinOoLwin
4.	Mon State	-	Theinseik-Wiyaw-Laykay Thanbyuzayat-Phayathonezu
5.	Rakhine State	-	Yangon-Sittway



Tatmadaw members contribute towards Aungban-Loikaw Railroad Project that will link Shan State (South) and Kayah State.



Tatmadaw members seen at the Kengtung-Mongphyat Road Project in Shan State (East).



Taungdingyi-Magway Railroad Project being implemented by Tatmadaw members to ensure smooth transport in Magway Division.

The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people



The Tatmadaw has stood as a consolidated national force throughout the course of the history of Myanmar. It is still standing as it has been before, and will be the same forever.

Throughout the history of Myanmar, the Tatmadaw, founded with Myanmar nationals who were born in the Union, had served the interests of Myanmar nationals and protected them since the First Myanmar Empire (Bagan Era), the Second Myanmar Empire (Toungoo Era) and the Third Myanmar Empire (Konbaung Era). The Tatmadaw came into existence with the determination to sacrifice their lives for the country and the race.

Glittering throughout the history is the heritage which the ancestors bequeathed the Tatmadaw such as the crushing of alien invasion, the prioritizing of national solidarity, the safeguarding of independence and sovereignty, the ensuring of stability and the rule of law in the country, the

keeping of public interests in the fore and the deterring of the danger of national disintegration based on the strength of the love of the country, own race and the Union.

Myanmar had experienced alien intrusions and occupations. Even under such circumstances, the people of Myanmar were able to form national defence organizations on the ba-

isled the national solidarity with the strong Tatmadaw.

The British colonialists adopted divide-and-rule policies with intent to sow distrust among national brethren introducing laws and rules in order to prolong their occupation of Myanmar and

Glittering throughout the history is the heritage which the ancestors bequeathed the Tatmadaw such as the crushing of alien invasion, the prioritizing of national solidarity, the safeguarding of independence and sovereignty, the ensuring of stability and the rule of law in the country, the keeping of public interests in the fore and the deterring of the danger of national disintegration based on the strength of the love of the country, own race and the Union.

sis of the national character of resisting enslavement, and fought back the invaders and won back the freedom. The lesson which can be drawn from those incidents is: were the strength of the Tatmadaw weak or were the national unity absent, independence and sovereignty could be lost. Myanmar was recorded as a strong nation in the pages of the history books written by westerners as there ex-

isted the national solidarity with the strong Tatmadaw. Moreover, they lured national people by offering positions. They also set the national brethren against one another by sowing the seeds of discord among them. To launch the anti-colonialist movement, Myanmar people formed national political groups like YMBA and GCBA. Likewise, there broke out farmers movement led by Saya San, the oil-field workers' strike of 1300, and the university

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

students' boycott against colonial education. They showed their disapproval of the colonial education by opening national colleges and schools all over the country. Later on, the anti-colonialist movements of the people from all walks of life including monks changed from political campaign to armed

BIA because they believed that there would be resistance against any foreign troops and governments until Myanmar regained its independence as BIA was formed solely for that purpose. The Myanmar Tatmadaw, also known as BDA, coordinated with the entire national races possessing patriotism and national-

tandem with the people launched the nationwide anti-fascist resistance, which stood as a prominent event of Myanmar independence struggle. It was on 27 March of 1945, Anti-fascist resistance day, that the Myanmar Tatmadaw started life as the Tatmadaw founded with much blood and sweat

Myanma Tatmadaw for the people

struggle. Therefore, thirty comrades went to Japan to receive military training on Hainan island. They took measures making contacts with organizations within and without the country to prepare for

ism as well as with the People's Movement Party (Socialist Party) and the BCP in a bid to form AFPFL.

After reorganizing BDA as Myanmar Tatmadaw, military commands were established to fight the fascists. Pyay, Thayawady, Insein and Hinthada regions were designated as the military command-1; Hanthawady, Pyapon and Maubin regions as the military command-2; Patheingyi, Hinthada and Myaungmya regions as the military command-3; Bago, Shwegyin and Thaton regions as the

of national people who would never accept the governance of any foreign nations and as a shining and glittering white star on the red canvas. It is absolutely true that the Myanmar Tatmadaw has striven, is still striving and will continue to strive its utmost for the perpetuation of national freedom, defence and stability. To continue to carry out such tasks successfully throughout the course of history is the eternal commitment of the Myanmar Tatmadaw.

Myanmar national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan took part in the anti-fascist resistance in the earnest patriotic

Ketu Nila

for the independence of Myanmar. Later, the military columns entered Myanmar launching attacks on the British colonialists and recapturing Yangon on 8 March 1942.

At that time, there sparked another problem caused by the fascists. The fascists annulled civil administrative bodies set up by BIA and interfered in the military affairs of BIA. At last, they pronounced sham independence in Myanmar and reorganized BDA with the mere strength of 3,000 after abolishing BIA. They reduced the strength of

military command-4; Mawlamyine, Dawei and Myeik regions as the military command-5; Pyinmana, Toungoo and southern Shan State regions as the military command-6; and Thayet, Alan, Magway and Minbu regions as the military command-7.

Throughout the independence struggle, the Tatmadaw changed its name from BIA, to BDA, to Burma Army, and then to Burma Patriotic Army. The national and political course of Myanmar history had met its turning point. On 27 March in 1945, the Tatmadaw in

and nationalistic spirit by doing their bit. As they also informed the Tatmadaw of the fascists' operations, the Tatmadaw could launch guerrilla attacks on the fascists' bases and made them suffer loss of numerous lives and weapons. Thus, the fascists came to respect and fear the unity forged between the Tatmadaw and the people.

Although the Tatmadaw did get in touch with the British ally and received weaponry assistance and military training in fighting the fascists, it never let

(See page 9)



Patriotic Tatmadawmen who take part in the anti-fascist resistance.



Some of Thirty Comrades undergoing military training in a jungle.

(from page 8)
itself become the subordinate army of the British allied forces but stood on its own feet independently as Myanma Tatmadaw and attacked the fascists.

To give a brief account of Sittaung Basin battle, one of the prominent battles in the nationwide anti-fascist resistance by the Tatmadaw, it can be assumed that Sittaung Basin battle is the last one the Tatmadaw waged in the anti-fascist resistance.

The time was on 20 July of 1945, three weeks before the close of the Second World War in the Far East. On that day, the tens of thousands of the fascists from the No 28 fascist army came out of the jungle of Bago mountain range planning to retreat by penetrating British-controlled Yangon-Mandalay highway.

The fascists however encountered surprise attacks launched by Myanma Tatmadaw.

The fascist division with a total strength of over 20,000 suffered loss of many lives so heavily that it was at last reduced to the strength of some 7,000. At dawn on 10 June of 1945, No 106 Tatmadaw regiment (Yangon battalion) which would annihilate the fascists headed for Hmawby and

Htantabin through Yangon with more than 20 army vehicles fully loaded with Tatmadawmen and arrived at Bago on 4 July. They also passed through Bago, DaikU, Nyaunglaybin and Penwagon. On the narrow as well

one month from 14 July to 15 August of 1945. During the fight, the Tatmadaw fought six major battles, eight skirmishes, six patrol engagements, and 16 raft battles, killing over ten-thousand fascists and capturing 740 as prison-

ers of war. The world came to acknowledge the military prowess of the Tatmadaw, the national image of Myanmar people, at Sittaung Basin battles.

Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people waged the anti-colonialist struggle, the anti-fascist struggle and the national freedom struggle and established itself as a strong national Tatmadaw, Union Tatmadaw and Myanma Tatmadaw to become a national force. The Tatmadaw is not an organization which is subject to and is used by a certain organization influenced by a certain person. Nor is it a mercenary army. As the unity between the Tatmadaw and the people always flourishes, it is firmly believed that the Tatmadaw will shoulder the national responsibilities at the cost of their lives, blood and sweat always standing by the people.

as thickly-muddy road leading to Kunchaungwa, the easternmost part of Penwagon were some 30 army vehicles moving at a snail's pace crossing through a grassland.

They reached Kunchaungwa village at 4 pm on 12 July. The motor road ended there with Sittaung river laying at the top of the village. Sittaung river not only snaked away but also had a raging torrent. It being the rainy season, the waters at the foot of mountains were flowing angrily carrying with it everything that was on its way.

Moreover, at the river bands there were also full of whirlpools. The tiredness and weariness of Tatmadawmen crossing the river to reach Natthankwin village were hard and great.

The Tatmadaw fought Sittaung Basin battles over a period of

Field Marshall Slim from the British allied forces acknowledged that Sittaung Basin battle not only destroyed No 28 fascist army completely but also could crush militarism of the fascists.

After regaining the

Later, Myanma Tatmadaw (Navy) and Myanma Tatmadaw (Air) were also set up. In doing so, it was decided in the pre-independence period in July 1947 to build Myanma Tatmadaw (Navy) with the basic strength of two frigates, 13 naval vessels for port security, two minesweepers and three other ships.

During that time, the buildings belonging to the Royal Air Force

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Poem

Tatmadaw for the people

- * In each and every era
Of our history
Significantly outstand for the State
Comrades all, sacrificing life and blood
With arm outstretched, taking turns
We managed to be able to build.
- * On each and every page
Of our history
Our home, our nation, the Golden
Myanmar
With solidarity and capability
Getting strength to use as mast
We nurtured and succeeded.
- * Taking that success as witness
The nation of a new century
In military service, he endeavoured
With peace obtained, whole nation shines
To the prosperous station that lies ahead
Shouldering and carrying in turn
Transport in one manner
Or going forward companion like
That's Tatmadaw for the people
We have high regards, beloved comrade.

Thiha Aung (Trs)

were also handed over to Myanma Volunteer Air Force. As the strength of the force was very little, a total of 77 air force personnel were mobilized in October and November 1947 and were also given training. It was on 24 December of 1947 that Tatmadaw (Air) thus came into existence. Later on, Tatmadaw was integrated into the armed forces comprising Army, Navy and Air Force in November 1947.

Summing up, history stands witness to the fact that the Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people waged the anti-colonialist struggle, the anti-fascist struggle and

the national freedom struggle and established itself as a strong national Tatmadaw, Union Tatmadaw and Myanma Tatmadaw to become a national force.

The Tatmadaw is not an organization which is subject to and is used by a certain organization influenced by a certain person. Nor is it a mercenary army.

As the unity between the Tatmadaw and the people always flourishes, it is firmly believed that the Tatmadaw will shoulder the national responsibilities at the cost of their lives, blood and sweat always standing by the people.

Translation: KTY



Tatmadawmen of BIA entered Myanmar in 1941 to drive the colonialists out of the country.

UMFCCI President receives guests

YANGON, 11 March — Advisor of Representative's Office in Bangkok of Japan's Satake Corporation Mr Kobashi Masahiro and General Manager of Nichimen Co in Yangon Mr Masazumi Konishi, together with officials of Satake Corporation office in Yangon called on President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry U Win Myint at the head office of the UMFCCI here this afternoon. They discussed matters on modernization of rice mills and sending Myanmar rice millers on study tour to Satake rice mill in Bangkok. — MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့.

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ ဖြစ်သည်။
၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊မတ်လအတွက် (၁၄-၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့၊
(၂၀-၃-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့

Commander visits kidney transplant operations at Mandalay General Hospital

YANGON, 11 March — Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Secretary Lt-Col Kyi Thein and officials, arrived at the kidney surgical unit at Mandalay General Hospital on 9 March morning.

In the intensive care unit, the commander observed the health condition of patients who have undergone renal surgery and comforted them. At the hall of the kidney surgical unit, the commander watched on television the renal surgical operation being conducted in the surgical room.

The commander also watched the health condition of kidney donors and comforted them.

The renal surgical operation was conducted for

the third time by a team led by Director-General of the Health Department Dr Paing Soe with surgeons from Yangon General Hospital, Mandalay General Hospital and Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital, anaesthetists, renal specialists and assistant surgeons as members.

Transplant operations were successfully performed for Daw Saw Ma Ma, 37, kidney transplant patient, and U Hla Myint, her elder brother as well as her kidney donor, on 7 March; Ko Win Thura Lat, 27, kidney transplant patient, and Ma Win Yu Lat, 25, his younger sister as well as kidney donor, on 8 March; and Daw Aye Aye, 38, kidney transplant patient, and Daw Ni Ni, 43, her elder sister as well as kidney donor, on 9 March.

MNA

Study says milk good for gout

BOSTON, 11 March — Got milk for gout? Red meat and seafood are out. But milk and other dairy foods are in when it comes to preventing the painful foot ailment gout, according to a report released on Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"This is the first evidence that dairy products can be strongly protective" against the condition," said Dr. Hyon Choi of Massachusetts General Hospital, chief author of the study. They also found that vegetables once thought to contribute to gout, such as beans, peas, mushrooms, spinach and cauliflower, do not appear to be a factor in the disease.

"This study confirmed some of the suspicions about some foods and exonerated others, such as purine-rich vegetables, and it discovered some protective factors that had never been shown before," Choi told *Reuters*. Known as the "disease of kings and king of disease", gout is a form of arthritis caused when uric acid

crystallizes in the joints, usually in the feet and ankles. It has plagued royalty, Benjamin Franklin, Charles Darwin and Leonardo da Vinci. Today, it affects about five million adults in the United States.

The advice to avoid meat and consume milk products is not new. Philosopher John Locke recommended it in the 17th Century, said Richard Johnson of the University of Florida and Bruce Rideout of the Zoological Society of San Diego, in an editorial in the *Journal*. But it took the Health Professionals Follow-up Study, an ongoing evaluation of 47,150 male dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, pharmacists, veterinarians, and podiatrists, to confirm and quantify Locke's advice.

MNA/Reuters

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 11 March — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. — MNA



The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects accommodation,...

(from page 1)
Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended to their needs and gave instructions on emphasis to be laid on systematic drills of columns and companies, uplift of morale of Tatmadawmen and following of disciplines and measures to be taken for their health and happiness.

Then, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected hostels and kitchens of the parade companies, GEC shop of Yangon East District and Win Thuza Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win saw over public relations camps of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Ministry of Defence attached to the

parade columns and gave instructions that the public relations camps are to organize the contests on military code of conduct and the seven-step policies of the State and prizes are to be presented to the winners.

Then, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected book stalls, communication centres and welfare shops and fulfilled their needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win saw over drills practising of Nawade Column at the sports ground of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command in Thanhlyetsoon, here, and presented cash prize to outstanding companies.

At the office of the Nawade Column, Column Commander Capt Aung Thaw (Navy) reported on accommodation of parade companies and practising of drills. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave necessary instructions and attended to their needs.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looked into hostels, the mess and kitchen of the parade column and presented cash prize to outstanding cookery teams. He then inspected welfare shops and public relations camps of the parade companies.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to the local battalion in South Okkalapa Township and saw over drills practising of Aung San Column. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended to their needs and presented cash prize to outstanding parade companies. At the office of the Aung San Column, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win fulfilled their requirements after hearing reports on accommodation of parade companies and practising of drills by Column Commander Col Maung Maung Than.

Accompanied by Chairman of Management

Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected kitchen, the mess, hostels and public relations camps and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung) where Anawrahta, Bayintnaung and Aungzeya Columns are being accommodated. At the meeting hall, column commanders reported on accommodation and drills practising matters. After inspecting hostels, kitchen and the mess of the parade companies, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave necessary instructions to officials.

Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win cordially conversed with Tatmadawmen of parade companies and left there in the afternoon. — MNA

Prize-winning works of Youths Painting Contest for Myanmar-Thailand Cultural Identity announced

YANGON, 11 March — The Youths Painting Contest (2004) for Myanmar-Thailand Cultural Identity was held at the University of Culture (Yangon) on 2 and 3 March.

The grand prizes for oil paint went to Ma Khaing Oo Lwin (first year, painting, Yangon University of Culture) and Maung Zaw Ko Ko, third year, painting, State School of Fine Arts (Yangon); the grand prizes for water paint, to Ma Nyein Nyein Ei, fourth year, painting, Yangon University of Culture and Maung Win

Zaw, second year, painting, Mandalay University of Culture; the second prizes, to Maung Ye Kyaw Swa, third year, painting, Yangon University of Culture, Maung Thein Hsaing, first year, painting, State School for Fine Arts (Yangon), Maung Min Zeya Oo, second year, painting, State School for Fine Arts (Yangon), Maung Zaw Lin Naing, second year, painting, State School for Fine Arts (Mandalay), and Maung Saw Kyaw Zaw, fourth year, painting, State School for Fine Arts (Yangon); and consolation

prizes, to Maung Wai Phyto Thet, third year, painting, Mandalay University of Culture, Maung Shwe Thein, third year, painting, State School for Fine Arts (Yangon), Maung Sit Moe Aung, fourth year, painting, Yangon University of Culture, Maung Kyaw Win Hlaing, fourth year, painting, Yangon University of Culture, Maung Zin Min Hlaing, second year, painting, Yangon University of Culture, Ma Hsu Mon Ko Ko, fourth year, painting, Yangon University of Culture, Maung Kyaw Myo Than, third year, painting,

Yangon University of Culture, Ma Zin Mar Nwe, fourth year, painting, Yangon University of Culture, Ma Khaing Oo Lwin, first year, painting, Yangon University of Culture, and Maung Soe Min Than, fourth year, painting, Yangon University of Culture.

The prize-presentation ceremony will be held at the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum at 9 am on 13 March. The prize-winning works will be displayed at the venue from 13 until 15 March.

MNA

Iran blames US "bullying" for UN nuke resolution

VIENNA, 11 March — Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna said on Wednesday a draft nuclear resolution on Iran was the result of US "bullying" and European nations should have done more to stand up to Washington.

The United States said a resolution circulating among International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) board members would tell Iran it would be punished if it defied the watchdog, but stopped short of reporting Teheran to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

"The three European countries tried their best. We expected more from our European colleagues," Ambassador Pirooz Hosseini told reporters, describing the US approach to discussions in the governing board as an "act of bullying".

"We think that a lot of bullying is involved here by the Americans to subdue a healthy process here," Hosseini said.

"We think that the Americans do not want to accept the fact that Iran is not for nuclear weapons programmes."

The preliminary draft, still being revised by co-authors Australia and Canada, was the result of a compromise between the United States and its allies and France, Britain and Germany.

Last month, the European Union's "Big Three" told Iran they would try to block any resolution on Teheran's nuclear programme in exchange for Iran's promise to suspend everything related to its uranium enrichment programme.

MNA/Reuters



MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) delivers an address at the luncheon. — MNA

Chinese guests visit Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 11 March — The visiting four-member writers delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Chairman of the PRC Writers Association Mr Wang Chonglu, accompanied by officials of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, paid a visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

The members of the pagoda board of trustees conducted the guests round the pagoda. The delegation leader signed in the visitors' book and made cash donations to the pagoda fund through officials.

Later in the morning, the Chinese guests arrived at the PPE (Head Office) on Bo Aung Kyaw Street here and paid a call on Managing Director U Myint Thein. Also present at the call were PPE General Manager U Thet Soe, deputy general managers and Chief Editor of the Sarpay Beikman U Maung Hlaing (Maung Swe Nge).

The guests attended the luncheon hosted by Chairman of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) at the Oriental House Restaurant on Myomakyaung Road. It was also attended by Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, MWJA vice-chairmen, Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), joint secretaries, CEC members, Poet Laureate U Soe Nyunt (Hilar Sithu), and First Secretary of the Office of the Cultural Counsellor of the PRC Embassy Mr Pan Feng.

On the occasion, the MWJA chairman and the Chinese delegation leader extended greetings and exchanged souvenirs. U Soe Nyunt and writer Yuwady Khin Sein Hlaing presented books written by them to Mr Wang Chonglu. After the luncheon, the two sides exchanged gifts. — MNA

Cambodian leaders meet Chinese CPC delegation

PHNOM PENH, 11 March — Top Cambodian leaders met separately Wednesday with the visiting Chinese delegation headed by Li Jingtian, Vice Chairman of the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

During the meetings, Chairman of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and President of the Senate Chea Sim, Vice Chairman of the CPP and Prime Minister Hun Sen and Chairman of FUNCINPEC Party Prince Norodom Ranariddh and their Chinese counterpart briefed each other about their domestic conditions and exchanged views on Sino-Cambodian ties and regional and international issues of common concern.

Chea Sim and Hun Sen spoke highly of the steady and healthy development of friendly ties between Cambodia and China. They thanked CPC and the Chinese Government and

people for their active support and aid for the development cause of Cambodia over the past years. Prince Ranariddh highly commended the great progress the Chinese people have achieved in various fields under the leadership of the CPC. He said the FUNCINPEC Party will never change its friendship policy toward China at anytime and at any circumstance, and will support China's cause of peaceful reunification. All Cambodian leaders reaffirmed that Cambodia will continue to adhere to the "one China" policy and will firmly oppose Taiwan authorities' attempts to seek independence. Li Jingtian, who is also alternate member of the Central Committee of CPC, expressed thanks to Cambodia for its firm stand on the "one China" policy.

Li said the development of Sino-Cambodian good-neighbourly friendship is not only the common wish of the two peoples, but also serves the fundamental interest of the two peoples. He said China is willing to make joint efforts with Cambodia to elevate their good-neighbourly ties and friendly cooperation to a higher level.

Li and his delegation arrived here Monday evening on a five-day friendly visit at the invitation of the Cambodian People's Party. — MNA/Xinhua

China launches first biobank

GUANGZHOU, 11 March — China recently launched its first biobank, a database with information on people's medical history, lifestyle, occupation and blood sample for DNA analysis in Guangzhou, capital of South China's Guangdong Province.

The programme, jointly funded by the Guangzhou No 12 People's Hospital, the University of Hong Kong and the Britain-based University of Birmingham, aims to create profiles for 50,000 Guangzhou people aged above 50 in four to five years, Wednesday's Beijing *Youth Daily* reported.

"By tracing their information for a few years, we hope to investigate and determine genetic factors that caused some fatal diseases, such as malignant tumours, coronary heart disease and diabetes," said Jiang Chaoqiang, hospital director and also one of the three leading project managers. Information collection on the first 10,000 elderly people is scheduled to be finished by September, according to the hospital. We target elderly people as the incidence of diseases is high among this group. A five to ten year monitoring will probably provide some results," said Jiang.

"Another reason is that they don't change their job and residence as often as the young and therefore are easy to be traced." All the blood samples in the project could be used by the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Britain parties, but are solely owned by the hospital, which has invested heavily to prepare liquid nitrogen tanks to store the samples, according to Jiang. — MNA/Xinhua

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့် ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွံစား၍ စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သော ရောဂါများမှာ အသည့်၊ ရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည့်ခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအနံ့ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြော ထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါ များဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ —
၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်၊ နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗလများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများ ခန္ဓာကိုယ်ပေါ် ရုစိစိ သွားသလို ခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန့်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိပဲ နားထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံ များကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Halluncinosis)။

၃။ အတက်ကြွ ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits)

(ဝက်ရုပ်မြန် ရောဂါ ကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း

(Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက် ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ခနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှု ကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆို ကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက် သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန်တိုက်တွန်း အပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေး ဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေး ဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျ ကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

“သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်”

ခရီးသည်တင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုဖွင့်သို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည် ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီ ထုတ်ဝေ ထားပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများ အတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက် တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင်ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာအရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနည်းများ သို့တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၃၉၉)

(၂) ကြို့မဲကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူးရုံး(ဖုန်း ၂၉၁၂၅၇/၂၉၁၂၅၄)

(၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ

(ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၇/၅၄၁၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းမှု သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ဖြည့်ဝခြင်းကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကို စားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုမိုများကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာ ဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တင့်မျှတသော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့အန္တရာယ်မှကာကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့ထောင်ဖြင့်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်လုံအိမ်သားကိုသုံးစွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက် မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

မီးဘေးရှောင်

မလောင်ခင်တား

Car theft rampant in Czech Republic

PRAGUE, 11 March — Car theft has become more rampant in the Czech Republic with one car stolen for every 25 minutes, according to information released by the Interior Ministry.

An average of 25,000 cars are stolen in the nation annually. Most of the stolen cars are smuggled to countries of the former So-

viet Union, Yugoslavia and Italy. Every tenth car on the used car market reportedly have something to do with criminal activities.

Besides, thieves also target at spare parts. "In this respect the thieves do not shun any model, which is decided by demand on the market," the ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua

AIDS is a national concern.

စာအုပ်ရေးခြင်း ခေတ်စီမံမှု ပိုမိုတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

Study backs coffee as protective against diabetes

CHICAGO, 11 March — A study done in Finland, the heaviest coffee drinking country, provides more evidence that the world's most widely consumed beverage may ward off adult onset diabetes, researchers said on Tuesday.

The apparent protective effect, the mechanism of which remains a mystery, increased with consumption. Women who downed 10 or more cups a day had nearly an 80 per cent lowered risk, while men who drank the same cut their risk by 55 per cent.

Finnish average about nine cups of coffee daily and the country tops world per capita consumption at more than 24 pounds 10.8 kilos per person annually, the study said.

The findings from the National Public Health Institute in Helsinki are similar to results from other recent studies.

In January, Harvard researchers said a look at 125,000 people found men who drank six cups a day cut their diabetes

risk by half over 12 to 18 years, while women who drank that amount had a 30 per cent lowered risk. A recent Dutch study also found similar effects.

"This study revealed unequivocal evidence for an inverse and graded association between coffee consumption and type-II (diabetes) independent of other risk factors," said the report published in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"Because the Finnish population drinks more coffee than other populations, we had power to determine the risk of (diabetes) at high levels of coffee consumption," the authors added.

They said the reasons for the apparent beneficial effects remain unclear, though it was possible that chlorogenic acid in coffee may indirectly help regulate blood glucose levels. It is also well documented that caffeine stimulates insulin secretion by the pancreas, the report said.

Type-II diabetes, the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, is linked to obesity and lack of exercise. It causes the body to lose its ability to use insulin properly to metabolize food, especially sugar. Type-I or juvenile diabetes is a different disease caused by the destruction of key pancreatic cells. —MNA/Reuters

Indonesia's dengue fever death toll hits 408

JAKARTA, 11 March — Indonesia's dengue fever outbreak has killed more than 400 people this year and the number of cases could keep rising, health officials said on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Health Ministry said the death toll from dengue since the start of the year was 408 people, with 29,643 cases across the archipelago.

Thomas Suroso, director for animal-borne diseases at the Health Ministry, said infections had started to decline in some parts of Indonesia, but Jakarta was still one of a number of trouble spots with growing cases.

"Maybe it will still increase in the next one to two months as the rainy season peaks, then it might start to decline," Suroso said, referring to the number of cases nationally. Hospitals are full of dengue patients. At one major government hospital in Jakarta on Wednesday, pa-

tients in cots lined the hallways because of a lack of space. Despite the virulence of the outbreak, the World Health Organization has said it was not likely to be the result of a new strain of the virus. It has said the outbreak was probably part of a five-year cycle common in tropical countries.

The Aedes aegypti mosquito, which carries the disease, lives and reproduces around stagnant puddles of water common in inner-city slums during the rainy season from October to April.

The disease strikes annually during the rainy season in Indonesia. But the toll so far in 2004 is more than double that at the same time last year. —MNA/Reuters

Brazilian police break top diamond ring

BRASILIA, 11 March — Brazilian police have arrested leaders from one of the nation's top diamond smuggling rings who are accused of illegally mining precious stones from an Amazon Indian reserve and shipping them abroad.

The accused head of the ring, Marcos Glikas, an Indian leader and three police officers were among 14 people arrested on charges of illegal mining on the Rondonia State reserve and the formation of a gang to smuggle diamonds and launder money.

"We've got the leaders of the gang, those that had the funds to finance the crime," said Federal Police Agent Marcos Pereira in Rondonia, after a yearlong investigation involving 100 agents.

Miners and buyers have long seen the Roosevelt Indian reserve in Rondonia as a diamond treasure trove in mineral-rich Brazil.

Rumours of massive diamond strikes have prompted thousands of wildcat miners or "garimpeiros" to try to invade the area in recent years.

Illegal mining is now largely run by the Cinta Larga or "broad belt" Indians who live in the reserve, a federal police agent said. Diamond mining on Indian lands is illegal in Brazil.

MNA/Reuters

Washington sniper Muhammad sentenced to die October 14

MANASSAS, 11 March — A judge sentenced John Muhammad to death on Tuesday for one of 10 sniper-style murders that terrorized the Washington area in 2002 and set 14 October as the execution date.

As expected, Judge LeRoy Millette confirmed last November's guilty verdict and death sentence by a jury and brushed aside Muhammad's appeal, which had argued his conviction was based on guesswork and emotion, rather than facts and law.

Before the sentence was passed, Muhammad again insisted he was innocent of the crimes that brought a reign of fear over the US capital area, when victims were shot at random as they walked to school, mowed grass or waited at bus stops.

"I had nothing to do with it," Muhammad told the court.

The former Gulf War veteran was sentenced by a Virginia Beach jury for killing

Dean Meyers, a 53-year-old Maryland man who was shot as he refuelled his car in Manassas, Virginia. The trial had been moved to Virginia Beach, some 200 miles away, to avoid a prejudiced jury.

Muhammad accomplice Lee Malvo, who was 17 at the time of the killings, faces his sentencing hearing on Wednesday, when a judge will have to decide whether to confirm the jury's recommendation of life in prison. Malvo had faced a possible death sentence.

Muhammad is expected to lodge further appeals, which almost certainly will delay the execution.

MNA/Reuters

Bush might be questioned longer by 9/11 commission

WASHINGTON, 11 March — The White House said on Tuesday it was possible US President George W Bush could be questioned longer than the hour he agreed to by a commission investigating the September 11, 2001, attacks, an apparent concession that came after criticism from Democrat John Kerry.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan, asked several times if Bush would stick to his insistence the session before the commission be restricted to one hour, said it was scheduled for an hour but that "the President of course is going to answer all the questions they want to raise". "Nobody's watching the clock," he said.

The shift in position

came a day after the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Senator Kerry of Massachusetts, attacked Bush on the issue at a time when the President was visiting a rodeo in Houston. He had criticized Bush for agreeing to spend only an hour with the commission.

"It's good to see that the President has finally found

time in his schedule to spend more than an hour with the 9/11 commission to investigate the greatest intelligence failure in our nation's history. I think all Americans hope that his cooperation with the commission will lead to real answers instead of more stonewalling," Kerry said in a statement issued by his campaign.

MNA/Reuters

USAF investigating sexual assaults involving its personnel

WASHINGTON, 11 March — Prompted by nearly 100 accusations of rape involving US Air Force personnel in the Pacific region, the service said on Tuesday it has launched an investigation into how sexual assaults are being dealt with. The move is the latest in a growing series of incidents detailing problems of sexual attacks and alcohol abuse in the US military.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last month also ordered a probe into Pentagon measures to prevent sex attacks within the ranks after a spate of reports of male troops abusing female comrades in Iraq and Kuwait. The Army has launched a similar investigation of those incidents. Air Force officials on Tuesday confirmed a *New York Times* report that at least 92 accusations of rape involving Air Force personnel in the Pacific were reported to military authorities there from 2001 to 2003.

The findings in that newly released study suggested major flaws in reporting sexual assault claims and assistance to victims. The inquiry focused on air bases in South Korea, Japan, Guam, Singapore, Hawaii, Alaska and the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

Air Force officials on Tuesday released a letter from General Michael Moseley, the service's Vice-Chief of Staff, to all major commands ordering an assessment of sexual assault programmes.

"Striving to eliminate sexual assault and the climate that fosters it," was the top goal listed by Moseley in the letter, dated February 24. He also emphasized ensuring an environment where victims have confidence to report and conducting appropriate investigation and prosecution of incidents.

MNA/Reuters

Ancient earthen pot with ostrich design unearthed in W China

LANZHOU, 11 March — An ancient earthen pot with an ostrich design painted on the body, the first of its kind ever discovered in China, has been unearthed in Linyao City, western China's Gansu Province.

The 28-centimetre-tall pot, discovered by local peasants, has a pair of asymmetrical handles at the neck and the body respectively.

At the lower part of the pot are 10 ostriches of different forms and poses. Some are jumping and some are running, some have two feet while some have only one.

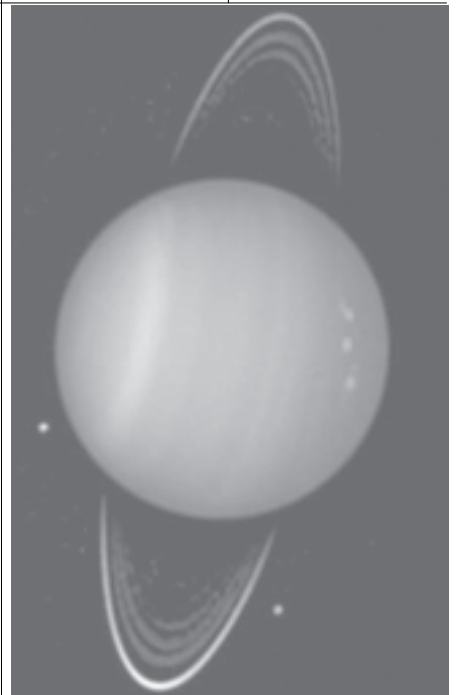
Wang Haidong, deputy director of Gansu painted pottery research association, said the painted earthen pot dated back about 3,200 years, belonging to the Majiayao

culture type (about 3,300 BC to 2,050 BC).

"It's the first time an ostrich design on an ancient painted pottery has been found in China," said Wang.

"Designs on ancient vessels often reflect the lives and environments of their makers, so it is possible that ostriches may have lived in Gansu region about 3,000 years ago. It is an important clue for research on the ecological environment at that time," Wang said.

MNA/Xinhua



This NASA Hubble Space Telescope Advanced Camera for Surveys image of Uranus reveals the planet's faint rings and several of its satellites. —INTERNET

S P O R T S

Robson says Newcastle need to step it up

NEW CASTLE (England), 11 March — Newcastle United manager Bobby Robson says his team have struggled to recapture last season's form as they target a fourth-place finish in the Premier League and winning the UEFA Cup.

Robson knows his team have to improve to mount a serious European challenge, as they prepare to face Spanish side Real Mallorca in their UEFA Cup fourth-round first-leg tie at St. James' Park on Thursday.

"We now have two big targets, the UEFA Cup and

the Premiership fourth place," Robson told reporters on Wednesday. "We have to step it up and put it right and we are all working together on it."

"We are aware we are not playing some football as well as last year. I heard some ridiculous comments the other day saying we had played one minute of football all season."

"It is too ridiculous for words but we have not been as fluent as some times last season."

"We don't keep the ball as well, lose it too easily and

because of that we don't build up attacks."

"But we are still difficult to beat. We are fourth, not eighth or 12th. We are not easy knockovers."

Newcastle finished third in the Premier League last season but failed to progress beyond the preliminary stages of the Champions League after losing on penalties to Partizan Belgrade in August.

After a stuttering start to the season, they are now fourth in the top flight and within reach of a Champions League berth for next season, but competition is fierce with Birmingham City, Charlton Athletic and Liverpool all close behind.

MNA/Reuters



Ecuador's Liga Deportiva Universitaria player Patricio Urrutia, fights for the ball against Brazil's Sao Paulo player Souza, during a Libertadores de America Cup soccer game in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 10 Mar, 2004.—INTERNET

German World Cup organizers shaken by bribe case

BERLIN, 11 March — Germany's World Cup organizers said on Wednesday they were "shaken" and deeply hurt by charges of corruption that have been levelled at top Munich soccer executives over the construction of the city's new stadium.

But leaders of the 2006 Organizing Committee, stressing they had nothing to do with the criminal investigation that was made public on Tuesday, said they were confident the stadium would be completed in time for the opening match of the finals.

"It's terribly painful," said Wolfgang Niersbach, vice-president of the Organizing Committee.

ing Committee.

"We've always worked in a clean, clear and transparent fashion, and that was to be our motto for 2006. That this was possible at all hurts very much."

He said committee president Franz Beckenbauer was "also shaken" by the probe by prosecutors into TSV 1860 Munich executives on suspicion they took bribes from a company that won the bid to build the 280-million-euro (350-million-US-dollar) stadium.

"I can only sincerely hope, based on what the finals mean for our country, that there won't be anything else emerging that we don't know about today," Niersbach told NDR radio when asked about fears of irregularities at other stadium projects.

Germany's Interior Minister Otto Schily, who is responsible for sport, said he hoped the probe would move forward quickly and rigorously to "limit the damage" to Germany's World Cup.

Karl-Heinz Wildmoser, his son, who holds a management position at the stadium's holding company, and two others were arrested on Tuesday, Munich prosecutors said.

They are under suspicion of getting a 2.8-million-euro (3.5-million-US-dollar) bribe from Austrian construction company Alpine during the bidding process for the contract for the 66,000-seat stadium known as the Allianz Arena, the prosecutors said.

MNA/Reuters

Monaco squeeze through on away goals rule

MONACO, 11 March — French league leaders Monaco squeezed through to the quarterfinals of the Champions League, winning on away goals after beating 10-man Lokomotiv Moscow 1-0 on Wednesday for a 2-2 aggregate draw.

A solitary strike, after 60 minutes, by Croatian forward Dado Prso, who scored four goals earlier in the season against Deportivo Coruna, enabled Monaco to take their place in Friday's last eight draw.

Their 1-0 victory on the night meant the tie finished 2-2 on aggregate and Monaco progressed on the away goals rule, Fernando Morientes' strike in their 2-1 defeat in Moscow proving vital.

Lokomotiv were reduced to ten players when their captain Dmitry Loskov was sent off after only 22 minutes following a foul on Morientes, for which he was shown a yellow card, and then dissent for which he was shown his second and, with it, a red card.

MNA/Reuters

Henry fires Arsenal into Champions League quarters

LONDON, 11 March — Thierry Henry steered Arsenal into the Champions League quarterfinals on Wednesday after scoring both goals in a comfortable 2-0 win over 10-man Celta Vigo.

Arsenal, who won their first knockout round first leg tie 3-2 a fortnight ago, rounded off a 5-2 aggregate victory after Henry struck in the 14th and 34th minutes at Highbury.

The Premier League leaders were already set for the last eight when Celta's Pablo Contreras was sent off in the 74th minute for a second yellow card, a bodycheck on fellow substitute Jose Antonio Reyes.

Arsenal failed to exploit the extra man, but never loosened their grip on a game that brought the FA Cup semifinalists a step closer to emulating Manchester United's 1999 Treble.

Their fluid passing game and movement off the ball proved too much for Celta, while Henry's first Champions League goals at Highbury in over two years put the outcome beyond doubt.

Celta made a bright enough start, winning a series of corners and trying their luck from distance before striker Mauricio Pinilla sprinted through on the break only for his

shot to be blocked.

Any Arsenal nerves were soon settled, though, when Dutch playmaker Dennis Bergkamp took possession on the edge of the area and twisted and turned his markers before slipping the ball through for Henry to rifle past Pablo Cavallero.

The goal prompted gleeful Highbury chants of "Are You Watching Manchester?", a day after arch-rivals United were knocked out of the Champions League at Old Trafford by Porto.

Celta's response was a dipping 25-metre shot from Peter Luccin which Arsenal keeper Jens Lehmann pushed over the bar.

But there was more punishment for the Spanish side in the 34th minute after another neat passing move by the hosts.

Bergkamp, fresh after being rested for Saturday's 5-1 FA Cup quarterfinal demolition of Portsmouth, laid the ball back for Fredrik Ljungberg, whose cross was touched by Fernando Caceres on its way to giving the unmarked Henry an easy finish at the far post.—MNA/Reuters

Lyon celebrate Champions League break through

LYON, France, 11 March — Olympique Lyon are relishing their place among Europe's elite having reached the quarterfinals of the Champions League for the first time.

Brazilian midfielder Juninho Pernambucano's 77th-minute goal gave the French club, who are also second in the Ligue 1 title race, a 1-0 win over Spain's Real Sociedad on Tuesday and a 2-0 aggregate triumph in the first knockout phase tie.

"Now there is going to be a lot of pressure on the team and the players. We are playing for the (French) championship and we are in the last eight in Europe," Juninho said.

"We are making our mark. These are matches of reference for us now. It is the first time that this club has reached this level."

"We have to adapt to it and be ready. A hero? Me? No, perhaps it is because I scored the goal, but it was the whole team that did the job. If it is me or someone else, it is not important who scores the goals."

Juninho says he would love it if Lyon were drawn against nine-times champions Real Madrid in the last eight.

"To play Real Madrid would, of course, bring me great pleasure," said Juninho, the

key midfielder in Paul Le Guen's well-organized side.

"They have some Brazilians and it would be nice to meet them. But the most important thing for Lyon is that we keep making progress." Juninho's goal against Sociedad was his fifth in this season's Champions League, making him the competition's second highest scorer.

"For me it is very satisfying just to be here at a time when we are reaching another level with the team and the club," he added.

"It was a very difficult match, as we expected, and as all matches in the Champions League can be. Maybe we did not play as well as we can, in possession, but we still deserved to go through."

While Juninho played down his own prominent role, coach Le Guen explained why he left experienced Brazilian striker Giovane Elber out of his starting line-up.

"We needed a strong, physical and combative midfielder, as we did in the first leg," he said. "I felt that was important and so we did that."—MNA/Reuters



Bayern Munich's Brazilian player Ze Roberto, right, gets past Real Madrid's Michel Salgado during their 2nd leg UEFA Champions League soccer match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid, on 10 March, 2004. Real Madrid won the game 1-0.—INTERNET

15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36 Victories of the State,
the People and the
Tatmadaw "Agriculture
Sector"
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Fishery In Kayin State
15:45 National News
15:50 Expedition of Rare
Crocodile Species In-
habiting in Fresh And
Seawaters (IV)
15:55 Kachin Traditional
Crop, Feast and
Drum Dance
16:00 National News
16:05 Leisurely Cruise Along
the Coast (Mawla-
myaing to Myeik)



Friday, March 12

View today:

7:00 am

1. ကော့ဇာရှင် မင်းကွန်ဆာရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံသေဗဟာ
နာယက အစိုးအကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊
အဘိုးဗေဟာရှင် ဂုဏ်၊ အဘိုးဗေအဂ္ဂ
ဗဟာသဗ္ဗမဟာဓာတ်က တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မ
ဘူရာဂါရုဘ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဉ္စနိဝိတ္ထ
သောရာဇိသံသေ ဟီ ပရိတ်ဘုရားတော်
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
5. ရိုးရာကော့လတ်ကစားရုံညှိုး
- 8:00 am
6. အဘိုးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
7. The mirror images of the
musical oldies
- 8:20 am
8. မြူးဗော့ဒ်တံတား

16:10 Song "Let go of me"
16:15 National News
16:20 From Poppies to Luscious Fields and Enterprises (Part-I)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
16:30 National News
16:35 Marine Products in
Myeik
16:40 Progressing Cultivation
in Northern Shan State
16:45 National News
16:50 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctuary
16:55 Brave Youth Showing
His Strength & Ability
17:00 National News
17:05 Myanmar Traditional
Marionette "The Royal
Page Dance"
17:10 Song on Screen "My
Ardent Wish"
17:15 National News
17:20 Pride of Place in Bagan
(The Ananda Temple)
17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(10:30 - 11:30)

19:30 **(19:30 - 23:30)**
Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
Ornamental Jewellery
of Outstanding Designs
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Pickled Herbal Tea
Leaves of Myanmar
19:45 **National News**
19:50 Making of Traditional
Lacquerware
19:55 Auspicious Glory
20:00 **National news**
20:05 Expedition of Rare
Crocodile Species In-
habiting in Fresh And
Seawaters (III)
20:10 Song "I'll remain in
Shwe Myaing"
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Myanma Ancient Orna-
ments Showroom
20:25 Song "Invitations from
Manaw Land"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Pa-na-na Aae Khan
Gita Than (Welcoming
myanmar, a curtain raiser)
20:40 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Golden Jubilee of
Myanmar Motion Pic-
tures

20:55	Scenic Beauty of Tiddim & Cultural Dance
21:00	National News
21:05	Medicinal Plants at Popa Mountain Park
21:08	Myanmar Modern Song "Love that didn't bring us together"
21:10	Mogoke Gem-mining Enterprise
21:15	National News
21:20	Leisurely Cruise Along The Coast (Yangon to Mawlamyaing)
21:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35	Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Agriculture Sector"
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Fishery In Kayin State
21:45	National News
21:50	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (IV)
21:55	Kachin Traditional New Crop Feast and Drum Dance
22:00	National News
22:05	Leisurely Cruise Along the Coast (Mawlamyaing to Myeik)
22:10	Song "Let go of me"
22:15	National News
22:20	From Poppies to Luscious Fields and Enterprises (Part-I)
22:25	Song "Pleasant Kayah"
22:30	National News
22:35	Marine Products in Myeik
22:40	Progressing Cultivation in Northern Shan State
22:45	National News
22:50	Inlay Wild Bird Sanctuary
22:55	Brave Youth Showing His Strength & Ability
23:00	National News
23:05	Myanmar Traditional Marionette "The Royal Page Dance"
23:10	Song on Screen "My Ardent Wish"
23:15	National News
23:20	Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
23:28	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**12-3-2004 (Friday) &
13-3-2004 (Saturday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30-1:30)**

23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar

	Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36	Popa Flat-topped Hill (Taung Ka Lat)
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Fishery In Kayin State
23:45	National News
23:50	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (IV)
23:55	Kachin Traditional New Crop Feast and Drum Dance
24:00	National News
00:05	Leisurely Cruise Along the Coast (Mawla-myaying to Myeik)
00:10	Song "Let go of me"
00:15	National News
00:20	From Poppies to Luscious Fields and Enterprises (Part-I)
00:25	Songs of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
00:30	National News
00:35	Marine Products in Myeik
00:40	Progressing Cultivation in Northern Shan State
00:45	National News
00:50	Inlay Wild Bird Sanctuary
00:55	Brave Youth Showing His Strength & Ability
01:00	National News
01:05	Myanmar Traditional Marionette "The Royal Page Dance"
01:10	Song on Screen "My Ardent Wish"
01:15	National News
01:20	Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

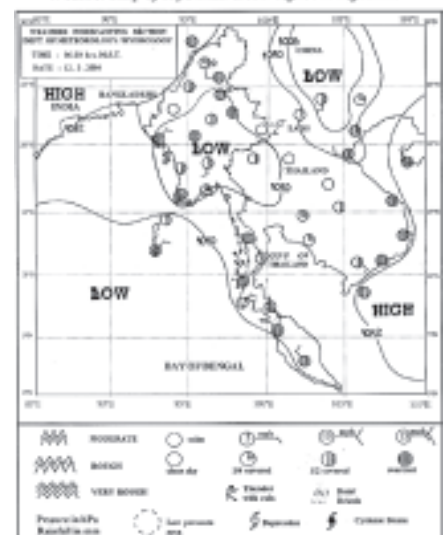
13-3-2004 (Saturday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)

03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
03:36 Ornamental Jewellery
of Outstanding Designs
03:40 Headline News
03:42 Pickled Herbal Tea
Leaves of Myanmar
03:45 National News
03:50 Making of Traditional
Lacquerware
03:55 Auspicious Glory
04:00 National News
04:05 Expedition of Rare

	Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Saltwaters (III)
04:10	Song "I'll remain in Shwe Myaing"
04:15	National News
04:20	Myanmar Ancient Ornaments Showroom
04:25	Song "Invitations from Manaw Land"
04:30	National News
04:35	Pa-na-ma Aae Khan Gita Than (Welcoming music, a curtain raiser)
04:40	Mosaic Painting of Myanmar
04:45	National News
04:50	Golden Jubilee of Myanmar Motion Pictures
04:55	Scenic Beauty of Tiddim & Cultural Dance
05:00	National News
05:05	Medicinal Plants at Popa Mountain Park
05:08	Myanmar Modern Song "Love that didn't bring us together"
05:10	Mogok Gem-mining Enterprise
05:15	National News
05:20	Leisurely Cruise Along The Coast (Yangon to Mawlamyaing)
05:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
05:35	Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Agriculture Sector"
05:40	Headline News

05:42	Fishery In Kayin State
05:45	National News
05:50	Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (IV)
05:55	Kachin Traditional New Crop Feast and Drum Dance
06:00	National News
06:05	Leisurely Cruise Along the Coast (Mawla-myai to Myeik)
06:10	Song "Let go of me"
06:15	National News
06:20	From Poppies to Luscious Fields and Enterprises (Part-I)
06:25	Song "Pleasant Kayah"
06:30	National News
06:35	Marine Products in Myeik
06:40	Pressing Cultivation in Northern Shan State
06:45	National News
06:50	Inlay Wild Bird Sanctuary
06:55	Brave Youth Showing His Strength & Ability
07:00	National News
07:05	Myanmar Traditional Marionette "The Royal Page Dance"
07:10	Song "My Ardent Wish"
07:15	National News
07:20	Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
07:28	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 11 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin Chin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan States, Mandalay, Magway, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant temperature were (40°C) each in Minbu and Magway.

Maximum temperature on 10-3-2004 was 37.2°C (99°F). Minimum temperature on 11-3-2004 was 18.8°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-3-2004 was 74%. Total sun shine hours on 10-3-2004 was (8.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 11-3-2004 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 10 mph from Southwest at (15:45) hours MST on 10-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 12-3-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-3-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-3-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Friday, March 12

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
	-Sweet kisses (Coobaya)
	-Happy nation (Ace of base)
9.00 pm	Special talk in honour of the 59th anniversary Armed Forces Day: Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong
9.15 pm	Article/Music
9.25 pm	Music at your request
	-Owner of my heart (Sahaha)
	-Alone (Bee Gees)
9.45 pm	News/Slogan
10.00 pm	PEL

Commander inspects Kyaukni agriculture and livestock breeding farm

YANGON, 11 March — Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman and Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, accompanied by departmental officials, arrived at Kyaukni agriculture and livestock breeding farm of the command on 7 March morning.

At the briefing hall of the farm, the commander heard reports on arrangements for agriculture and

livestock breeding work, the reclamation of farmland, the construction of dams for irrigation water, the storage of water in dams, the supply of electricity, and cultivation of perennial trees.

In response to the reports, the commander gave instructions on cultivation of ten major crops on farmland, the undertaking of livestock breeding work, and the cultivation of per-

ennial crops. Next, a local farmer reported to the commander on condition of crops cultivated by 116 farmers on Kyaukni farmland. After hearing the reports, the commander attended to the requirements.

Later, the commander inspected the progress made in construction of dams in the farm, giving instructions on cultivation of shady trees and the installation of power lines in the area. — MNA

Seminar on International Planned Parenthood Federation's strategy opened

YANGON, 11 March — A ceremony to open a seminar on strategy of IPPF, jointly organized by the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), was held at Mindon Hall at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning, with an address delivered by Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, President of MMCWA.

Present on the occasion were Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, President of the Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division MCWA Daw Khin Thet Htay, Resident Representative of UN Population Funds Mr Najib M Assifi, Director-General of the Health Department Dr Wan Maung and officials, Director of IPPF of Southeast Asia and the Pacific Datuk

Dr Raj Karim and officials, presidents of supervisory committees for MCWA at states and divisions, and guests.

On the occasion, Joint-Secretary of MMCWA Dr Nwe Oo read out the agenda of the opening ceremony.

Next, Datuk Dr Raj Karim extended greetings, followed by a general round of discussions concerning the IPPF's strategy.

MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe addresses opening of seminar on strategy of IPPF, jointly organized by MMCWA and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).— MNA

Preliminary meeting to build Youth Nurturing Unit held

YANGON, 11 March — Under the arrangement of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, the preliminary meeting to build Youth Nurturing Unit in Tima Village, Namh-un Village-tract, Muse Township, was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday afternoon. Present were Chairman of CCDAC Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and officials of the Health Department, the Social Welfare Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Myanmar Agriculture Service, the Technical and Vocational Education Department, the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and Myanmar Police Force.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that there exists a large number of drug addicts in Shan State (North) area according to the current data. This is why drug addict treatment hospitals and clinics are required in the region. Shan State (North) Additional Police Force Commander Police Col Win Naing and party supervised land preparation tasks in Tima Village. On 4 March morning, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint of North-East Command and the Deputy Director-General of MPF drove stakes for construction of the unit.

Next, the Deputy Director-General of MPF reported on the lay-out plan of the unit and strength of staff. Those present submitted their reports. The Minister then gave necessary instructions.— MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing speaking at preliminary meeting to build Youth Nurturing Unit.— HOME AFFAIRS

Bago Division GAD holds meeting

YANGON, 11 March — The General Administration Department of Bago Division held a work coordination meeting at Bayintnaung Hall in Toungoo on 8 March.

The meeting was attended by Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Secretary Lt-Col Thein Lwin, the director of the department, officials and local authorities. At the meeting, the commander explained matters related to responsibilities of the department and urged officials concerned to cooperate in the regional development work and help implement the seven-point policy programme of the State.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe views competitions at Armed Forces Day Commemorative Computer Quiz.— MNA

Armed Forces Day Commemorative Computer Quiz opened

YANGON, 11 March — A ceremony to open the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Computer Quiz, organized by the 12 Objectives of the State Exhibition Organizing Committee, was held at Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Ceremony Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-

Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of the Working Committee for Organizing the 12 Objectives of the State Exhibition Director of Resettlements of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Aung Thein, senior military officers, departmental officials, guests and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Director of Resettlements of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Aung Thein gave an opening speech. Next, the commander accepted K 1.2 million for the preparations for the exhibition donated by SMI Co Ltd; and K 1 million by MHLG Co Ltd.

Assistant Lecturer U Khin Maung Win of Yangon University of Computer Studies explained the questions in the quiz. Then, USDA members answered the questions. The commander, the director and officials viewed round the competitions.

Altogether 75 USDA members of Kamayut, Tamway and Thanlyin townships participated in the quiz which will last up to 20 March.— MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives
Tatmadaw always in the service of the nation and its people
Page 2

Circulation

22,707

မိုးတေးအနွှာ ရာပယ်

အခွင့်သတိပြု ကာကွယ်