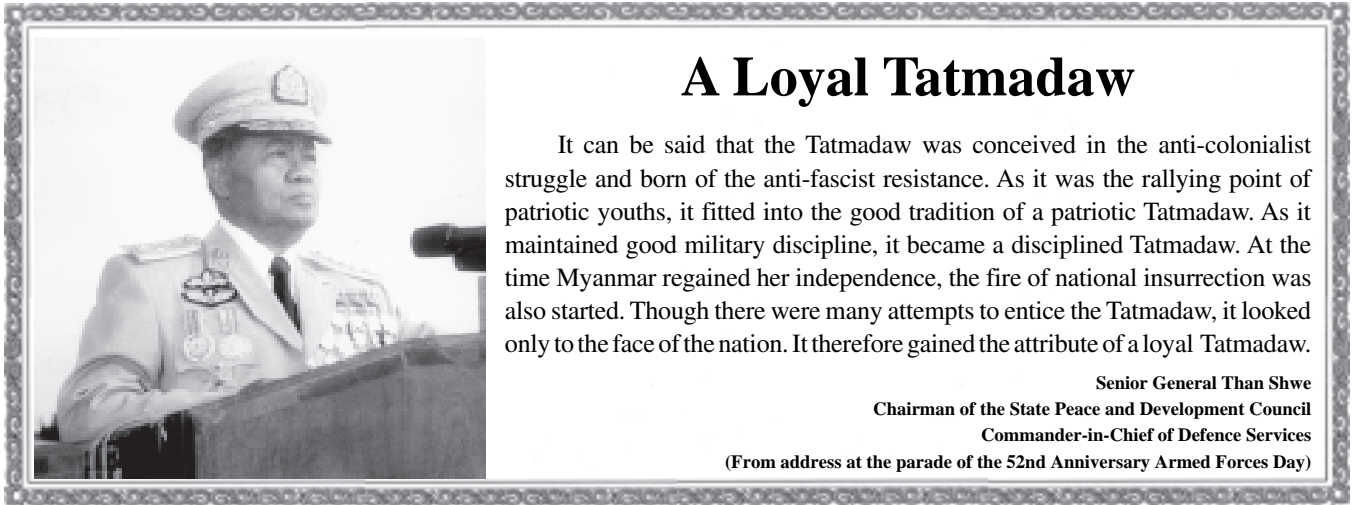


# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 15 March, 2004



## A Loyal Tatmadaw

It can be said that the Tatmadaw was conceived in the anti-colonialist struggle and born of the anti-fascist resistance. As it was the rallying point of patriotic youths, it fitted into the good tradition of a patriotic Tatmadaw. As it maintained good military discipline, it became a disciplined Tatmadaw. At the time Myanmar regained her independence, the fire of national insurrection was also started. Though there were many attempts to entice the Tatmadaw, it looked only to the face of the nation. It therefore gained the attribute of a loyal Tatmadaw.

**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 52nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

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#### Circulation

22,831

## People can now enjoy development, peace and stability and prosperity General Thura Shwe Mann attends opening of runway of Pathein Airport

YANGON, 14 March—In honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open the runway of Pathein Airport that has already been built in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division, was held this morning with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence.

To attend the ceremony, General Thura Shwe Mann, accompanied by Com-

mander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, arrived at Pathein Airport in Ayeyawady Division from Yangon by special aircraft at 7.30 am. They were welcomed there by Chairman of the Central Body for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe and civil and military officials. Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party attended the ceremony being held at the pandal of the airport. Also present on the oc-

casions were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of social organizations, band troupe, pom pom troupe, aerobic troupe, students and local people.

First, the ceremony to open the runway of Pathein Airport was held at the pandal of the airport with an address by Chairman of the Central Body for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development

Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the runway of the airport opened today is of concrete type and it is 8500 feet long and 100

feet wide, adding the length of the facility in which Fokkar F-28 Jet can easily take off and touch down will be extended to 12,000 feet.

(See page 10)



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses opening ceremony of Pathein Airport.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann extends greetings at opening ceremony of the runway of Pathein Airport.—MNA

**59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day  
commemorative  
special features on pages 7, 8 and 9.**



## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 15 March, 2004

### Potable water supply in rural areas

In April 1999, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on implementing the 10-year plan on supply of potable water in all villages in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions in the tropical region where water is scarce.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, 1169 wells have been dug in the three divisions and other state and divisions with the contribution of the State, wellwishers and NGOs.

The seventh cash donation ceremony for supply of potable water in rural areas of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at the meeting hall of the Development Affairs Department in Thanhlyetsoon, Botahtaung Township on 12 March, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address the Secretary-1 said that the potable water supply projects directly benefit the people and that making contributions towards the projects amounts to carrying out the public welfare service. Total of the donations at the ceremony amounted to 131,259,305 kyats, 4,468 US dollars, 270 euros and 10,000 FECS.

From the 2000-2001 fiscal year to date, 60 per cent of tasks for supplying water have been completed as water supply tasks have been carried out in 4,783 villages out of 8,042 villages in three tropical divisions.

International organizations also provide assistance to the rural water supply projects.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has sunk 91 tube-wells out of 250 in the five-year plan in Shan State (North). As the master plan on supply of potable water in tropical region is being implemented, a total of 22 deep test-wells has been sunk in 11 townships, so far.

Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) has been digging 48 tube-wells with the measurements of 4 inches and 6 inches in Kyaukpadaung Township beginning 2001-2002. Similarly, UNICEF has been participating in 390 water supply tasks of the rural water supply project in three tropical divisions from 2001-2002 to date.

Likewise, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs also lend themselves in the rural water supply task.

At a time when efforts are being made for national development, it can be seen that success has been achieved in all sectors thanks to the cooperation of organizations and the people with the Government.

### Training course concludes

YANGON, 13 March—Under the joint sponsorship of Myanmar Computer Federation and Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship, the application systems engineering examination course concluded with ceremony held at the MICT Park in Hline Township here at 4 pm today.

e-National Task Force Vice-Chairman U Aung Myint delivered an address and MCF Vice-Chairman U Tin Win Aung explained about the course. Next, Mr Yusuke Takeuchi of AOTS made an address. The course was attended by 43 trainees. —MNA

### Seminar on HIV prevention to be held

YANGON, 14 March—Seminar on prevention and management of HIV/AIDS for health care provider will be held on 19 and 20 March 2004 at the auditorium of Myanmar Medical Association here. —MNA

### 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

### People's Desire

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

### Tatmadaw and departmental cars checked on Dry Day

YANGON, 14 March

— Dry Day Supervisory Committee Chairman Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and members Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Police Quartermaster-General Police Brig-Gen Win Soe, Col Win Shwe of Quartermaster-General's Office, Director-General of the Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department Lt-Col Tin Maung Tun, and officials in two groups today supervised the inspection teams which checked the Tatmadaw and departmental cars at the main points in Yangon City.



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party inspect cars on the Dry Day. — MNA  
From 7 am to 5 pm, the teams checked the cars on observance of the dry day disciplines. They checked bearing of dry day passes, drivers' licenses and wheel taxes, wearing of departmental uniforms by drivers and they took action against breaking of traffic rules. — MNA

### Dry Day Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 14 March

— The Dry Day Supervisory Committee held its work co-ordination meeting at noon today in conjunction with the ceremony to give away prizes to the members of dry day inspection teams.

Present on the occasion were Committee Chairman Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Vice-Chairman Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe and members Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Tatmadaw Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, Police Quartermaster-General Police Brig-Gen Win Soe, senior Tatmadaw officers, departmental heads and officials. —MNA



Dry Day Supervisory Committee Chairman Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint delivers an address at the meeting. — MNA

### 804 gem merchants arrive

YANGON, 14 March—A total of 403 gem merchants of 143 companies from six countries and 401 merchants of 159 local companies, totalling 804 have arrived here to attend the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. The merchants inspected gems and jewellery displayed at the emporium from 9 am to 5 pm today. The Secretary of the Central Committee for Organizing the emporium Managing Director U Khin Oo of Myanma Gems Emporise and secretaries of sub-committees welcomed the merchants and conducted them round there. On 15 March, more gem merchants from abroad will arrive here to view the gems at the emporium. —MNA



Gems merchants seen examining jade lots at the Myanma Gems Emporium. — MNA

### Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 14 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 there. —MNA

# Two US soldiers killed in Iraq roadside blast

**TIKRIT 14 March**—A roadside bomb killed two American soldiers and wounded three Saturday, the first casualties suffered by an Army regiment taking over security in Saddam Hussein's hometown as part of a giant troop rotation.

In Baghdad, the brother-in-law of a member of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council was killed when a bomb exploded in a shop Saturday, an official said.

The bomb destroyed the troops' armoured Humvee as they patrolled through downtown Tikrit at around 5 am hours before the outgoing 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment handed over security duties in the area to the 18th Infantry Regiment at a ceremony on Saturday.

In the attack, gunmen opened fire on the rear vehicle in the three-Humvee patrol, then the bomb went off by the second Humvee, said one of the soldiers at the scene.

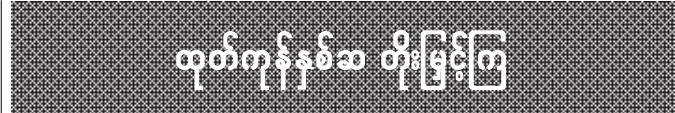
A Bradley fighting vehicle sped to the scene and strafed the area with heavy machine gun fire. It was unclear if any of the attackers sustained casualties.

After the attack, about 50 soldiers fanned out through the city searching for evidence and asking locals for information about the attack.

The three wounded soldiers were evacuated to a military hospital north of Tikrit and were in stable condition, said 1st Infantry Division spokeswoman Maj Debra Stewart.

Roadside bombs have become the main threat to US soldiers on patrol in the Sunni Triangle, a region north and west of Baghdad that has seen some of the fiercest guerilla fighting. Three soldiers were killed and three wounded Thursday by bombs in Baqouba and near the town of Habbaniyah.

Saturday's deaths brought to 560 the number of US service members who have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 381 died as a result of hostile action and 179 died of non-hostile causes, the department said. —Internet



A US troopers in their Humvees prepare to conduct patrol at Tikrit, 180 kilometres southwest of Baghdad, Iraq on 13 March, 2004. A roadside bomb killed two American soldiers and wounded three others on Saturday, the first casualties suffered by a US Army regiment taking over security in Saddam's hometown as part of a giant troop rotation in Iraq—INTERNET

# One in 73 US households declared bankruptcy in 2003

**WASHINGTON, 14 March** — One out of every 73 US households filed for bankruptcy last year, a record high, despite historically low interest rates, the American Bankruptcy Institute said on Friday.

The institute said Utah faced the highest per-household bankruptcy rate — one out of every 47 — followed closely by Tennessee, Georgia and Nevada. Alaska had the lowest rate last year, just one filing for every 189 households.

"Despite enjoying the sustained benefit of low interest rates, growing numbers of US consumers are facing difficulty in meeting their monthly obligations," ABI Executive Director Samuel Gerdano said.

"Ironically, these same consumers are being relied upon to continue spending to keep the economy growing," he added.

US households had 10.4 trillion US dollars in debt outstanding at the end of last year, although debt accumulation slowed toward year's end, according to data from the Federal Reserve.

Some economists have grown concerned the high debt burden could lead consumers to pare spending enough to hurt economic growth. Others, including Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, have said low interest rates have kept the cost of carrying debt from growing overly troubling.

Nevertheless, bankruptcies have reached record highs.

Last month, the Administrative Office of the US Courts said there were 1,660,245 personal bankruptcies last year. It was a record for any calendar year, but off slightly from the all-time 12-month high reached in the period ended in September.

ABI calculated its per-household bankruptcy figures using data from both the Administrative Office of the US Courts and the US Census Bureau.

MNA/Reuters

# Halliburton admitted faulty Iraq costs

**WASHINGTON, 14 March**— Pentagon auditors found a Halliburton Co subsidiary gave faulty cost estimates on a \$2.7 billion contract to serve American troops in Iraq and Kuwait, and company officials acknowledged making mistakes, Defence Department documents show.

The estimate problems included a failure to tell contract managers that Halliburton had terminated two subcontracts for feeding troops, which affected costs on \$1 billion worth of that work, the Defense Contract Audit Agency found. Halliburton also did not tell contract managers it had already awarded subcontracts worth \$141.5 million for work it said would cost \$208.8 million, the auditors found.

William R. Walter, a manager for Halliburton subsidiary KBR, wrote to the DCAA 4 Dec to acknowledge the company did not give current, accurate and complete cost data in its 7 Oct spending proposal.

"There are many excuses and reasons available — but — in the end, KBR did not include the most current data in our proposal," Walter wrote.

The pricing issue is just one of several problems with Halliburton contracts in Iraq. Both the Pentagon and Justice Department have launched criminal investigations of the company, formerly headed by Vice

President Dick Cheney.

Halliburton's problems include:

—An alleged kickback scheme that prompted Halliburton to fire two workers and reimburse the Pentagon \$6.3 million.

—Possible overcharging for food services which Halliburton reimbursed the Defense Department for nearly \$30 million. Halliburton has set aside \$141 million to pay other possible reimbursements.

—A separate DCAA audit which accused KBR of overcharging by \$61 million for gasoline delivered to serve the civilian market in Iraq last year. Halliburton has said the charges were proper.

Democratic critics say Halliburton is an example of war profiteering by companies friendly to the Bush administration. Company and administration officials say politics had nothing to do with Halliburton's contracts in Iraq. Cheney's office says he severed relations with Halliburton when he ran for vice president in 2000.

Internet



Store owners walk through twisted metal doors and other debris following an explosion inside a clothing store at Karada commercial district in Baghdad, on 13 March, 2004. Witnesses claimed a man carrying a plastic bag walked into the store and hurriedly left, with a loud explosion heard seconds later. The store owner, a brother-in-law of one of Iraq's Governing Council members Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, was killed with about ten stores nearby were also damaged.—INTERNET

# CPPCC National Committee adopts political resolution

**BEIJING, 14 March** — The Tenth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top advisory body, approved a political resolution at the closing of its second session Friday.

According to the political resolution, the session approved a report on the work of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee, a report on the issue of the members' proposals, and the amendment to the CPPCC Charter.

The members of the CPPCC National Committee also observed the Second Session of the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature, and agreed to the Report on the Work of Government, the draft amendment to the country's Constitution, and other reports.

They spoke highly of the country's achievements in the past year and expressed confidence in the accomplishment of all the tasks set forth in the Report on the Work of the Government.

The CPPCC members reached a

consensus that the draft amendment to the Constitution is based on the opinions from all walks of life, embodies the important thought of "Three Represents" and the essence of the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), reflects the common aspiration of the whole people, and accords with the fundamental interests of the whole people.

According to the political resolution, the amendment to the CPPCC Charter is an important event for the implementation and improvement of the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation system under the CPC leadership, and a major step for the CPPCC to meet the new requirements under the new situation and tasks, which is bound to have a major impact on the cause of the CPPCC. —MNA/Xinhua

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

BAGHDAD, 14 MARCH — As of Friday, 12 March, 558 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 379 died as a result of hostile action and 179 died of non-hostile causes, the department said. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

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

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 420 US soldiers have died — 264 as a result of hostile action and 156 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,788 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the

Defense Department's figures as of Friday. Non-hostile injured numbered 424.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command:

—Two US soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb Saturday in Tikrit.

The latest identifications reported by family members:

—Army Staff Sgt Joey Dunigan, 37, Benton, Ky.; killed Thursday when his vehicle rolled over a bomb northeast of Habbiniyah; 1/16th Infantry Battalion, Fort Riley, Kan.—Internet

## US current account deficit surges to record high in 2003

WASHINGTON, 14 March— The current account deficit of the United States expanded to a record 541.8 billion US dollars in 2003, registering 12.7 per cent larger than the previous year's 480.9 billion US dollars, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

Tracking goods and services trade, income from investments and overseas workers, and one-way transfers such as foreign aid, the current account is the broadest measure of trade.

The Commerce Department's data showed that the shortfall in trade of goods and services in 2003 bulged 17.3 per cent to 490.2 billion US dollars. The deficit in goods, widening last year to 549.4 billion US dollars from 482.9 billion US dollars in 2002, was the main factor in the overall deficit for 2003.

In the services category, the United States is still running a surplus in 2003. But the

surplus narrowed to 59.2 billion US dollars from 64.8 billion US dollars in 2002.

Investment earnings turned around in 2003, showing a surplus of 16.6 billion US dollars. The income of the country in the previous year was a deficit of four billion US dollars.

Meanwhile, the net outflow of one-way transfers widened 9.4 billion US dollars to 68.3 billion US dollars in 2003.

Economists had forecast that the current account deficit would be deteriorating in the final quarter of 2003. Unexpectedly, however, it narrowed to 127.5 billion US dollars from 135.3 billion US dollars in the previous three months. —MNA/Xinhua

## China patent electronic application system launched

BEIJING, 14 March— Tian Lipu, vice-commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), received the first online patent application here Friday.

The first application was submitted by the Yongxin Patent and Trademark Agency for a driving circuit of semiconductor laser equipment.

With the launching of the China Patent Electronic Application System, China has become the fifth in the world, next to Japan, the United States, the European Union and South Korea, to provide online service for patent applications.

Beginning Friday, the 20th anniversary of China's first patent law, domestic and overseas patent applicants and agents could submit any of their applications by logging on to the official web site.

At the opening ceremony organized by the SIPO, Tian said the system would greatly facilitate the patent application process in China and also benefit international exchange in the field.

Tian asked the system management body to better their online service to worldwide applicants and agents.

MNA/Xinhua



Relatives sift through the debris following an explosion inside a clothing store at Baghdad's Karada commercial district on Saturday 13 March, 2004 in Iraq. Witnesses claimed a man carrying a plastic bag walked into the store and hurriedly left, with a loud explosion heard seconds later. The store owner, a brother-in-law of one of Iraq's Governing Council members Ibrahim Al-Jaafari, was killed.—INTERNET

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## Thousands protest Iraq war as Blair speaks

MANCHESTER, 14 March—Thousands of people protested against the war in Iraq as British Prime Minister Tony Blair addressed a gathering of his ruling Labour Party.

The two-hour demonstration snaked through the centre of Manchester, northwest England, where

Blair was speaking to Labour delegates at the party's spring conference.

Protestors toppled a

mocked-up statue of the premier, mimicking the fate of a huge statue of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in Baghdad when the city fell to US troops almost a year ago.

The Stop the War Coalition, which organised the march, said around 3,000 people had turned out.

"We are trying to oppose a war which turned into an unmitigated disaster," said Coalition spokesman Richard Searle.

"Our prime minister went to war on the most outrageous lies so today we are saying: 'Tony Blair, it is time you went...'"

Blair was Washington's closest ally in the conflict, committing around 40,000 British armed forces personnel despite widespread public scepticism as to the reasons for the war.

The prime minister insisted it was necessary because Saddam possessed stockpiles of illegal chemical and biological weapons, and his popularity has suffered after no such armaments were found following the conflict.

Last month Blair announced an inquiry into intelligence into Iraq's weapons ahead of the war.

Internet



A protester stands with 'No More War' stickers all over his face in London. Thousands of people protested against the war in Iraq as British Prime Minister Tony Blair addressed a gathering of the Labour Party. —INTERNET

## Mubarak says peace is basis for better future of Arabs

CAIRO, 14 March — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stressed on Friday that achieving peace in the Middle East is basis for the better future of the Arabs.

Mubarak made the remarks at a gathering, entitled "the Arab Reform — Vision & Implementation," in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, the official MENA news agency reported.

"The strategy of Arab world in realizing better future is based on two pivots — pushing forward modernization efforts and realizing a just and permanent peace in the region to free it from all kinds of weapons of mass destruction and to disseminate the sense of peace and security," Mubarak told the gathering.

"The timing of the gathering coincided with an international argument on reform initiatives in the region," he said, alluding to a US-floated initiative on reform in the Middle East.

The US initiative, the Greater Middle East Initiative, aimed at promoting greater democracy and prosperity, will be reportedly launched in June at a summit of the Group of Eight.

Mubarak and some Arab rulers have given a cold shoulder to the plan, saying that the Arab world rejects any reform imposed from

outside. "Arab countries, taking into consideration negative and positive aspects of the reform process, have done their best to make structural and organizational reforms in political, economic and social domains," Mubarak told the gathering.

"The Arabs believe in modernization and development to benefit from the opportunity offered by globalization to eliminate structural problems in the political and socio-economic aspects," he said.

Egypt, a heavyweight in the Arab world, has claimed that an Israeli aggression hinders the reform process in the Middle East.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman in early March, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said, "The Americans must clearly understand that one of principal problems hindering the reform process is the Israeli aggression on the Palestinians and its incessant threat to the Arab nation."

MNA/Xinhua

# Kerry challenges Bush to monthly debates

QUINCY (Illinois), 14 March— Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, visiting the site of one of the most famous political debates in US history, challenged President George W Bush on Saturday to a “real discussion about America’s future” in monthly debates.

Kerry, already engaged in a running exchange of negative ads with Bush before the November election, said, “America shouldn’t have to put up with eight months of sniping.”

“I believe the American people are hungry for a genuine conversation about the fundamental questions before us,” Kerry said in Quincy, Illinois, site of one of the seven historic Abraham Lincoln-Stephen Douglas debates.

The 1,858 senatorial debates between Douglas and Lincoln, who lost the Senate race but won the presidency two years later, are legendary in US political history for their reasoned discussion of burning issues like slavery and states’ rights in the period before the Civil War.

Kerry said modern candidates “find it easier to exchange insults than to face issues” and called for a campaign that “honours the best in America”.

“Surely, if the attack ads can start now at least we can agree to start a real discussion about America’s future,” Kerry said, trying to take the high road early in a campaign already marked by bitter charges and counterattacks.

Bush and Kerry exchanged negative ads on Thursday, with Bush criticizing Kerry by name, accusing him of planning to raise taxes and threatening to weaken US security. Kerry fired back at what he called “misleading” accusations.

Kerry, who earlier this week called his Republican critics a “crooked ... lying group,” challenged Bush to monthly debates on the “great issues” of the day, including the war on terrorism, the loss of US jobs and the plight of Americans without health care.

The Bush campaign rejected the request for monthly debates and questioned how Kerry could ask for a civil discussion after his remarks about Republicans and after spending millions of dollars on ads attacking Bush.

“Senator Kerry should finish the debate with himself before he starts trying to explain his positions to the voters,” said Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt. A campaign official said they looked forward to “vigorous debates at the appropriate time”.

MNA/Reuters

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# ICRC says return of Red Cross to Baghdad depends on security

LISBON, 14 March — The return of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Iraq’s Baghdad and Basra will depend on the security situation in these areas, ICRC President Jacob Kellenberger said in Lisbon on Friday.

Following a meeting with Portuguese Foreign Minister Teresa Gouveia, Kellenberger told the Press that the Red Cross would continue to assist in other areas of Iraq. The ICRC withdrew its staff from Baghdad and Basra after

huge blasts killed 35 people near the compound of ICRC’s headquarters in Baghdad on October 27, 2003.

Kellenberger highlighted the help that they granted to war prisoners, the union of families and the provision of minimum medical assistance in emergency situations.

Kellenberger held talks with the Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio on Friday and met with Defence Minister Paulo Portas on Thursday.

Kellenberger arrived in Lisbon on Thursday for a two-day visit to the European country.

MNA/Xinhua

# Turkey stresses int’l cooperation against terrorism

ANKARA, 14 March— Turkey on Friday stressed a great importance of international cooperation in fighting against terrorism.

Sermet Atacnli, Turkish Presidential Chief Adviser for Foreign Affairs, made the remarks at a news conference while talking about the terrorist attacks in Madrid on Thursday. Terrorists blew up three suburban trains in Madrid earlier on Thursday, killing some 198 people and injuring more than 1,000 others according to the latest media reports.

Atacnli told the reporters that “Turkey is very sensitive about this issue because it suffered so much from terrorism. International cooperation is very important in fighting against terrorism, otherwise such sad incidents will in-

crease”. He noted that Turkey conveyed its sorrow and condemnation regarding the terrorist attacks in Madrid to Spanish officials at all levels. Turkish President Ahmet

Necdet Sezer has also expressed his sorrow over the attacks by sending a letter to Spanish King Juan Carlos I and shared the grief of the Spanish people. Atacnli added. — MNA/Xinhua



A fire at the oil pipeline in Tikrit, 180 kilometres north-west of Baghdad, Iraq, continues to burn on Saturday, 13 March, 2004 after being sabotaged by guerrillas on Friday evening. — INTERNET

# India, Pakistan should resolve differences in innovative way

NEW DELHI, 14 March — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Friday said that India and Pakistan should look at innovative ideas to resolve differences while maintaining that public opinion in the two countries should lead politicians to pragmatic and acceptable solutions to their problems.

The Prime Minister made the remarks when he was delivering the keynote address at a two-day meeting organized by India’s most popular magazine *India Today*, which is opened here Friday.

Vajpayee said that India has been advocating intensi-

fication of trade, economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and sporting links, so that public opinion in both countries can be mobilized in support of the peace process.

Observing that India has consistently used the language of cooperation, detente

and dialogue in its neighbourhood policy, he said that the agreement reached with Pakistan in January this year flowed from this consistent stand; only bilateral dialogue can solve problems and this dialogue cannot be pursued or sustained if terrorism continues. — MNA/Xinhua

# Russia, China resist US over Iran nuke resolution

VIENNA, 14 March — Washington faced growing resistance on Friday as Russia, China and non-aligned members of the UN atomic watchdog rejected a resolution that condemns Iran’s nuclear secrecy and keeps the door open for sanctions.

In backroom meetings at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Canadian, Australian and European diplomats on the IAEA’s Board of Governors negotiated with diplomats from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to revise a draft IAEA resolution.

The United States, France, Britain and Germany struck a tentative deal this week on an Australian-Canadian draft text that “deplores” Teheran’s keeping sensitive information from the IAEA and suggests a military link to Teheran’s atomic programme.

Iran’s Ambassador to the UN in Vienna, Pirooz Hosseini, told *Reuters* the draft was unacceptable and “consultations are going on to... reach an agreed language.” Iran is not on the board but is involved in the talks as a key NAM member. NAM states have 13 out

of 35 seats on the IAEA board and proposed a series of amendments to tone down the draft resolution. NAM insists that the word “deplores” be changed to “strongly regrets” or something else, but NAM diplomats complained the US-led camp were not being very accommodating.

“We don’t want the word “deplores”, a non-aligned diplomat told *Reuters*. “We want something that sounds more like the IAEA report on Iran, which used the word “concern”.

He also said that Russia and China had received instructions from home to put their political weight behind the NAM proposal.

“The Russians got instructions from Moscow,” the diplomat said. “They’re with us. The Chinese too.”

Not only that, several diplomats on the board told *Reuters* that France and Ger-

many were willing to accept most of the NAM amendments, but that Britain was with Washington. This meant there were signs the EU-US deal was falling apart, they said. Non-aligned diplomats said the NAM block — the largest on the board — would not back the resolution if its sponsors did not include more of its proposed amendments in the text.

The IAEA adopts resolutions by consensus, so the board meeting could run into the weekend as negotiators seek a deal.

Russia, which is helping Teheran build an 800-million-dollar nuclear power station in Iran, has objected and tried to soften every US-backed IAEA resolution or statement on Iran in the past year. Russian UN delegates in Vienna declined to comment.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqis sift through the damage of a building west of Baghdad, Iraq following an explosion before dawn on 13 March, 2004. — INTERNET

# Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

## Lost treasures of Iraq

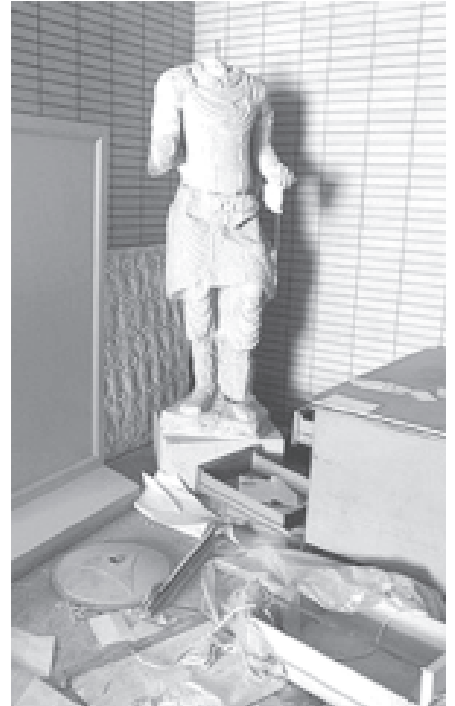
In the days following the US occupation of Baghdad in April 2003, the Iraq Museum was looted. Experts have so far been unable to make any comprehensive damage assessment on location. The full extent of the damage to the museum's collection may not be known for a long time, but it seems clear that thousands of items were either stolen or destroyed.



*Stolen gold helmet of Baghdad museum.*



*A statue destroyed during the US-led invasion against Iraq.*



*A statue destroyed after the US led ivasion of Iraq seen in the Baghdad museum on 18 February, 2004.*

### Recaptured antiques at the Baghdad museum

Date	Place	Items	Quantity
22-4-2003	Jordan border	paintings	42 pieces
28-4-2003	Kuwait border	various items	about 1000
11-7-2003	Jordon	various items	about 2000
29-2-2004	Baghdad	photographs	over 1000

#### Lost of antiques of Iraq aftermath of US invasion

After the US invasion of Iraq on 20 March 2003, many antiques were looted or stolen or destroyed at Baghdad museum. Experts cannot estimate the value of the lost antiques. The following table shows some of the items stolen or destroyed at the museum.

Subject	Cost and amount
Stolen items from the museum	US\$ 7000 million
Destroyed items	about 170000
Looted items	paintings, statuettes, verses, bowl, literature and photographs
Items returned to the museum	over 800
earliest items	10000 years ago



*Stolen statues being seized by Jordonian Customs seen on 2 March, 2004.*



*Destroyed antiques of Iraq during the US-led invasion against Iraq seen on 24 February, 2004.*



*Workers at Baghdad's Archaeological Museum carry in some of the recovered items that had been looted following the US-led invasion to the Iraqi capital city.*

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

# Joint efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people in carrying out nation-building tasks



## Irrigation facilities constructed by the people and the Tatmadaw

No	Irrigation facility	Township	Irrigated area
1.	Rahaingkwın Dam	Gwa	625
2.	Kungyangon Sluice Gate	Kungyangon	21400
3.	Thedaw Dam	Letpandan	12000
4.	Thittetkon Diversion Weir	Myittha	5000
5.	Kyetmaukleti Dam	Myaing	1200
6.	Ponmakyi Dam	Mahlaing	500
7.	Myoıha Dam	Ngazun	1500
8.	Nankathu Dam	Ingapu	14000
9.	Moemakha Sluice Gate	Twantay	40000



The Ponmakyi Dam in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division, indicates combined efforts of the people and the Tatmadaw.

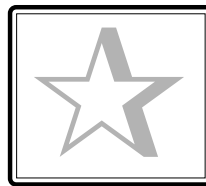


Thittetkon Diversion Weir in Myittha Township, Mandalay Division, constructed by the people and the Tatmadaw.

## Irrigation facilities constructed with combined efforts of the people and Tatmadaw members

No	State/Division	Irrigation facilities
1.	Rakhine State Gwa Township	Rahaingkwın Dam
2.	Yangon Division Kungyangon Township	Kungyangon Sluice Gate
3.	Bago Division Letpandan Township	Thedaw Dam
4.	Mandalay Division Myittha Township	Thittetkon Diversion Weir
5.	Magway Division Myaing Township	Kyetmaukleti Dam
6.	Mandalay Division Mahlaing Township	Ponmakyi Dam
7.	Mandalay Division Ngazun Township	Myoıha Dam
8.	Ayeyawady Division Ingapu Township	Nankathu Dam
9.	Yangon Division Twantay Township	Moemakha Sluice Gate

Thedaw Dam has emerged in Letpandan Township, Bago Division thanks to collective endeavours of the people and the Tatmadawmen.



Tatmadaw members actively participating in a dam project.



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



The Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL), discharging the State duties since the regaining of independence, was split into two factions in May 1958. Actually, the AFPFL had been dwindling from its original image as the united national front since the period from 1946 to 1950. The

### Men of noble hearts

**History stands witness to the fact that the lack of peace and the unstable political environs are not only unfriendly to the flourishing of democracy, but can also become a cause leading to the loss of independence.**

ideological differences can be cited as the main factor of its deterioration. It was due to the expulsion of the Burma Communist Party (BCP) from the AFPFL and the break away of some mem-

bers of the Socialist Party, the basic strength of the AFPFL who formed a rival political party, were the basic causes to that end. The AFPFL called the renegade

Socialist Party members the red socialists or aboveground communists.

From then on, the AFPFL won the elections through various means and governed the nation for a

period of about ten years. The parliamentary democracy system under the rule of AFPFL was in name only. The opposition parties accused the AFPFL of using the system of democracy under the sword, of oppressing and intimidating them, and of committing political assassinations. Because of its undemocratic ways, the public support for the AFPFL was also decreasing. The AFPFL formed the pocket armies — the Pyu Saw Htee troops and the defence units — forcing the public to vote for it under blackmails and intimidation. Likewise, the BCP insurgents coerced the public into voting for the Red Socialist and other leftist political parties.

As the AFPFL was ignoring the Tatmadaw, a systematically formed institution, and organizing its owned undisciplined armed bands, while the insurgents acting as the lords of the

regions under their control were interfering in the elections; the loss of independence was looming large then. History stands witness to the fact that the lack of peace and the unstable political situation are not only unfriendly to the flourishing of democracy, but can also cause the loss of independence. Another factor leading to the fall of public support for the AFPFL was the participation of the opportunists in it and its corrupt practices. And when the AFPFL chairman took action against them after declaring the plan to purge the party, there occurred cracks in the party because of the bias among



*The people viewed with joy the independence monument in front of the City Hall in Yangon. However, the people were not able to fully enjoy the taste of independence because of the ideological and factional prejudices in the ruling AFPFL party.*

the factions in solving the problem. In May 1958, the party was split into two factions — the AFPFL (Clean) and the AFPFL (Stable).

Because of the divisions leading to the downfall of the AFPFL, that was the ruling party then, and the National United Front, peace and stability started to dete-

(Clean), submitted a proposal to the Pyithu Hluttaw, requesting the Tatmadaw to form the Caretaker Government and to lead the nation. It was passed by the Pyithu Hluttaw. First, the Caretaker Government restored the community peace and the rule of law. It then endeavoured to serve the public welfare task to ease the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people. It relocated the slum dwellers of the city to the new satellite towns — South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa and Thakayta. The Tatmadaw dissolved all the

agreement reached between the two countries.

After restoring all the dwindling political, economic and civil administrative machinery back to normal, it held a free and fair Pyithu Hluttaw and chamber of Nationalities elections, its final duty, on 6 and 26 February 1960 respectively and handed over the State power to the AFPFL (Clean) or the Pa-hta-sa, the winner in the election, on 4 April. It is the second time the Tatmadaw had safeguarded the nation and restored the political, administrative and economic

### Ketu Nila

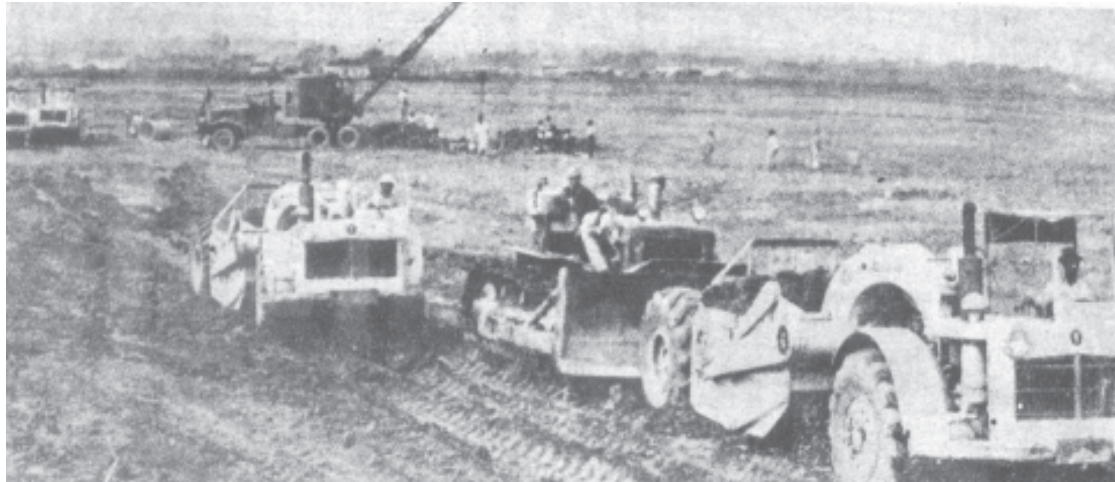
pocket armies and also the armed security units of some ministries and systematically integrated the members of the dissolved bodies into the Tatmadaw.

At the same time, the Caretaker Government organized the feudal lords to relinquish their special powers and privileges. It demarcated the border between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China under the

sectors of the State, and put the nation back on the right track towards the parliamentary democracy system.

While the Caretaker Government was busy rebuilding the nation with all-out efforts, it was also crushing the insurgents for the peace and stability of the nation. When the Tatmadaw took over the duties of the State there were 9,000 insurgents plus 15,000 supporters including those from a number of organizations. The Tatmadaw launched military operations region-wise to crush them. In the Northern Command area, the Tatmadaw columns waged 51 battles against the BCP (White Flag) and the Red Flag communist insurgents in Mandalay, Kyaukse, Meiktila and Yamethin districts to drive them out; and crushed the BCP (White Flag) and communist insurgents (Red Flag) at 80 engagements in Sagaing, Monywa and Shwebo districts. Its columns fought

(See page 9)



*Heavy machinery at work to build South Okkalapa new satellite town during the time of the Caretaker Government.*



## Hailing the 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day



*The Tatmadaw members of Operation Min Yan Aung cross creeks and brave all the rough terrain to drive out the Kuomintang intruders.*

(from page 8)

tered the BCP (White Flag) and the Kuomintang intruders and other insurgents, dominating the areas in southern Shan State, Kayah State and Mawchee region, 41 times and crushed them. In this way, the Tatmadaw made endeavours for the prevalence of the rule of law and the peace and stability in the nation.

At the same time, the Tatmadaw members waged 95 battles against the White Flag and Red Flag communist insurgents and the Kuomintang alien troops in northern Shan State, wiping them out to restore the rule of law and security in the areas.

The Tatmadaw crushed the White Flag and Red Flag communist insurgents in Myitkyina, Katha and Bhamo districts and other places in Kachin State in 71 encounters during its Operation Setkya Maung. It waged 81 battles against and defeated the Kuomintang intruders and multi-coloured insurgents in Kengtung region and the areas on the eastern bank of Thanlwin River.

Its columns engaged 145 battles with the Red Flag communist insurgents in Pakokku, Myingyan, Minbu and Magway districts to ensure the rule of law and peace and stability in the whole nation.

In the Southern Command area, the Tatmadaw columns crushed the BCP and other insurgents in Toungoo District, and Thandaung region in Kayin

State in 317 battles; the Red Flag communist and other insurgents in Papun and Hpa-an districts in Kayin state and Thaton District in 386 engagements; the BCP, the Red Flag communist and other insurgents in Myeik, Dawei and Kyaikkhami districts in Taninthayi Division, and Kawkaik region in Kayin State in 280 encounters.

**The Tatmadaw born of the people has always been serving the interest of the people and safeguarding independence and sovereignty of the nation. It faced and solved the political hardships that occurred in 1958, 1959 and 1960.**

All in all the Tatmadaw launched 108 major military operations and 323 regional military operations and waged 386 major battles and 2,743 minor battles against the Kuomintang intruders, the White Flag and Red Flag

communist insurgents and other multi-coloured insurgents in the whole nation including Hinthada, Patheingyi, Myaungmya, Bago, Shwegyin, Maubin, Pyapon, Thayet, Pyay and Thayawady regions during the period. In the battles, the Tatmadaw captured 1,872 insurgents dead and 1,238 alive, and other 1,959 insurgents were wounded. In ad-

dition, it seized 56,538 assorted arms from the insurgents.

Starting from the date it assumed the State duties, Caretaker Government was able to drive out the Kuomintang intruders and crush the internal insurgents

till their number fell to 5,000 from 15,000, with the assistance and information given by the people. The Tatmadaw defeated the enemies with its three capabilities — military capability, organizational capability and the administrative capability.

The Tatmadaw born of the people has always been serving the interest of the people and safeguarding independence and sovereignty of the nation. It faced and solved the political hardships that occurred in 1958, 1959 and 1960.

After handing over the State power to the Paha-sa, the Tatmadaw continued to crush the insurgency. But during the time, the ruling party was broke up into U, Bo and Thakin factions rivalling one another for gaining supremacy in the party.

The disagreements between the rival factions grew stronger till the administrative machinery was left

## Hailing the 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day

### Poem

### Our Tatmadaw

- \* Bagan, Myin Saing  
Periods in history  
Foreign destruction at hand  
All the dangers that be  
Were to be repulsed  
Beautiful history  
That had been famous  
Our Tatmadaw.
- \* Called white Indians  
These fiends that came  
Intruded and stayed  
In that colonial occasion  
With swords and spears  
Took revenge  
And was rightly famous  
Our Tatmadaw.
- \* The rude fascists  
Towards our Myanmar  
Were partly helpful  
Partly in guile  
Wanted to usurp for keeps  
And schemed for once  
Which we resisted  
And we held it steadfastly  
Our Tatmadaw.
- \* When Independence  
Was just regained  
Intent on destruction  
Colonialism reappeared  
And there were divisive acts  
There were wounds  
And various splits  
**Brethrens all  
Had to be explained  
Through discussions  
Internal peace was  
Received in hand  
With might of hundreds  
Our Tatmadaw.**
- \* Through ten million lives  
May have been lost  
Sovereignty of our land  
Was defended  
Pride for which is famous  
The Tatmadaw  
We keep at heart  
With great regard  
May it shine constantly for life  
May victories continue unabated.  
**Bo Cho Myay Myint Swe (Trs)**

in disarray. Taking the advantage of the worsening situation, the insurgents intensified their armed opposition, and at the same time the feudal lords were trying to break up the Union. Hence, the Tatmadaw formed the

Revolutionary Council and took over the duties of the State on 2 March 1962 for the perpetuation of the national independence and sovereignty.

The Tatmadaw members always stand by the nation in times of emergency. They daringly make sacrifices in the interest of the nation and the people even at the risk of their lives. Despite their knowledge that the risk is high, with no financial or other gains, and that the destiny is the total sacrifice, they have dutifully and gallantly discharged the duties in the interest of the State. The Tatmadaw members are able to discharge their duties to that extent as they are the noble hearted, possessing the strong patriotism, selflessness, endurance and courage and zeal and perseverance.

(Translation: TMT)



*The tanks of the Operation Tabinshwehti, that won the decisive victory in crushing the insurgents in 1962, rolling forward to face the enemy.*

## People can now enjoy development ...

(from page 1)

With the opening of the airport, tourists, foreign businessmen and local passengers will soon be able to have access to seaside resorts such as Ngwe Hsaung and Chaungtha Resorts that are developing in the division and people in the division will be able to enjoy better trading, thereby contributing to development of social sector. Currently, the government in cooperation with the entire national people is making all-out efforts for emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation and for bringing about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

Meanwhile, the government is making strenuous efforts for improvement of socio-economic life of the entire national people while striving for further strength-

concerted efforts of the people in Ayeyawady Division under the leadership of the government and as a result, most of regions in the division can be accessible by car. Yangon-Pathein road emerged due to Bo Myat Tun Bridge, Daka Bridge, Kyaunggon Bridge and Pathwe Bridge and Pyapon-Dedaye-Kungyangon-Dalla road emerged due to Dedaye Bridge. Likewise, Pantanaw-Shwelaung-Wakema-Kyonmangay road emerged due to Pantanaw Bridge, Shwelaung Bridge and Wakema Bridge and new Kyaiklatt-Pyapon-Bogalay road, Kyaiklatt-Maubin road and Maubin-Sarmalauk road emerged due to Gonnyindan Bridge, Maubin Bridge, Uyin Creek Bridge and others. Those roads brought about better transport in the region.

On completion of

fish and meat production, he said.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying in his guidance that the division has better prospects for development of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors and it is necessary to lay emphasis on these sectors. Over one-fourth of paddy cultivation acreage of the State are grown in the division. If farmers make efforts to increase per acre yield as the division is a fertile one, this will realize the target of 1,200 million baskets of paddy. Arrangements are to be made for construction of modern prawn ponds and enhancement of breeding of fish and prawn in livestock breeding sector, he added.

He said officials of the division are to implement the guidance. In order to do so, the State built transport infrastructures in the division and also built dams, river water pumping stations, sluice gates and canals to some extent. The government is giving impetus to speedy completion of Konchaung, Ma Mya and Kanyin Dams which are under construction, he added.

Based on infrastructures built by the State, the division grew monsoon and summer paddy most and the division is the granary of the State. Moreover, extended cultivation of beans and pulses, oil crops and



General Thura Shwe Mann and party seen at the opening ceremony of new runway of Pathein Airport. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing delivers an address at the opening of new runway of Pathein Airport. — MNA

ening of the national solidarity. In the process, steps are being taken for development of economic infrastructures such as agriculture, livestock, forestry, fish and meat, mining and energy sectors, medium and small-scale industries and trade as well as improvement of social infrastructures such as education, health and culture sectors.

Better transport plays a key role in enhancing the socio-economic life of the national people. With this concept, the government has been extending motor roads, railroads, waterways and airways and upgrading the existing ones. Secure and smooth transport is of utmost importance for national development and a network of roads and bridges built with a great deal of funds is the transport infrastructures and it is also the socio-economic infrastructures that contribute to promoting friendship and understanding among the national brethren.

Ayeyawady Division has many rivers and creeks so people had to rely on waterway. The old tradition of travelling by water has been replaced with land trips. A network of township-to-township roads and bridges has emerged due to



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe delivers an address at the opening ceremony. — MNA

Pyapon river crossing bridge and Ngawun river crossing Pathein Bridge under construction, it can be said that nearly cent per cent of a network of roads in the division has been completed. There has been better transport with the opening of Pathein Airport while efforts are being made for the emergence of a network of roads and bridges in the division.

He said transport in Ayeyawady Division has improved and became a peaceful, stable region without any insurgents. Being a fertile region, significant progress has also been made in the division in a short time. There are many prospects for development and it is a reliable division in agriculture, production and

lugged behind in development have now developed with greater momentum.

According to the figures and material development, peace and progress has prevailed throughout the nation due to the unity among national races living in weal and woe in the states and divisions. Mutual understanding among the national races, consideration and cooperation for regional development which are the results of unity mean peace, security, development and friendship.

Suspicion and confrontation which were disadvantages of the past are social evils which are opposite to peace and development.

He said as the people love and cherish development of their life and security, they usually want peace and development for the nation. In conformity with the desire of the people, the

government is building the nation in unity on self-reliance basis. They can now enjoy development, peace and stability and prosperity, he said. The State did not receive foreign loans and assistance because some nations imposed sanctions on the country. Present development, peace and stability are own fruitful results free from foreign influence. They are achievements built by own forces, thoughts and concepts.

After distinguishing positive view and negative view, good and bad, increase and decrease, everyone must protect fruitful results. He called for making efforts for perpetuation of the Union and standing tall among the nations of the world, raising of living standard of the people and realization of the national objectives.

(See page 11)



The newly opened runway of Pathein Airport in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

**People can now enjoy development, peace and ...**

(from page 10)

Next, he thanked Myanmar Ah Construction, the Ministry of Transport, the ministries and Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council that rendered assistance for construction of the runway of Patheingyi Airport.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe gave a speech, saying that Patheingyi Airport was built as a small military airfield in the Japanese period in 1942.

As the airport was built to be an airfield meeting the set standard in 1949 after regaining independence, the runway of the airport became 1,050 feet long and 100 feet wide one in 1979. After carrying out extension works in 1986 and 1993, the runway which was built of gravel mixed with tar became 4,800 feet long and 100 feet wide one.

During the inspection tour of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe in South-West Command area on 11 August 2001, he gave guidance to upgrade Patheingyi Airport as a modern one.

Therefore, the plan was implemented for construction of the runway to become 12,000 feet long and 200 feet wide one in accord

with the guidance of the Head of State.

Nowadays, as construction of the runway of the Patheingyi Airport, which is 8,500 feet long, 100 feet wide and 22 inches thick, completed, local flights and Air-bus weighing 150,000 lb and Boeing-737 international flights can use the runway. So, airlines will be scheduled to land at the airport. Furthermore, the plan will be under way to extend the runway to become 9,300 feet long and 200 feet wide one soon.

As the runway will be upgraded into the 12,000 feet long and 200 feet wide one in the next step, the airport will be a modern one on which Jet flights will easily land. In addition, the passenger lounge and the control tower will be constructed.

In the past, Myanmar had Yangon International Airport only to connect foreign countries by air. At present, international level Mandalay International Airport has been opened, and then, upgrading tasks and extension works are being carried out at Yangon International Airport. Similarly, Magway Airport was opened on 6 June 2003; and Homalin Airport on 3 August 2003; now Patheingyi Airport was opened today. Monywa Airport will be opened soon.

And, other airports are being built for the purpose of Boeing 737-400 flights use.

In conclusion, the minister urged departments concerned and local people to participate in maintenance for durability of the airport in the long-run and carrying out of greening tasks at the airport. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a speech.

Next, local industrial entrepreneur U Aung Kyaw Sein spoke words of thanks. Then, General Thura Shwe Mann gave a speech, saying that it is necessary to bring about equitable development in all States and Divisions in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Thanks to harmonious participation of dutiful and faithful public of Ayeyawady Division joining hands with the Government, progress has been made in the division.

Based on the developing infrastructures, efforts are to be made for gaining the constant development in the longrun.

In doing so, based on discipline, punctuality, goodwill, diligence and innovation in accord with modern technology, tasks are to be unitedly and harmoniously carried out.

As such, acceleration of development can be gained in Ayeyawady Division which will contribute much to development of the entire nation.

He urged all to bring about, with goodwill, quality and efforts, strengthening for development of Ayeyawady Division which will have more good prospects in future. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye presented gifts to Construction Assistant Engineer U Than Htut, on behalf of the project workers.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party took the designated places. Then, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe formally opened the runway of the airport.

Afterwards, the General and party had documentary photos taken and inspected the runway by car.

After the ceremony, the General and party heard reports on extended construction of Patheingyi Airport by Myanmar Ah Construction Co Project Director Lt-Col Kyaw Myint at the hall of the airport. Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe gave supplementary reports. Later, the General gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA



The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative postcard.

**Irrigation facilities inspected in Mon State**

YANGON, 14 March—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin on 12 March inspected the site chosen for construction of Tanaw dam near Sittoung Paper Mill in Kyaikto Township.

The minister next went to Kyauksayit Dam Project to be implemented on Kyauksayit Creek near Kyaukaung Village, Thaton Township, where Director-General U Kyaw San Win and directors of Irrigation Department reported on the matters related to the

project. Afterwards, the minister looked into the place for building Kyauksayit Diversion Weir near Migyaung-aing Village.

On 13 March, the minister proceeded to Kyonka Mangosteen Farm in Paung Township, Mon State and inspected thriving of mangosteen and pepper.

At Kataik Dam Project being implemented by Construction-6 of ID, Director U Khin Maung Myint reported on the main embankment, control tower,

conduit and spillway. The minister gave necessary instructions. Kataik Dam will prevent floods of farmlands at lower region of Yinnyeik Creek and benefit cultivation of double cropping.

Afterwards, the minister went to the construction site of Kyaikhtaw Sluice Gate in Thaton Township.

The sluice gate will benefit over 22,000 acres of wetland area on both sides of Kyaikhtaw Creek in Thaton Township.

MNA

**Industry-1 Minister inspects factories in Mandalay, Sagaing Divisions**

YANGON, 14 March—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, accompanied by Chairman of Myingyan District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Myint and officials, inspected production process of printing and dyeing textile at Dyeing and Printing Factory in Myingyan yesterday morning.

Next, the minister went to new Looms Factory and saw over installation of 200 weaving machines and test-running.

At Dhammadipa Monastery of Tazaunggyi Taik in Myingyan, the minister donated provisions to Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Çakkinda. On arrival at Win Thuza Shop in Myingyan, the minister inspected sales of products of the ministry and gave necessary instruc-

tions. Next, the minister met local people in villages in Myingyan and Natogyi Townships. In the evening, the minister proceeded to Mandalay Beer Factory and met with factory managers from Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions.

This morning, the minister went to Basic Education Primary School No 17 in Aungmyethazan Township and presented K 100,000 to the students.

MNA



Pyu period antiques found in Tagaung and related areas. — CULTURE

**Archaeological works inspected in Mandalay, Bago Divisions**

YANGON, 14 March—Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung paid homage to Yanaungmyin Shwelethla Pagoda in Lewe Township on 13 March. The minister discussed with local people renovation of the pagoda which collapsed in an earthquake.

At the excavation site of Yanaungmyin ancient town near the pagoda, Assistant Director U Myat Swe reported on conducting of research and objects unearthed. Yanaungmyin ancient town is located two miles north of Lewe. It was first called Naungpyin Town, but the name was changed to Yanaungmyin (victory over the enemy) because King Thamuddariz won victory over the enemies. The king built Yanaungmyin town before establishment of Bagan in Yonhltut Island.

The minister inspected the ancient palace site of Yanaungmyin. There are 32 houses on the ancient palace site. The minister gave instructions on excavation of the ancient town by Archaeology Department.

In the evening, the minister and party arrived at Kanbawzathadi Palace of King Bayintnaung in Bago and inspected the lake and garden of the palace, land preparation, water supply and greening tasks.

Later, he gave necessary instructions and arrived back there in the evening. — MNA

**Title recipient Sayadaw honoured**

YANGON, 14 March—A ceremony to honour Presiding Sayadaw of Aungmyaythaya Kyundaw Monastery in Ywabe Ward, Pyay Township, Bago Division (West) Bhaddanta Pandita who was presented Ganthavaçaka Pandita title by the State Peace and Development Council in 2004 was held at the monastery on 10 March morning.

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Kyaungtaik in Pyay Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Kundalajoti, Chairman of Bago Division (West Branch) Peace and Development Council Col Hla Min and members, local authorities, disciples and wellwishers.



Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win presents cash award of K 100,000 to the Selection (B) team which stood first in the trials. — SPED

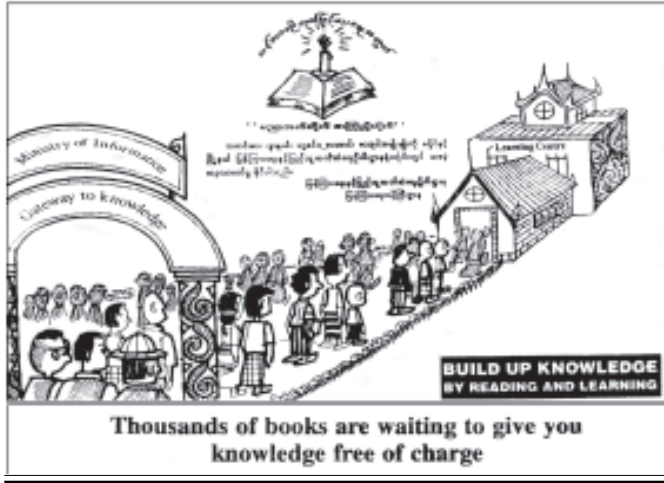
**Trials of Asian Sepak Takraw invitational tourney held**

YANGON, 14 March—Trials for the Asian Sepak Takraw Tournament to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2004 were held at the Thuwunna Gymnasium at 9 am today.

Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Leading Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation President U Chit Khaing and executives, guests and fans. — MNA

မိုးဝင်းရှောက် မလောင်ခင်တာဇာ

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2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 15.3.2004 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605,612.

Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

ဆေးဝါးစက်ရုံသစ်စီမံကိန်း (ပျဉ်းမနား) အတွက် စက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း
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41 kilos heroin seized in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 14 March — Pakistan's Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Friday seized 41 kilos of heroin in Lahore, the country's second largest city. The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted ANF sources as saying that the contraband was recovered from a Nigerian national at airport.
On receiving information, the ANF personnel searched the luggage of all passengers

of the flight and recovered from the Nigerian the drug concealed inside cell phone parts, said APP.
It added that during first-stage interrogations the suspect admitted that he was a member of an international gang which was smuggling drugs to different countries around the world.
Further investigations are underway, said APP. MNA/Xinhua

Fifty Bangladeshi fishermen missing in Bay storm

COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh), 14 March — At least 50 fishermen were missing and feared drowned after 15 boats capsized during a storm in the Bay of Bengal off Bangladesh's St Martin's Island, officials said on Friday.
St Martins is Bangladesh's only coral island, 344 miles from capital Dhaka. Moulana Saifullah, a

community leader said about 25 other fishermen swam ashore or were picked up by rescuers. A search for the missing people was continuing, he said.
Hundreds of fishermen go missing or die in storms in the Bay of Bengal every year, as many boats lack basic safety equipment or ignore weather warnings, officials said. — MNA/Reuters

Madrid blast victims from 11 countries

MADRID, 14 March — The nearly 200 dead from the Madrid bombs came from 11 countries including Spain, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said on Friday.
"Here are nationals from 11 countries," he told a news conference.

As well as the Spanish victims, there were three Peruvians, two Hondurans, two Poles, one Chilean, one Cuban, one Ecuadorean, one from Guinea Bissau, one French, one Moroccan and one Colombian, Aznar said.

At least 198 people died and 1,463 were wounded in Thursday's attacks on packed Madrid commuter trains. Investigators were trying on Friday to pin down whether Basque separatists or Muslim militants were to blame for the carnage.

Many of the wounded were also from foreign countries. Latin Americans immigrants flocked to hospitals looking for relatives on Thursday. Aznar said immigrants caught up in the disaster would be offered Spanish citizenship.

"I have given instructions to the Interior Minister to proceed urgently with the regularization of the situation of all the victims of the attacks and their families who may be in an irregular immigration status," he said MNA/Reuters

ပြည်တွင်းပြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

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China to close factories polluting drinking water sources

BEIJING, 14 March — China will take measures to further crack down on enterprises heavily polluting the environment, including factories polluting source areas of drinking water. Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan made the remark here Thursday at a seminar on stopping illegal polluters.

Despite the remarkable achievements made in national environmental protection, problems of river and lake pollution, acid rain, noise pollution, electronic waste, dangerous waste and toxic chemicals are salient in China, Zeng said. In 2004, China will put the focus on punishing illegal activities polluting the environment, and on solving ecological problems deeply concerning the public, he said. The government will shut down polluters threatening the safety of drinking-water source areas, punish noise polluters disturbing residents' ordinary life, clamp down on business venues causing smoke pollution and strictly supervise urban discharge of polluted water and garbage, he said.

Any construction project violating environmental laws or regulations should be stopped immediately, and the waste discharge to major drainage areas and reservoir areas should be strictly controlled, he said, calling for the development of a recycling economy and clean production. — MNA/Xinhua

"People's Daily" hails success of China's top advisory meeting

BEIJING, 14 March — An editorial to be published in People's Daily Saturday hails and congratulates the successful conclusion of the annual session of China's top advisory body.

"This was a democratic, truth-seeking, united and morale-boosting meeting. It will contribute greatly to our work this year and push forward the great cause of building a well-off society in an all-round way," says the editorial of the official newspaper of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top advisory body, held its annual session here from March 3 to 12.

Members of the CPPCC National Committee discussed the work of the CPPCC, adopted amendments to the organization's charter, heard and discussed the report on the work of the government and other major reports made at the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, and discussed amendments to China's Constitution.

The editorial says that achieving the lofty goals of building a well-off society

in an all-round way calls for pooling the wisdom of the entire Chinese nation and uniting available forces as much as possible.

It says that as a patriotic united front organization, the CPPCC could play an important role in the cause by organizing political consultations among different sectors, doing research and reporting the findings to decision-making bodies and conveying to the broad masses the lines and policies of the CPC and the state and uniting forces of various areas.

The amended charter defines the CPPCC as a patriotic united front organization of Chinese people, an important organ of the multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC, and an important route for achieving socialist democracy in China's political life.

It also defines the main functions of the CPPCC as political consultation, democratic supervision, and participating in and discussing government and political affairs. MNA/Xinhua

China to promote environment NGOs

BEIJING, 14 March — China will support and guide non-governmental organizations (NGO) devoted to environmental protection, said a senior official from China's environmental watchdog here Friday.

Pan Yue, vice-director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), made this remark at the annual assembly of nationwide environmental officials. He said SEPA will help to establish an NGO cooperation network in two years and provide professional training for small grassroots groups.

According to the official statistics, there are over 2000 environmental NGOs in China, most of which are small, roughly organized and lacking in communications framework.

"I believe NGOs will surely play a key role in China's environmental protection, because the government cannot do everything. However,

they need coordination, training and support," said Pan, who is an advocate of public participation in China's environmental protection.

"China is transforming from a highly-consuming and polluting growth model to a sustainable one. In this process, the public's commitment and strength should be unleashed, encouraged and well-guided," said Pan.

He said SEPA is training, as the first step of its plan, dozens of NGOs made up of Beijing's college students. Besides, SEPA held the first "Green China" forum in December 2003, which is designed to become a platform for NGOs and officials to exchange views. MNA/Xinhua

Most injured Chinese fire fighters in stable condition

JIUJIANG (Jiangxi), 14 March — Most of the 29 emergency services workers injured battling a forest fire in east China are in stable condition, but several are still in danger, doctors in local hospitals said recently.

The three police soldiers, who were seriously affected by smoke inhalation, need

another 10 days of medical observation before they are out of danger, according to Liu Shaohua, president of the No 1 Hospital of Jiujiang City. All the fighters had second-degree burns, said Liu, whose hospital has mobilized 150 staff members to take care of the patients. MNA/Xinhua

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### Scientists invent micro-biological means to protect silk artifacts

WUHAN, 14 March—Chinese scientists announced Friday that they had invented a micro-biological liquid to protect discoveries of ancient silk, which are fragile and fade shortly after being unearthed.

A piece of silk from the Warring States Period (475-221 BC) unearthed from Jiangling of central China's Hubei Province was displayed as the first sample protected by the liquid at the Hubei Provincial Museum on Friday.

The silk retained its original

colour and its tensile breaking strength improved from zero to 52 grammes per square centimetre, which meant it would not be damaged by folding, twisting and transportation, said Chen Zhongxing, leading researcher of the project and former head of the museum.

"This is a remarkable breakthrough in cultural relics protection which for the first time utilizes bioscience," Chen said.

In the past, scientists used chemical and physical methods like hermetization and macromolecule materials to prolong the life of unearthed silk, but they did not work well and often caused damage. The micro-biological liquid could help protect silk in normal conditions and was quicker to apply, said the researcher.

The achievement was made by a national research team tasked with finding a better way to protect silk and wooden archaeological dis-

coveries in China. The liquid they invented has several types, each of which contains different bacteria. It is sprayed or dripped on the silk works in four to five procedures, according to the team.

In addition to silk protection, the team also found a micro-biological way to protect wooden structures, which are often threatened by high water content. The scientists spent five months dehydrating an 8,000-year-old canoe made of masson pine which was soft when unearthed, which was the first sample of this invention.

A batch of large-scale tombs and sites have been found in provinces like Hubei and east China's Zhejiang since 1970s, most of which were threatened by high water content in the wood. The dehydration methods used in the past often damaged the fibrous structure and caused crazing and shrinkage, according to the team.

MNA/Xinhua

### Japan's old population hits record 19% in 2003

TOKYO, 14 March — Japan's old population reached a record 19 per cent in 2003, said the Public Management Ministry on Friday.

As of October 1, the country's population stood at 127,619,000, up 184,000 from the previous year, with the people aged 65 or above eclipsing the 18.5 per cent record, according to the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications.

The growing number of old people is weighing down the economy of Japan boasting for the sound social welfare system. By contrast, there were 1,139,000 births in the same period, down 37,000, with 28 of Japan's 47 prefectures seeing a decrease in population from a year earlier. Constant birth rate drop has aroused concerns about lack of labour force. The working-age population, from 15 to 64, totalled 85,404,000, down 302,000, said the ministry. In terms of sex, the number of males stood at 62,304,000 and the number of females at 65,315,000.—MNA/Xinhua

### Chinese President appoints new ambassadors

BEIJING, 14 March— Chinese President Hu Jintao has appointed new ambassadors to seven countries, in accordance with a decision made by the National People's Congress Standing Committee.

Shen Jiangkuan was appointed the new Ambassador to Djibouti, replacing Guan Jindi.

Lin Songtian was appointed the new Ambassador to Liberia.

Zhu Bangzao was appointed the new Ambassador to Switzerland, replacing Wu Chuanfu.

Fu Ying was appointed

the new Ambassador to Australia, replacing Wu Tao.

Cai Jinbiao was appointed the new Ambassador to Fiji, replacing Zhang Junsai.

Li Lianfu was appointed the new Ambassador to Cuba, replacing Wang Zhiqian.

Wang Zhiqian was appointed the new Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, replacing Xu Yanan.—MNA/Xinhua

### HK launches programme to improve capacity of language teachers

HONG KONG, 14 March—Hong Kong's Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) announced Friday the launch of the "Professional Development Incentive Grant Scheme for Language Teachers".

The scheme aims to encourage teachers of the Chinese and English Language subjects to upgrade their qualifications by offering financial incentives.

Chairman of SCOLAR Michael Tien said, "It is SCOLAR's long-term goal to build a professional language teaching force in Hong Kong. This scheme is an important step toward this goal. Through providing financial incentives, we hope to encourage more serving teach-

ers to enhance their knowledge and skills and improve their professional capability in language teaching."

In the final report of its language education review published in June 2003, SCOLAR recommended that an incentive grant scheme be set up to encourage more teachers of the Chinese and English Language subjects to upgrade their qualifications.

The scheme will provide eligible teachers with grants to meet 50 per cent of the

tuition fee of relevant programmes of study, subject to a maximum of 3,856 US dollars per teacher.

Priority will be given to teachers who have neither a degree nor any teacher training in the language subjects they teach.

A total of 28.92 million US dollars has been allocated from the Language Fund to support the Professional Development Incentive Grant Scheme.

MNA/Xinhua

### Albanian Govt strengthens anti-terrorism measures

TRANA, 14 March—The Albanian Government took measures Friday to strengthen the fight against terrorism, the ATSH news agency reported.

The government had formed a working group to monitor the security situation which has been formed, and police tightened security near sensitive areas, such as the seats of diplomatic corps, official sources said.

Police had also stepped up the monitoring of border crossings, and the criminal police intensified investigations of citizens with suspected links with terrorist groups.

The measures came following Thursday's deadly terrorist bombings in three train stations of Madrid, which killed at least 198 persons and injured more than 1,400 others.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese policemen try to capture a wild panda near the city of Jiangyou in China's southwestern province of Sichuan on 11 March, 2004. The adult giant panda was rescued by local farmers on Thursday after she wandered onto farmland near Jiangyou. The giant panda is an endangered species and only about 1,000 exist in the world, most of them living around the Sichuan basin.

INTERNET

### Madagascar cyclone death toll 58, more missing

ANTANANARIVO, 14 March—Aid workers rushed emergency supplies on Friday to thousands of people who lost their homes when a tropical cyclone hit Madagascar and killed at least 58.

State radio said 167 people were listed as missing, including the crew and passengers of a ferry carrying 113 people when it capsized in mountainous seas.

Northeastern parts of Madagascar were completely flooded in the wake of cyclone Gafilo which has thrashed across the Indian Ocean island twice since the weekend.

"There are parts in the northeast that are completely flooded and all you can see are houses jutting out of the sea," Mike Huggins, regional spokesman for the UN's World Food Programme,

told Reuters.

Maritime officials said on Thursday only two people were believed to have survived the sinking of the ferry, nicknamed *Samson*.

The two, from the neighbouring Comoros Islands, told Madagascan Marine officials they believed eight children were among those aboard when *Samson* sank on its way from the Comoran island of Anjouan to Madagascar's second port of Mahajanga.

"Following the heavy rains which have accompanied the cyclone, water levels everywhere are rising

dangerously and risk major flooding," the national weather office said.

Foreign Minister Marcel Ranjeva has appealed for international help for the vanilla-producing island and his ministry said humanitarian aid from France, Libya and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had started to arrive.

The toll included people who drowned after being swept away by sudden floods when rivers burst their banks. The storm rampaged across the northern part of the island, destroying buildings, uprooting trees and flooding

towns before heading back out to sea. The Comoros Government has declared a period of national mourning until midnight on Saturday.

"There are more than 400 people displaced in Antahla (north-east Madagascar) living in a football field," Huggins said. "Along the beach, numerous boats have been thrown onto the sand and the jetty is totally destroyed. The government is continuing to do assessment but it's hard because the roads are virtually impassable," said Huggins, who has just returned from Madagascar.—MNA/Reuters

### Finnish grannies rock in health study

HELSINKI, 14 March—A Finnish research team has set a group of grannies rocking in a study to see if rocking chairs help the elderly improve their balance and prevent them from nasty falls.

The first group of eight women, aged 67 and older, are now halfway through their six-week session of rocking for half an hour every day, said Ilkka Vaananen, researcher at the Lahti Polytechnic which is conducting the study. Rocking sets otherwise inactive people into motion and, if the study's hypothesis holds true, can help their bodies deal with changes that could otherwise throw them off balance. "Research shows that one-third of falls could be prevented

through balance training," Vaananen said. "There are a number of ways to train your balance and what we are looking for is an easy way that everyone can implement... If your balance is already weak, you can't start training by walking a tightrope," he said. Vaananen said women were chosen for the study because they suffer from osteoporosis, or the weakening of bones, more often than men, worsening the consequences of falls.

MNA/Reuters

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**Eriksson disappointed as winter break blocked**

LONDON, 14 March— England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has said he is disappointed that plans to introduce a winter break in England have been blocked by the Football Association (FA).

The FA Cup Committee voted this week against a winter break because it would mean the end of FA Cup replays in fifth and sixth-round ties.

"I think it is very wrong," Eriksson told the BBC on Friday. "You cannot find one manager not wanting a break. I don't understand why the committee went against it."

Eriksson said he was determined to keep trying to bring in a scheduled break to prevent his players being burnt out for major tournaments.

"I am extremely disappointed but we will go on trying to achieve that winter break," the Swede said.

"We think for English football, for the clubs and players, it is very important on all levels."

MNA/Reuters

**Ferguson issues Man United rallying call**

MANCHESTER (England), 14 March— Champions Manchester United must not dwell on their recent disappointments if they are to have any chance of closing the gap on league leaders Arsenal, manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

"My main job is to make sure they (the players) are not feeling sorry for themselves," Ferguson told a news conference two days before United face fierce rivals Manchester City. "I have got to get rid of that feeling among the players where they are all feeling sorry for themselves at injuries, suspensions, refereeing decisions and that sort of thing."

"I have got to get rid of that kind of thing."

With just two wins in their last seven league games, United have seen Arsenal go nine points clear at the top of the table and on Tuesday they crashed out of the Champions League to a last-minute goal against Porto.

However Ferguson, who also revealed on Friday that he had a heart pacemaker fitted last week, dismissed the idea that United were a fading force.

"If we lost at tiddly winks it would be the same thing. We have to handle the expectation well," he said. "Anyone coming to this club, whether it's the manager, the coaches or the players, has to handle that part where there is expectation, and it's huge."

"There's not really any problem with that. The important thing is knowing...What is happening on the football field and the training field which you hope you are in control of in the sense of performance, the players' attitude and their character."

While United face a local derby at struggling City on Sunday, unbeaten Arsenal play at Blackburn on Saturday.

On the corresponding weekend last season Arsenal lost at Blackburn as their form dipped to allow United to go on and win the title, and Ferguson is hoping for a repeat.

MNA/Reuters

**PSV's Robben ruled out for a month**

AMSTERDAM, 14 March— PSV Eindhoven winger Arjen Robben will be sidelined for at least a month with a torn hamstring, the Dutch champions said on Friday. Robben, who joins Premier League side Chelsea at the end of the season, was substituted during the first half of PSV's UEFA Cup fourth-round match against AJ Auxerre on Thursday.

Robben will miss the game against Feyenoord on Sunday and the return against Auxerre on March 25. The 20-year-old will also miss the Netherlands' friendly against France on 31 March.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal striker Thierry Henry (R) has his shot blocked by Celta Vigo goalkeeper Pablo Cavallero during their Champions League match at Highbury. Arsenal won 2-0 to progress into the quarter-final stages of the competition.

INTERNET

**Arsenal to face Chelsea in Champions League**

NYON (Switzerland), 14 March— English rivals Arsenal and Chelsea were drawn to meet each other in the pick of the Champions League quarterfinals on Friday.

Chelsea, who have not beaten their London rivals in any of their last 16 meetings, will be at home in the first leg.

In the semifinals the winners of that tie will face either nine-times winners and favourites Real Madrid or AS Monaco, who play the first leg of their quarterfinal in Spain.

Holders AC Milan are at home in the first leg against Deportivo Coruna, who will not be overawed by the prospect having convincingly knocked out last year's runners-up Juventus on

Tuesday.

The winners will play either last year's UEFA Cup winners Porto, who eliminated Manchester United on Tuesday, or France's Olympique Lyon. They play the first leg of their quarterfinal in Portugal.

With the quarterfinals missing Manchester United for the first time in eight years, Arsenal and Chelsea took up the baton for England but there was a sense of anti-climax when they were paired.

"Generally one of the joys of playing in Europe is obvi-

ously to meet overseas teams," Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein told Sky Sports News.

"To meet Chelsea, who we have already played three times this year, is a little bit anti-climactic perhaps but yet it's a massive game and it's there to be won with a very juicy semifinal if we manage to get that far."

Arsenal, unbeaten in the Premier League this season, have beaten Chelsea three times in domestic encounters, twice in the league and once in the FA Cup, but have yet to progress past the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

Reaching the last eight is a matter of course for Real Madrid and they will be pleased with their draw, even though they should not underestimate Monaco who thrashed Deportivo Coruna 8-3 during the group phase.

One player who might have mixed feelings about the tie is Madrid's Spanish international striker Fernando Morientes, who has spent the season on loan at Monaco.

Morientes has helped Real to three of their Champions League triumphs but Madrid director Emilio Butragueno said that the Spanish side would not try to prevent him playing in the tie.

"He played for us for many years, for him it will not be easy but he is a professional and he will try to help his team to beat Madrid," said the former Spanish international.

Five of the eight quarterfinalists — Arsenal, AC Milan, Real Madrid, Monaco and Porto — lead their domestic leagues. Milan and Real are the only teams in the last eight who also reached last year's Champions League quarterfinals.

The first legs of the quarterfinals will be played on March 23-24 with the returns two weeks later on April 6-7.

MNA/Reuters

**Champions CSKA held to 0-0 draw in Russian league opener**

Moscow, 14 March— Torpedo-Metallurg Moscow held champions and city rivals CSKA to a 0-0 draw in the Russian Premier League opener on Friday.

CSKA were expected to dominate Metallurg, who just avoided relegation last year, but had trouble breaking down their defence.

**Argentine striker Palermo joins Alaves**

MADRID, 14 March— Argentine striker Martin Palermo has joined Spanish Second Division side Alaves after being released from his contract with Real Betis.

The 30-year-old former international is a replacement for Alaves striker Ivan Alonso who is out of action for the rest of the season with a knee ligament injury.

"I am here to prove that I am a good player, something I wasn't able to do at Betis," Palermo told reporters. "I want to help the team gain promotion to the First Division." Alaves, who were relegated from the top flight at the end of last season, are in sixth spot in the Second Division, six points behind Levante who occupy the final promotion place.

MNA/Reuters

CSKA captain Sergei Semak had a chance to clinch victory for the Army side with a shot into the top corner late in the game but Metallurg keeper Alexander Filimonov kept it out with a fine save.

Spartak, another popular

Moscow club who have won nine Russian titles since 1992, meet city rivals Dynamo in one of six league matches on Saturday, while 2002 champions Lokomotiv Moscow host Shinnik Yaroslavl on Monday.

MNA/Reuters

**Bayern offer Real bomb blast benefit match**

MUNICH (GERMANY), 14 March— Bayern Munich have suggested to Real Madrid that the two rivals play a match to raise funds for victims of Thursday's bomb blasts in the Spanish capital. Bayern, who were knocked out of the Champions League by Real this week, said on Friday the game should be staged as soon as possible at Real's Bernabeu stadium.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said in a statement: "We are horrified and deeply abhor this terror. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the victims and their families." — MNA/Reuters



Defending champion and No 2 ranked Kim Clijsters of Belgium hits a backhand during her women's second round match against Angelika Roesch of Germany, at the Pacific Life Open in Indian Wells, California, on 12 March, 2004. Clijsters won, 6-1 6-3. — INTERNET

**Answers for yesterday's Corssword Puzzle**

W	A	R	T	A	F	F	R	O	N	T	S
E	I	A	R	E	A	E					
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**15-3-2004 (Monday)**  
**(Programme Schedule)**  
**Morning Transmission**  
**(9:00 - 10:00)**

9:00 Signature Tune Greeting

9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

9:06 A Hidden Treasure (Kekku)

**9:10** **Headline News**

9:12 Mann Ma- Yway

**9:15** **National News**

9:20 The Interesting Places of Kachin State

9:25 Traditional Lamp Dance

**9:30** **National News**

9:35 Radiance of Love and Beauty

9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "Crying of the Sarus Crane"

9:42 Chaungtha Beach Resort

**9:45** **National News**

9:50 Conservation Research & Management on Sea Turtle in Myanmar

9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

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

15:30 Signature Tune Greeting

15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"

15:36 A Hidden Treasure (Kekku)

**15:40** **Headline News**

15:42 Mann Ma- Yway

**15:45** **National News**

15:50 The Interesting Places of Kachin State

15:55 Traditional Lamp Dance

**16:00** **National News**

16:05 Radiance of Love and Beauty

16:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Crying of the Sarus Crane"

16:12 Chaungtha Beach Resort

**16:15** **National News**

16:20 Conservation Research & Management on Sea Turtle in Myanmar

16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

**16:30** **National News**

16:35 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone

16:40 Myanmar Artistic Works At Shwedagon Pagoda Archways

**16:45** **National News**

16:50 Greening of the Hills and Ranges, in order to achieve Climate Change (Taung Thar Hill) (Magway Division)

16:55 Dawei Water Fetching Dance

**17:00** **National News**

17:05 Myanmar Crocodiles

17:10 Song "Cherry Present"

**17:15** **National News**

17:20 Development Centre for Rubber Technology

17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission**  
**(19:30 - 23:30)**

19:30 Signature Tune Greeting

19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

19:36 Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Industrial Sector"

**19:40** **Headline News**

19:42 Illustrious handiwork in Kyeethe

**19:45** **National News**

19:50 Resort for Rest and Recreation

19:55 San-Thit-Hla-Pa

**20:00** **National News**

20:05 Song "No Matter In Whichever Country You are, Remember, You are Myanmar"

20:10 Myanmar Toddy Palm: A Source of Rural Income

**20:15** **National News**

20:20 From Poppies to Luscious Fields and Enterprises (Part-II)

20:25 Song "Golden Shangaing"

**20:30** **National News**

20:35 Myanmar Performing Arts Showroom

20:40 Myanmar Traditional Snacks

**20:45** **National News**

20:50 Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf Works

20:55 Dance of the Oil Lamps

**21:00** **National News**

21:05 Lawka Nanda Sanctuary Garden

21:10 Song "Aristocratic Beauty"

**21:15** **National News**

21:20 Myanmar Lacquerware

21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"

21:30 A Hidden Treasure (Kekku)

**21:40** **Headline News**

21:42 Mann Ma- Yway

**21:45** **National News**

21:50 The Interesting Places of Kachin State

21:55 Traditional Lamp Dance

**22:00** **National News**

22:05 Radiance of Love and Beauty

22:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Crying of the Sarus Crane"

22:12 Chaungtha Beach Resort

**22:15** **National News**

22:20 Conservation Research & Management on Sea Turtle in Myanmar

22:25 Songs On Screen "Ma Ma Moe"

**22:30** **National News**

22:35 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone

22:40 Myanmar Artistic Works At Shwedagon Pagoda Archways

**22:45** **National News**

22:50 Greening of the Hills and Ranges, in order to achieve Climate Change (Taung Thar Hill) (Magway Division)

22:55 Dawei Water Fetching Dance

**23:00** **National News**

23:05 Myanmar Crocodiles

23:10 Song "Cherry Present"

**23:15** **National News**

23:20 Development Centre for Rubber Technology

23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**15-3-2004 (Monday) & 16-3-2004 (Tuesday)**  
**Evening & Morning Transmission**  
**(23:30 - 1:30)**

23:30 Signature Tune Greeting

23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"

23:36 A Hidden Treasure (Kekku)

**23:40** **Headline News**

23:42 Mann Ma- Yway

**23:45** **National News**

23:50 The Interesting Places of Kachin State

23:55 Traditional Lamp Dance

**24:00** **National News**

00:05 Radiance of Love and Beauty

00:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Crying of the Sarus Crane"

00:12 Chaungtha Beach Resort

**00:15** **National News**

00:20 Conservation Research & Management on Sea Turtle in Myanmar

00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

**00:30** **National News**

00:35 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone

00:40 Myanmar Artistic Works At Shwedagon Pagoda Archways

**00:45** **National News**

00:50 Greening of the Hills and Ranges, in order to achieve Climate Change (Taung Thar Hill) (Magway Division)

00:55 Dawei Water Fetching Dance

**01:00** **National News**

01:05 Myanmar Crocodiles

01:10 Song "Cherry Present"

**01:15** **National News**

01:20 Development Centre for Rubber Technology

01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**16-3-2004 (Tuesday)**  
**Morning Transmission**  
**(03:30-07:30)**

03:30 Signature Tune Greeting

03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic

Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

03:36 Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Industrial Sector"

**03:40** **Headline News**

03:42 Illustrious handiwork in Kyeethe

**03:45** **National News**

03:50 Resort for Rest and Recreation

03:55 San-Thit-Hla-Pa

**04:00** **National News**

04:05 Song "No Matter In Whichever Country You are, Remember, You are Myanmar"

04:10 Myanmar Toddy Palm: A Source of Rural Income

**04:15** **National News**

04:20 From Poppies to Luscious Fields and Enterprises (Part-II)

04:25 Song "Golden Shangaing"

**04:30** **National News**

04:35 Myanmar Performing Arts Showroom

04:40 Myanmar Traditional Snacks

**04:45** **National News**

04:50 Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf Works

04:55 Dance of the Oil Lamps

**05:00** **National News**

05:05 Lawka Nanda Sanctuary Garden

05:10 Song "Aristocratic Beauty"

**05:15** **National News**

05:20 Myanmar Lacquerware

05:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"

05:30 A Hidden Treasure

(Kekku)

**05:40** **Headline News**

05:42 Mann Ma- Yway

**05:45** **National News**

05:50 The Interesting Places of Kachin State

05:55 Traditional Lamp Dance

**06:00** **National News**

06:05 Radiance of Love and Beauty

06:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Crying of the Sarus Crane"

06:12 Chaungtha Beach Resort

**06:15** **National News**

06:20 Conservation Research & Management on Sea Turtle in Myanmar

06:25 Songs On Screen "Ma Ma Moe"

**06:30** **National News**

06:35 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone

06:40 Myanmar Artistic Works At Shwedagon Pagoda Archways

**06:45** **National News**

06:50 Greening of the Hills and Ranges, in order to achieve Climate Change (Taung Thar Hill) (Magway Division)

06:55 Dawei Water Fetching Dance

**07:00** **National News**

07:05 Myanmar Crocodiles

07:10 Song "Cherry Present"

**07:15** **National News**

07:20 Development Centre for Rubber Technology

07:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"



**Monday, March 15**  
**View today:**

**7:00 am**

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

**7:25 am**

2. To be healthy exercise

**7:30 am**

3. Morning news

**7:40 am**

4. Nice and sweet song

**7:55 am**

5. Song of national races

**8:05 am**

6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

**8:10 am**

7. Cut little dancers

**8:20 am**

8. တောင်တန်းတန်းတန်း

**8:30 am**

9. International news

**8:45 am**

10. Let's Go

**4:00 pm**

1. Martial song  
(၅၂) နှစ်ပြောက်တပ်မတော်ခေ့၊ တပ်မတော်ကာကွယ်ရေးဦးစီးချုပ် ဦးလှဘူးကြီးသန်းခွေ မိန့်ကြားသည့် မိန့်ခွန်းမှ ကောက်နုတ်ချက်

**4:15 pm**

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

**4:30 pm**

3. Demonstration Exercises for Correct Pronunciation

**4:45 pm**

4. တပ်မတော်ခေ့၊ လက်ပြုစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအဖွဲ့မှ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)

**5:00 pm**

5. အစောဆုံးတက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဂုဏ်ပြုခံယူကြား ဆင်ခန်းစာ ဝတ်ယူခွင့် (သမားအထူးပြု) (သမား)

**5:15 pm**

6. Musical programme

**5:30 pm**

7. Dance variety

**5:45 pm**

8. Dance and song of national races

**5:55 pm**

9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

**6:10 pm**

10. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး

**6:20 pm**

11. Discovery

**6:30 pm**

12. Evening news

**7:00 pm**

13. Weather report

**7:05 pm**

14. Industrial achievement

**7:20 pm**

15. (၅၅) နှစ်ပြောက်တပ်မတော်ခေ့၊ လက်ပြုစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအဖွဲ့မှ ဆုရတေးများ

**7:30 pm**

16. သာယာပြုံးရွမ်း မိမိထန်းစုံပြည့် နှစ်လွန်မြဲ (အပိုင်း-၂)

**7:40 pm**

17. (၅၂) နှစ်ပြောက်တပ်မတော်ခေ့၊ တပ်မတော်ကာကွယ်ရေးဦးစီးချုပ် ဦးလှဘူးကြီးသန်းခွေ မိန့်ကြားသည့် မိန့်ခွန်းမှ ကောက်နုတ်ချက် "ပြည်သူ့အတွက် တပ်မတော်" "ပြည်သူ့အကျိုးလုပ်ငန်းအသိပေးရန်မှာ တိုဝ်းတော်" (ကျွန်းမရေး၊ ဖူးယံခင်) -ပြည်ထောင်စုရှေ့ပြေးတပ်မတော်အစိုးရတပ်မတော် -တောင်တန်းတန်းတန်း ဦးလှဘူးကြီးသန်းခွေ

**8:00 pm**

18. News

19. International news

20. Weather report

21. "နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်း" "အနုပညာသိပ္ပံ" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

22. The next day's programme



**Monday, March 15**  
**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 -Pokemon theme (Billy Crawford) -Fly with me (98)

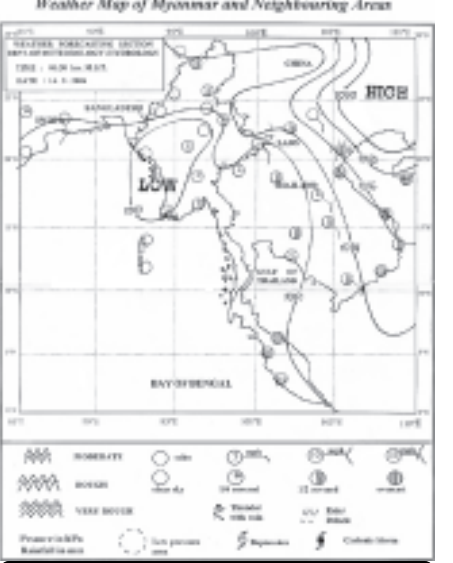
**9.00 pm** Song feature in honour of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day: "Favourite song of Tatmadawmen"

**9.15 pm** Article

**9.25 pm** Spotlight on a star "Firehouse"

**9.45 pm** News/Slogan

**10.00 pm** PEL



**WEATHER**

**Sunday, 14 March, 2004**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:**  
During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Kachin State and Mandalay Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in upper Sagaing, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (42°C) in Aungmye.

Maximum temperature on 13-3-2004 was 38.3°C (101°F). Minimum temperature on 14-3-2004 was 19.0°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-3-2004 was 64%. Total sun shine hours on 13-3-2004 was (9.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 14-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from west at (09:50) hours MST on 13-3-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 15-3-2004:** Except for the possibility of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated rain in Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-3-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-3-2004:** Fair weather.

Four political objectives	Four economic objectives	Four social objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order</li> <li>* National reconsolidation</li> <li>* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution</li> <li>* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well</li> <li>* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system</li> <li>* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad</li> <li>* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation</li> <li>* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character</li> <li>* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit</li> <li>* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation</li> </ul>

## Commander inspects development tasks in Kayan Township

YANGON, 14 March— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected regional development tasks and agricultural matters in Kayan Township this morning.

On arrival at Phayapyo Village in Kayan Township this morning, the commander was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyi and officials. The commander then met local people and departmental officials.

Next, the commander paid homage to Mya Thein Tan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Uttama and donated provisions. Then, the commander inspected Kayan-Phayapyo-Yekyaw-Aungthadan Road and gave



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects digging of inlet canal and building of road shoulder along Kayan-Thanatpin road. — MNA

instructions on timely completion of laying gravel on Kayan-Phayapyo five-mile long section meeting the set standard in the open season. Afterwards, they arrived in Theikekon Village where Director U Khin Maung Myint of Construction-6 of

Irrigation Department reported on supply of water from Moeyungyi Lake to farmlands.

Next, the commander gave instructions on water supply tasks to be carried out in cultivation season of summer paddy as soon as

possible for greening of eastern part of Yangon International Airport all the year round.

Later, the commander inspected dredging of drains along Kayan-Thanatpin Road and extension of shoulder of the road. *MNA*



### Construction of school buildings inspected

YANGON, 14 March — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint on 11 March went to Yeogyi affiliated high school in Mogok Township and met with Headmistress and teachers. At the meeting, he fulfilled the needs for education. Afterwards, he proceeded to Kyatpyin high school and inspected the newly constructed three-storey school building which is 200 feet long and 30 feet wide and comprises 18 classrooms. The building was built at a cost of K 70 million contributed by the State and wellwishers. Later, the commander arrived at the post-primary school in Kyitauk Village in Singu Township and inspected the 100-foot-long and 30-foot-wide two-storey school building which was built at a cost of K 15.9 million and progress of the construction of 130-foot-long and 30-foot-wide school building which will cost over K 20 million. — *MNA*

### JAT Course concludes at UDNR

YANGON, 14 March— The Junior Assistant Teachership Course No 13 concluded at University for Development of National Races at Panglong Hall of the university at 1 pm on 12 March.

Pro-Rector Daw Khin Si Si reported on training courses. Then, Rector Col Zaw Min Thein presented certificates to 48 trainees and outstanding prizes to the respective winners.— *MNA*



Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivers an address at the 13th Convocation of UDNR. — MNA

### UDNR Council meets

YANGON, 14 March— The University Council Meeting of the University for Development of National Races was held at its meeting hall on 11 March morning. Chairman of the University Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a speech. Next, the meeting sought approval of academic and management matters. Later, the commander gave a concluding remarks. After the meeting, the commander, accompanied by Vice-Chairman of the University Council Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, CSSTB member U Aung Myint and officials, inspected computer section and gave necessary instructions. — *MNA*

### UDNR holds 13th Convocation

YANGON, 14 March— The 13th convocation of University for Development of National Races and the second teachership diploma certificate presentation ceremony were held at the convocation hall of UDNR on 12 March.

Chairman of the University Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye conferred certificates of MED on four trainees and certificates of BEd on 50 graduates. Then, Vice-Chairman of the University Council Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun presented certificates of Dip Ed to 158 graduates. Later, Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a concluding remarks.— *MNA*

### Functions of UDNR coordinated

YANGON, 14 March— Chairman of the University Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Vice-Chairman of the University Council Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and representatives of State and Division Peace and Development Councils met to coordinate functions of the university at the meeting hall of the university on 11 March. The commander and the CSSTB chairman gave speeches on the occasion. Rector of the university Col Zaw Min Thein reported on selection of the trainees, academic matters, continuous learning of outstanding trainees and providing of assistance. Next, those present took part in the discussions.— *MNA*

### Dinner hosted in honour of graduates

YANGON, 14 March— Vice-Chairman of the University Council Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun hosted a dinner in honour of trainees who concluded Junior Assistant Teachership Course No 13 and Diploma in Education Course No 2 on the lawns of the university on 11 March. University Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and CSSTB Chairman Dr Than Nyun cordially greeted the graduates at the dinner. After the dinner, the graduates performed traditional dances and songs. Then, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Dr Than Nyun presented flower baskets and cash prizes to the graduates. — *MNA*



CSSTB Chairman Dr Than Nyun confers degree on a graduate at the Convocation of the UDNR. — MNA