

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 335

11th Waning of Tabaung 1365 ME

Tuesday, 16 March, 2004

As good sons of the State, serve the interests of the people



The Tatmadaw at present is endeavouring to ensure peace and stability of the State for the people to live with peace of mind and earn their living unhindered. In addition, it is working hard to raise the per capita income annually and develop the national economy. In every part of the nation, its endeavours are for the annual growth of the gross domestic product as it will lead to improving the life expectancy and raising the health, education and social standard of the people. Moreover, its building of economic and social infrastructures including roads, bridges and dams in all sectors in every direction of the nation is not only for the present, but also for the posterity. Here, I would like to say that as we are good sons of the State, we are working in the interest of the people.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address at the graduation parade of 5th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy)

Prime Minister inspects Shwegyin Hydel Power Project in Bago Division

YANGON, 15 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, left here by helicopter yesterday and arrived at the site of Shwegyin Hydel Power Project in Shwegyin, Bago Division.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development

Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on the background history of the project, survey by Hydro Electric Power Department, the purpose and data of the project and construction tasks.

Deputy Minister U Myo Myint reported on diaphragm dam, diversion conduit, intake structure, spillways, support spillways, gravel-filled dam, electric

power station, sub-power station and related structures, diaphragm concrete wall and construction of gravel-filled dam.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on precise data of the project and speedy completion of the project.

The Prime Minister presented gifts to foreign consultant experts working in the project. He then inspected scale model of the dam and sample of earth to be used in construction of the dam. The Prime Minister and party inspected the construction of the project.

The Prime Minister and party went to the site and construction of diversion conduit and the main dam.

They were conducted round by Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut and officials.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to the site of construction of concrete diaphragm wall. They inspected quality control of soil cement and testing of wax percentage in the earth.

The Prime Minister and party inspected construction of concrete diaphragm wall including boring, clam shell and laying of concrete. They were conducted round the place by officials of High Tech Concrete Co Ltd.

Shwegyin Hydel Power Project is one of the Sittaung River Valley Hydel Power Projects. Shwelaung Dam will be built on Shwegyin Creek and it will

generate 75 megga-watt.

The Prime Minister and the commander went to Shwegyin, Bago Division where they were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander Col Zaw Win Myint and members of Bago District and Shwegyin Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and social organizations.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to the 100-bed hospital where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Kyi Soe and doctors. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint reported on location and area of the hospital, construction of the hospital and work undertaken for treatment.

Next, U Tin Shwe of YaungchiOo Construction reported on OPD, office, construction of ward-2, power and water supply and construction tasks.

(See page 10)

INSIDE

Perspectives

Explore more gems for increased earnings of the State (Page 2)

Article

The historic and victorious military operations of the Tatmadaw (Pages 8+9)

Circulation

22,831

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Shwegyin Hydel Power Project in Shwegyin Township, Bago Division. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 16 March, 2004

Explore more gems for increased earnings of the State

The Union of Myanmar is rich in natural resources and noted for its jade, rubies and pearls. Mogok in Mandalay Division, Monghsu and Pyinlon in Shan State, Phakant, Lonekhin, Sarhmaw in Kachin State and Hkamti and Mawlu-Mawhan in Sagaing Division and Myeik archipelago in Taninthayi Division are well-known to the world because of their precious stones.

Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines is taking systematic measures in accordance with the Gems Law to promote the sales of world-famous gems of first water. The 41st Myanma Gems Emporium (2004) is being held at Myanma Gems Mart, starting from 13 March. At the emporium, 1,254 lots of jade worth euro 13.25 million, 318 lots of gems worth euro 8.9 million, 76 lots of Monghsu uncut gems worth euro 8.3 million, 1,207 items of jewellery worth euro 950,884 and 289 lots of pearl worth euro 1.8 million will be on sale.

The State is now paying the way for the systematic emergence of the gems market and gems enterprises. The State and national private companies are engaged in mining jade and gems in joint ventures. The success of gems enterprises is due to the cooperation between the State and national private companies, assistance rendered by respective regional authorities and prevalence of regional peace and stability.

National entrepreneurs are allowed to sell their gems not only at the emporiums held at home but also at those held abroad. As a result, the State enjoys revenues and national gems merchants a lot of benefits. Therefore, all the national entrepreneurs are required to be loyal to the State and serve its interests.

The mining sector is earning more and more foreign exchange for the State as steps are being taken for extended exploration of precious stones and development of gems enterprises. Therefore, we would like to urge all those responsible in the mining sector to try their hardest to increase the earnings of the sector they take care of.

Myanmar football team leaves for China

YANGON, 15 March — Led by Myanmar Football Federation Vice-President-1 Officer on special duty at the Ministry of Sports Lt-Col Maung Ko and Vice-President-3 U Wai Yan Aung, the selected Myanmar soccer team left here by air this morning to participate in Myanmar-China friendly warmup football tournament. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by MFF Patron Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, officials of the Ministry of Sports and MFF and families of the football team. The football team include the team leader, manager, coach, medical in charge and 18 players totaling 25. —MNA

59th Anniversary

Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

People's Desire

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



Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with doctors at 100-bed hospital in Shwegyin. (News on page-1) —MNA

Myanmar National Seminar and Action Plan Preparation Workshop of ADB-ASEAN Road Safety Project opened

YANGON, 15 March — Myanmar National Seminar and Action Plan Preparation Workshop of ADB-ASEAN Road Safety Project commenced at 9 am today at MICT Park on Hline University Campus here.

Present at the opening ceremony were Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee Vice-Chairman Yangon City Development Committee

Joint-Secretary U Kyi Win, Secretary of TREC Director-General of Road Administration Department U Hla Thuang Myint, Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, departmental heads, WHO Resident

Representatives Dr Agostino Borra, and Dr Alan Ross of ADB-ASEAN Road Safety Project and members, officials and those of social organizations and private companies.

First, Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin spoke on the occasion. And Dr Agostino Borra and Dr Alan Ross also made speeches.

Next, the deputy ministers and those present had a documentary photo taken.

U Kyi Win chaired the seminar together with U Hla Thuang Myint. Then those present made discussions.

The seminar continues tomorrow and the workshop will be held from 17 to 19 March.

MNA



Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and officials see off Myanmar soccer team at Yangon International Airport. — SPED



Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin addresses Myanmar National Seminar and Action Plan Preparation Workshop of ADB-ASEAN Road Safety Project. —MNA

Spaniards vote out government in retaliation for it's support of Iraq war

MADRID, 15 March—Spaniards threw out their centre-right government on Sunday in a spectacular election upset triggered by last week's suspected al Qaeda attack on Madrid in retaliation for Spanish support of the Iraq war.

The ruling Popular Party (PP) conceded defeat to Socialist leader Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who will take over from outgoing Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, a staunch backer of Washington's invasion of Iraq that most Spaniards opposed.

Analysts said the PP, opinion poll favourite, had been battered by voters because of a new claim in the name of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda that the group had mounted its first attack in Europe and in reprisal for Spain's support for the Iraq war.

The Socialists have pledged to withdraw Spain's 1,300 troops from Iraq if the United Nations does not take control by June 30 when Washington plans to hand power back to Iraqis. Opinion polls showed as many as 90 percent of Spaniards opposed the war.

"The government has paid the price for its involvement in the war in Iraq, for Aznar's relationship with (US President George W Bush and (British Prime Minister) Tony Blair. The vote has been a reaction to this," said Carlos Berzosa, rector of

Madrid's Complutense University.

Spain's political about-turn after eight years of rule by Aznar occurred as Germany called for an urgent meeting of European Union security chiefs over possible al Qaeda involvement in the Madrid attack.

"My most immediate priority is to beat all forms of terrorism," said a victorious Zapatero, asking for a minute's silence in honour of the 200 people killed and 1,500 injured in the bombings on four packed commuter trains.

Voters, many wearing the

black ribbon symbols of national grief since Thursday's attack, turned out in large numbers amid an angry debate over who was behind the bombings -- al Qaeda or Basque separatists.

Official results showed the Socialists leading the PP by 42.6 percent to 37.7 percent with 99.44 percent of votes counted.

This would give the Socialists 164 seats in parliament compared with the PP's 148, but short of an absolute majority of 176. The Socialists will probably need help from another party to form a government. Some Spaniards were vitriolic in accusing Aznar of "manipulating" public opinion by spending three days blaming the bombings on the Basque separatist group ETA, despite denials from the guerrillas.

Internet

ထိုက်တုန်းက ဆိုခဲ့တာ



Iraqis walk past a crater created by an explosion in central Tikrit that killed two US soldiers while on patrol on Saturday 13 March, 2004, about 112 miles (180 km) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq. The roadside bomb which also wounded three others Saturday, is 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

Relatives of US soldiers killed in Iraq protest outside US base

WASHINGTON, 15 March—Hundreds of protesters, many of them relatives of US soldiers killed in Iraq or currently on duty in the region, marched outside the Dover Air Force Base in the northeastern state of Delaware to protest the US war in Iraq.

The march was organized by Military Families Speak Out, a group made up of people with relatives in the military, as well as the group Veterans for Peace.

The Sunday march was a "memorial procession" to "honour our fallen brothers and sisters, sons and daughters," as well as "Iraqis and the increasing number of people from other countries who have been killed and wounded," the group said in a statement.

US military casualties are flown into Dover. The government however has been reluctant to let cameras record airplanes unloading coffins, and reluctant to let news reporters interview personnel wounded in Iraq.

According to the groups, the government

of President George W Bush "refuses to acknowledge the toll of this war -- including those who are killed and wounded."

"We call on this administration to start telling the truth, and stop hiding the toll," Military Families Speak Out said in a statement.

The protesters marched up to the base gates and read one by one the names of the US military personnel killed in Iraq.

A similar protest is scheduled for Monday outside the Walter Reed Army Hospital in the US capital, to be followed by a protest march outside the White House.

The protests are being held to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the US-led attack on Saddam Hussein Iraq.

Internet



Protesters march to Dover Air Force Base on Sunday, 14 March, 2004, in Dover Del, to urge an end to the Iraq war. The event was organized by Military Families Speak Out, Veterans for Peace and Iraq Pledge of Resistance. —INTERNET

Nepal to contest for UNSC seat

KATHMANDU, 15 March—Nepal has formally decided to contest the election for non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council for the 2007-2008 term, Nepali Foreign Ministry spokesman Madan Kumar Bhattarai said.

"Nepal will start lobbying for the 2006 election for the Council's temporary members," *The Kathmandu Post* newspaper on Saturday quoted the spokesman as saying.

The Cabinet meeting held Friday took a decision to this

effect, Bhattarai confirmed.

Nepal has already served twice — in 1969-1970 and 1988-1989 — as a non-permanent member in the Security Council after it entered the United Nations in December 1955.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven US soldiers killed in weekend bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 March—Roadside bombs killed seven US soldiers in Iraq, one just newly arrived, and wounded several other people over the weekend as attackers use sneakier methods to conceal their weapons, officials said.

A bomb exploded late Saturday killing three troops from the 1st Armoured Division as they patrolled an area in southeast Baghdad, a senior military official said.

"One of our reconnaissance patrols stuck an improvised explosive device (IED), the blast caused the vehicle to roll into a canal," the military official told reporters.

A fourth soldier who was wounded died at a combat hospital Sunday, the Pentagon said.

Hours later, west of the city, a newly arrived US National Guard soldier was killed when the convoy he was travelling in was hit by a separate bomb attack at about 6:30 am (0300 GMT) Sunday.

"It was sadly yet another roadside bomb," the senior official said.

The soldier, who was due to work with the 1st Infantry Division, died of his wounds while being taken to hospital, the official added.

It has been a bad weekend for the US

army's 1st Infantry Division, which is replacing the 4th Infantry Division as part of the biggest troop rotation since World War II.

On Saturday morning, two US soldiers were killed and three wounded in an attack on an army convoy in the centre of the northern city of Tikrit -- the hometown of ousted president Saddam Hussein.

Homemade and roadside bombs have become the biggest killers of US military personnel in Iraq.

But it is not just the army that is affected.

Two Iraqi civilians were wounded when a bomb exploded Sunday along a road between Khales, 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Baquba and the northern city of Kirkuk, which is often used by military vehicles, an emergency services official said.

"The bomb exploded on the road between Khales and Kirkuk a few moments after a US convoy passed by," said the rescue official, Karim Jassem.

Internet

China, Russia exchange views on regional cooperation

Moscow, 15 March—Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Zhang Deguang Friday exchanged views on regional cooperation and the preparation for the upcoming SCO summit with Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Loshchinin.

Zhang arrived in Moscow on Thursday after a three-day official visit to Uzbekistan, which is the first overseas trip of the top SCO official after he took office in January. During Zhang's visit to Uzbekistan, he held talks with Uzbek Foreign Minister Sadyk Safayev and said the SCO's goal is to maintain peace and prosperity in the region, stressing the organization has no plan to

set up a military alliance.

Safayev said the objectives of the SCO are to maintain regional security, develop economic co-operation and fight international terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime and they will not run against the interests of other countries. Zhang also met with Uzbek President Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov, Deputy Prime Minister

Rustam Azimov and other officials during the visit.

All heads of state of SCO member countries will attend a summit in June in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, and the meeting is of great significance to the SCO's future development.

The SCO, founded in June 2001, groups China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

MNA/Xinhua

Six Iraqis killed in US attack on village

BAGHDAD, 15 March— Six members of an Iraqi family were killed and four children wounded when their village was fired on.

Family members on Sunday blamed US troops, saying soldiers had heard people shooting into the air on Saturday to celebrate a wedding nearby and had fired back from their tanks.

The US military said it had no information about any incident in Zuhair village near Miqdadiya, north of Baghdad.

"The attack happened at about 11:30 GMT when the family was in the house,"

cousin Bashir Ata Allah Salih said.

"The first shell landed in a nearby shop, and the next one inside the house. Two children were blown into pieces. There were five killed and five wounded."

Doctors at a hospital in nearby Baquba, where the wounded were treated, said a sixth person died from her injuries on Sunday morning. Four children under the age of 17 remained in hospital.

Internet

British soldier caught trying to smuggle gold bar out of Iraq

LONDON, 15 March—A British soldier serving in Iraq was caught trying to smuggle a solid gold bar found in a bank vault out of the country, officials and a report said.

The gold bar weighed 40 pounds (18 kilogrammes) and was worth around 250,000 pounds (370,000 euros, 450,000 dollars), according to the *News of the World* newspaper.

It said that the unnamed soldier had been among a group of British soldiers who came across a horde of gold bars at a bank ransacked by looters in the southern Iraqi city of Basra

shortly after the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein last year.

One of the bars disappeared, and the soldier — described in the newspaper by a colleague as "not the brightest in the world" — attempted to smuggle it in a kitbag onto a flight to Cyprus when he went on leave in June last year.

However bags were checked with scanners be-

fore they were allowed on the plane and the gold was discovered.

"The matter was dealt with by the regimental sergeant major of the unit he was in," a Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said on Sunday.

"The alleged bar of gold is in safe custody and it is the property of the Iraqis and will be returned in due course." —Internet



A British soldier serving in Iraq was caught trying to smuggle a solid gold bar found in a bank vault out of the country on 15 March.—INTERNET

Shandong increases presence overseas with huge investment

JINAN, 16 March —East China's Shandong Province has increased its presence overseas, largely by investing in 806 enterprises and organizations in 94 countries and regions.

These enterprises and organizations established by Shandong and its foreign partners involve 1.04 billion US dollars in contractual investment, with more than 690 million dollars from Shandong.

In 2003 alone, the province set up 113 enterprises and organizations overseas, involving 313 million dollars in contractual overseas investment, up 41 per cent year-on-year.

And the new projects in 2003 included six each with more than five million dollars of contractual investment and four with more than 10 million dollars each.

By the end of 2003, the number of units set up overseas by Shandong's private investors had reached 78, accounting for nearly 10

per cent of the total funded by Shandong abroad.

Local investment overseas mainly goes to manufacturing, resources development, service and trade areas. Last year alone, Shandong funded 87 million dollars in 71 manufacturing projects overseas, accounting for 76 per cent and 62 per cent, respectively, of the year's totals.

So far, the province has invested in 99 processing projects overseas, with contractual investment reaching 350 million dollars.

The United States is home to 22 enterprises and organizations set up by Shandong, followed by South Korea with 13, Russia with eight and Canada and Japan each with seven. —MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်ဟူင်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Iraq needs two million homes to ease housing crisis

BAGHDAD, 15 March— Iraq needs to build more than two million homes to ease a growing housing crisis, the country's Minister of Construction and Housing said Sunday.

Baker al-Zubaidi told *Reuters* in an interview that a shortage of housing was a major problem that would need at least 10 years and considerable investment to solve.

"The cause of this problem is the previous regime, which didn't build a single housing complex since 1982," he said.

Baghdad's housing problem is underlined by the thousands of squatters who moved into government buildings and accommodation after the fall of Saddam and refused to leave unless they were given an alternative place to live.

The Ministry of Construction and Housing has unveiled plans to develop seven modern housing complexes, sched-

uled to be completed by mid-2005, to house thousands of Iraqis. But the minister said this would only solve a fraction of the problem.

Heavily damaged buildings bombed during the war still dominate the Baghdad skyline almost a year after the US-led invasion toppled the Iraqi dictator.

Reconstruction has been slow in coming, and basic necessities such as electricity and clean water remain in short supply, angering many Iraqis.

Zubaidi said reconstruction would pick up speed once oil revenues were in full flow and money allocated for reconstructing Iraq was disbursed.

Internet

Causes discovered for discolouring of frescos at Dunhuang Grottoes

LANZHOU, 15 March — Chinese experts said they have found the causes for the fading of colour in the renowned frescos at Dunhuang Grottoes in northwest China, denying ceruse oxygenation as the main cause as traditionally considered.

"Scientific analysis shows that the discoloured part in Dunhuang frescos, mainly the colour of skin, did not use ceruse at all," said Wu Rongjian, a research member with the art research branch of the Dunhuang Research Institute.

Analysis of pigments of Dunhuang frescos reveals three factors have contributed to the discolouring of portraits.

The factors include the use of red lead colouring, oxygenation of vegetal pigments and large quantities of alkaline elements, which catalyzed changes in pigments.

According to Wu, the discolouring of Dunhuang frescos has experienced two phases. From the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-589) to the beginning of the Sui Dynasty (581-618), the flesh colour and similar colours changed into black or leaden gray, and from the middle ages of the Dui Dynasty to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the colour changed into brown.

As research shows, most pigments used in Dunhuang frescos are natural ore pigments, with vegetal pigments and man-made pigments also being used.

"Although some changes have taken place to flesh colour in Dunhuang frescos, as most ore pigments are sustainable, Dunhuang frescos are still bright and fresh after thousands of years," said Wu.

Listed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1987, Dunhuang Grottoes in Gansu Province boast 40,000 cultural relics including manuscripts, paintings and musical instruments, covering the period from the Fourth to the 11th Century.—MNA/Xinhua



A Humvee gunner from the US Army's 1st Cavalry Division yells to comrades while fleeing from a stone-throwing mob outside Camp Bonzai in Baghdad, Iraq, recently 2004. The Ft Hood-based 1st Cavalry Division will take over control of all of Baghdad from the 1st Armoured Division in the next few weeks.—INTERNET

Senator Kennedy attacks Bush's credibility

WASHINGTON, 15 March — Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy said on Saturday that President George W Bush suffers from a widening credibility gap.

In delivering the Democrats' weekly radio address, Kennedy said the Republican President has failed to level with the American people on several fronts — including the economy, health care, taxes, education and Iraq.

"For the past three years, since President Bush took office, we have seen a widening credibility gap between what the administration says and what it does," the senator said.

Kennedy is working closely with his party's presumptive presidential nominee, fellow Massachusetts senator John Kerry. And his attack on Bush reflected a Democratic ad this week that accused the president of "misleading America". "Look at the record," Kennedy said.

He noted that Bush de-

clared last month that "there is good momentum when it comes to the creation of new jobs." Yet, Kennedy said, "families across America know better."

"President Bush's only economic policy is tax breaks for the wealthy. He said it would create 300,000 jobs last month. The actual number was 21,000."

Kennedy said, "We've also seen a monumental credibility gap with this administration on education."

The senator claimed that the president's "No Child Left Behind" programme has been a failure as the result of the administration refusing to adequately fund it.

"If you peel back the promises on health care, you see the administration's true colours, too," Kennedy said, saying Bush has helped the health industry at the expense

of everyone else.

Kennedy had his toughest words for the Iraq war.

"In making the case for war, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice spoke of the 'mushroom cloud' from a nuclear Saddam (Hussein)."

"The White House Press office specifically called the threat 'imminent.' Vice-President (Dick) Cheney said he was 'convinced' that Saddam would be acquiring nuclear weapons 'fairly soon.'"

"President Bush spoke in terms the intelligence community never used (and) called Iraq a 'unique and urgent threat,'" Kennedy said.

"As we now know, it was all a distraction. There was no immediate threat. No nuclear weapons. No persuasive link to al-Qaeda. But we went to war anyway."

MNA/Reuters

India, France to hold naval exercises next month

NEW DELHI, 15 March — India's plan to sign the two-billion-US-dollar deal to construct at least six French *Scorpene* submarines may have run into trouble due to the coming general election but the navies of the two countries are all set to hold a big joint exercise off the western coast next month.

"This Indo-French exercise will be the continuation of the 'Varuna' series, which began in November 2001. It will be held in the Arabian Sea from April 2 to 15," the *Times of India*, a leading English newspaper, quoted an officer as saying.

The exercise, which will act as a platform to check operational skills, will include several frontline destroyers and frigates from the two sides.

The Indian and French Armed Forces have been holding regular exercises with each other for the last three-four years as part of their growing bilateral defence cooperation.

After Russia and Israel, France is the largest arms supplier to India, with ventures in different fields ranging from upgradation of radars to modernization of military helicopters.

France also wants to sell its advanced *Mirage-2000-V* fighter jets to India and has promised technology transfer along with the deal.

India already has around 40 *Mirage-2000* fly-by-wire jets, which constitute two squadrons, with another 10 jets as "reserves". The *Mirage-2000-V* being offered is the latest version with much superior avionics and radars. The long-term plan of Indian Air Force is to have six more *Mirage-2000* squadrons, the paper says. — MNA/Xinhua

Portugal steps up security after Madrid attacks

LISBON, 15 March — Portugal has stepped up vigilance in important government establishments and foreign embassies in Lisbon after the Madrid terror attacks in which 200 people were killed Thursday.

The government carried out a special security operation under the direction of the Public Security Police (PSP) for coordinating different security corps.

The PSP has mobilized nearly 1,000 agents of the Group of Special Operations, the Personal Security Corp and the Intervention Corp, that are currently in a state of alert to act if required.

MNA/Reuters

သားငါးပုံဖြိုး မြန်မာတို့

Loud blast hits central Baghdad, several wounded

BAGHDAD, 15 March — A bomb exploded outside a shop in a busy commercial district of central Baghdad on Saturday, wounding several people, some of them seriously, witnesses said.

Shortly after the blast, pools of blood were visible on the pavement outside a clothing store in the Karrada District of the city, and witnesses said

several people had been taken to hospital with injuries.

Some witnesses said they believed one person was killed.

A US spokesman said the military was investigating the blast, which rattled windows in the heart of Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters



US troops frisk motorists at a mobile checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq before dawn on 12 March, 2004. US troops and Iraqis working for the coalition forces are the target of almost daily attacks by guerrillas.—INTERNET

Australia to test wheat at laboratories in Britain, US

CANBERRA, 15 March — Australia will seek unilaterally to test a consignment of wheat to Pakistan, allegedly contaminated with fungus karnal bunt, at internationally recognized expert laboratories in Britain and the United States.

"Australia is confident that this testing will confirm the results of testing already conducted in Australia, New Zealand and the UK in which karnal bunt was not detected," Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile and Agriculture Minister Warren Truss said Friday in a joint statement.

Pakistan refused to accept the wheat last month, claiming that the fungus karnal bunt was discovered in the shipment. Pakistani

scientists have conducted new tests on the 34-million-Australian-dollar (25-million-US-dollar) wheat and confirmed the discovery of fungus karnal bunt.

But Australia has been rejecting the claims, insisting that tests by Australian scientists showed the wheat was clear of the fungus.

The ministers expressed their belief that only sophisticated laboratory processes using the latest DNA testing technology and procedures

can prove beyond doubt the presence or absence of karnal bunt.

"We wrote to the Prime Minister of Pakistan a week ago seeking independent third-party testing of the wheat to settle the matter conclusively. We have heard nothing since," the ministers said.

"The Australian Government is deeply disappointed at Pakistan's official inaction over the issue", they said. — MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in aircraft crash in Yorkshire

LONDON, 15 March — Two men were killed when a light aircraft crashed on Saturday morning in East Yorkshire, Central England, said a report.

Eye witnesses alerted emergency services after spotting the *Cessna 310* plunging into a field.

Rescue crews went to the scene at 1200 GMT, about 20 minutes after the plane had taken off from

Humberside Airport on the

opposite bank of the Humber, east to York, according to the report.

The two men on board, an instructor and a student pilot, both died in the crash.

The Civil Aviation Authority had been informed of this incident, the report

quoted a local police officer as saying.

One villager, who did not wish to be identified, said most people knew nothing of the crash until the fire engines arrived in the village, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers arrest suspected Iraqis near Owja, 15 kilometres south of Tikrit on 12 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Indiscriminate shootings of US and allies troops in Iraq

US and allies invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003 and they continue to occupy the country. Following the invasion, Iraqi people have to face many difficulties and remain hopeless.



A group of Iraqi men survey the damaged house of a local leader in the village of Amriya, near the anti-American hotbed of Falluja, some 50 km (30 miles) west from the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 16 February, 2004.



An Iraqi civilian cries after learning of the death of a family member injured during the bomb attack in Baghdad on 18 February 2004.



Moments after the attacks, people stand among the victims of one of several bomb blasts which exploded in densely-occupied areas, in the city of Karbala, Iraq, on 2 March 2004.

Civilian deaths due to indiscriminate shootings of US troops

Date	Location	Victim	Death toll
April to Dec 2003	Throughout Iraq	civilian including children	112
3-1-2004	Haditha	three houses	4
3-1-2004	Hantush	by stander	1
5-1-2004	Baquba	Iraqi men	2
6-1-2004	Fallujah	married couple	2
22-2-2004	Kirkuk	civilians	10
3-3-2004	Kirkuk	civilians	4
Total			135

Iraqi Ali Kassem lies in a hospital bed in Baghdad after a roadside bomb exploded near his car, apparently intended to strike against a US military convoy which passed by moments earlier on 21 Feb, 2004.

Sisters show damage to the roof of their house in Samawa, southern Iraq, on 12 February, 2004 after a mortar hit the house.



Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Construction projects implemented by the Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people



Local residents attend the inauguration of Kale-Gangaw Railroad constructed by the people and Tatmadaw members.



Magway-Taungdwingyi Railroad Project in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division, being implemented with the efforts of the people and Tatmadaw members.

Roads and railroads built by the people and Tatmadaw members

No	State/Division	Railroad	Motorway
1.	Magway Division	Magway-Taungdwingyi Gangaw-Yaymyetni Natchaung-Gangaw Pakokku-Minywa Pakokku-Myosoe-Zeebwa Aunglan-Hsatthwa	Patheingyi-Monywa Thayet-Mindon Pakokku-Kyunchaung- Seikphyu
2.	Sagaing Division	Budalin-YeU-KhinU Kale-Natchaung Natchaung-Gangaw	Kalewa-Tamu Thetkeyin-Phaungpyin- Hkamti Kale-kyeecon Leshi-Panhsat-Sumprabum Lahe-Yankyone Lahe-Hsawtlaw-Ponnyo Launggaung-Areekyein Mawlaik-Pyaungbok- Sawbwa-Yayshin Ponnyo-Supphaung- Areekyein Areekyein-Tanpakhwe Ponnyo-Kyunhsaung- Areekyein Yangon-Sittway
3.	Rakhine State	-	



The people and the Tatmadaw jointly constructed the Khabaung Bridge in Toungoo Township.



*The opening of Yangon-Sittway Highway in progress.
The facility was built by the
people and the Tatmadaw.*

Transport facilities constructed across the nation

Subject	1988	2004
Tarred road (mile)	5543	8398
Gravel road (mile)	1569	3194
Bridge (above 180 feet)	16	168
Railroad (mile)	2793	3906
Airport	21	27
Airport (jet)	6	19

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



The local people also join forces with the Tatmadaw in crushing the insurgents in Ayeyawady delta region.

the people to a certain degree.

And at the same time, the Tatmadaw tried to solve the problem of internal insurgency through peaceful means. Unfortunately, the internal peace negotiations faltered, and the then government could not effectively undertake the national development endeavours. The Tatmadaw had to concentrate its efforts on wiping

the people stood firmly as indivisible force in crushing the insurgents. The people always support the Tatmadaw which is formed with their sons and daughters. Hence, the Tatmadaw has been achieving victory after victory in driving out the enemies of the State.

During the period from 1962 to 1975, the Tatmadaw launched major military operations to drive

About 1,500 insurgents of other multi-coloured armed groups were also active in Toungoo and Bago districts. In the Central Command area, the Tatmadaw launched major Operations Heman Oo, Thurein, Maga, Yoma, Mayaw, Mahaw, Dawna, Moegyo, Moe, Thein, Hsaung, Meekho, Kya, Mya Phyu, Aung Thura, Yanshin, Yaung Ni, Zeya, Dethandara, Aung Setkya, Dewaw and

Donbyan I, II, III and IV, and Hninzi Khaing military operations. It launched Yoma, Bumi, Thein Than, Anauk Taung, Moeku, Aung Thabye II, Naga, Kittaya, Maga and Hsinmin major military operations and localized military operations to crush the BCP insurgents in the region. In the 54 military operations 64 BCPs were killed and 124 were captured alive. Another 257 surren-

The historic and victorious military operations of the Tatmadaw

The Tatmadaw has saved the country from the danger of losing independence for a number of times during the successive periods after 1948. While the Tatmadaw

time and again.

The nation saw changes in all sectors during the period after 1962. During the period, the government was carrying out the

out of the internal insurgency.

The military operations of the Tatmadaw launched with the support of the people achieved significant victories during the period. The Tatmadaw was able

out the BCP insurgents from the Ayeyawady delta region and the Bago Yoma region. As the Tatmadaw fought the insurgents with great courage in the battles in accord with its 12 noble traditions, a large number of insurgents

Galon Pyan and other 20 localized military operations to crush the insurgents. When the BCP brass gathered at Pwint Oo Te camp near Khaboung Creek in Toungoo District, the Tatmadaw sent paratroopers and infantry troops on board Vetol (Vertical Take-off and Landing) helicopters to attack them. The Tatmadaw captured a large number of insurgents dead and 124 alive in the battle.

On 11 June, the Revolutionary Council Government extended an olive branch to all the insurgents in the jungles. The invitation had caused much excitement in the internal BCP central committee and the BCP central committee outside the country. The BCP tried to make political gains from the offer. During the peace negotiation which lasted from June to November 1963, internal BCP central committee and the BCP central committee outside the country tried to make contact between themselves, to hold talks with other insurgent groups, and met with the aboveground individuals and organizations that supported the communist party. And the peace negotiations failed because of the mischievous acts of the BCP.

In the Central Command area, the Tatmadaw crushed the insurgents with Mahaw, Thida, Hteik Khaung, Lwin Naing, Aung Thanye I, II, III and IV, Maga, Gyobyu, Yoma I, II, III and IV, Warazein,

dered to the Tatmadaw.

The Tatmadaw won great victories in the battles due to the courage, endurance, ability to overcome all hardships and selfless sacrifices of its members. The morale and the might of its members served as the effective weapons to win the victory.

Beginning the mid-1964, the insurgents started to turn their attention to looting and destroying people's shops, blowing up trains and cars, killing village authorities and attacking the Tatmadaw outposts guarded by only a few number of soldiers to cause economic hardships in the nation.

In 1964, the Tatmadaw launched Yinmar, Aung, Aung Thabye, Naga, Thiha, Thabye, Kittaya, Khaboung, Myat Thu, Khin Aye, Maha, Moe Gyo and Aung Mye military operations against the BCP insurgents active in the lower Myanmar, and killed 124 enemy troops. Ninety-eight BCPs were also wounded and 221 were captured alive. The Tatmadaw also launched Thurein, Teza, Linkadipa, Myat Thu II and III and Mondaing military operations against the Red Flag communist insurgents in the lower Myanmar. Thirty-one insurgents were killed and 20 were captured alive in the battles. The insurgents causing regional unrest in South-East command area, Central Command area and South-West command area Bwere

The nation saw changes in all sectors during the period after 1962. During the period, the government was carrying out the mammoth task to restore internal peace and national consolidation, transform the civil administrative machinery from the parliamentary democracy system to the people's democratic system; nationalize the foreign-companies, and fulfil the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people.

was crushing the internal insurgency that broke out due to the splits within the ruling AFPFL, it faced and had to drive out the Kuomintang armed intrusion on the other front. During the years from 1949 to 1962, the Tatmadaw safeguarded the nation's independence and sovereignty

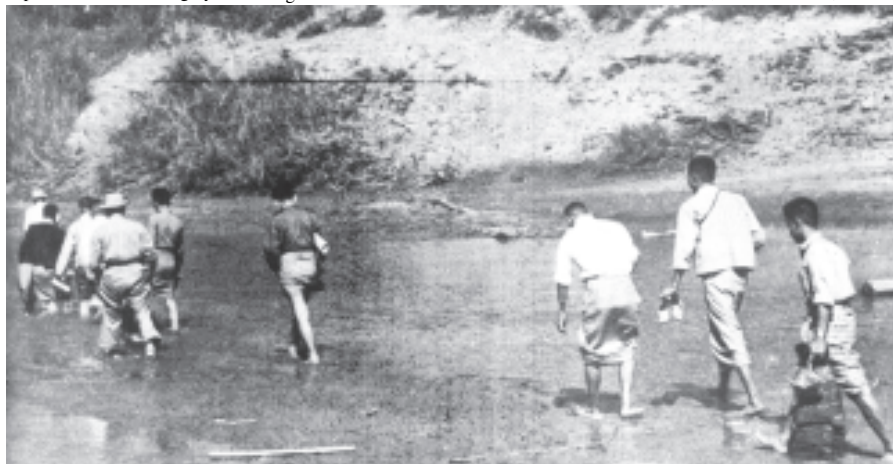
was crushing the internal insurgency that broke out due to the splits within the ruling AFPFL, it faced and had to drive out the Kuomintang armed intrusion on the other front. During the years from 1949 to 1962, the Tatmadaw safeguarded the nation's independence and sovereignty

to root out the insurgents in Ayeyawady delta region and the Bago Yoma region.

The Tatmadaw is formed with the patriots, who adhere to the discipline, are loyal to the nation and are prepared to sacrifice self-interest for the national cause. The Tatmadaw and

fell. The Tatmadaw also seized a large haul of arms and ammunition from the insurgents.

In June 1962, the BCP was active with its 500 men at its headquarters in Bago Yoma, and started military activities in the Yoma, including the area where the Phyu Creek originates.



The representatives of Red Flag communists and the BCP turn their back on the people, and return to the jungles after the failure of the peace negotiations with the Revolutionary Council Government.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Innocent people are killed and injured whenever the insurgents blow up passenger trains. The mine-hit Yangon-Mandalay Up-train.

crushed with Thiha military operation twice and also with Aung Soe, Aung Thabye, Gyobu, Saw Aung, San Aye, Donbyan, Aung Thu, Aung Nyein, Hsin Gyi, Dethandara, Taik Maung, Mala, Beda, Hsaung Heman, Aye Kyaw, Than Letthee, Cyclone, Min Aye, Thanmani, Dah Kano, Mya Zan, Taing Aung, Sein Oo Naing and Bawle military operations, killing 203 enemy

to brave rough terrain, hunger, difficulties and hardships, the Tatmadaw members marched on and fought the enemies in accord with their pledge to sacrifice lives for the people and the nation. Hence, they won victories in all battles.

On 9 December 1966, the Tatmadaw launched the Kyan Daing Aung Military

crushed with Teza, Thiha and Moe Gyo military operations. During the seven-month military operation which lasted from September 1968 to March 1969, the Tatmadaw columns attacked and overran the BCP headquarters, and the BCP leaders including the chairman had to flee in disarray.

The anti-insurgency groups and regional people's



A gunboat of the Tatmadaw (Navy) pounding the enemy positions with its guns in a military operation launched in Ayeyawady delta region.

troops and capturing 300 alive.

The BCPs led by central committee members moved into Thayet, Toungoo and Pyay districts in 1965. The Red Flag communist insurgents were avoiding engagements with the Tatmadaw columns through various means. During the year, the Tatmadaw rooted out the insurgents in lower Myanmar with Yinmar, Tainglon Aung, Padone, Waingmaw, Myat Lay, Min Aung, Lok Ah, Moe Thee, Paik Kyone, Myaing, Htoo Aung, Let Kya, Daung Min, Mon Daing, Lin Yon, Dethandara, Bala, Min Yaung, Pyi Kyaw, Mya Oo, Byan Hlwa, Min Kyaw and Moe Kyaw military operations, killing 194 BCPs and capturing 335 alive.

In that way, the Tatmadaw continuously rooted out the insurgents to safeguard the independence and sovereignty after 1948. Although they have

Operation to crush the BCP headquarters and its camps in Zegon and Nattalin townships in Thayawady District, Bago Yoma region. During the operations, the BCPs had to shift their 12 camps in the two townships to other places. The Tatmadaw captured alive and dead a large number of BCPs from the Thayawady District camp and Zegon Township.

The Tatmadaw launched the Maw Naing Military Operation to eliminate the BCP headquarters and camps in Thayawady and Pyay districts in Bago Yoma region.

During the operation, the BCPs had to move their headquarters from the place near Nyanle village to the place where Wanet Creek originated, to the place near Ahetmayin, and then to Letwagyi in Taungnyo region, Nattalin Township, Thayawady District. On 2 August 1967, the BCPs in Bago Yoma region were

militia were formed and armed in Bago and Ayeyawady divisions in 1969. With the cooperation of the groups and the militia-men, the Tatmadaw cut off all vital supply lines to the BCPs and attacked them. The Tatmadaw columns attacked the BCPs with Tagon Military Operation from March to May 1969, with Zwe Thatti Moe Military Operation from May to September 1969, and



Helicopters of the Tatmadaw (Air) taking part in a military operation in the Ayeyawady delta region.

with Zwe Thatti Hsaung Military Operation from September 1969 to December 1970.

The Tatmadaw achieved victories in the historic military operations. The Tatmadaw accepts its duty of safeguarding the interest of the nation and the people as the inborn duty. The Tatmadaw achieved battle victories as it always upholds the 12 noble traditions in fighting the enemy.

In 1971, the BCP were active in Bago Yoma, Bago District, and Daik U Township, Toungoo District, and Thayawady District. The Tatmadaw defeated the insurgents in the areas with the Zwe Thatti Military Operation.

In 1972, there were only about 500 BCPs including 80 from the HQ in Bago Yoma. Beginning September 1972, the Tatmadaw launched Alinyaung and Aung Soe Moe military operations to wipe out the insurgents in Bago Yoma.

The BCP regrouped its men at Kwinchaung camp on Myayabin Mountain Range claiming to seize towns and expand northward, in March 1973. During the Hlyatsi Military Operation launched in July 1973, the Tatmadaw columns overran and seized the Lekhti BCP HQ on 17 July morning. The camp was located in the Lekhti valley on Myayabin range west of Hsabyin Village in Kyauktaga Township. The BCPs had to move their HQ from one place to another in the areas around the 14 mountain villages. In 1974, the BCP HQ was shifted to the area where nine mountain villages were located. While the BCPs temporarily set up their HQ at the nine-village area, a commando unit of the Tatmadaw attacked and overran the HQ on 18 October that year. The BCP chairman and the secretary fled the HQ in disarray and later were separated from one another. Since then, the BCPs in the Bago Yoma began to fall apart.

The BCP Alinyaung camp in Daik U Township was destroyed when the Tatmadaw columns attacked it on 1 November 1974. Due to the attack of the Tatmadaw

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Poem

Tender Emerald spring and Grandad

* With crimson betel stains in his mouth
Tarred teeth scattered but moving constantly
Cap on, bolstered by walking stick
Looks ready to go in good tempo
Whither goest thou, Grandad?

* With traditional jacket, proudly dressed
A motley of red in that nether garment
Swinging arms in gusto, keeping in step
With sweet words, he sang a joyful tune
What song singest thou, Grandad?

* Dressed up grandly, in Grandad's style
Onlooker feels fresh, he's got a single water
With which he sprinkles, fragrant water
Tender eugenia leaf, matching emerald
For whom is it, Grandad?

* Grandsons of Grandad, young men
A question, if jovially put
With smiling face, what be replied—
“This is the day that's famous nationwide
Armed Forces Day, which I can't forget
I'll go attend, that significant celebration
For you young sons, is this eugenia spring
Ready to present, I've brought it
Having done that, in harmony
Myanmar nation, we'll defend
Our Tatmadaw's come marching
Grandad will come along, singing” he said.

* When we hear Grandad's words
We say Go ahead Grandad, go ahead
We, Grandsons will also come along
Everyone of us wearing smiles
That tender emerald spring and Grandad
Proud as the sun on Tabaung month's day.
Khun Ye Thway (Aye Tha Ya) (Trs)

columns, the BCP chairman and the secretary fell at Photkya Creek in Bago Yoma region on 15 March 1975. Since then the existence of the BCP came to an end in the Bago Yoma.

The Tatmadaw launched the historic military operations in Bago Yoma and Ayeyawady delta regions from 1962 to 1975 to safeguard the independence and sovereignty. Through-

out the successive eras after the nation had regained independence in 1948, the Tatmadaw has been rooting out all the internal and external enemies to safeguard independence.

The nation faced near disintegration during the period due to factional and political splits that had weakened the national solidarity. But fortunately, the Tatmadaw was able to save the nation. Had not the consolidated Tatmadaw saved the nation with farsightedness during the crises, the people would be in pretty trouble in the flames of the wars that some other countries are facing at present.

The Tatmadaw always stands by the people in times of emergency. Thus, the Tatmadaw has fine traditions. And we are sure that the Tatmadaw with such fine traditions is always ready to serve the duties of the nation in the future also.

(Translation: TMT)

Prime Minister inspects Shwegyin Hydel Power Project...

(from page 1)

The Prime Minister then gave instructions and inspected scale model of the hospital, denture clinic, X-ray unit and wards and construction.

The Prime Minister and party reached Hsawdawshin Maha Buddha Pagoda in Shwegyin. They presented offertories to members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Maha Pyinnya Beikman Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panñavara.

The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to the Buddha image at the pagoda. The Prime Minister donated cash to the pagoda and visited it.

Next, the Prime Minister met members of Shwegyin Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials and social organizations at Myawady Hall.

Chairman of Shwegyin Township Peace and Development Council U Htwe Myint reported on area and location of the town, population, land utilization, rainfall, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses and oil crops, sufficiency of rice and edible oil, education and health, tasks for development of the town and requirements.

Next, the Prime Minister upgraded basic education high school, two basic education branch schools, a middle school and a primary school and a station hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the purpose of his tour of Shwegyin Township was to see to everything necessary for regional development and the higher living standard of local people.

He also said that he went to the Shwegyin hydel power station project being implemented near Shwegyin and the construction project of 100-bed Shwegyin hospital and

attended to the requirements of the projects, he added.

The Prime Minister continued that he would render assistance to regional development measures including economic, social, education, health, transport and city modernization tasks after meeting departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders.

When it comes to preserving the traditional culture of Myanmar, Shwegyin sets an example as it keeps alive not only the tradition of the oil lamp festival but also the Shwegyin Tetpyan group dance, he said.

Shwegyin lagged behind in development due to lack of stability in the region, he said, adding that the progress of regional tranquillity, however, now enabled the State to take steps to modernize the region and to raise the living standard of the local people.

The Prime Minister continued Shwegyin-Madauk motor road and Sittaung river-crossing Shwegyin-Madauk Bridge on the road, which would accelerate the development momentum of Shwegyin, were also constructed. Moreover, the 100-bed Shwegyin hospital would soon be opened and it would provide public health care services to the full. Furthermore, a hydel power station project was also under way near Shwegyin; and when completed, the project would supply the region with adequate electricity. The project would also generate enough electricity through its main power network for the whole country.

The Prime Minister also said that taking into consideration what township officials and townselders reported and calculating the strength of wealth with technicians, the Government rendered assistance to the rightly



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presenting offertories to Sayadaws in Shwegyin, Bago Division. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the scalemodel of Shwegyin Hydel Power Project in Shwegyin. — MNA

needy sectors: to promote the education of national youths living in the region, to develop more human resources for the future, to provide more public health care for the locals, to develop the township, to ensure the supply of safe water, and to upgrade roads in the township.

At a time when the Government is making all-out efforts on a national scale to ensure equitable development all over the country, laying down border area development plans, the 24 development zones and rural development plans, township officials and departmental personnel are required to carry

out their tasks above and beyond the call of duty, the Prime Minister urged.

The Prime Minister also spoke of the need of the regional officials to roll up their sleeves to be able to bridge the development gap of their region using their creative thoughts as well as industry and volition at such a time when regional stability prevails to some extent.

He continued that as the State had formed administrative machinery at different levels systematically, it was incumbent upon officials at every level to play an active part in making that machinery run properly and smoothly.

In particular, concerted efforts are to be made to develop the township and to improve the socio-economic life of the people living in the township as committees had also been formed for the education, health, agriculture and transport sectors of townships at grass-roots level.

The Prime Minister later instructed that departmental officials at township level are to tour rural areas at grass-roots level in their townships and fulfil the public needs by seeking ways and means; that they should strive hard for the speedy realization of the five rural development

plans so that the rural people can enjoy the fruitful results; and that they are to lead the public with correct leadership in the successful implementation of the seven-point political programme of the State, so the peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy can take shape.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt donated a television, a video player and a set of computer to be used at Shwegyin BEHS through the schoolhead. Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Nyaunglaybin.

MNA



The photo shows the site of Shwegyin Hydel Power Project in Shwegyin Township. — MNA

Secretary-2 inspects construction of...

(from page 16)

Altogether 28 wooden bridges on the road are being upgraded to reinforced concrete bridges.

Chairman of Central Body for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony of runway of Pathein Airport on 14 March in Pathein.

They arrived back here in the afternoon.—MNA

Gem mining works to be permitted...

(from page 16)

available at Myanma Gems Enterprise (Head Office) at No 66, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon, and can be

submitted not later than 7 April beginning today.

Detailed information can be obtained at MGE (Head Office), and at jade and gems

mining centres in Mogok, Lonkhin, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Hkamti, Mongshu, and Lokhsaung. —MNA

Diplomatic course opened

YANGON, 15 March — Diplomatic course (2/2004) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was inaugurated this morning at the ministry with an opening address by the Foreign Affairs Minister U Win Aung.

A total of 90 trainees are attending the eight-week course which included lectures on international law, international trade and rules and regulations of WTO.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Deputy

Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, the directors-general of the departments under the ministry, Myanmar ambassadors, senior diplomats and officials. —MNA

Military parade columns entertained

YANGON, 15 March — Under the arrangement of Directorate of Public Relation and Psychological Warfare, the Ministry of Defense, mobile public relation company No 2 and local battalions entertained the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade columns with songs, dances and films yesterday evening.

At Ayeyawady Naval Base, mobile public relation company No 2 entertained

the Nawaday Column with songs, dances, anyeint and comedies. At No 1 Transit Centre, the company (sub-group) entertained the Anawrahta Column, Banyintnaung Column and Aungzeya Column with songs, dances and comedies. A Myanmar film titled 'Ngayetha' was shown to Aung San Column in local battalion in South Okkalapa Township.

Column commanders, officers and other ranks

watched the performances. —MNA

Patient's utensils donated to DSPRH

YANGON, 15 March — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, patient's utensils were donated to the 300-bed Defence Services Physical Rehabilitation Hospital on 13 March morning.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Col Myo Hlaing of

the hospital, specialists and wellwishers.

Patron of Myanmar Mann Co Ltd Brig-Gen Kyaw Tint (Retd) and wellwishers presented the patient's utensils worth K 800,000. Lt-Col Myo Hlaing and officials accepted the donations. —MNA

Coffee plantation to be extended in Ywangan Township, Shan State

YANGON, 15 March — Coordination meeting on extended cultivation of 10,000 acres of coffee in Ywangan Township in Shan State was held on 8 March at the Township Peace and Development Council office.

Officials concerned and

those interested in coffee farm attended the meeting. At the meeting, township PDC chairman said land reclamation and providing assistance and loan will be carried out in cooperation with the departmental officials. —MNA

68 acres of poppy plantations destroyed in Phakant township

YANGON, 15 March — A combined team comprising local Tatmadawmen, intelligence unit, members of Myanmar Police Force and Kachin State Special Region (2), departmental personnel and local people searched and destroyed 14 poppy plantations (68 acres of poppy cultivation) around the area between Sanpe Creek and Dukho Creek in Phakant Township, Kachin State, from 25 to 28 February.

Up to now in this poppy cultivation season, a total of 7071.60 acres of poppy plantations have been destroyed, it is learnt. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a TV and computer to the Headmistress of Shwegyin Township Basic Education High School. (News on page 1)

Cash donated to MRCS company

YANGON, 15 March — Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint on 13 March went to Aung San Column which will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade drills in local battalion

in South Okkalapa Township.

Afterwards, the ministers presented K 3 million to the Myanmar Red Cross Society company representing Aung San Column through the MRCS President Dr Kyaw Win. —MNA

Computer quiz goes on

YANGON, 15 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative computer quiz, organized by the work committee for displaying the booth on the twelve State's objectives, continued today at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township here.

About 100 USDA members of Thakayta township, Dagon Myothit (East) township, Dagon Myothit (North) township and Ahlon township took part in the quiz. Director of Resettlements of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Aung Thein, senior military officers and officials watched the quiz. —MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Indonesia

YANGON, 15 March — Myanmar ASEAN Culture and Information National Committee Chairman and Department of Cultural Institute Director-General U Myint Thein Swe and Assistant

Director of library, museum and research division of DCI Daw Mya Oo left here by air this afternoon to attend the special meeting of ASEAN Culture and Information Committee to be held in

Jakarta, Indonesia, on 16 and 17 March.

They were seen off at the airport by DCI Deputy Director-General U Myint Kyaing and officials and families of the delegation. —MNA

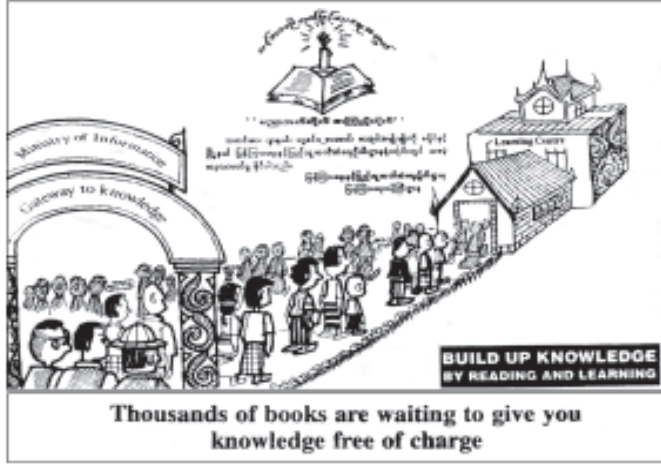


Coordination meeting on extended cultivation of coffee in Ywangan Township in progress. —MNA

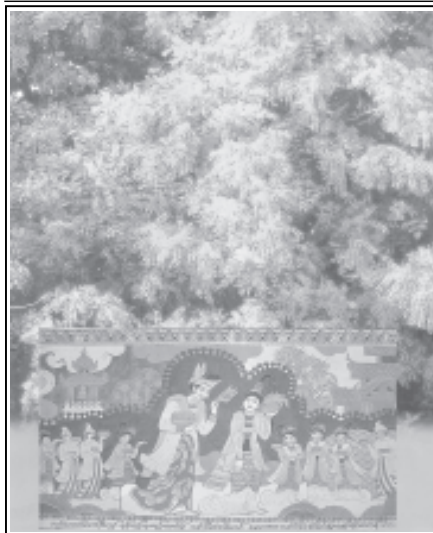


A combined team comprising local Tatmadawmen, intelligence unit, members of Myanmar Police Force and Kachin State Special Region (2), departmental personnel and local people destroying opium poppy fields. —MNA





ADVERTISEMENT



Thingyan. Water Festival @ Myanmar New Year

Come and enjoy our Water Festival

Thingyan Holiday Packages available right now!

* **Chiang Mai/ Bangkok/Singapore - Yangon-Mandalay -Yangon-Singapore/Bangkok/ Chiang Mai**

- 6 Days/ 5 Nights { 13th to 18th April '04 }

- 5 Days/ 4 Nights { 11th to 15th April '04 }

- 3 Days/ 2 Nights { 13th to 15th April '04 }

* **Chiang Mai- Mandalay- Yangon - Chiang Mai**

- 4 Days/ 3 Nights { 15th to 18th April '04 }

* **For further information, please kindly contact:**

Myanmar Travels & Tours (M.T.T)

Tel: 95-1-252859, 378376, 371910, 374281

Fax: 95-1-254417

Email: mtt.mht@mptmail.net.mm

Website: www.myanmartravels.net

Union of Myanmar Travel Association

Tel: 95-1-559672, 559673

Fax: 95-1-545707

Email: umta@mptmail.net.mm

Website: www.umtanet.com

Myanmar Hoteliers' Association

Tel: 95-1-245323, 241905, 254812

Fax: 95-1-252806

Email: aone@mptmail.net.mm

Website: www.myanmarhoteliers.com

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

JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ(၅) အမှတ် (၅၂) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်တိုက်စာပေဗိမာန်စာအုပ်တိုက်နှင့်သတင်းစာ
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုက်ထိုးသူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

AIDS is a national concern.

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ကိုအားပေးပါ

UNICEF sends emergency aid to Madagascar

GENEVA, 15 March — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) flew in 36 tons of emergency supplies, worth 300,000 US dollars, on Friday to help children in Madagascar after the devastation caused by a cyclone.

"UNICEF's main concern in natural disasters such as this one is to ensure the needs and rights of children and women, who remain

amongst the more vulnerable of groups," a Press release quoted Barbara Bentein, UNICEF's representative to Madagascar.

UNICEF estimates that 10,000 children under the age of five and 2,500 pregnant and lactating women have been affected by the passing of Cyclone Gafilo, which is said to have caused extensive flooding and devastation.—MNA/Xinhua

Greece formally asks for NATO help on Olympics

ATHENS, 15 March — Greece announced on Friday that it had formally asked NATO for help in protecting this August's Athens Olympic Games.

"The government has asked for the contribution of NATO for the security of the Olympic Games," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

"This contribution will concern air control and joint patrolling of the sea and for protection against a nuclear, biological or chemical attack."

Greece is spending three times as much on security as Sydney did in 2000 because of increased terror fears since the September 11, 2001, attacks on US cities.

MNA/Reuters

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Notice is given that Beiersdorf AG, (a German company) of Unnastrasse 48, 20253 Hamburg, GERMANY, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:-

EUCERIT

used in connection with:- "Emulsifying agent for use in manufacture of cosmetics and cosmetic creams."

A Declaration of Ownership of the said Mark has been registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar of Deeds and Assurances, Yangon, being No 7107/2003.

WARNING is hereby given that any fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark in any manner whatsoever will be dealt with according to Law.

Win Mu Tin,

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.

For Beiersdorf AG

P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 16 March, 2004

Mongolia, Sweden to boost bilateral economic ties

ULAN BATOR, 15 March — Mongolia and Sweden said Friday they will strengthen bilateral economic ties in trade and investment.

The two countries have resumed trade ties seeking to expand cooperation in many sectors, said Mongolian Prime Minister Nambaryn Enkhbayar while meeting with visiting Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson.—MNA/Xinhua

စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များငှားရန်

အလှူ ထိမ်းမြားမင်္ဂလာ အစည်းအဝေး အခမ်းအနားများတွင် ခေတ်မီ ပလတ်စတစ်စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ရွေးချယ်သက်သာစွာဖြင့် ငှားရမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

နံနက် ၇ နာရီ မှ ညနေ ၄ နာရီ အတွင်း စက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

အမှတ် ၂၂၁-သိမ်မြောက်မင်း ဗိုလ်တောင်ကြီးနယ်၊
ရန်-၂၄၅၆၂၁ ၂၄၅၆၂၁

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ

လေလံခကြော်ငြာ

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီမှ ၂၀၀၄-၂၀၀၅ ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှစ်အတွက် ရှောင်သာ အခန်းခြေဥယျာဉ်နှင့် တန်တော်ကြီး Relaxation Zone ရှိ လုပ်ငန်းများအား ရွေးပြိုင်စနစ်ဖြင့် လေလံတင်အရာ ချထားခြင်းကို ၂၅-၃-၂၀၀၄ (တနင်္လာနေ့) ၀၉:၀၀ နာရီတွင် မြို့တော်ခန်းမ၌ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အဆိုပါလေလံပွဲတွင် ၁-၃-၂၀၀၄ မှ ၈-၃-၂၀၀၄အထိ မြို့တော်ခန်းမ၌ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည့်လေလံပွဲတွင် လေလံအောင်မြင်သော ကျန်ရှိနေသည့် အမှန်ဥယျာဉ် လုပ်ငန်းများ၊ အင်ဂျင်နီယာဥယျာဉ် (လမ်းနှင့်တံတား)မှ ယာဉ်ရပ်နားခ ကောက်ခံခြင်း လုပ်ငန်းများ၊ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနှင့် သန့်ရှင်းရေးဥယျာဉ် သန့်စင်ခန်းများ၊ ရေများဥယျာဉ် သန့်စင်ခန်းများ၊ ပန်ဥယျာဉ်နှင့် အားကစားကွင်းများဥယျာဉ်မှ ပန်ခြံ ဝင်ရောက်လုပ်ငန်းများ၊ ရေများဥယျာဉ်မှ ဘုရင့်ကော်လေး(၂)ထပ်ရုံ ဆိုင်ခန်းများ၊ အမှန်ဥယျာဉ်မှ ခရုရေကွဲရုံနှင့် အစေးရုံဆိုင်ခန်းများ၊ ကျိုက္ကစ် ယာဉ်အပိုမူပိုင်ရှင်လေးများ ဆိုင်ခန်းများ၊ ခရုမြို့သစ်(တောင်ပိုင်း) အမှတ်(၃) စီးပွားရေးဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုရုံးမှ ဆိုင်ခန်းများ နှင့် ပစ္စည်းလောင်းများကိုပါ ထည့်သွင်း၍ ရွေးပြိုင်စနစ်ဖြင့် လေလံတင်အရာချထားခြင်း၊ ရောင်းချခြင်းများကို ထပ်မံကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

လေလံလျှောက်လွှာပုံစံများနှင့် စည်းကမ်းချက်များကို ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၊ မြို့တော်ခန်းမအနီးရှိ ဆယ်ထပ်ရုံး (အင်ဂျင်နီယာဥယျာဉ် (အဆောက်အအုံ)) ပဉ္စမထပ်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဝယ်ယူလျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။ လေလံလျှောက်လွှာတံရံစာမှာ ၂၆-၃-၂၀၀၄ (သောကြာနေ့) ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များသိရှိလိုပါက အင်ဂျင်နီယာဥယျာဉ် (အဆောက်အအုံ) (ရန်-၂၄၅၆၂၁) ၂၄၈၁၁၂- လိုင်းနံ့ကွဲသို့ မေးမြန်းစုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

လေလံတင်ရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (089)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (089) are hereby notified that the vessel arrived on 15-3-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ဝဠာရူးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



The first of 15 driverless robots begins trundling across the Mojave Desert on 13 March, 2004, in an unprecedented race for \$1 million in government-funded prize money. First out of the gate is Carnegie Mellon University's "Sandstorm," a converted Humvee, which took off at a fast clip only to break down about 45 minutes into the race.—INTERNET

Desert terrain proves too rough for robotic racers

BARSTOW (California), 15 March—Thirteen robot vehicles set out on a 140-mile race across California's Mojave Desert on Saturday with the goal of one day running missions in war zones without risking the lives of US soldiers.

But most of the vehicles, which included modified Humvees, pickup trucks and dune buggies, broke down within sight of the starting line near Barstow, California, and none travelled more than seven miles.

The race, sponsored by the Pentagon's Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), had offered a prize of one million US dollars for any vehicle that could complete the course.

It was set to end in Primm, Nevada, roughly the distance from Iraq's capital Baghdad to Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

DARPA appeared upbeat despite the breakdowns. "It is tough terrain, it was a tough test. We are very pleased some vehicles managed to travel five, six, even seven miles," DARPA spokeswoman Jan Walkersaid.

Fifteen vehicles qualified for the race but two withdrew before the start. Nine of the remaining 13 travelled less than two miles.

All the vehicles were fully autonomous and guided by devices such as infrared sensors. A modified Humvee dubbed "Sandstorm", operated by a team from Carnegie

Mellon University, was the first to leave shortly after sunrise.

It was widely regarded as the most likely to succeed. But after just seven miles, it got caught on an obstacle and rubber on its front wheels caught fire.

Only one other vehicle, a modified dune buggy, equalled that achievement. Some broke down within yards of the start. One flipped onto its side, another got snagged in barbed wire and a third had problems with its brakes.

MNA/Reuters

Zimbabwean women urged to take part in generating projects

HARARE, 15 March—A senior Zimbabwean official in charge of women affairs on Saturday urged women in the country to take part in incoming generating projects to achieve gender equality.

Shuvai Mahofa, Deputy Minister of Youth Development, Gender and Employment Creation, called upon women's organizations to integrate their efforts in implementing the policy, which was enacted on Tuesday, the International Women's Day. "All women's organization must take heed of the

gender policy which is meant for empowering women," she said.

The policy, which was aimed at empowering women to have legal knowledge of their rights, was introduced at the celebration of the National Women's Day on 8 March.

The event, which had the

theme of Gender and HIV/AIDS, marked the international honouring for women's rights and freedom and suffrage for women.

Christine B Koener, director of the United Nations Information Centre, presented the UN Secretary-General's message.

She anticipated a posi-

tive, concrete change that will give more power and confidence to women and girls.

"What is needed is to see women being empowered positively and to enrich the girl child with confidence and strength," said Kofi Annan in the message.

MNA/Xinhua

Ebay reports attempt to sell women on Web

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 March—Online marketplace eBay Inc. on Friday said it had removed from its Web site a listing that offered three young Vietnamese women for auction and will report the person who posted it to local authorities.

The listing, which said the women were for shipment only to Taiwan, "was an egregious violation of not only eBay policies but also the law", eBay spokesman Hani Durzy told Reuters.

"It was pulled as soon as we were aware of it. Anything illegal is against our policies. There is absolutely no room for human trafficking" on the site, said Durzy. EBay also has suspended the poster, who originally listed the women for auction on eBay Taiwan, he said.

Durzy said he was not certain of the dates the posting appeared on eBay, which is a popular venue for bidding on and shopping for myriad items—from cars to collectibles. A screenshot of the listing provided by the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans showed that it was first posted on 2 March.

MNA/Reuters

Rwanda to sack public servants with fake academic papers

KIGALI, 15 March—The Government of Rwanda is planning to clean up the civil service by sacking those with fake academic papers, Labour Minister Andre Bumaya said Saturday.

The minister revealed that the government has been losing millions of Rwandan francs in the past seven years in payments to people who got into the public service on forged academic qualifications. He added that most of the people were mainly

returnees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Kenya.

Bumaya noted that all those proved to be holding fake academic certificates would be asked to refund salaries they had been earning since they were employed.

He said that studies have been launched in all government departments on how best to clean up the civil services. "Our intention is not to lay off the workers but to improve and create efficiency," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese character museum to be built in central China

BEIJING, 15 March—A large Chinese character museum will be built in the city of Anyang, central China's Henan Province, said Jin Suidong, CPC secretary of the municipal committee.

Covering over eight hectares, the museum will house a large collection of archaeological pieces and pictures of traditional Chinese character patterns, including inscriptions on oracle bones and ancient bronzes, seal characters and chancery scripts. — MNA/Xinhua

Airways pilot cannot go back to London pending US trial

WASHINGTON, 15 March—A former Virgin Atlantic Airways pilot who was charged with being drunk on duty in December must stay in the United States pending his trial in August, the Washington Post said on Saturday.

The paper said a judge in Virginia's Loudoun County, outside Washington, had lifted Richard Harwell's passport.

Harwell, a US citizen who has been living in London for years, will not be permitted to rejoin his wife and two children there until his trial on the felony charge of attempting to operate an aircraft under the influence of alcohol, the report said. His trial has been set for August 2.

"This is not a minor offence," the paper quoted Loudoun County Circuit

Court Judge James H Chamblin as saying.

"The allegation is that he was going to operate a 747 loaded with hundreds and hundreds of people and fly across the ocean while under the influence."

Harwell, 55, was arrested in December just before he was due to fly a Boeing 747-400 from Washington DC's Dulles Airport to London Heathrow.

The Post said he has since resigned from the airline.

MNA/Reuters



American animal behavioural expert Tom Smith, back, and a Chinese female raiser train panda 'Ya Shuang' in the Giant Panda Breeding Center near Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 12 March, 2004. Chinese and US experts are carrying out a three-month behavioural training course for the pandas in the center since last month.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Lyon close gap on Ligue 1 leaders Monaco

PARIS, 15 March—Olympique Lyon closed the gap on Ligue 1 leaders Monaco to one point with a 2-1 win at fourth-placed Sochaux on Saturday.

Monaco, with 58 points from 27 games, face a difficult away match at AJ Auxerre on Sunday.

Paris St. Germain were in third on 54 after stretching their unbeaten run to 16 matches with a 1-0 win at bottom club Le Mans.

Champions League quarterfinalists Lyon had a dream start against Sochaux, scoring after three minutes through striker Giovane Elber who headed home a centre from fellow-Brazilian Juninho.

Sochaux, who ran Inter Milan close in the third round of the UEFA Cup at the start of the month, were back in the game after 28th minute when striker Santos sidestepped two defenders and blasted home from the edge of the box.

Brazilian defender Edmilson clinched vic-

tory for Lyon with a diverted free kick in the 65th minute.

Paris St. Germain also had to wait for their winner. A lapse in concentration by Le Mans central defender Yannick Fischer allowed striker Danijel Ljuboja to score a simple goal with 24 minutes left.

The Serbian slipped the ball past goalkeeper Jean-Francois Bedenik for his 12th goal of the season.

Lille midfielder Mathieu Chalmé, who had not scored a goal in 30 league games, produced a hat-trick in the 3-0 win over AC Ajaccio.

Jerome Leroy also scored three goals as En Avant Guingamp defeated Montpellier 4-3 to edge out of the relegation zone.

MNA/Reuters

Real held at home in Cup final dress rehearsal

MADRID, 15 March—Real Madrid dropped points at the Bernabeu for only the second time this season when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Real Zaragoza on Saturday in a game overshadowed by this week's bomb attacks in the city.

There was a sombre atmosphere at the Real Madrid stadium as the players of both sides walked on to the pitch carrying a huge white banner emblazoned with a black ribbon of mourning and wearing black armbands.

At one end of the stadium supporters unfurled a huge Spanish flag during the minute's silence that preceded the match and many of the 70,000 fans held aloft flags and banners in memory of the 200 victims of Thursday's train bombings.

Real, fielding several second-string players, took the lead just before the half hour when former youth team striker Javier Portillo headed in at the far post after reserve midfielder Juanfran had clipped in a fine cross from the right.

But Zaragoza, who play Real in next week's King's Cup final, hit back four minutes later when defender Delio Toledo nodded in with an angled header after a corner.

Real coach Carlos Queiroz threw on first choice midfielders Luis Figo and Guti in the second half but they were unable to break down the disciplined Zaragoza defence.

The visitors came closest to snatching a win, Argentine midfielder Luciano Galletti denied by a fine save from keeper Iker Casillas after he had raced through on goal and Gorna Drulic hitting the post 12 minutes from time.

MNA/Reuters

Wyness strike pegs back Rangers

GLASGOW, 15 March—Hearts substitute Dennis Wyness crashed home a late volley to salvage a 1-1 draw with struggling Scottish champions Rangers on Saturday.

Australian defender Craig Moore put Rangers ahead with a 55th-minute penalty but the visitors failed to find a second and Wyness drilled in the equalizer on 75 minutes.

Rangers trail runaway Premier League leaders

Celtic by 15 points but stayed 12 ahead of third-placed Hearts and should still comfortably secure a Champions League qualifying place.

Hearts were forced to rely on goalkeeper Craig Gordon to keep them alive as Rangers piled men forward in the first period.

Gordon saved from Stephen Hughes, Moore and Ronald de Boer while home defender Patrick Kisnorbo struck his own bar with a header.

Rangers finally opened up Hearts when Peter Lovenkrands was floored by Robbie Neilson and Moore slotted home.

Lovenkrands smashed over midway through the second-half and Hearts levelled when Moore's headed clearance dropped for Wyness to thrash the ball past goalkeeper Stefan Klos.

Hearts' Joe Hamill fired wide from close range in the dying minutes but Rangers could not find a winner and have now gone three games without a victory.

MNA/Reuters



Lecce's Ernesto Chivanton, center, of Uruguay, is tackled by Empoli's Emilson Cribari, left, of Brazil, and Paolo zanetti during their Italian league soccer match between Empoli and Lecce in Empoli, central Italy, on 13 March, 2004.—INTERNET

French duo keep Arsenal on course

LONDON, 15 March—Thierry Henry's sweetly-struck free kick and a late Robert Pires strike gave treble-chasing Arsenal a 2-0 Premier League win at Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, maintaining their nine-point lead over Chelsea.

The victory took unbeaten Arsenal to 70 points, with Chelsea second on 61.

Champions Manchester United, third on 58 points, visit neighbours Manchester City on Sunday.

Charlton moved up to fourth with a 1-0 home victory over Middlesbrough while Leicester City, playing their first game since nine players were arrested on March 4 following an incident at a Spanish resort, gained a 1-0 success at Birmingham City to move out of the bottom three.

Leeds United remain bottom after a 2-0 defeat at Fulham while Portsmouth slipped into the relegation places after going down 1-0 at Everton.

Arsenal, still on course for success in the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup, showed only occasional glimpses of their fluent best in the first half against a hard-working Blackburn side who did the double over them last season.

Frenchman Henry thought he had poached a cheeky first-half goal when he nicked the ball away from Brad Friedel, only to be penalized for lifting his foot as the American goalkeeper prepared to take a drop kick.

Blackburn had one effort cleared off the line and Jens Lehmann saved well from Andy Cole in a warning to the Londoners.—MNA/Reuters

Sampdoria resist Bologna fightback to win 3-2

ROME, 15 March—Sampdoria continued their challenge for a Champions League place by withstanding a determined Bologna fightback to win an entertaining Serie A match 3-2 on Saturday.

Victory moved the promoted club up to 36 points, four less than fourth-placed Lazio who have two games in hand.

Midfielder Sergio Volpi gave Sampdoria a ninth-minute lead from the penalty spot after teammate Fabio Bazzani had been tripped in the area.

A minute later the visitors drew level when Claudio Bellucci flicked on a neat pass for strike partner Giuseppe Signori to fire the ball low into the net.

Defender Aimo Diana restored the home side's lead just before the half hour, tapping in from close range, and four minutes after

the interval Bologna keeper Gianluca Pagliuca fumbled a header by striker Giacomo Cipriani to make it 3-1.

Sampdoria appeared to be cruising to victory but a 69th-minute header by midfielder Carlo Nervo ensured a torrid final 20 minutes as Bologna pressed for an equalizer.

Relegation-threatened Empoli drew 0-0 at home with Lecce.

On Sunday AC Milan seek to maintain their five-point cushion at the top of Serie A when they travel to Turin to play champions Juventus.—MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Jose Reyen (C) is tackled by Blackburn's Craig Short (L) and Jon Douglas during their premier league football match at Ewood Park on 13 March, 2004.

Arsenal beat 2-0.—INTERNET

Ailton double helps Werder stretch lead

BERLIN, 15 March—Two goals from Ailton helped Werder Bremen stretch their lead at the top of the Bundesliga with a 3-2 win over bottom club Cologne on Saturday.

The northerners moved nine points clear of second-placed champions Bayern Munich, who were held to a 3-3 home draw by Hansa Rostock in their first outing since being knocked out of the Champions League by Real Madrid.

Brazilian striker Ailton, who made headlines this week with a controversial move to play for Qatar, struck twice before the break for the hosts, who were 3-0 up at the interval.

Bayern, who face a struggle to catch Werder with 10 matches left, led 2-0 at halftime but then conceded three goals before Dutch striker Roy Makaay saved them from defeat with a penalty in the 76th minute.

Werder looked comfortable in the first half, taking the lead courtesy of French playmaker Johan Micoud on 16 minutes before Ailton, the Bundesliga's top scorer with 22 goals from 24 games, increased their advantage.

But Cologne mounted a brave challenge in the second half, reducing the arrears with efforts from defender Oliver Schroeder and midfielder Dirk Lottner.

Striker Matthias Scherz hit the back of the net for the visitors with six minutes remaining but the effort was disallowed for a foul.

Cologne, who have lost their last six games and are virtually relegated, then had midfielder Alexander Voigt sent off for a second booking.

"We lost momentum after a very good first half and Cologne made life very difficult for us," said Werder coach Thomas Schaaf. "We managed to hold on to the lead, but only just."

The Bayern game was equally eventful and started well for the home side, Makaay setting up midfielder Jens Jeremies for the first goal on three minutes before doubling the advantage himself six minutes later.

Rostock fought back after the break, punishing a nervous Bayern defence with goals from strikers Martin Max and Magnus Arvidsson before midfielder Thomas Rasmussen struck to put his side ahead.—MNA/Reuters



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a ball to Flavia Pennetta of Italy during their second round match at the Pacific Life Open in Indian Wells, Calif on 13 March, 2004.—INTERNET

MRTV-3

**16-3-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Victories of the State,
the People and the
Tatmadaw "Health
Sector"
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 Road to Mingun
9:15 **National News**
9:20 Reminiscence in the
Glow of Sunset
9:25 A Dance to the Harvest
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Shan Traditional
Hsoon Offering Cer-
emony
9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "City of Bagan"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 ASEAN Food Festival
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**16-3-2004 (Tuesday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
15:36 Victories of the State,
the People and the
Tatmadaw "Health
Sector"
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Road to Mingun
15:45 **National News**
15:50 Reminiscence in the
Glow of Sunset
15:55 A Dance to the Harvest
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Shan Traditional

- Hsoon Offering Cer-
emony
16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "City of Bagan"
16:15 **National News**
16:20 ASEAN Food Festival
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30 **National News**
16:35 Discussion Points on
Lacquerware College
16:40 The Great Bell of King
Sintgu
16:45 **National News**
16:50 Pickled Fish from
Shwe Kyin
16:55 Dancing Duo
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
17:10 Song "Dakukuku"
17:15 **National News**
17:20 The Ancient City
Thirikhittaya
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 "Mingalabar"
19:36 A Hidden Treasure
(Kekku)
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Mann Ma-Yway
19:45 **National News**
19:50 The Interesting Places
of Kachin State
19:55 Traditional Lamp
Dance
20:00 **National News**
20:05 Radiance of Love and
Beauty
20:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Crying of the
Sarut Crane"
20:12 Chaungtha Beach Re-
sort
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Conservation Research
& Management on Sea
Turtle in Myanmar
20:25 Songs On Screen
"Heh! Little Girl"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Talent Show on the
Myanmar Bamboo

- Xylophone
20:40 Myanma Artistic
Works At Shwedagon
Pagoda Archways
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Greening of the Hills
and Ranges, in order to
achieve Climate
Change (Taung Thar
Hill) (Magway Divi-
sion)
20:55 Dawei Water Fetching
Dance
21:00 **National News**
21:05 Myanma Crocodiles
21:10 Song "Cherry Present"
21:15 **National News**
21:20 Development Centre
for Rubber Technol-
ogy
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
21:35 Victories of the State,
the People and the
Tatmadaw "Health
Sector"
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Road to Mingun
21:45 **National News**
21:50 Reminiscence in the
Glow of Sunset
21:55 A Dance to the Harvest
22:00 **National News**
22:05 Shan Traditional
Hsoon Offering Cer-
emony
22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "City of Bagan"
22:15 **National News**
22:20 ASEAN Food Festival
22:25 Songs On Screen
"Horse Cart"
22:30 **National News**
22:35 Discussion Points on
Lacquerware College
22:40 The Great Bell of King
Sintgu
22:45 **National News**
22:50 Pickled Fish from
Shwe Kyin
22:55 Dancing Duo
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
23:10 Song "Dakukuku"
23:15 **National News**
23:20 The Ancient City
Thirikhittaya
23:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

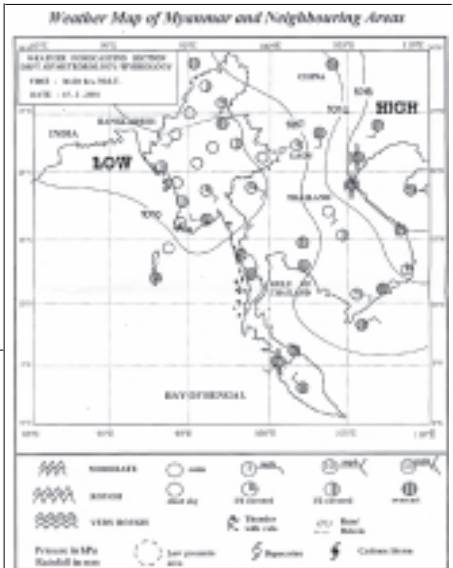
- Myanmar"
**16-3-2004 (Tuesday) &
17-3-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**
23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
23:36 Victories of the State,
the People and the
Tatmadaw "Health
Sector"
23:40 **Headline News**
23:42 Road to Mingun
23:45 **National News**
23:50 Reminiscence in the
Glow of Sunset
23:55 A Dance to the Harvest
24:00 **National News**
00:05 Shan Traditional
Hsoon Offering Cer-
emony
00:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "City of Bagan"
00:15 **National News**
00:20 ASEAN Food Festival
00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30 **National News**
00:35 Discussion Points on
Lacquerware College
00:40 The Great Bell of King
Sintgu
00:45 **National News**
00:50 Pickled Fish from
Shwe Kyin
00:55 Dancing Duo
01:00 **National News**
01:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
01:10 Song "Dakukuku"
01:15 **National News**
01:20 The Ancient City
Thirikhittaya
01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**17-3-2004 (Wednesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 03:36 A Hidden Treasure
(Kekku)
03:40 **Headline News**
03:42 Mann Ma-Yway
03:45 **National News**
03:50 The Interesting Places
of Kachin State
03:55 Traditional Lamp
Dance
04:00 **National News**
04:05 Radiance of Love and
Beauty
04:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Crying of the
Sarut Crane"
04:12 Chaungtha Beach Re-
sort
04:15 **National News**
04:20 Conservation Research
& Management on Sea
Turtle in Myanmar
04:25 Songs On Screen
"Heh! Little Girl"
04:30 **National News**
04:35 Talent Show on the
Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone
04:40 Myanma Artistic
Works At Shwedagon
Pagoda Archways
04:45 **National News**
04:50 Greening of the Hills
and Ranges, in order
to achieve Climate
Change (Taung Thar
Hill) (Magway Divi-
sion)
04:55 Dawei Water Fetching
Dance
05:00 **National News**
05:05 Myanma Crocodiles
05:10 Song "Cherry Present"
05:15 **National News**
05:20 Development Centre
for Rubber Technol-
gy

- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
05:35 Victories of the State,
the People and the
Tatmadaw "Health
Sector"
05:40 **Headline News**
05:42 Road to Mingun
05:45 **National News**
05:50 Reminiscence in the
Glow of Sunset
05:55 A Dance to the Har-
vest
06:00 **National News**
06:05 Shan Traditional
Hsoon Offering Cer-
emony
06:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "City of Bagan"
06:15 **National News**
06:20 ASEAN Food Festival
06:25 Songs On Screen
"Horse Cart"
06:30 **National News**
06:35 Discussion Points on
Lacquerware College
06:40 The Great Bell of King
Sintgu
06:45 **National News**
06:50 Pickled Fish from
Shwe Kyin
06:55 Dancing Duo
07:00 **National News**
07:05 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
07:10 Song "Dakukuku"
07:15 **National News**
07:20 The Ancient City
Thirikhittaya
07:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"



WEATHER

Monday, 15 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 (6°C) above normal in Kachin State (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (42°C) in Hpa-an and (41°C) in Patheingyi, Pyaw, Pyinmana and Minbu each.

Maximum temperature on 14-3-2004 was 39.6°C (103°F). Minimum temperature on 15-3-2004 was 20.8°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-3-2004 was 73%. Total sun shine hours on 14-3-2004 was (9.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 15-3-2004 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 12 mph from South-Southwest at (12:30) hours MST on 14-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-3-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country. **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-3-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-3-2004: Fair weather.



Tuesday, March 16

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
7:50 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းပွင့်
8:00 am
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:10 am
7. Songs of yesteryears
8:20 am
8. လမ်းတံတား
8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. Grammar Made Easy

- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
-နမ့်(၅၀) ပြည့်ရွှေရတနာမေတ္တာစေ့
တပ်မတော်တက္ကသိုလ်ရေခဲစီးရုံ
ရိုက်ကူးကြည့်သန့်ဆွ မိန့်ကြားသည့်
မိန့်ခွန်းမှ ကောက်နုတ်ချက်
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English For Everyday Use
4:45 pm
4. တပ်မတော်မေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုစောဒါးချစ်ပြည့်
ဆုရစောဒါး (၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)
5:00 pm
5. အခေါ်သံတက္ကသိုလ်ပညာစာရ
ရုပ်ပြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ်
(အသုံးပြုစောဒါး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)
5:15 pm
6. Dance of national races
5:25 pm
7. Musical programme
5:35 pm
8. တေးသံရုပ်စေ့အစီအစဉ်
5:40 pm
9. ဓမ္မာနာသံ တေးစာတံစင်
5:55 pm
10. Sing and Enjoy
6:30 pm
11. Evening news

- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးပြည့်အကျိုး
7:15 pm
14. "ပုသိမ်လေသံ ဝံ့ဝံ့ကြား
လေသံစီး အလှတစ်ပါး"
7:30 pm
15. (၅၅) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်စေ့
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
7:45 pm
16. နမ့်(၅၀) ပြည့်ရွှေရတနာမေတ္တာစေ့
တပ်မတော်တက္ကသိုလ်ရေခဲစီးရုံ
ရိုက်ကူးကြည့်သန့်ဆွ မိန့်ကြားသည့်
မိန့်ခွန်းမှ ကောက်နုတ်ချက်
"ပြည်သူ့အတွက် တပ်မတော်"
-ပြည်သူ့အကျိုးလုပ်ငန်းသယ်ပို့ရန်မှာ
တိုင်းတာ" (လယ်/ဆည်နှင့်စပ်စပ်)
-ပြည်မတော်စေ့ရေဖြိုးတိုးတက်
တပ်မတော်အမျိုးသမီးတပ်
-စစ်သားတပ်ရည် (ရဲဘော်စစ်မောင်လှ)
နီ-ချီသံစင်စောဒါး
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. "နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်စာရ"
"အချစ်မိသားစု" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
21. The next day's
programme



**Tuesday, March 16
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
9:15 am News/Slogan
1:30 pm Lunch time music
-Where you are
(Jessica Simpson)
-Have you ever been
in love(Celine Dron)
9:00 pm English lesson look
ahead (9)
9:15 pm Article/Music
9:25 pm Weekly sports reel
9:35 pm Music for your
listening pleasure
-Super Star (Modern
Talking)
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects concrete laying of Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road. — MNA

Secretary-2 inspects construction of Ngwe Hsaung Beach Hotel, laying of concrete on Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road

YANGON, 15 March — 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 of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here on 13 March and arrived at Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon Township. They were welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of Maubin Township Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Maung and officials.

The Secretary-2 and party and the commander went to Kyaunggon Township where they met chairman of Township PDC and members, officials of social organizations. The Secretary-2 discussed agriculture, livestock breeding, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquillity, making the town green and pleasant, fire preventive measures, cooperation with non-governmental organizations for successful implementation of five rural development tasks by

making trips to the grass-roots levels.

The Secretary-2 and party arrived at Ngwe Hsaung beach where they were welcomed by Ngwe Hsaung Township Officer U Tin Zaw Zaw Aung and officials.

Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected construction of Ngwe Hsaung Beach Hotel of MWVO. Chairman of Pathein District PDC Lt-Col Hla Thwin reported on data of the beach and construction of recreation camps.

Managing Director of Aungchantha Construction Co Ltd U Naw Aung reported on implementation of the first phase of the project, water and power supply and construction.

The Secretary-2 inspected construction of six five-unit hostels and other buildings and he was conducted round by Managing Director U Naw Aung and Managing Director of Cho Zaw Construction Co Ltd Daw Khin Pyone Yi.

The Secretary-2 gave instructions on opening of the hostels coming Thingyan festival, planting

of shade trees and making the beach beautiful.

The Secretary-2 inspected laying of concrete on Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road by Asia World Co Ltd. He then gave instruc-

tions on proper drainage and planting of shade and wind-break trees.

The Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung Road is 30 miles three furlongs long.

(See page 11)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe giving vitamin-A to children. — MNA

1,014 gem merchants arrive

YANGON, 15 March — A total of 1,014 gem merchants — 566 from 224 companies of eight foreign countries and 448 from 176 local companies — arrived here to attend Myanmar Gems Emporium- 2004 being held at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here.

They were 482 gem merchants from 191 com-

panies in the People's Republic of China, 50 from 17 Thai companies, 16 from three Japanese companies, one from one Italian company, three from three Sri Lankan companies, three from two US companies, 10 from six Singaporean companies and one from one company in the UK.

The merchants viewed round the emporium today from 9 am to 5 pm.

Jade lots will be sold through tender system and competitive bidding from 16 to 18 March.

MNA

Vitamin-A given to children and breast-feeding mothers

YANGON, 15 March — A ceremony to give vitamin-A to children from the age of 6 months to 5 years and breast-feeding mothers was held at the hall at Yangon Command this morning.

At the ceremony Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay fed the vitamin-A to the children.

Daw Khin Thet Htay and officials gave vitamin-A to the children aged from 6 months to 5 years and breast-feeding mothers and gave away foods. — MNA

Gem mining works to be permitted to national companies and organizations

YANGON, 15 March — An announcement was released concerning the issue of permits to national private companies and organizations under the bidding system consistent with Myanmar Gems Law to

work at new gem mines designated by Myanmar Gems Enterprise in Phakant, Lonkhin and Nantyahseik regions as well as at vacant gem mines in addition to those about to expire in July, August and September

out of jade and gem mines being undertaken by national gem entrepreneurs in gem mines in accord with Myanmar Gems Law.

Registration forms and proposal forms are now (See page 11)

Local and foreign merchants inspecting raw gems at Myanma Gems Emporium. — MNA

