

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 20 March, 2004



## Protect all the interest of the State

Our Tatmadaw will have to protect all the interest of the State. Throughout the successive eras of history, the Tatmadaw has safeguarded the national political course. Only if we continue to maintain the tradition, will the nation be able to develop and prosper on the right track despite the changes in the era.

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 the 46<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Academy)

## Economic development must for building up a developed nation

### General Thura Shwe Mann meets with officials and national entrepreneurs in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 19 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, together with members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, and of-

ficials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, held a meeting with local authorities, departmental heads, vice-presidents of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the presidents of Myanmar Fisheries Federation, the chairman of Taninthayi Division Fisheries Federation and entrepreneurs.

On the occasion, the General delivered an address. In his address, the General said that Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe had toured Taninthayi Division recently. General Thura Shwe Mann quoted the Senior General on the tour of the



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects Pugawzum Palm Oil Mill in Yebyu Township.— MNA

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#### Circulation

22,703

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

### Vice Premier of the State Council of PRC to visit Myanmar

YANGON, 20 March — At the invitation of the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency Lt-Gen Soe Win, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Her Excellency Madam Wu Yi will pay an official visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects test plots of oil palm plantations in Mawlamyine.— MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 20 March, 2004

### For development of ICT sector

Nowadays, science and technology sector is developing with momentum with information and communication technologies in the leading role and there is the process of globalization all over the world.

At such a time, the State is making necessary arrangements for gaining IT technologies with the pace of time in order not to be left behind in development.

On 16 February, Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting on Electronic Transactions Law (draft) held at the MICT Park in Hline Township and gave instructions to officials.

At the meeting, Chairman of the e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on progress in drawing the Electronic Transactions Law (draft) in cooperation with ministries; Attorney-General U Aye Maung on prescriptions of the law (draft) and Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and those present made discussions on the law (draft).

Those present at the meeting discussed matters relating to Myanmar character code set, e-Procurement Project, Smart Card Based Vehicle Registration Project, Budget P.C Project and progress in carrying out ICT tasks.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that with combination of originally high intelligence of Myanmar nationals, modern ICT equipment and technologies, success can be made as expected, and that experts, scholars and industrialists engaged in the ICT field, on their part, are to carry out their tasks in an active manner catching up with international ICT developments and to present reports to responsible persons on requirements to be rendered by the State in time.

ICT sector in Myanmar is making progress with a great momentum thanks to the encouragement of the government and efforts of computer scientists.

In this regard, officials concerned are urged to make collective efforts to maintain and speed up the already-achieved momentum in the ICT sector.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:



### Book Fair

Sarpay Beikman

# 378,384 Upper Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon  
(former PPE head office)  
19 to 28 March 2004 (from 9 am to 5 pm)

### Book Fair packed with bookworms

YANGON, 19 March — Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Sarpay Beikman under the Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information organized a book fair at the former PPE building on upper Bo Aung Kyaw Road here. A total of 39 book shops put on sale their books at the fair.

Departmental employees, the public and monks totalling over 3,000 visited the book fair and bought books. Today's sale reached over K 650,000. The book fair will be kept open daily from 9 am to 5 pm till 28 March.

MNA

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

### 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'

### Efficient use of fuel

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

### All this needs to be known

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

### 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

### Efficient use of electricity

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

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

### Gems Empo sells 13,703,451-euro worth of jade, gems

YANGON, 19 March — The 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium sold 13,703,451-euro worth of jade and gem lots during its four-day sales. Today, the emporium sold 24 lots of gems valued at 3,230,018 euro through tender system and competitive bidding.

Merchants bought 503 lots of jade valued at 10,473,434 euro during the period from 16 to 18 March. Yesterday alone, 54 jade lots were sold at 2,388,016 euro. The Emporium sold 33 jade lots at 1,301,904 euro through competitive bidding from 5 pm to 11 pm yesterday. Patron of the Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint visited the emporium, which is being held at



Sales of gems through competitive bidding at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium. MNA

Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, this evening. Accompanied by Chairman of the Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director of

Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Khin Oo and officials, the minister viewed the sale of gems and cordially conversed with local and foreign merchants. The deputy minister presented a souve-

nir and certificate to a foreign company, M/S Well Gain (HK) Ltd, for buying the highest value of jade at the emporium. The emporium continues tomorrow. — MNA

### Book Fair opened in honour of Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 19 March — As a gesture of honouring the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information held a book fair at the former PPE building on Bo Aung Kyaw Road in Kyauktada Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the vice-chairmen, publishers, and bookworms.

On the occasion, PPE Managing Director U



Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein view round the Book Fair. —MNA

Myint Thein explained the purpose of holding the book fair. Next, Brig-Gen Aung Thein formally opened the book fair. Later, the deputy

ministers and officials viewed round the books on sale. News and Periodicals Enterprise, Sarpay Beikman Book House and other 39

book houses opened book shops at the fair. Various kinds of books are on sale there at reasonable prices. — MNA



# Baghdad car bomb kills at least 17, scores injured

**BAGHDAD, 19 March**—A powerful car bomb destroyed a five-story hotel housing foreigners in central Baghdad on Wednesday night, killing 17 people and leaving a jagged crater just days before the anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

US soldiers and Iraqi rescuers stopped searching for survivors yesterday in the wreckage of a five-story hotel and surrounding buildings after a massive suicide bombing. The US military had said 27 people died, but later revised the toll downward to 17.

US Army Colonel Jill Morgenthaler confirmed the attack was a suicide bombing, but said the destroyed Mount Lebanon Hotel may not have been the intended target because the vehicle loaded with explosives was in the middle of the street, and not parked in front of the hotel.

Flames and heavy smoke shot skyward, igniting trees and nearby buildings as rescuers pulled bodies from the rubble and searched for other victims.

Dazed and wounded people stumbled from adjacent buildings. A father cradled his young daughter, who was limp in his arms. Coated in dust, some rescuers dug with bare hands as ambulance workers stood by with orange stretchers.

The bomb, containing an estimated 1,000 pounds of explosives, also wounded 45 people at the Mount Lebanon Hotel, said US Army Colonel Ralph Baker.

Americans, Britons, Egyptians as well as other foreigners were staying at the hotel, said Baghdad resident Faleh Kalhan. Many casualties were in adjacent buildings.

The blast set afire at least eight cars, one of which was hurled into a store.

Some vehicles were little more than mangled piles of metal. The explosion blew bricks, air conditioners, furniture and other debris hundreds of yards from the hotel.

"It was huge boom followed by complete darkness and then the red glow of a fire," said 16-year-old Walid Mohammed Abdel-Maguid, who lives near the hotel. A two-story complex of offices and shops was also badly damaged.

The Mount Lebanon was a so-called soft target because it did not have concrete blast barriers and other security measures of the kind that protect offices of the US-led coalition and other buildings where Westerners live and work.—*Internet*

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## Roadside bomb hits Iraqi security force convoy

**MOSUL (Iraq), 19 March** — A roadside bomb exploded near an Iraqi security force convoy in the northern city of Mosul on Wednesday, inflicting three casualties, witnesses said.

Members of the US-trained Iraq Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) sealed off the scene of the blast, in an industrial area in the west of Mosul, and detained three suspects.

The witnesses said they believed one ICDC member had been killed and two wounded in the explosion, which was the latest of a spate of attacks in Mosul in the last few days.

On Monday, guerillas fired on a car carrying US civilians in Mosul. Three were killed instantly and a fourth died in hospital. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board, based in Virginia, said the victims were missionaries.—*MNA/Reuters*



An Iraqi woman shouts at a US Army soldier at the scene of an explosion in a crowded residential street in Baghdad, on 16 March, 2004.—*INTERNET*

## Worst Iraq suicide attacks since war began

**BAGHDAD, 19 March**—Some of the worst suicide bombing attacks in Iraq since the war began last March 20.

—March 2: At least four suicide bombers carry out coordinated attacks on Shiite Muslim shrines in the southern city of Karbala and in Baghdad. The Iraqi Governing Council said 271 people were killed; US officials put the death toll at 181.

—Feb 11: A suicide attacker blows up a car packed with explosives in a crowd of Iraqis waiting outside an army recruiting center in Baghdad, killing 47 people.

—Feb 10: A suicide bomber explodes a truckload of explosives outside a police station in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of Baghdad, killing 53 people.

—Feb 1: Suicide bombers kill 109 people in two Kurdish party offices in the northern city of Irbil.

—Jan 18: Suicide car bombing near main gate to US-led coalition's headquarters in Baghdad kills at least 31 people.

—Nov 12: Suicide truck bomber attacks headquarters of Italy's paramilitary police in southern city of Nasiriyah, killing more than 30 people, including 19 Italians.

—Oct 27: Four suicide bombings target international Red Cross headquarters and four Iraqi police stations in Baghdad, killing 40 people, mostly Iraqis.

—Aug 19: Truck bomber strikes UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22, including top UN envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

—Aug 7: Car bomb explodes outside Jordanian Embassy, killing 19, including two children.

—March 29: Suicide bomber pretending to be a taxi driver needing help kills four US soldiers.

*Internet*

## No need to make amendments to Russia's foreign policy

**Moscow, 19 March** — Russia's new Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Wednesday that there is no need for making amendments to the concept of the country's foreign policy.

"There should be continuity since good results have been achieved over the past four years," said Lavrov, who served as Russia's envoy to the United Nations for nearly ten years and was appointed the new Foreign Minister a week ago.

"We shall seek to guarantee Russia's national interests without sliding to aggressive methods or confrontations," the minister said during his first Press conference since his appointment.

"Russia will display flexibility in its efforts to protect national interests and will strive for compromises," he noted, adding that Russia would continue making efforts to create "favourable outside conditions" in ensuring security of the country and its citizens, developing economy and improving Russians' living standards.

He reiterated Russia's determination to continue the fight against international terrorism without "any compromise". Lavrov also urged to speed up the process of political settlement of Iraq issue.

"The sooner all agree with the UN central role in restoring the country, the better it will be both for Iraq and for the entire region," said Lavrov, stressing that "this will be possible only after the end of the occupation".

He rejected the US accusations of possible sales of Russian weapons to Iraq.

"The Americans themselves have repeatedly admitted that Russian weapons could have reached Iraq from a lot of countries. Until facts on this account are laid on the table, there is nothing to talk about," he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

## Bangladesh launches \$14m CDMP

**DHAKA, 19 March**— Bangladesh launches a 14-million-US dollar Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) on Wednesday, reported the official *Bangladesh News Agency*.

The five-year programme was formally launched Wednesday by Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf here, and it is being carried out with the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department for International Development of Britain.

The major objective of the CDMP is to strengthen the capacity of disaster management system in the country to reduce unacceptable risks and to improve the effectiveness of response and recovery activities.

The strategic focus of the programme is to reorient the country's disaster management programming efforts from a relief response paradigm to a comprehensive risk minimization culture. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the government has initiated the programme to reduce risk and vulnerability of the people caused by natural calamities in the country every year.

He said as a disaster prone country, Bangladesh spent some 83.3 million dollars annually in relief purpose, adding this relief culture had to be changed through strengthening capacity building among all stakeholders to face natural disasters. Terming the disaster preparedness and mitigation as a complex issue in a country like Bangladesh, Resident Representative of the UNDP Jorgen Lissner said raising awareness among people by involving community leaders should be the prime objective to face natural disaster and redress sufferings of the people.

Bangladesh has faced 179 large-scale natural disasters during the last 30 years including flood, cyclone, tidal surge, drought and riverbank erosion that caused huge loss of lives and properties. —*MNA/Xinhua*



Ali Saad, 24, is treated in a Baghdad hospital on 17 March, 2004, after being wounded in an explosion in a crowded residential area of Baghdad on late Tuesday, 16 March, 2004.—*INTERNET*

# US troops kill Iraqi Arabiya cameraman

BAGHDAD, 19 March — US troops shot dead an Iraqi working for Dubai-based Arab satellite television channel Al Arabiya on Thursday and critically wounded another in central Baghdad, the station and colleagues said.

Al Arabiya employees said the Iraqis were driving in central Baghdad when another car drove through a US checkpoint. They said US troops then opened fire on both cars.

"I stopped in front of the checkpoint and then I saw another car coming fast towards it and I thought it was going to explode," said Ahmed Abdul Amiya, the driver of the Al Arabiya car. "I tried to race away...and

then the Americans started firing at random. They hit the first car and then they started shooting at our car."

Arabiya identified the dead colleague as cameraman Ali Abdelaziz and said its correspondent Ali al-Khatib was seriously wounded and was in critical condition.

"I don't know the exact circumstances but I know that they (Americans) shot at random," Salah Najm,

Arabiya's director of news, told Reuters in Dubai. "We are still trying to clarify the information."

Doctors initially said both Al Arabiya employees had been killed but later said one of them was critically wounded with a gunshot wound to the head.

A US military spokeswoman said she had no immediate information on the incident.

MNA/Reuters

## Two US soldiers killed in separate Iraq attacks

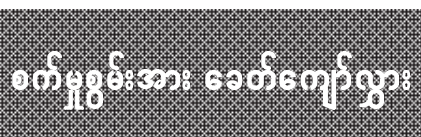
BAGHDAD, 19 March —

Two US soldiers have been killed in separate mortar attacks in Iraq, the US military said on Thursday, bringing to 391 the number of American troops killed in action since the start of the war a year ago.

In an attack on Wednesday afternoon, one US soldier was killed and seven wounded by mortar fire at a base near Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

A spokesman said a Marine was killed on Wednesday evening in a mortar attack in Qusayba, in western Iraq on the Syrian border.

MNA/Reuters



## Annan tells Iraq UN will help with polls, government

NEW YORK, 19 March — Secretary General Kofi Annan has told Iraq UN experts will return to the country as soon as possible to help prepare for elections and a new government set to take power in three months.

Capping months of debate over the UN role in Iraq, where the US occupation is scheduled to end June 30, Annan sent a letter pledging UN help after receiving a request from the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

The move carries risk for the United Nations, which has had no permanent role in Iraq since Annan pulled his staff out in October following a devastating attack on its Baghdad offices in which 22 people died.

The United States has been coy about how large a role it is willing to give the world body in Iraq but turned to Annan for help after Iraq's leading Shiite Muslim cleric rejected US plans for the power handover on June 30.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who wields powerful influence over the nation's 60 percent Shiite majority, had originally called for direct elections to take place before the handover.

The United States said those elections were impossible. That view was supported by Lakhdar Brahimi, a respected Arab diplomat who concluded after a fact-finding mission to Iraq that credible elections could not be organised in time.

Brahimi will lead a team to return to Iraq soon, along with elections experts who will try to organise national polls by the end of January 2005, the date fixed by the governing council, Annan said.

"The United Nations remains committed to doing everything within its capacity to assist the people of Iraq when and as they request," the UN chief said in a letter, which was obtained by AFP.

"I have therefore asked my special advisor Lakhdar Brahimi and his team, as well as the electoral assistance team, to return to Iraq as soon as possible in order to lend the advice and assistance you have requested."

Annan received the request in a letter earlier Thursday along with a parallel request from Paul Bremer, the US overseer in Iraq. —Internet

## Australia to boost funding of intelligence

CANBERRA, 19 March — Australian Prime Minister John Howard has promised an additional 400 million Australian dollars (about 300 million US dollars) in this year's budget for the intelligence services to better counter the terrorist threat. Howard told 5DN radio station in Adelaide, South Australia, Wednesday that security remains his government's top budget priority. —MNA/Xinhua



A huge car bomb destroyed a five-story hotel in central Baghdad, on 17 March, 2004, Wednesday night, killing at least 10 people, Iraqi police and US soldiers said. —INTERNET

## Pentagon withholds 15% of Halliburton bills

WASHINGTON, 19 March — The Pentagon said on Wednesday it would withhold payment on 15 per cent of meal bills from Texas firm Halliburton under a logistics contract in Iraq that is under military auditors' scrutiny.

A Pentagon spokeswoman said the withholding would amount to about 300 million US dollars this month not paid to Halliburton, the oil services company once run by Vice-President Dick Cheney that is the US military's biggest contractor in Iraq.

The withheld funds cover meals provided by Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown and Root to troops in Kuwait and Iraq. If 300 million US dollars were withheld, the total expected to be billed by Halliburton for meals would be about two billion US dollars.

Military auditors and Halliburton have been at loggerheads for months over pricing for meals and whether billing should be based on estimates or the actual number of soldiers at the dining table on any given day.

The company agreed earlier this year to withhold 176.5 million US dollars in billing for food while KBR prepared a response to issues reported by the Defence Contract Audit Agency. "This shows that the system is working," said Pentagon comptroller Dov Zakheim of the decision to partially withhold payment while auditors examined pricing.

Military auditors are looking into whether KBR overcharged for some of its services in Iraq and Kuwait, where its contracts cover tasks from serving hot meals and doing laundry to delivering mail and building bases for US troops.

A Pentagon spokeswoman said "a 15-per-cent withholding will be taken on all claims for reimbursement until such time as the final prices are negotiated".

She said the contracting officer involved with KBR had asked the company to present a rebuttal to the DCAA's recommendation, adding that the officer said the 15 per cent would be withheld at the end of this month.

The 15 per cent will amount to about 300 million US dollars, the spokeswoman said. Last week, military auditors said Halliburton had shown "systemic deficiencies" in its cost estimates for billions of dollars of work in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

## Two Iraqis killed in Fallujah battle

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 19 March — Attackers firing mortars in the Iraqi town of Fallujah wounded eight US troops on Thursday, the US Army said, and witnesses said two Iraqis, including a child, were killed in a firefight that followed.

Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for the US Army in Iraq, told a news conference the battle erupted as US soldiers were meeting local administrators in

municipal offices in the flashpoint town, 32 miles west of Baghdad.

US troops were stationed on the roof of buildings around the area, he said. Attackers fired several mortar rounds, one of which struck the roof of one of the buildings, wounding seven US soldiers and a Marine.

Their wounds were not life-threatening, Kimmitt said.

MNA/Reuters

## Indonesian minister optimistic over textile industry

JAKARTA, 19 March — The Indonesian Trade and Industry Minister said here Wednesday she is optimistic over the prospect of textile industry despite its low competitive price against products from Vietnam and China.

"We see the textile industry will keep growing and it can compete with (foreign products) as long as we use polyester as the raw material," Rini Suwandi told reporters.

MNA/Xinhua

## Rockets hit Baghdad hotels, no casualties reported

BAGHDAD, 19 March — Two Baghdad hotels used by foreign contractors, businesspeople and media organizations were shaken by explosions on Thursday evening but US soldiers at the scene said there did not appear to be serious injuries.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Jones of the US 1st Armoured Division said two rockets had hit the Burj al-Hayat Hotel in central Baghdad but nobody was

wounded. Two holes were blown in the side of the hotel.

Witnesses said the roof of the nearby Rimal Hotel was also hit by a blast but there was no major damage.

Jones said the rockets were probably aimed at the headquarters of the US-led administration on the west bank of the Tigris River. Warning sirens sounded briefly at the US compound after the blasts rang out across Baghdad. —MNA/Reuters



Residents check a part of a rocket on 17 March, 2004, after it landed in a crowded residential area of Baghdad late Tuesday. One died and several others were wounded in the blast. —INTERNET



# Democrats tally "misleading" Iraq statements

WASHINGTON, 19 March — US President George W Bush and four top advisers made a combined 237 misleading public statements on the threat posed by Iraq, Democrats charged in a congressional report released on Tuesday.

The report compiled by Democratic staff of the House Government Reform Committee examined assertions made by Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

The report was requested by California Representative Henry Waxman, the most senior Democrat on the committee and a tenacious critic of some of the contracts awarded to businesses to rebuild Iraq.

"Prior to the war in Iraq, the President and his advisers repeatedly claimed that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction that jeopardized the security of the United States. The failure to discover these weapons after the war has led to questions about whether the President and his advisers were candid in describing Iraq's threat," the report said.

Most of the statements were misleading because they expressed certainty where none existed or failed to acknowledge the doubts of intelligence officials, according to the report. Ten statements were false, it said.

In a separate statement, Waxman said the report demonstrated a "systematic distortion of the intelligence on Iraq," which he said urgently needs investigation.

"Most of the misleading statements about Iraq — 161 statements — were made prior to the start of the war in Iraq. But 76 misleading statements were made by the five administration officials after the start of the war to justify the decision to go to war," the report said.

According to the report, the misleading statements began at least a year before the start of the war in Iraq, when Cheney stated on March 17, 2002: "We know they have biological and chemical weapons."

A White House spokesman said he had not yet seen the document and could not comment specifically on its contents.

"I can say that the President and his advisers spoke clearly to the American people and the world and their statements accurately reflected the intelligence that was available to them," the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters



Guests escape carrying suit cases after a bomb explosion at a hotel in central Baghdad on 17 March, 2004. A powerful blast ripped through a Baghdad hotel and neighbouring houses Wednesday evening, killing several people and sending flames and smoke into the night sky in the centre of the city. —INTERNET

## UAE to host first Middle East E-government summit in April

ABU DHABI, 19 March — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the first Middle East E-government summit in Dubai on April 26-27, according to a Press release issued here on Tuesday. The summit will bring together senior decision-makers from the region's governments, and organizations from across the region and the globe.

Among those attending the event will be IT directors, CEOs, CIOs, HR managers and all those with an interest in the growth of E-government in the Middle East.

The presence of foreign experts, including those from Europe, will enable the participants to measure their progress against developed countries.

The case studies presented by the speakers will provide direction for some of the region's E-governments and pinpoint their drawbacks.

The summit will discuss crucial topics related to E-governance, such as the future of E-government in the Middle East, business integration in E-government, better return on IT in E-government operations, public

and private sector partnership as strategy for E-government, improving content management capabilities to exceed the expectations of citizens and internal users.

Salem Al Shair, director of E-services in the Dubai E-government, said that hosting the first Middle East E-government summit will lead to an exchange of ideas and pooling of resources as the region's governments step up measures to adopt E-governance.

"E-government is a system whose success is closely linked to the exchange of experiences between various countries. This summit will present the right forum to gain new insights and open doors for interaction that will help individual governments to speed up their E-government programmes," he explained. — MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore hit by heaviest March rains on record

SINGAPORE, 19 March — Thrashed by monsoon storms, Singapore has already recorded its heaviest March rainfall on record — over half a metre (nearly two feet). Rainfall up to March 14 totalled 552 millimetres (21.7 inches) — beating the last March monthly record in 1913, the National Environment Agency's Meteorological Services division said.

Although the monsoon typically soaks Singapore from November to March, rain has been exceptionally heavy, caused by a surge of moist northeast winds blown from the South China Sea in the second week of the month, the agency said. Parts of Singapore have suffered rare bouts of flooding this month as the heavy rains coincided with unusually high tides.

The abnormal weather comes after tropical Singapore, which nearly straddles the Equator, recorded its heaviest January rainfall in 30 years. — MNA/Reuters

## Bulgaria says cannot increase troops in Iraq

SOFIA, 19 March — Bulgaria will not increase the number of its peacekeepers in Iraq to make up for a possible withdrawal of Spanish troops, a top military officer said on Wednesday.

Spain's incoming socialist leader Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has pledged to withdraw his country's 1,300 troops from Iraq by July 1 if the United Nations does not take charge there.

"We are not ready to deploy more troops in Iraq," Bulgaria's chief of staff Nikola Kolev told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

## Anti-War Assembly to hold demonstration against Iraq occupation

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 March — The Anti-War Assembly formed by anti-globalization groups from 100 countries reiterated Thursday that a "global protest" against the occupation of Iraq will be held on Saturday.

A year after the US-led invasion of Iraq, members of the assembly, the so-called "alterworldists", told the Press that the massive mobilizations and protests were supported by "hundreds of networks, coalitions, forums and social movements throughout the world", including the World Social Forum.

The assembly expected Saturday's global demonstration to be stronger than the one waged on February 15, 2003, when around 15 million people all over the world protested the then imminent invasion of Iraq by the US-led coalition.

An announcement posted on the Internet by the World Social Forum



## Poll finds Americans gloomy about US condition

WASHINGTON, 19 March — Americans are increasingly gloomy about the state of the economy and the direction of the country, the USA Today newspaper reported Tuesday.

The report, quoting a Gallup poll, said that 60 per cent of those surveyed said they were dissatisfied with "the way things are going in the United States at this time".

The question about the general direction of the country is one of the fundamental judgments voters make in deciding whether to support a President for reelection. That makes the public's pessimism, if it persists, a serious problem for the Bush campaign, the report said.

Concern about the

economy appeared to be driving down public satisfaction, the report said. The economy in general (21 per cent) and jobs in particular (19 per cent) were identified as the top two most important problems facing the country, followed by fears about war including the conflict in Iraq (11 per cent).

The mood of the country was bright at the beginning of the year, when 55 per cent of those canvassed said they were satisfied, according to the report. — MNA/Xinhua

## Beautiful woman robs jewellery shop in Baghdad

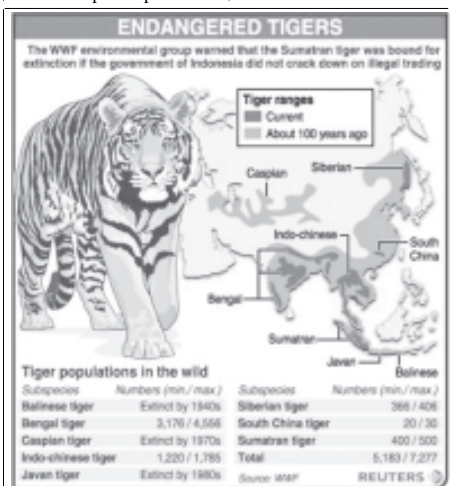
BAGHDAD, 19 March — A woman and three men robbed a jewellery shop in Karada area in Baghdad, said the Baghdad newspaper on Tuesday.

"A very beautiful and elegant woman entered the Golden Star shop in the middle of Karada in central Baghdad, whose owner is very well known in the neighbourhood," the local newspaper quoted an eyewitness as saying.

The woman introduced herself to the shop owner as a member of a humanitarian beneficiary society that sponsors orphans, the witness said. The shop owner welcomed the female customer and let her be seated, but as soon as he opened the safe, three men entered and pointed their guns to his head.

The shop owner could do nothing but surrender to their demands. After taking a kilo and a half of pure gold, the robbers fled the scene with the woman.

"The funny thing is that the shop owner could not believe that the beautiful woman is the one who set him this swindle," said the witness. "Funnier is the fact that the gold that the thieves took was fake, for the shop had suffered three previous attempts," he added. — MNA/Xinhua



A leading environmental group on 16 March, 2004 warned that the exotic Sumatran tiger was bound for extinction if the government of Indonesia did not crack down on illegal trading in the endangered species. The WWF said only 400-500 tigers remained on the island of Sumatra as hunters continue to kill the animal commercially and for sport.

INTERNET

# Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

## Iraqi deaths following the US invasion of Iraq

US and allies invaded Iraq on 20 March 2003 and today is the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. During the past year, Iraqi people had to face many hardships and difficulties under US control. Many civilians died for various reasons from the explosion of cluster bomb to indiscriminate shooting of US and allies troops. The photos on this page show the sufferings of Iraqi people.



*An Iraqi man pushes his wife on a cart as they pass by a blood-stained plastic bag outside a hospital in the Kazimiya neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq on 3 March 2004. The bloodstains were from the victims of series of suicide attacks on 2 March, 2004.*



*A child who was injured in a crossfire between Iraqi guerillas and US troops on 29 February, 2004 receives a treatment in a hospital in Samawah, Iraq.*



*A youth runs past the victims and burning debris caused by bomb attack which broke out recently in Karbala, Iraq.*



*A building was destroyed after bomb attack on Polish base in Hilah in Iraq on 19 February 2004.*

*A building in Sumawah, Iraq, was destroyed by US launcher attack on 14 February.*

### Iraqi deaths under US occupation

Subjet	Death toll
Cluster bomb	279
Children deaths (From March 2003 to March 2004)	93
Air strikes (From March 2003 to March 2004)	1187
Indisincriminate shooting	212
Iraqi deaths ( other causes) (From March 2003 to March 2004)	8659
Servicemen death	10000
Total	20430





Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

# Nation-building tasks jointly carried out by the Tatmadaw and the people



## Facts about Pathaung Bridge

1. Name	Pathaung
2. Location	Myeik Township Taninthayi Division
3. Span	90 feet x 9
4. Length	810 feet
5. Width of motorway	28 feet
6. Width of each pedestrian lane	four feet
7. Clearance area	90 feet wide, 20 feet high
8. Type	steel frame, reinforced concrete
9. Launching date	1-6-2000
10. Completion date	7-12-2001
11. Inauguration date	28-12-2001



*The 810-foot-long Pathaung Bridge at Pathaung Village, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Division, built by the Tatmadaw.*

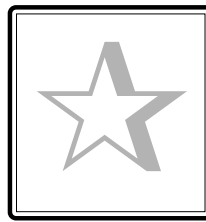


*The map showing the location of Pathaung Bridge near Myeik at the centre, Dawei in the north and Kawthoung in the south.*

*The approach road to Pathaung Bridge, which was constructed by the Tatmadaw.*



***Tatmadaw which does not seek personal gain***



*Pathaung Bridge in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Division, that was built by the Tatmadaw.*

## Bridges constructed by the Tatmadaw

No	Bridge	Location	Foot
1.	Pathaung	Myeik Township Taninthayi Division	810
2.	Dawlan	Hlaingbwe Township Kayin State	1000
3.	Ngamoeyeik	Yangon Yangon Division	660
4.	Pahtolon	Kani Sagaing Division	450
5.	Lapin	Kalewa Sagaing Division	220



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



Transport infrastructures have been constructed in building the Union of Myanmar to become a modern and developed nation.

Concerning the task, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, saying, "The strategy of building the motor roads and railroads is to enable the national races to travel from the northern top of the nation to the southernmost end and from the easternmost point to the

61.763 million. During the period the long-distance passenger trains travelled 2,693.078 million miles and city circular trains 233.358 million miles totalling 2,926.436 million miles, and carrying 3.442 million tons of cargo.

Up to December 2003, there were 2,998.36 miles of railroads in the nation, up 1,022.01 miles from 1,976.35 miles in 1988.

New railroads measuring 145 miles in length are



*Tatmadawmen laying rails at Htihtehto-Htanhsai section.*

tos of the railroad passing through the slopes and winding through the mountains, with Shan mountain ranges in the background.

When we passed Htiri, we continued our trip to Htihtehto, Htookyant, Htanhsai and Ponchaung by car. We saw Tatmadawmen of the Eastern Command taking part in the project in Htihtehto, Htookyant and Htanhsai and at Ponchaung Bridge under the burning sun. They were working under the supervision of the command commander.

We went to a sergeant who was working. His body and cloths were wet with sweat. His name is U Oo Tun. He is an ethnic Rakhine.

"Sergeant, we would like to ask you something we want to know."

"Please do."

"Is the Htihtehto,

## Railroads which help further strengthen love and friendly relations among national races

westernmost tip. Roads have been built in a short span of time with a view to providing transport links between the regions of the Union. The development of roads will help develop the economy and raise the living standard

under construction, and another 515.05 miles are in planning stage. Of the completed railroads, the 277.34 miles long ChaungU-Pakokku Railroad has helped develop the western sectors of the nation; the

Namhsan-Mongseik section have been completed.

The remaining sections — Pyinthaya-Htiri, Htiri-Htihtehto, Htihtehto-Htookyant, and Htookyant-Ponchaung in Taunggyi District and Mongseik-

Htanhsai.

The Tatmadaw has three main tasks — the first is combat, the second training if there is no combat, and the third public welfare if there is no combat and training. Thanks to the collective efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people, internal peace has been restored in the nation. At present, the Tatmadaw is concentrating its efforts on the nation-building task. It has been taking part in building roads, railroads, bridges and dams. Due to the harmonious endeavours of the Tatmadaw and the people, the nation is achieving sustainable development.

We interviewed

Deputy-General Manager U Tin Soe of MR, the Project Director of 103-mile Namhsan-Hsaikkhaung Railroad at a guest house in Taunggyi. We visited the sections which will be opened soon and other sections which are under construction of the railroad.

Htookyant, Htanhsai section you, the Tatmadawmen, are building soon to be completed?

"Yes, it will be completed in the near future."

"Are you tired, you are sweating."

"Why should I be tired? Its nothing for a

### Railroad constructed by Tatmadawmen across the nation

Sr	part of nation	name of railroad	miles
1	north-west part	ChaungU-Pakokku	277.34
2	eastern part	Shwenyaung-Yakswak	37.50
3	eastern part	Aungban-Loikaw	101.92
4	eastern part	Shwenyaung-Namhsan	165
5	southern part	Ye-Dawei	101.47
6	central part	Pyay-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi	90.35

of the people."

Based on the guidance, the Ministry of Rail Transport has invested a large amount of capital to build new railroads not for the economic benefits, but for the progress of the ethnic people living in the hill regions and to further consolidate the national unity.

The ministry is extending railroads and transporting an increasing number of passengers and tonnage of freight. In 2002-2003, its long-distance passenger trains transported 34.507 million passengers and city circular trains transported 27.256 million totalling

37.50 miles long Shwenyaung-Yaksawak Railroad, the 101.92-mile Aungban-Loikaw Railroad, and the 165-mile Shwenyaung-Namhsan Railroad have helped develop the eastern sectors; the 101.47-mile Ye-Dawei Railroad has helped develop the southern sector; the 90.35-mile Pyay-Aunglan-Taungdwingyi Railroad has helped develop the central sector west of Yoma.

At present, the 103-mile Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad is under construction, and the 16.80-mile Hsaikkhaung-Pyinthaya section and the 19.2-mile

Bonghsai, Bonghsai-Namheing, Namheing-Taunggaing, and Taunggaing-Ponchaung section in Loikaw District — the 10.24-mile Mongseik-Bonghsai section and the 4.3-mile Pyinthaya-Htiri section will be opened soon.

The Tatmadawmen are taking part in building the railroad sections from Htiri to Ponchaung. And many sections will be opened soon. Our information team went to southern Shan State from Yangon on 15 February 2004 to interview the Tatmadawmen taking part in the sections in Htiri, Htihtehto, Htookyant, and

*Kayan Soe Myint*

From Hsaik-khaung, we travelled by EMC rail car to Pyinthaya-Htiri section which is soon to be opened. Rails have already been laid at the 4.3-mile Pyinthaya-Htiri section. We took pho-

Tatmadawman. We, the Tatmadawmen, have already dedicated our lives for the national cause. My sweat is for the national races. We are happy to know that the  
(See page 9)



*Tatmadawmen taking part in building the Htiri-Htihtehto section of Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad.*



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



The completed Pynthaya-Htiri section of Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad runs through the mountainous region of southern Shan State.

(from page 8)

railroad when completed will facilitate the transport of the national races."

"By the way, you are an ethnic Rakhine, and you are contributing volunteer labour in the region of ethnic Shans." "Our Tatmadaw is formed with the national races. Thus, we are working in the interest of the national races, wherever we are in the nation. Because we all are the brethren living on the same land and partaking the water from the same source."

Even under the burning sun, we felt cool to hear his words.

The Tatmadaw is formed with the good sons and daughters of the people of the Union. The idea of forming the Tatmadaw was conceived during the independence struggle, and it was born during the anti-Fascist struggle. The concept of the Tatmadaw in the time of Burma Independence Army and Burma Defence Army was independence first, independence second and independence third.

When the independence was regained the internal insurgency broke out and the country was on the verge of disintegration. At such a time, foreign intrusion was threatening the sovereignty. Therefore, the Tatmadaw had gone into battle for non-

disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. Currently, the Tatmadaw is participating in nation-building tasks while discharging the national defence duty, the main duty and safeguarding the life and property of the national people.

Our news crew proceeded to Namsan rail road section construction site after stopping over for the night at Ponchaung Bridge project which had already been opened. The 55-mile Ponchaung-Namhsan railroad section is a part of new Shwenyaung-Namhsan railroad construction project. The Ponchaung-Namhsan railroad section was divided into five sub-sections—Namhsan-Mongseik, Mongseik-Kaungsai, Kaungsai-Nammaheik, Nammaheik-Taungkai and Taungkai-Ponchaung. Each of which is five miles long. The trains are now running from Namhsan to Mongseik section. Again, in hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, arrangements have been made for opening of the 10.24 miles long Mongseik-Kaungsai railroad section.

Our news crew interviewed Project Engineer U Than Win who was assigned duty at Kaungsai railroad

section. The project engineer said in the interview with our news crew that he took responsibility for construction of the 55 miles long Namhsan-Ponchaung section and the 19.2 miles long Namhsan-Mongseik section had already been opened; that the construction of 10.24 miles long Mongseik-Kaungsai section was complete and the section will soon be opened; that in the project, altogether 249,041 earth pits were undertaken by Tatmadawmen with the use of heavy machinery; that altogether 35 bridges had to be built on the road section.

Afterwards, our news crew interviewed Deputy General Manager U Tin Soe who acted as the Project Director for the 103-mile Saikkhaung-Ponchaung railroad section. Project Director U Tin Soe said that Saikkhaung-Namhsan railroad project was divided into three sub-projects—Saikkhaung-Ponchaung section project, Ponchaung Bridge project and Ponchaung-Namhsan section project; that Ponchaung Bridge project had already been completed; that Saikkhaung-Pynthaya subsection of Saikkhaung-Ponchaung section was completed and arrangements have been made for completion of the 4.3 miles long

Pynthaya-Htiri section and the 10.24 miles long Mongseik-Kaungsai section so as to be able to open them on the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day; that the Tatmadawmen under the leadership of the Commander of Eastern Command, those from Wanhai Co, Daewoo Co, HB Co, MGU Co and Shwetharaphu Co are making integrated and well-coordinated efforts for completion of the remaining Htiri-Htihtehto-Htukyant-Ponchaung section in December 2004.

Our news crew passed through the 103 miles long Saikkhaung-Namhsan section by car and EMC, and arrived at Namsan spending two nights. We left Namhsan for Yangon via Loilem, Loikaw and Taunggyi. The 55-mile Namhsan-Ponchaung section of the 103-mile Saikkhaung-Namhsan railroad project is being undertaken on Loilem District side and the 48-mile section from Saikkhaung to Ponchaung Bridge of the project is being undertaken on Taunggyi District side. On completion, the project will enable the local people to travel from Taunggyi to Monai by train.

Tatmadaw members stood by the people throughout the successive eras. They tried to regain the independence, sacrificing much blood and sweat. After gaining the independence, the Tatmadaw had to face and ward off the internal insurgents and destructive elements so as to safeguard the independence.

At a time like today when peace prevails in the nation, the Tatmadaw has to serve the interest of the State and the people, participating in the nation-building tasks.

They will serve the interest of the people in future in addition to the present days.

(Translation: TMT+TS)

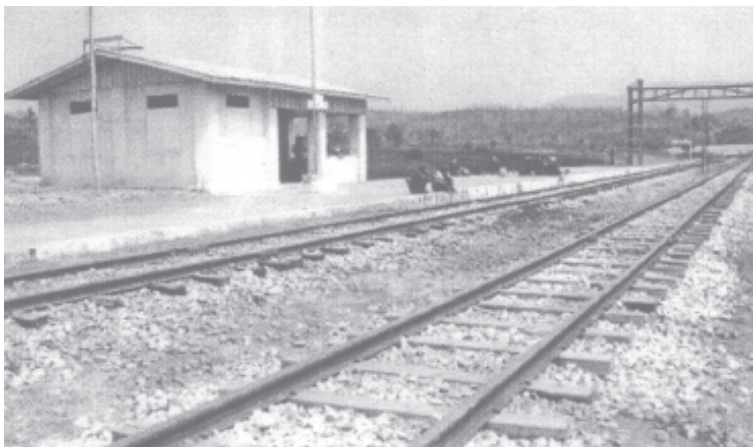
### Hailing the 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day

#### Poem

### Battle front

- \* In the factory, with blue collar  
Strong with stamina, those workers  
While they're striving to produce
- \* In the fields, those benefactors  
With prodding rod, beside the oxen  
While they're ploughing and cultivating.
- \* In the offices, departments  
White collar workers, pen away  
Many duties, strenuous tasks  
While they dutifully discharge theses.
- \* In the schools  
Boys and girls try hard  
Studies of great value  
While they pursue these.
- \* In the monasteries  
Rahans, Sangha in peace  
To the next world, to Nirvana  
While they strive to read.
- \* In farflung borders, in the forests  
With gun held close, the soldier...  
Rain or shine, despite heavy mist  
On hills or ranges, rugged as they be  
Rivers and deep forests, forbidding  
Sleepless, foodless, bereft of rations  
Staying apart from lovers  
Marching, giving battle, full of zeal
- \* "If nation be peaceful, with no harm,  
Each with own job, mind fresh  
For citizens to stay that way"  
Dare not miss, be not forlorn  
Think not scary, those above and underground  
Notorious detractors, all sorts of harm  
Are being fought with all their might.

Ko (Tekkatho) (Trs)



A railway station and railroads at Pynthaya-Htiri section of Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad.

### Railroads constructed across the nation

Sr	Subject	1988	extended new route	2004
1	miles of railroad	1976.35	1022.01	2998.36
2	rail track	2793	1113	3906
3	railroad under construction			145
4	railroad in the process			515.05



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects No 1 Tyre and Rubber Products Factory in Thaton.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects Launglon Palm Oil Mill in Launglon Township.—MNA

## Economic development must for building up ...

(from page 1)

division as saying that should Taninthayi Division exploit fully its natural resources in an effective way, it will be prosperous one with higher per capita income and improved living standard of the dwellers.

Moreover, regarding the agricultural sector, one of the division's economic sectors reliable for regional development, the Senior General gave guidance on extended of paddy cultivation for ensuring regional rice sufficiency as well as that of suitable perennial crops like oil palm and rubber.

And oil palm industry will help the division become the oil bowl of the nation and the oil palm entrepreneurs enjoy long-term benefit. That is why the government provided necessary assistance to undertake oil palm industry in the division.

Since around five years ago, 15 groups of national entrepreneurs have run oil palm industry on tens of thousands of acres in the division and some of the oil palm farms are now thriving well. So, Taninthayi Division will definitely meet the target of becoming the palm oil bowl of the nation, he said.

In reality, he said palm oil is not only import-substitute item but one that will become export item soon.

Now is the time the government has been making self-reliant efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation by implementing the political, economic and social objectives in a systematic manner, and fruitful results in all sectors stand witness to there endeavours, he said.

Basically, economic development is a must for building up a developed nation, he said. Upholding the concept "The strength of the nation lies only within", the government is striving for national development, grappling with various types of obstacles, hindrances and

sanctions, he added.

A great deal of basic foundations have been laid for economic development of the nation. In the process, under the leadership of the State, national entrepreneurs are making great contribution towards national development by actively participating in the respective sectors, he said.

With a view to ensuring greater economic development and better practice of the market-oriented economic system, the government has allowed free trade of such raw crops as sugarcane, cotton and rubber, he said.

According to the nation's situation, for the time being, free trade of sugarcane and cotton is permitted in the nation only. However, rubber surplus will be exported soon in accordance with rules and regulations. By doing so, rubber production is expected to increase to an extent, he said.

All in all, there have been no more restrictions but free trade with regard to the crops produced in the nation. At such a time, entrepreneurs and the people are to run their business in conformity with the rules and regulations, he noted.

In the division, other economic sectors along with growing of oil palm and rubber are open to all, he said.

After the meeting, the General held discussions at the same venue with national entrepreneurs and those taking interest in oil palm industry. At the meeting, the General urged them to present a draft plan for targeted sown acreage and long-term plans for the first year.

Next, national entrepreneurs reported on their draft plans and requirements. In response to the reports, the General fulfilled their requirements.

At 10.30 am, General Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at Launglon Palm Oil Mill in Launglon, where they were welcomed

by Col Kyaw Aung of Dawei Station, Command Staff Colonel Col Than Myint and officials.

Launglon Oil Palm Farm Manager U Than Htaik of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise reported on growing of oil palm in the farm and Mill Manager U Nyunt Tin on construction of the palm crude oil mill which can crush 1.5 tons an hour, producing of oil palm fruits and crude palm oil. Managing Director U Myint Oo gave a supplementary report.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on Launglon Oil Palm Farm and matters related to the crude oil mill. Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauang gave suggestions.

The General gave necessary instructions and viewed production process of the mill.

On arrival at Pugawzun Palm Oil Mill in Yebyu Township, Pugawzun Oil Palm Farm Manager U Soe Han reported on history of the farm and thriving oil palm plantations, and Mill Manager U Kyaw Kyaw on matters related to the mill which can crush 7.5 tons an hour.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin gave supplementary reports. The General gave necessary instructions. Next, the General and party inspected Pugawzun Palm Oil Mill.

In the afternoon, General Thura Shwe Mann and party left for Thanbyuzayat, where they were welcomed by Col Khin Maung Si of Thanbyuzayat Station and officials.

At the meeting hall of Thanbyuzayat Rubber Farm, Farm Manager U Kyin Ein reported on planting of rubber trees, the extraction of rubber juice from the trees and production of rubber at the factory.

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin shot the questions related to the rubber farm and the General gave necessary instructions.

They proceeded to Mawlamyine where they were welcomed by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Myo Hla and officials.

On 18 March morning, the General and party went to Perennial Crops Applied Research Centre of MPCE in Mawlamyine and inspected high-yield rubber seeds and hybrid rubber strains. Next, they viewed tasks of the research centre. Deputy General Manager U Aye Pe of the research centre reported on aims of the centre and research works. Managing Director Col Myint Oo gave a supplementary report.

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on connection of Perennial Crops Applied Research Centre with international organizations and conducting for extended research works. General Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions on efforts to be made for conducting research works with goodwill for ensuring emergence of perennial crops strains which can benefit the State.

Afterwards, they saw over functions of units of the research centre. They also inspected competitive plots of rubber strains, pilot cultivation of pea and oil palm and cashew.

Next, they flew to Kawkada Rubber Farm in Hpa-an Township, where they were welcomed by Commander of No 22 LID Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein and officials. At the hall of the farm, Kayin State Manager U Khun Shwe Thein of MPCE reported on establishment of the farm, planting of 1,155 acres of rubber and production of rubber. Managing Director U Myint Oo gave a supplementary report.

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin shot the questions related to the rubber farm and the General gave necessary instructions. On arrival at No 1 Tyre and Rubber Products Factory (Thaton) in Thaton Township where they were welcomed by No 44 LID Commander Col Thet Naing Win, Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Thaton Station and officials.

The General and party looked into functions and products of sections of the factory. Managing Director

of Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries U Oo Zun conducted the General and party round the factory.

At the hall of the factory, the General met with Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and departmental officials and gave instructions on planting of rubber. Later, they arrived back here in the afternoon.

MNA

## Commander inspects agricultural ...

(from page 16)

circular road in Hlegu Township and west Malit Village.

The commander and party looked into construction of the road linking the circular road and Khayebin Road through Mingaladon Garden City.

They proceeded to Barlar region in Hlegu Township. In the region, the commander gave instructions to officials on the availability of water for cultivation of summer paddy in vacant and virgin lands and arrangements to be made for dredging new canal and attended to the needs.

MNA

## Minister receives ICAO official

YANGON, 19 March—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe received International Civil Aviation Organization Asia-Pacific Regional Director Mr LB Shah and party at his office at 9 am today.

They discussed development of civil aviation among ICAO member countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, Director-General U Win Maung of Department of Civil Aviation and Managing Director U Tin Hlaing Hmi of Myanma Airways.—MNA

## Cooperative tasks coordinated

YANGON, 19 March—The meeting to coordinate cooperative tasks of Cooperative Department and State/Division Cooperative Departments was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Cooperatives this morning.

Present were the director-general of CD, the deputy director-general and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that correct ways are to be sought to achieve success in realizing the aims. State and Division CD heads are to closely supervise their respective tasks. Cooperative societies are also to carry out production, service and trading tasks.

Agricultural cooperative societies are required to extend cultivable lands and raise agricultural capability. The societies are to seek markets at home and abroad.

Later, officials reported matters related to their sectors.

MNA

မိုးဘေးအန္တရာယ်

အခွင့်အလမ်းမြို့ ကာကွယ်



## Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends ...

(from page 16)

K 500,000 by U Aung Myint of Lucky Star Co; K 400,000 by Chan Lon Co; K 300,000 by Hong Pang Co; K 500,000 by U Nay Win Tun of Jade Dragon Naga Co; K 500,000 by Dr Tun Kyi of Ever Winner Co; traditional medicines worth K 120,000 by Dr Zun Maung Maung, Sayaygi U Win Maung-Daw Yin Yin Myint of Aung Taman Traditional Medicine House; K 100,000 by Myanma Oriental Bank; K

100,000 by Yoma Bank; K 200,000 by Myanmar Mayflower Bank; K 200,000 by shopkeepers of Chicken/Duck Market of Mingala Taungnyunt Township; 6,000 eggs worth K 180,000 by Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation and Egg Wholesalers; K 100,000 by Crabs Trading Supervisory Committee (Seikkan Township); K 100,000 by Crabs Merchants Association; 50 saplings of shade trees and

K 5,000 by Lt-Col Win Myint (Retd) of the Ministry of Industry-1; K 10,000 by U Shan Lun of Inlay Village of Mohnyin Township; 120,000 Kyarbyan Makauk and Kyaukseintaung brand cheroots worth K 500,000 by U Sein Tin-Daw Tin Tin Win; K 110,000 by Myanmar Muslim Organization; K 100,000 by Bangali Sunni Jameh Mosque; K 100,000 by U Shwe Hla (Nice Construction Group Co); K 50,000 by U Ni Lay and sons of Pathein; K 300,000

by disciples of Yangon Budh Gaya Pilgrimage Enterprise and Golden Temple of Singapore; 5,000 packets of traditional medicines worth K 200,000 by U Phay Dewa Yekkha Medicine House; K 100,000 by U Aung Shwe Saw-Daw Nwe Nwe Win of Mayangon; K 10,000 by U Hla Win-Ma Le Le Win; 50 copies of short stories worth K 20,000 by Maj Myo Thant (Retd) (writer Maung Moe Yan); K 100,000 by U Yan Naing-Daw Yi Yi Thein; K 50,000 by U Aung Thiha; 50,000 steel bowls

worth K 5 million by U Ranki Soon of Myanmar Ananda Co Ltd; K 300,000 by Daw Aye Mya Nwe of Bagan Hotel; K 50,000 by U Khin Aung-Daw Khin Myint Thu; K 500,000 by U Maung Maung Tin; 50 bags of rice worth K 450,000 by U Aung Mon-Daw Hla Hla Maw; 10 bags of rice worth K 90,000 by U Than Maung-Daw Ngwe Kyi; K 100,000 by U Nan Oo; K 540,000 by U Aik Lin; K 300,000 by Myanmar Ruby Enterprise; K 350,000 by Myanmar Imperial Jade Co, Shei

Family Co, Jeinphaw Aung Co, Shwe Thanlin Co and Chief Farm Co; and K 100,000 by Annawa Trading Co.

Next, certificates of honour were presented to the donors. On behalf of the wellwishers, a donor explained the purpose of the donation. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected booths of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition and gave necessary instructions. *MNA*

## Roads commissioned into service in Dagon Myothit (North) Township to hail Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 19 March — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, tarred streets, which were constructed on a self-reliant basis, were opened in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning.

The opening of nine tarred roads took place at the archway in U Ba Cho Street in Ward 40 and that of ten tarred roads at the archway in Thakhin Ohn Pe Gyi Street in Ward 42 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon East District.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command, and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee and Mayor, attended the ceremonies and formally opened the roads.

Also present on both occasions were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura

Aung Ko, Commander of No 2 Military Region Brig-Gen Myo Myint, local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations, band troupes, pompom troupes and locals.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and U Thein Myint, chairman of the road construction committee, opened nine tarred roads. Next, the commander, the mayor, the deputy minister and officials inspected the roads and cordially greeted the local people.

Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and U Sein Hla Win formally opened the ten tarred roads. Next, the commander, the mayor, the deputy minister and officials inspected the facilities.

Later, the opening ceremony of 19 roads in the two wards was held at Theravada Dhamma Yangonchi Hall at the corner

of Thakhin Ohn Pe Gyi Street and U Pho Kya Street in Ward 42.

On the occasion, a local authority reported on measures taken for building of the roads. Next, Maj-Gen Myint Swe spoke of the need to make efforts to upgrade the remaining streets to tarred ones. The mayor also explained the steps YCDC is taking to turn all the streets in municipal area into asphalt ones. Later, a local authority presented pennants to the commander, the mayor and officials to mark the opening of the roads. The nine roads opened today in Ward 40 are altogether 10,371 feet long and were constructed at a total cost of K 29,317,465 contributed by the local people and K 29,529,813 funded by YCDC. And ten roads in Ward 42 are 11,831 feet long and were constructed at a total cost of K 34,180,000 contributed by local people and K 34,344,000 funded by YCDC. — *MNA*



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and guests stroll along the newly opened tarred road in ward 40 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township. — *MNA*

## Agreements for production of bicycle spare parts, sewing machine parts signed

YANGON, 19 March — A ceremony to sign the agreement to manufacture bicycle spare parts for Bicycle Factory (Yangon) and (Kyaukse) between the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 and Samra International Ltd of India was held in conjunction with the signing of the agreement to import machinery for Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaukse) from Luxmi International Ltd of India at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry-1 this morning, attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, Charge d'Affaires Mr Rahul Kulshreshth and Commercial Counsellor Mr Rajinder Khanna of the Indian Embassy, Mr Harjap Singh Samra of Samra International Ltd, Mr Anil Auluck of Luxmi International Ltd and guests.

Managing Director U Thaik Tun of the MGMI reported on the purpose of signing of the agreements.

Next, Managing Director U Thaik Tun and Mr Harjap Singh Samra of

Samra International Ltd of India signed the agreement to manufacture bicycle spare parts for Bicycle Factories in Yangon and Kyaukse.

Afterwards, Managing Director U Thaik Tun and Mr Anil Auluck of Luxmi International Ltd signed and exchanged the documents related to imports of machinery for manufacturing parts of sewing machines at the Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaukse).

Charge d'Affaires Mr Rahul Kulshreshth of the Indian Embassy spoke

words of thanks.

Bicycle Factory (Yangon) and (Kyaukse) manufactured seven bicycle spare parts in the past. According to the agreement, the factories can produce remaining bicycle spare parts of as import-substitute products. In addition, the agreement will contribute towards convenient production of the electric bikes.

Furthermore, Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaukse) will expand the scope of producing machine parts as import-substitute products.

*MNA*



Managing Director of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries U Thaik Tun and Mr Anil Auluck of Luxmi International Ltd exchange documents. INDUSTRY-1

## 2834.32 acres of poppy plantations destroyed

YANGON, 19 March—The Government has been steadfastly taking measures for eradication of narcotic drugs as a national task. As part of the measures, it has been exposing and destroying poppy plantations illegally grown.

A combined team and members of Hopong Township MPF destroyed 29.76 acres of poppy plantations near Howay Village, Hopong Township, 29.35 acres of poppy

plantations near Sanphu Village, 65.8 acres of poppy plantations near Tanleik Village and Pankalar Village, 46.4 acres of poppy plantations near Dontihan Village and Naungkyon Village, 44.8 acres of poppy plantations near Talaro Village, Pankun Village and Leikkun Village, numbering 267.87 acres of poppy plantations.

Altogether 5,332.426 acres of poppy plantations illegally grown in Shan State

(South), 859.49 acres of poppy plantations in Shan State (North), 467.52 acres of poppy plantations in Shan State (East), 47.36 acres of poppy plantations in Kachin State, 205.5 acres of poppy plantations in Kayah State and 91.3 acres of poppy plantations in Sagaing Division, totaling 7,003.596 acres of poppy plantations were destroyed in 2003-2004 poppy growing season.

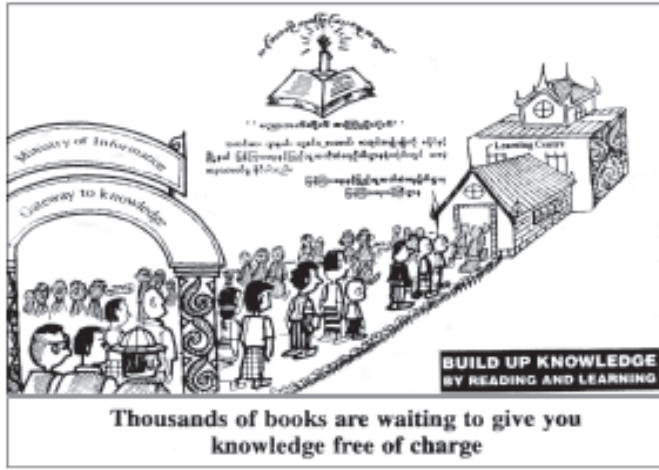
*MNA*

## Marijuana seized in Dagon Myothit (South)

YANGON, 19 March—A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Yangon Special Anti-Drug Squad and Dagon Myothit (South) Police Station, acting on information, on 10 February 2004 searched the house of Kyaw Win Htoo (a) Kyaw Htoo, of 5th Myatlay Street, Ward 2, Dagon Myothit (South) and arrested him together with Thein Han (a) Ko Pu, Ye Lwin Oo and Thein Oo who were at the house and seized 30.77 kilos of marijuana concealed in a polythene bag.

Action is being taken against Kyaw Win Htoo (a) Kyaw Htoo, son of U Kyaw Nyein, of 5th Myatlay Street, Ward 2, Dagon Myothit (South), Thein Han (a) Ko Pu, son of U Ohn Shwe, of No 7 Bazaar Street, West Ward, Thayayta Township, Ye Lwin Oo, son of U Hlaing Aye, of Myintawtha Street, Ward 1, Thakayta Township and Thein Oo, son of U Tun Hla, of 10th Htupayon Street, Ward 1, Thakayta Township under Section 15/19 (A)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Dagon Myothit (South) Police Station.—*MNA*

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## ADVERTISEMENT

### YANGON GOLF CLUB NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Yangon Golf Club will be held at the 10:00 hours, on Sunday 28th March, 2004 at club house meeting hall.

Managing Member  
Yangon Golf Club

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (499)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (499) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-3-2004 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

### Nile Basin Trust Fund Committee launched

NAIROBI, 19 March — Delegates from the 10 states that share the River Nile waters inaugurated the Nile Basin Trust Fund Committee here Tuesday to oversee and to administer the fund to ensure that it is used to meet the objectives of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

The Nile River, the longest in the world, is shared by Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, the Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Speaking during the launching, Kenyan Minister for Water Resources Martha Karua said the committee would help steer Nile Basin Initiative programmes into action to promote development and peace within the Nile states.

Karua said the implementation of the NBI programmes would symbolize the commitment of the Nile states to work together to foster development.

"They will see joint ac-

tions that will show that we can use our joint resources for peace on the Nile," the minister said.

A senior water advisor at the World Bank headquarters, David Grey, described the inauguration of the NBI Trust Fund Committee as a symbol of partnership amongst the Nile states.

"It's a celebration of partnership, the partnership of the Nile Basin States and partnership of the development community. The Nile is all about opportunity for cooperation; it's about opportunity for peace and stability," Grey noted.

The Nile Basin Trust Fund Committee is co-chaired by the chairperson of the Nile Council of Ministers, currently Karua and the World Bank. —MNA/Xinhua

DONATE  
BLOOD

### TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Win Mu Tin,  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for N.V. Organon  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 20 March, 2004

## Chinese automaker's joint venture seeks listing in HK

BEIJING, 19 March — Chang'an Minsheng Logistics, Chinese automaker Chang'an Motor's joint venture with local and foreign companies, is seeking a listing in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange this year, Wednesday's *China Daily* reported.

The firm created in 2001 is expected to raise 100 200 million yuan (12.1 24.2 million US dollars) through an initial public offering in Hong Kong later this year, according to Chang'an president Yin Jiaxu.

The joint venture's expected share offering is seen

as Chang'an Motor's first step towards listing the entire company or Chang'an Automobile in Hong Kong to raise money for its ambitious expansion. The parent firm's Chang'an Automobile Co Ltd, which began issuing A and B shares in the Shenzhen indices in 1996 and 1997, now is one of the best-performing domestic auto stocks, boosted by strong sales.

Chang'an Motor is the biggest shareholder in the venture with a 40-per-cent stake, and the others are Minsheng Logistics,

Chongqing Wanyou, and US-based APL Logistics, the paper said.

Chang'an Motor is one of a number of Mainland automakers eyeing the Hong Kong capital market. Dongfeng Motor Corp, China's second largest automaker, is also planning to go public in Hong Kong.

In January, Geely, a privately owned carmaker in East China's Zhejiang Province, penetrated the Hong Kong capital market by having a stake in its Hong Kong-listed partner Guorong Hold-

ings, which has been renamed Geely Auto Holdings.

Great Wall Auto, a privately owned firm in North China's Hebei Province, started to issue stocks in Hong Kong at the end of last year, the paper said.

"The Hong Kong stock market is a good platform for automakers on the Mainland to woo overseas investment, and they will be attractive as domestic car demand is growing very rapidly," said Zheng Xianling, an auto analyst with China Securities Co. —MNA/Xinhua

## Microsoft CEO meets EU competition commissioner

BRUSSELS, 19 March — European Union Competition Commissioner Mario Monti met Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer on Tuesday, little more than a week before the Commission is set to rule on its major antitrust case, a source close to the situation said.

The meeting in Brussels was still under way at 6.00 pm (1700 GMT) and it was not clear when it was scheduled to end. The meeting was first reported by the *Financial Times*.

The Commission believes the US software giant

broke competition laws by abusing the dominance of its ubiquitous Windows computer operating system and has said it is hurting its rivals by bundling its Windows Media Player with Windows.

The Commission, the EU's antitrust watchdog, is planning to fine Microsoft hundreds of millions of euros for anti-competitive behaviour. On Monday, EU member states unanimously backed the Commission's move to crack down on Microsoft's dominance. —MNA/Reuters

## မြန်မာ့ပြည်ထောင်စု

## Russia test-fires strategic missiles from submarine

Moscow, 19 March — Russian Northern Fleet nuclear submarine *Novomoskovsky* on Wednesday successfully test-fired two *RSM-54* ballistic missiles, *Interfax* news agency reported.

The missiles were launched from underwater in the Barents Sea and hit targets at a testing ground on the Far Eastern Kamchatka Peninsula, the agency said, citing a Navy spokesman.

The launches took place

a month after the *Novomoskovsky* reportedly failed to launch an *RSM-54* missile on February 17 during military manoeuvres.

Earlier statements said that the launch had been blocked by a command from a navigation satellite, but later, on the same day, the Navy claimed the launch had never been planned.

On February 18, another strategic nuclear-powered

missile *Karelia* also launched an *RSM-54* missile. The missile, however, deviated from its planned track 98 seconds after the flight and was self-destructed.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who watched the unsuccessful launches, on March 1 ordered the Navy to conduct another exercise to make him sure that "all mistakes have been fixed".

MNA/Xinhua

## China-made large planes may take off by 2018

BEIJING, 19 March — A senior aviation industry executive said Wednesday that he anticipates China's first large aircraft to fly by 2018.

Liu Gaozhao, President of the China Aviation Industry Corp I was quoted by Thursday's *China Daily* as saying that China needs to make large transport and passenger planes to meet ever surging demands for air services.

Large aircraft refers to aircraft with load capacity exceeding 100 tons. Used for both military and civilian purposes. They include cargo and passenger carriers with 200 seats, Liu said.

China has listed large aircraft in its massive science and technology development programme for the coming 10 to 20 years, according to sources with the Ministry of Science and Technology.

However, China's aviation industry decision makers have to face the fact that Boeing and Airbus combined are de facto sole suppliers of large aircraft in China.

But Liu was confident, based on the success China has made in ARJ21, advanced regional jet programme.

He said China is capable of producing planes with load capacity below 100 tons.

With the expertise China's aviation industry has accumulated over the past five decades, it is very feasible for the large aircraft project to be materialized.

In terms of funding, Fu Huimin, a professor of the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, suggested raising funds from private businesses. This will help speed up the reform of research and development of China's scientific projects, he said. Liu said China will develop large cargo aircraft before developing large passenger aircraft.

MNA/Xinhua

## China brewed over 3.31 million tons of liquor in 2003

CHENGDU, 19 March — China produced more than 3.31 million tons of liquor in 2003, up 2.04 per cent year on year, according to a meeting on national industrial development held Tuesday in this capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The sales income of liquor breweries in China totalled 54.532 billion yuan (6.57 billion US dollars), up 11.79 per cent, the meeting announced.

In terms of output, the top five provinces were Shandong, Sichuan, Jiangsu,

Anhui and Henan, each of which brewed more than 180,000 tons of liquor.

The liquor breweries net a total profit of 4.226 billion yuan, surging 31.45 per cent, and contributed 9.274 billion yuan in tax, up 0.97 per cent.

The Wuliangye Distillery Group in Yibin of Sichuan, and the Guizhou Moutai Distillery Group in Guizhou Province, remained the top two best-performing liquor producers in China in 2003, according to the meeting. —MNA/Xinhua



# ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

## Scientists say plenty of icy water at Mars south pole

LONDON, 19 March — Spectral images from the European Space Agency's Mars Express Orbiter show there is plenty of icy water at the southern pole of Mars, French scientists said on Wednesday.

Weeks after NASA's Mars rovers uncovered evidence of water on the Red Planet, images from the OMEGA instrument aboard the Mars Express indicate its southern pole has three distinct areas containing water ice.

"We present the first direct identification and mapping of both carbon dioxide and water ice in the Martian high southern latitudes," Jean-Pierre Bibring of the Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale in Orsay, France,

said in a report published online by the science journal *Nature*.

The images were taken at the end of the summer on Mars so they show that the ice is present all year. Bibring and his colleagues also observed exposed water ice in a region further from the southern cap, where a large amount of water ice is thought to be buried.

The scientists deciphered the chemical makeup of the pole by studying the amounts of light and heat reflected

from the area, allowing them to distinguish dust, CO<sub>2</sub> and water ice.

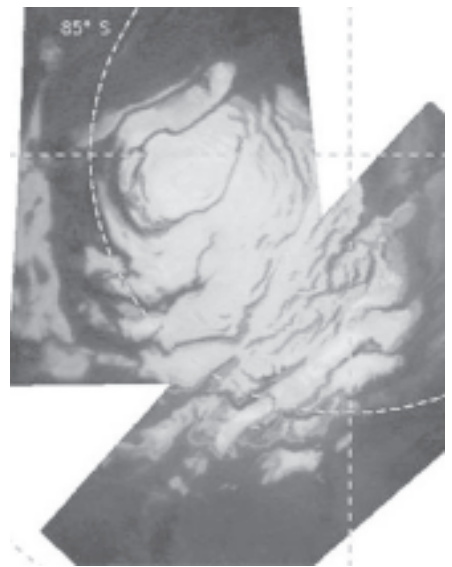
"All the previous instruments did not have this capability of identifying all the components of what was observed," Bibring said in a telephone interview.

The scientists will also be analysing data from the northern pole of Mars.

"We will be in the process in the coming months of evaluating the global surface of water and CO<sub>2</sub> (on Mars)," Bibring added.

The latest evidence, combined with findings from NASA's rovers, gives scientists more information about whether the conditions to sustain life existed on Mars in the past and if the planet could support life in the future.

"The answers depend on understanding the past and present distribution of both water and CO<sub>2</sub>," Timothy Titus, of the US Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona, said in a commentary on the research. — MNA/Reuters



Spectral images from the European Space Agency's Mars Express Orbiter show there is plenty of icy water at the southern pole of Mars, French scientists said on 17 March 2004. Shown is an undated photo of a partial (visible) view of the Martian south polar ice cap. The south pole is where the OMEGA instrument made its significant discovery, with the steep slopes known as 'scarps', made almost entirely of water ice, falling away the polar cap to the surrounding plains, and the permafrost fields that stretch for tens of miles away from the scarps. — INTERNET

## US consumer prices up 0.3% in February

WASHINGTON, 19 March — Consumer prices in the United States increased by 0.3 per cent in February following a jump of 0.5 per cent in the previous month, the Labour Department reported on Wednesday.

The report showed the increase of US Consumer Price Index (CPI) resulted mainly from the gain of energy prices. It said that energy prices went up by 1.7 per cent in February following a rise of 4.7 per cent in January. Gasoline prices increased by 2.5 per cent, natural gas prices were up by 2.2 per cent and electricity prices were up by 0.2 per cent last month.

US food prices also increased by 0.2 per cent in February after being flat in January.

MNA/Xinhua

## Nigeria to launch major polio vaccination drive

UNITED NATIONS, 19 March — Nigeria, which was the source of the re-emergence of polio in West Africa, is ready to relaunch its national drive to eradicate the paralyzing and often fatal illness, the UN envoy for Africa said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters in New York Wednesday, Ibrahim Gambari said a Nigerian committee had reported on the safety of an oral polio vaccine, and the vaccination campaign would hopefully resume next Tuesday.

He said the resumption of polio immunization campaigns throughout Nigeria would advance the goal of global eradication of the disease.

Last August, the northern Nigerian state of Kano suspended the anti-polio

drive, sparking an uncontrolled polio epidemic. As a result, in 2003, Nigeria represented 43 per cent of all global polio cases, while the disease spread to eight formerly polio-free African countries.

MNA/Xinhua

## US TV, radio group urges Senate to modify indecency fines

LOS ANGELES, 19 March — The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) is urging the Senate to modify pending legislation that will increase the fines for making indecent speeches in TV and radio broadcast, the Hollywood Reporter reported Wednesday.

In a letter sent to senators Tuesday, the AFTRA's top executives ask lawmakers to strike the provision that seeks to raise from 11,000 US dollars to 500,000 US dollars the fine that on-air individuals could face for indecency violation, the report said.

Meanwhile, they also ask the lawmakers to get rid of the codicil that would eliminate the warning that people

will get for a first offense.

"The legislation's draconian approach takes us down a dangerous path, which cuts to the very heart of the nation's values," AFTRA president John Connolly and national executive director Greg Hessinger wrote.

"Notwithstanding the current outcry, we believe the public understands that free speech is fundamentally threatened when standards

are vague and penalties are both excessive and misdirected as in the case of this bill," the letter said.

The AFTRA's letter came after the Senate Commerce Committee unanimously approved the bill, and similar legislation won an overwhelming victory in the House of Representatives.

Under both measures, broadcast companies face fines of as much as 500,000

US dollars, as do individuals who violate the indecency regulations.

Obscene speech that depicts or describes sexual or excretory activities is not protected by the First Amendment and cannot be broadcast at any time, but indecent speech can be safely broadcast during the safe harbour that runs between 10 pm and 6 am.

MNA/Xinhua

## AMD introduces new chips for portable notebooks

LOS ANGELES, 19 March — Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), the No. 2 computer chip maker in the world, launched energy-saving Athlon XP-M 2100+ processor for portable notebooks on Wednesday.

The Silicon Valley-based company said the chips will be used in lightweight notebooks such as Fujitsu's 4-pound LifeBook S2000.

AMD sells three varieties of Athlon XP-M chips for notebooks: low-power or energy-saving, high-performance, and "mainstream". The energy-saving version is designed to consume the least electricity of the three and thus produce less heat. This makes the chip more suitable for the tight space inside a lightweight notebook.

According to technical documentation posted on AMD's web site, the 2100+ model runs at a clock speed of 1.6GHz.

The new chip helps AMD compete with rival Intel's Pentium M processor. The fastest Pentium M runs at 1.4GHz to 1.7GHz.

MNA/Xinhua

## Study says parents do not see obesity in their children

LONDON, 19 March — Parents are so accustomed to seeing overweight youngsters that many fail to realize when their own children are obese, British researchers said on Wednesday.

It is a worrying trend according to scientists at the Peninsula Medical School in Plymouth, England because being overweight and obese increases the risk of suffering from a variety of illnesses later in life.

Obese children are also more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes, a disease previously seen only in adults.

"A third of the mothers and 57 per cent of dads actually saw their obese child as normal," said Alison Jeffery, a member of the research team at the medical school.

"Quite a few parents are not recognizing it as a problem. They are not recognizing the health risks either," she added in an interview.

But Jeffery said it is not a

case of denial.

"We are all used to seeing people who are bigger than they used to be 20 years ago and we just see people who are overweight as normal."

Jeffery, who presented her findings to the Diabetes Britain medical conference in Birmingham, England, questioned 300 seven-year old children and their parents about their perceptions of body size.

One third of mothers and half of fathers who were either overweight or obese rated themselves as "about right".

When the child was a normal weight, according to an internationally recognized measurement of obesity in children, most of their parents, regardless of their own

size, knew there was no problem.

When the child was overweight but not obese, only a quarter of the parents knew it. But when the youngsters were obese, 40 per cent of parents were not concerned about their child's weight.

Health experts have described the increased rates of obesity in children as a serious public health problem because of its link with diabetes as well as an increased risk of heart disease, stroke and other illnesses later in life. The prevalence of Type 2 diabetes in obese children in Poland is nearly 4 per cent. In Hungary it is 2 per cent and 1.6 per cent in Germany, according to recent research.

MNA/Reuters

## Study shows future cell phones to pack plenty of power

LOS ANGELES, 19 March — Future cell phones might not be radically different in how they look in the coming years, but what they will enable users to do will expand significantly, according to a report released Tuesday by In-Stat/MDR, a US hi-tech market research firm.

In-Stat/MDR said high-speed data access, Wi-Fi functionality, high-quality video cameras, or broadcast TV view, are just some of the future functionalities that are on the horizon for cell phone users.

"Service providers and manufacturers are paying attention to the latest trends because they can take off quickly in the fast-changing global cellular business," said Neil Strother, a senior analyst with In-Stat/MDR. "No one wants to be caught short when the next camera-phone phenomenon crops up."

Strother said some of the technologies mentioned

above already exist and just have not been widely deployed or accepted. Other technologies, such as fuel cells, are just a year or so away from commercial viability. Still other developments will not arrive in serious volumes until the latter part of this decade.

In an attempt to gauge end-user expectations for future cell phones, In-Stat/MDR conducted a survey, which found that many respondents want useful location-based applications for finding friends or family. That application is already available on some phones today, though not yet widely utilized. — MNA/Xinhua

## SPORTS

**Larsson's 30th goal takes Celtic 19 points clear**

GLASGOW, 19 March — Henrik Larsson scored his 30th goal of the season in a 2-1 win at Dundee on Wednesday to help take Celtic 19 points clear at the top of the Scottish premier league.

Stilian Petrov finished off a sweeping counter attack for the opener on 38 minutes before an opportunist finish from Larsson 30 minutes later clinched another three points for the unbeaten SPL leaders.

Celtic move on to 80 points from 28 games with struggling champions Rangers a distant second on 61 having played one game fewer.

Dundee made a bright start with 19-year-old Celtic goalkeeper David Marshall making fine saves to deny Mark Fotheringham and

Neil Barrett before Petrov finished off a flowing move from Stephen Pearson's pass.

Marshall could face Barcelona in the return leg of their UEFA Cup fourth-round match next Thursday if Robert Douglas fails to win an appeal on Monday to overturn his suspension from Celtic's 1-0 first leg win.

Larsson scored on the rebound after Dundee goalkeeper Julian Speroni had blocked his initial effort in a crowded area.

German substitute Sebastian Kneissl pulled one back in the dying seconds for Dundee but Celtic were worthy of the win.

MNA/Reuters

**Utrecht after penalties to third final in a row**

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 19 March — Cup holders Utrecht came from behind twice to draw 3-3 then beat second division side Sparta Rotterdam 4-3 on penalties in a Dutch Cup semifinal on Wednesday.

It was the third year in succession that Utrecht had reached the final where they meet Twente Enschede on May 23 in Rotterdam.

Utrecht took an early lead when Sparta goalkeeper Frank Kooiman blocked a Pascal Bosschaert shot and Donny de Groot slotted home the rebound on 10 minutes.

Eleven minutes before the break Utrecht goalkeeper Rene Ponk fouled striker Danny Koevermans but made amends by saving the resulting Danny Schenkel penalty.

After the break Koevermans scored twice in three minutes — on the rebound after a free kick hit the post and from close range — to put Sparta in front.

But Dave van den Bergh gave Kooiman no chance from close range in the 78th minute to take the match into extra time. Seven minutes into the silver goal extension Rick van der Bergh lifted the ball over Ponk and Sparta looked on their way to the final only for Joost Broerse's deflected shot to level the match for a third time. —MNA/Reuters

**Woods roars into contention again at Bay Hill**

ORLANDO (Florida), 19 March — Tiger Woods served early notice he has no intention of ending his string of consecutive Bay Hill Invitational titles at four with an opening five-under-par 67 on Thursday.

The world number one tied his second-lowest opening round score in his last eight starts at the tournament to finish one shot behind Briton Darren Clarke and PGA Tour Championship winner Chad Campbell.

Woods was returning to competition two weeks after finishing tied for fifth at the European Tour's Dubai Desert Classic and three weeks since successfully defending the WGC-Match Play Championship.

Woods credited his form to a new driver he obtained after his old one cracked at the Match Play. Instead of having to aim left and swinging hard to stop it from cutting, Woods was able to play his normal right to left draw and he hit 13 of 14 fairways.

Woods has only led the Bay Hill Invitational after the first round once during his streak of four in a row, in 2002 when he was tied with five others. Woods went on to win by four shots from Michael Campbell.

However, in three of the last four years of the streak, Woods has made his move in the second round by shooting no higher than a four-under-par 68 and averaging 65.25 during those four years.

Three players have a won

a tournament four consecutive years on the PGA Tour, young Tom Morris at the British Open (1868-72), Walter Hagen at the PGA Championship (1924-27) and Gene Sarazen in the Miami Open (1926-30).

MNA/Reuters



Japan's under-23 soccer national team defender Teruyuki Moniwa (C) heads the ball while United Arab Emirates' (UAE) goalkeeper Mohammed Ali Gholom (R) and midfielder Yousuf Abdul Aziz defend their goal in their Asian Group B qualifying match for the Athens Olympics at National Stadium in Tokyo on 18 March, 2004. Japan defeated UAE 3-0 to earn a berth in the summer games.

INTERNET

**Ferdinand suspension stays at eight months**

LONDON, 19 March — Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand had his eight-month ban for missing a drugs test left unchanged on appeal on Thursday.

The England international's case was heard at a Heathrow Airport hotel by a three-man independent appeal commission.

Ferdinand, the world's most expensive defender, began his suspension on January 20 after missing the test at United's training ground at Carrington in September and will not be able to play again until September 20.

The 25-year-old admitted failing to take the test,

but has denied ever using drugs and hoped the appeal would reduce the length of his suspension to enable him to play for England in this year's European Championship.

Ferdinand asked the commission to overturn the suspension and England's Football Association asked for the ban to be increased to a minimum of 12 months.

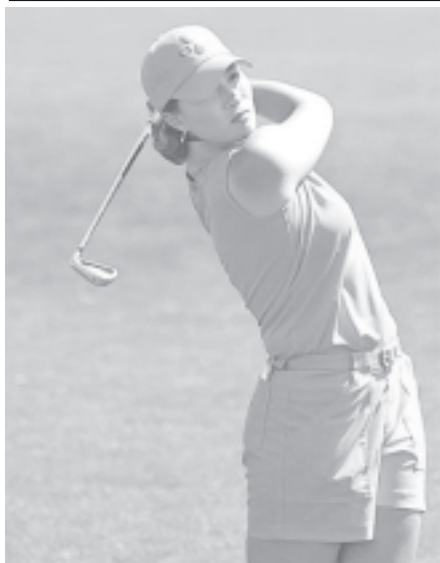
"Having considered the matter very fully the appeal board today dismissed Mr. Ferdinand's appeal both against conviction and against sanction. It also rejected the FA's contention that the period of suspension should be increased," a statement from the commission said.

United, who initially described the ban handed out in December as "savage," had said they would provide a robust defence of their player, who cost 30 million pounds (\$4.44 million US dollars) when he joined from Leeds United in 2002.

Ferdinand, who will also miss the tail-end of the English champions' season, was quoted as telling The Sun on Thursday: "As long as there is hope, I have to train in the belief the ban will be cut and I can get back among the action."

"If I didn't think there was a chance of success there would be no point appealing in the first place."

MNA/Reuters



Defending Champion Se Ri Pak, of South Korea, drives from the 12th fairway during the first round of the Safeway International on 18 March, 2004, at the Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club in Gold Canyon, Ariz. —INTERNET

**Germany to host 2005 Confederations Cup**

ZURICH, 19 March — FIFA's Confederations Cup will be held in Germany in 2005, world soccer's governing body announced on Thursday.

The tournament will be contested for a seventh time from June 15-29 next year and Germany will be the second European nation to host it after France, which staged the last competition in 2003.

FIFA said the eight-team competition would be held at five venues from a list of six comprising Hanover, Leipzig, Cologne, Nuremberg, Frankfurt and Gelsenkirchen.

The participants will not be known until August, but FIFA said Germany would enter as hosts, world champions Brazil would take part and recent African Nations Cup winners Tunisia would also play.

Last year's CONCACAF Gold Cup champions Mexico will compete along with the winners of the Asian Cup, Copa America, the Oceania Nations Cup champions and the Euro 2004 victors. If Brazil win the Copa America, the beaten finalists would qualify, while the same principle would be applied to Euro 2004 if Germany are successful.

Final approval must still be granted by FIFA's Executive Committee, but President Sepp Blatter said, "The Confederations Cup is a wonderful competition because it is a symbol of solidarity between the confederations."

"With the exception of the World Cup, it is the only official international competition in which teams from all the continents can test themselves against one another," Blatter added. The tournament will be a dress rehearsal for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

Last year's Confederations Cup in France was won by the host nation but was marred by the death of Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe, who collapsed on the pitch during a semifinal against Colombia.

The first three Confederations Cups were held in Saudi Arabia in 1992, 1995 and 1997. Mexico hosted the tournament in 1999 and Japan and South Korea did so in 2001.

MNA/Reuters



Brazilian player Milene Domingues, who has separated from Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo, smiles during her training session at their headquarters in Teresopolis, 100 km (60 miles) from Rio de Janeiro, on 18 March, 2004. The Brazilian women's soccer team is training for the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, which will be held from August 13 to August 29 this year. —INTERNET



## MRTV-3


**20-3-2004 (Saturday)**  
**(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 "Electric  
Power & Energy Sec-  
tor"
- 9:10** **Headline News**  
9:12 Sittway with Magnifi-  
cent Sight
- 9:15** **National News**  
9:20 Socioeconomic Condi-  
tions of Chin State  
National Dance "Tradi-  
tional Pao Dance"
- 9:30** **National News**  
9:35 The World of Mro  
Nationals  
9:40 Song "Tranquil  
Bagan"
- 9:45** **National News**  
9:50 Foreign Correspon-  
dents Visit Border  
Areas (Part-III)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**20-3-2004 (Saturday)**  
**Regular Programmes for**  
**Viewers from Abroad**  
**Evening Transmission**  
**(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma Pano-  
rama & Myanma Sen-  
timent"
- 15:36 Victories of the State,  
the People and the  
Tatmadaw "Electric  
Power & Energy Sec-  
tor"
- 15:40** **Headline News**  
15:42 Sittway with Magnifi-  
cent Sight
- 15:45** **National News**  
15:50 Socioeconomic Condi-  
tions of Chin State  
National Dance "Tradi-  
tional Pao Dance"
- 15:55** **National News**  
16:00 The World of Mro  
Nationals

- 16:10 Song "Tranquil  
Bagan"
- 16:15** **National News**  
16:20 Foreign Correspon-  
dents Visit Border  
Areas (Part-III)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**  
16:35 Myanmar Arts &  
Handicrafts Centre  
The Dough Called  
Mont Kalar Mei
- 16:45** **National News**  
16:50 Myanmar Movie Im-  
pact "Sky with no  
Shame"
- 17:00** **Weekly News High-  
lights**  
17:05 Their Master's Images  
17:10 Songs on Screen "A  
Diamond-studded  
Song"
- 17:15** **Weekly News High-  
lights**  
17:20 New Century Biotech  
Development Centre  
(Botany Department)
- 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 Mon State
- 19:40** **Headline News**  
19:42 Victories of the State,  
the People and the  
Tatmadaw "Roads,  
Railroads and Bridges  
Sector"
- 19:45** **National News**  
19:55 The Beauty of the 2nd  
Defile of The River  
Ayeayawady
- 19:58 Group Dance Entitled  
(Pyant Pwa Sein)
- 20:00** **National News**  
20:05 Inn-Waung Waterfall  
Song "We'll Greet  
You In Mon Lan-  
guage"
- 20:12 Prospering and Devel-  
oping Mon State
- 20:15** **National News**  
20:20 Foreign Correspon-  
dents Visit Border  
Areas (Part-II)
- 20:25 Song "To Golden  
Mandalay"
- 20:30** **National News**  
20:35 Butterfly Garden In  
Yangon
- 20:40 Three Dimensional

- Gems Studded Paint-  
ing
- 20:45** **National News**  
20:50 The Art of Making  
Paper Toys
- 20:55 Myuu-Kywa-than-  
zin  
Kagyo Sin
- 21:00** **National News**  
21:05 Village of Palaung  
21:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "We'll Be Wait-  
ing For You"
- 21:12 Traditional Weaving  
Art
- 21:15** **Weekly News High-  
lights**  
21:20 Wildlife Conservation  
In Myanmar
- 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 "Electric  
Power & Energy Sec-  
tor"
- 21:40** **Headline News**  
21:42 Sittway with Magnifi-  
cent Sight
- 21:45** **National News**  
21:50 Socioeconomic Condi-  
tions of Chin State  
National Dance "Tradi-  
tional Pao Dance"
- 22:00** **National News**  
22:05 The World of Mro  
Nationals
- 22:10 Song "Tranquil  
Bagan"
- 22:15** **National News**  
22:20 Foreign Correspon-  
dents Visit Border  
Areas (Part-III)
- 22:25 Song "You From Next  
Door"
- 22:30** **National News**  
22:35 Myanmar Arts &  
Handicrafts Centre  
The Dough Called  
Mont Kalar Mei
- 22:45** **National News**  
22:50 Myanmar Movie Im-  
pact "Sky with no  
Shame"
- 23:00** **National News**  
23:05 Their Master's Images  
23:10 Songs on Screen "A  
Diamond-studded  
Song"
- 23:15** **Weekly News High-  
lights**  
23:20 New Century Biotech  
Development Centre  
(Botany Department)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

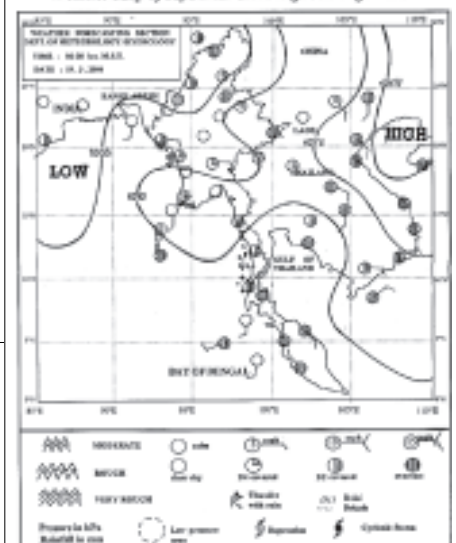
**20-3-2004 (Saturday) &  
21-3-2004 (Sunday)**  
**Evening & Morning  
Transmission**  
**(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 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 "Electric  
Power & Energy Sec-  
tor"
- 23:40** **Headline News**  
23:42 Sittway with Magnifi-  
cent Sight
- 23:45** **National News**  
23:50 Socioeconomic Condi-  
tions of Chin State  
National Dance "Tradi-  
tional Pao Dance"
- 24:00** **National News**  
00:05 The World of Mro  
Nationals  
00:10 Song "Tranquil  
Bagan"
- 00:15** **National News**  
00:20 Foreign Correspon-  
dents Visit Border  
Areas (Part-III)
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 00:30** **National News**  
00:35 Myanmar Arts &  
Handicrafts Centre  
The Dough Called  
Mont Kalar Mei
- 00:45** **National News**  
00:50 Myanmar Movie Im-  
pact "Sky with no  
Shame"
- 01:00** **Weekly News High-  
lights**  
01:05 Their Master's Images  
01:10 Songs on Screen "A  
Diamond-studded  
Song"
- 01:15** **Weekly News High-  
lights**  
01:20 New Century Biotech  
Development Centre  
(Botany Department)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"
- 21-3-2004 (Sunday)**  
**Morning Transmission**  
**(03:30-07:30)**
- 03:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 03:36 Mon State
- 03:40** **Headline News**  
03:42 Victories of the State,  
the People and the  
Tatmadaw "Roads,  
Railroads and Bridges  
Sector"
- 03:45** **National News**  
03:55 The Beauty of the 2nd  
Defile of The River  
Ayeayawady
- 03:58 Group Dance Entitled  
(Pyant Pwa Sein)
- 04:00** **National News**  
04:05 Inn-Waung Waterfall  
Song "We'll Greet  
You In Mon Lan-  
guage"
- 04:12 Prospering and Devel-  
oping Mon State
- 04:15** **National News**  
04:20 Foreign Correspon-  
dents Visit Border  
Areas (Part-II)
- 04:25 Song "To Golden  
Mandalay"
- 04:30** **National News**  
04:35 Butterfly Garden In  
Yangon
- 04:40 Three Dimensional  
Gems Studded Paint-  
ing
- 04:45** **National News**  
04:50 The Art of Making  
Paper Toys
- 04:55 Myuu-Kywa-than-  
zin  
Kagyo Sin
- 05:00** **National News**  
05:05 Village of Palaung  
05:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "We'll Be Wait-  
ing For You"
- 05:12 Traditional Weaving  
Art
- 05:15** **Weekly News High-  
lights**  
05:20 Wildlife Conservation  
In Myanmar
- 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 "Electric  
Power & Energy Sec-  
tor"
- 05:40** **Headline News**  
05:42 Sittway with Magnifi-  
cent Sight
- 05:45** **National News**  
05:50 Socioeconomic Condi-  
tions of Chin State  
National Dance "Tradi-  
tional Pao Dance"
- 06:00** **National News**  
06:05 The World of Mro  
Nationals
- 06:10 Song "Tranquil  
Bagan"
- 06:15** **National News**  
06:20 Foreign Correspon-  
dents Visit Border  
Areas (Part-III)
- 06:25 Song "You From Next  
Door"
- 06:30** **National News**  
06:35 Myanmar Arts &  
Handicrafts Centre  
The Dough Called  
Mont Kalar Mei
- 06:45** **National News**  
06:50 Myanmar Movie Im-  
pact "Sky with no  
Shame"
- 07:00** **National News**  
07:05 Their Master's Images  
07:10 Songs on Screen "A  
Diamond-studded  
Song"
- 07:15** **Weekly News High-  
lights**  
07:20 New Century Biotech  
Development Centre  
(Botany Department)
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Friday, 19 March, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:**  
During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Mon States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayah State, Ayeayawady and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperature was Hpa-an (42°C).  
Maximum temperature on 18-3-2004 was 38.5°C (101°F). Minimum temperature on 19-3-2004 was 17.0°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-3-2004 was 57%. Total sun shine hours on 18-3-2004 was (9.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 19-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 18-3-2004. **Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 20-3-2004:** Except for possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-3-2004:** Fair weather. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-3-2004:** Fair weather. **Weather outlook for third weekend of March 2004:** During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, March 20

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. Delicacies
- 8:00 am**  
6. အတိတ်နိဗ္ဗာန်
- 8:15 am**  
7. ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်တစ်ရပ်၏  
အနုပညာ
- 8:30 am**  
8. International news
- 8:45 am**  
9. Happy and Educational  
English Summer Course  
MRTV (Junior Class-I)
- 11:00 am**  
1. Martial song  
- (ဂန္ထဝင်မြောက်တပ်မတော်ဇနီး၊  
တပ်မတော်ကတည်းကတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး)
- 11:15 am**  
2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am**  
3. News

- 11:40 am**  
4. Games for children
- 12:00 noon**  
5. Round-up of the week's  
TV local news
- 1:10 pm**  
6. "နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းညွှန်"  
7. "နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းညွှန်" (အပိုင်း-၂၅)
- 1:50 pm**  
8. တစ်နေ့တစ်နေ့ (၂၀၀၄) ခုနှစ်တစ်နှစ်  
ရန်ကုန်မြို့ (သတင်းအချက်အလက်)
- 2:00 pm**  
9. "စာအုပ်တိုလမ်းညွှန်"  
10. "စာအုပ်တိုလမ်းညွှန်" (အပိုင်း-၂၆)
- 2:35 pm**  
11. Dance of national races
- 2:45 pm**  
12. International news
- 4:00 pm**  
1. Martial song  
- (ဂန္ထဝင်မြောက်တပ်မတော်ဇနီး၊  
တပ်မတော်ကတည်းကတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး)
- 4:15 pm**  
2. Songs to uphold  
national spirit
- 4:30 pm**  
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**  
4. တစ်နေ့တစ်နေ့ ဝတ်စုံအင်္ကျီ  
ဆွဲဆွဲဆွဲ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်)
- 5:00 pm**  
5. အဆောင်အယောင်တစ်ခုခု  
အဆောင်အယောင်တစ်ခုခု  
အဆောင်အယောင်တစ်ခုခု  
အဆောင်အယောင်တစ်ခုခု
- 5:15 pm**  
6. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm**  
7. Games for Children
- 5:55 pm**  
8. (ဂန္ထဝင်မြောက်တပ်မတော်ဇနီး၊  
တပ်မတော်ကတည်းကတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး)

- 6:10 pm**  
9. Delicacies
- 6:30 pm**  
10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**  
11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**  
12. Discovery
- 7:15 pm**  
13. "နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းညွှန်"  
14. "နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းညွှန်" (အပိုင်း-၂၆)
- 7:45 pm**  
15. ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်တစ်ရပ်၏  
အနုပညာ  
တပ်မတော်ကတည်းကတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး၊  
စိတ်ချရသောတပ်မတော်ဇနီး
- 8:00 pm**  
15. News  
16. International news  
17. Weather report  
18. Teleplay  
"ရွှေဘိုမြို့တော်တစ်ရပ်"  
ရွှေဘိုမြို့တော်တစ်ရပ်  
ရွှေဘိုမြို့တော်တစ်ရပ်  
ရွှေဘိုမြို့တော်တစ်ရပ်
- 8:05 pm**  
19. မင်းသမီးတစ်ယောက်  
မင်းသမီးတစ်ယောက်  
မင်းသမီးတစ်ယောက်  
မင်းသမီးတစ်ယောက်
- 8:10 pm**  
20. The next day's  
programme



Saturday, March 20

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am**  
Brief news
- 8:35 am**  
Music
- 8:40 am**  
Perspectives
- 8:45 am**  
Music
- 8:55 am**  
National news/  
Slogan
- 9:05 am**  
Music
- 9:10 am**  
International news
- 9:15 am**  
Music (Spotlight on  
a star)  
- Firehouse  
News/Slogan  
Request  
- Be with you again  
(C21)  
- This time a  
round (Hanson)  
ASEAN review  
- News  
Article  
Myanmar culture by  
Dr. Khin Maung  
Nyunt  
- Military strength of  
Hanthawady  
described by  
European travel-  
lers  
- Souvenirs  
- To Sir with love  
(Doris Day)  
- Love is no excuse  
(Jim Reeves)
- 9:45 pm**  
News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm**  
PEL

**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

**Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends second cash and kind donation ceremony for Tatmadawmen**

YANGON, 19 March—Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended the second ceremony to donate cash and kind for Tatmadawmen hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, at the office of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute on Shwedagon Pagoda Road at 2 pm today.

Also present were Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-

Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Armed Forces Day Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein and Reserve Parade Commander Col Nyi Tun, senior military officers and wellwishers.

At the donation ceremony, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun and Armed Forces Day Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein accepted

K 12,566,000 and donations worth K 7,280,000, totalling 19,846,000 donated by 47 wellwishers including K 1 million by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs; K 300,000 by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism; K 100,000 by Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing-Daw Tin Htay Hlaing; K 1 million by Sweet Home Industry Co Ltd; four MD-8 body searching machines worth K 680,000 by Myanmar Shwe Yin International Co Ltd; K 1 million by U Yin Haing (Haing Gyan Co Ltd); K 500,000 by U Soe Thein-Daw Khin Cho Ohn; K 1.5 million by 32 gems companies of Phakant region; K 500,000 by U Win Naung of Shwe Hein Htet Co Ltd; (See page 11)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win accepts donations from wellwishers hailing 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.— MNA

**Commander inspects agricultural, regional development tasks in Yangon East and North Districts**

YANGON, 19 March—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Develop-

tural and regional development tasks in Yangon East and North Districts.

The commander and party arrived in Shantegyi Village of Dagon Myothit (East) Township. They were welcomed there by Col Myat Thu of No 11 LID and officials. At the summer paddy high-yield special zone in the village, officials reported on supporting tasks for boosting over 4,000 acres of summer paddy. The commander inspected thriving summer paddy.

Next, they inspected dredging of drains along Minye Kyawswa Road in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

On arrival at the embankment which blocked Ngamoeyek Creek at the border of Dagon Myothit (East) and Hlegu townships, the commander saw over storage of water for agricul-

tural purpose and construction of Ngamoeyek Sluice Gate.

After hearing reports by officials, the commander gave necessary instructions. At the construction site of the Sluice Gate, the commander said that as the sluice gate is being built with the aims of ensuring extension of summer paddy so as to green 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport, tasks are to complete as soon as possible.

Ngamoeyek Sluice Gate will have 26 valves. On completion, it can contribute to extension of about 10,000 acres of summer paddy.

Next, the commander and party saw over construction of laterite road, which is 1,120 feet long and 12 feet wide to link the

(See page 10)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction of Ngamoeyek Sluice Gate in Hlegu Township.— MNA

**Construction works inspected at Set Hsan shipyard**

YANGON, 19 March — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than, inspected the measures taken for keeping the front of the main school building green and pleasant at Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin this morning. Rector U Thein Tun and officials reported on cultivation of flowering plants and lawns and the digging of a pool. The minister also inspected progress of construction of the main school building of the university.

A coordination meeting on development of the university was later held at the meeting hall of the main building. The minister and the deputy minister heard reports on the conducting of

courses, measures taken for the greening of the campus, and arrangements made for convenient transport. Next, Rector U Thein Tun presented supplementary reports. U Aung Htwe, managing director of Golden Flower Co Ltd, also reported on progress of putting finishing touches to the main building, construction of other buildings and plans to be made for environmental greening.

Later, the minister and the deputy minister arrived at Set Hsan shipyard of Myanmar Port Authority. At the briefing hall, U Thein Htay, Managing Director of MPA, reported on construction of a warehouse at the shipyard. Chief Engineer U Ye Htut and officials also presented reports.

After inspecting the warehouse under construction and Thamada watercraft under repair at the dry dock, the minister left there. — MNA

ment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi and authorities, this morning inspected agricul-



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspects progress in construction of buildings at Myanmar Maritime University.— MNA