

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 22 March, 2004

## 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



## Protect all the national interests

The three main tasks of the Tatmadaw are to fight, to undergo training if there is no combat, and to serve public interest if there is no training and combat. As for the first duty—to fight—the Tatmadaw is an institution formed to safeguard and protect the nation and the people. Hence, it must safeguard the territorial waters, land and airspace of the nation. It must safeguard the sovereignty. It must protect all the national interests. And it must safeguard the lives and property of the citizens for their safety.

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 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)

## General Thura Shwe Mann inspects drills of Armed Forces Day Parade columns

YANGON, 21 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence inspected the marching drills of military columns which will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

General Thura Shwe Mann, who was accompanied by Chairman of the leading committee for the 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, Chairman of the management committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Vice-chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and departmental heads, arrived at the Resistance Park where the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade will take place.



Member of the State Peace and development Council General Thura Shwe Mann inspects marching drills of parade columns at Resistance Park.—MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann inspected the marching drills practised by Anawrahta Column, Kyansittha Column, Bayintnaung Column, Nawade Column, Aung Zeya Column, Hsinbyushin Column, Bandoola Column, Myawady Column and Aung San Column that were led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein. Later, General Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

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

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### Circulation

22,703

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 22 March, 2004

### Always keep Three Main National Causes in the fore

The Tatmadaw which uphold the national political cause in the successive eras is leading the country. Enlisting the strength of the national people, it is striving for the nation to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation. At present, the Government, in line with the national policy, has laid down the 12 political, economic and social objectives and is implementing them for the Union of Myanmar to be on a par with nations of the world.

The national policy of the State is Our Three Main National Causes, namely, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. The Tatmadaw always keep Our Three Main National Causes in the fore.

Our Three Main National Causes is the concept that the Tatmadaw firmly hold and it is the national duty of the entire national people. The Tatmadaw will crush any internal and external destructive elements that will endanger Our Three Main National Causes. Only then will the Union of Myanmar be able to stand in the international community as an independent and sovereign nation. In the world today, both the developed and developing countries are building up their military might to defend themselves. Therefore, the Tatmadaw is building a modern Tatmadaw with the aim of effectively defending the country.

The Tatmadaw which have always safeguarded the national political cause throughout history is now performing the three main duties—to defend the nation, to undergo training and to serve public interests. In his address at the graduation parade of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, "The Tatmadaw is an institution formed to safeguard and protect the nation and the people. Hence, it must safeguard the territorial waters, land and airspace of the nation. It must safeguard the sovereignty. It must protect all the nation's interests. And it must safeguard the lives and property of the citizens for their safety."

For perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State, the Tatmadaw is daringly performing national defence duties. At the same time it is safeguarding the lives and property of the citizens. Tatmadawmen are also taking part in regional development tasks and serving the interests of the people wherever they have been assigned duty. We firmly believe that the Tatmadaw born of the people will always be able to safeguard the lives and property of national people.

### Invitation cards to be drawn to attend Armed Forces Day ceremony

YANGON, 21 March — The list of Mawgun Award Winners (first grade & second grade) of Yangon Division who are entitled to attend the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremony is announced in the Myanmar Alin daily issued on 22 March, and that of Mawgun Award Winners (third grade) in Kyemon daily issued on the same day. Those entitled to attend the ceremony can obtain their invitation cards at Myanmar News Agency, No 212, Theinbyu Road, Yangon, from 24 to 26 March from 9.30 am to 4 pm daily, it is learnt. — MNA

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)

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

#### Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

### People's Desire

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

### Over euro 18.5m fetched at 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium

YANGON, 21 March— Patron of Central Committee for Organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint this morning arrived at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium at the gems mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road where the minister was welcomed by Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director U Khin Oo of the Myanmar Gems Enterprise and members.

The minister viewed sales of pearl lots through tender system and left there.

On the sixth day for the emporium, local and foreign gem merchants bought 45 lots of pearl worth euro 232,127.

In the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium, jade lots, gem lots and pearl lots were



The 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium in progress on Saturday. — MNA

sold to the merchants through tender and competitive bidding systems from 16 to 21 March and the emporium concluded successfully at 1 pm today. From 16 to 18 March, euro 10,473,434 was fetched from the sales of 503 lots of jade; from 19 to 20

March, euro 7,769,858 was fetched from sales of 50 lots of gems; and 45 lots of pearl worth euro 232,127 were sold on 21 March. So, euro 18,475,419 were fetched from sales of 598 lots of jade, gems and pearl. Furthermore, euro 25,295 was earned from the sales of

gems and jade figurines and ornaments.

Altogether 1,106 gem merchants— 637 from 253 companies of 10 foreign countries and 469 from 184 local companies— attended it to competitively purchase jade, gems and pearl lots. — MNA



Column Commander Captain Aung Thaw (Navy) accepts 300 viss of fish and K 100,000 donated by Director U Kyaw Naing of Pyi Aung Yadana Co. DEFENCE SERVICE (NAVY)

### Fish, cash donated to Nawade Column

YANGON, 21 March— Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the ceremony to donate fish and cash to Nawade Column was held at the office of the column at Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters this morning.

Column Commander Captain Aung Thaw (Navy) accepted 300 viss of fish and K 100,000 donated by Director U Kyaw Naing of Pyi Aung Yadana Co Ltd; and K 300,000 by U Kyaw Ya.

Also present on the occasion were officers and other ranks of the column and officials. — MNA

### Chinese writers delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 21 March— The Chinese writers delegation led by Chairman Mr Wang Chonglu of Writers Association of the People's Republic of China left here by air this afternoon.

The guests were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chief Editor U Maung Hlaing of Sarpay Beikman of Print-

ing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, Deputy Chief Editor U Myo Myint Thaug and officials.

MNA



### 381 tourists arrive at Thilawa

YANGON, 21 March— Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, assistance provided by the Ministry of Transport and organized by Myanmar Voyage International Tourism Co Ltd, cruise liner MV Astor carrying 381 tourists on board arrived at Thilawa Jetty at 6 am today.

The tourists were welcomed there by Managing Director U Thein Htay of Myanmar Port Authority, the General Manager of Myanmar Tourism Service and officials of the company.

The tourists will be divided into groups to visit downtown Yangon, Bago, Thanlyin and Bagan and they will leave here on 23 March morning. — MNA



MV Astor one bar seen on arrival at Thilawa Port. —H&T



# Worldwide protests on Iraq war anniversary

## “The occupation of Iraq is stupid — it’s meddling in another nation’s affairs,”

ROME, 21 March — Hundreds of thousands of people marched in Rome on Saturday demanding that Italy pull its 2,600 troops out of Iraq, one of many protests around the world on the anniversary of the war’s opening salvos.

Rome’s rally was by far the largest, drawing at least 250,000 people, according to police estimates. Organizers claimed as many as 2 million people — many of them draped in rainbow peace flags — joined the festive procession through Rome’s centre that emptied into the historic Circus Maximus park.

Even though most Italians opposed the war, the conservative government of Premier Silvio Berlusconi strongly supported the US-led invasion and deployed peacekeeping troops.

In Budapest, demonstrators formed a human peace sign and called for the Hungarian government to withdraw its 300 troops from Iraq. In Belgium, about 1,000 people braved rain and

blustery wind to carry coffins labelled with oil company logos through central Brussels.

Madrid’s protest seemed equally to denounce the Iraq war as well as the March 11 rail bombings, which killed 202 people and injured more than 1,800.

The banner read: “End the occupation. Bring the troops home” — a reference to the 1,300 Spanish troops in Iraq, who Prime Minister-elect Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has pledged to withdraw unless the United Nations takes charge in Iraq.

### Central Europe

Demonstrators in Italy, Ukraine and Poland also demanded their governments withdraw troops.

“The occupation of Iraq

is stupid — it’s meddling in another nation’s affairs,” said Polish demonstrator Edyta Raczka, 17, one of about 700 people who marched through Warsaw’s old town to the presidential palace and the US Embassy.

Poland contributed combat troops to the war and now commands a 9,500-strong international peacekeeping force in south-central Iraq. It has deployed about 2,400 troops of its own in the peacekeeping effort.

### Asia and Pacific

The start of the day saw demonstrations in Japan, Australia, India and the Philippines, where protesters clashed with riot police, although no injuries were reported.

Anti-American feelings ran high in Cairo, Egypt,

where demonstrators — vastly outnumbered by riot police — burned the American flag. Hundreds of people gathered in other Middle Eastern capitals to denounce the war.

“Down, down USA! America, out! Out!” shouted more than 100 Syrians and Palestinians who marched in the main streets of Damascus.

Protester Randa Baathi said, “Today we are here with the global campaign against the war on Iraq to express our rejection of this war and its consequences on Iraq and the entire region.”

Europeans also took to the streets — in France, Germany, and capitals across the continent.

Tens of thousands marched through central London, some of them waving placards that called President Bush the “World’s No 1 Terrorist.” London’s Metropolitan Police estimated that some 25,000 people participated. Organizers put the figure at 100,000.

Some Americans joined about 2,500 protesters in Paris, where demonstrators blared a rendition of the John Lennon song “Give Peace a Chance” through loudspeakers.

In New York, several thousand people demonstrated, and rallies also were held in Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, San Francisco and Seattle.

Rallies also occurred in Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Greece, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Turkey, Jordan, Bahrain, India, Australia, South Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, New Zealand and South Africa.

Internet

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## ‘Is the world a safer place?’

LONDON, 21 March — As thousands of protesters march in London today on the first anniversary of war in Iraq, The Independent asks: is the world a safer place?

**Haitham Aldamiri, 19, university student, Leeds**

“I was opposed to the war and they have proved that the war did not solve the problem. Saddam is out and the United States is in now. Iraqis are too scared even to go out and get on with their lives. I think the war incited a lot of violence in the world.”

**Philip Austin, 41, Quaker, Bolton, Greater Manchester**

“I am saddened so much damage has been caused to other people in the past year. Such military might will only leave a legacy of hurt, which leads to further violence. Bombing terrorists in isolated groups may kill, but terrorism is an ideology, and you cannot bomb an ideology.”

**Barbara Elster, health lecturer, sixties, Gadshill, Kent**

“I wasn’t for or against it at the time. But now I think Britain and the world are certainly not safer places. I’m petrified for me, my children and my grandchildren that there will be a terror attack here.”

**Mark Birchenough, 47, management consultant, London**

“The consequences of war are never predictable, and Bush and Blair thought they were. It was a complete misreading of the situation, and has alienated both Arabs and Europeans from America and Britain. The notion of the war against terror is a fake one.”

**Katherine Hamnett, 56, fashion designer**

“People realise the war was outrageous and illegal. People are angrier than a year ago because we were misled over weapons of mass destruction. The war has provided justification for attacks on the Allies. Everyone is frightened and the world seems a much more dangerous place.”

**Roy Clarke, 58, management consultant, Lancashire**

“You can not leave maniacs in place. But I think the world is a more dangerous place because of the increased threat of terrorism. Britain is more of a target now and there will be an attack in this country.”

**Professor Richard Dawkins, 62, evolutionary biologist**

“Being stupid and ignorant as well as powerful, Bush is the most dangerous man on the planet. He has personally made the world more unsafe than it has been since the Cold War.”

**Sir Andrew Green, 62, MigrationWatch UK**

“Is the world a safer place? No. We have reduced Iraq to chaos, so the benefit of removing Saddam must be balanced against the resultant risk of instability in Iraq and the Gulf as a whole. Meanwhile, the invasion has further antagonised the Arab and Muslim world without damaging al-Qa’ida.”

**Ben Okri, 43, writer**

“I think a big mistake was made, and the consequences are going to cast a very long shadow. When an unwise thing has been done there are no solutions, only consequences. But if people have a big enough vision and a big enough heart to know mistakes were made and try to heal those causes, then things will turn out better.” —INTERNET



## UN experts back in Iraq within days

BAGHDAD, 21 March — A team of UN election experts will arrive in Iraq within 10 days, while UN envoy Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi will do so in the next couple of weeks.

“We expect the election team within 10 days and we hope al-Ibrahimi will be here in a couple of weeks,” an occupation official said in Baghdad on Friday.

The statement came a few hours after US Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Baghdad and held talks with the top US occupation administrator Paul Bremer, interim Governing Council members and Foreign Minister Hoyshar Zebari.

Internet

*Anti-war demonstrators protest in Hollywood on the first anniversary of the start of the US-led war in Iraq 20, March 2004. More than a million anti-war protesters poured into the streets of cities around the globe on Saturday's anniversary of the invasion of Iraq to demand the withdrawal of US-led troops.—INTERNET*

## Massive protests in Asia against Iraq war

SYDNEY, 21 March — Thousands of protesters marched across Asia on Saturday to mark the first anniversary of the Iraq war, saying the US-led occupation had incited more terrorism and demanding the withdrawal of troops from the Mideast nation.

Australia kicked off a wave of worldwide rallies. Protests were also held in Japan — where 30,000 people turned out — South Korea, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

In Tokyo, as many as 30,000 people turned out to protest Japan’s involvement in the war, organizers said. The country has sent 1,000 personnel to Iraq, its largest foreign deployment since the Second World War.

Thousands of South Koreans poured into the streets at rallies around the nation Saturday to protest the war in Iraq and the country’s unprecedented presidential impeachment, as baton-wielding police mobilized to guard against possible violence.

Internet



*Thousands protesters march after a rally commemorating the first year anniversary of the beginning of the US war on Iraq in downtown Seoul, on 20 March, 2004. They opposed the government's decision to send South Korean troops to Iraq.—INTERNET*

## Iraqis gather in protest of occupation ahead of war anniversary

**BAGHDAD, 21 March**—Thousands of Iraqis gathered in this capital city protesting the US-led occupation at midday Friday, on the eve of the first anniversary of the invasion of their country.

Sunni and Shiite Muslims took to the streets jointly after the Friday prayers and marched peacefully from Kadimiya, a Shiite dominated area, to Adhmiya, a Sunni district.

The crowd then gathered at the al-Antar Square in central Baghdad, denouncing the war on Iraq a year ago and the following occupation while urging the unity between different Iraqi factions.

"No, no to occupation, no, no to leadership and yes, yes to unity," read the banners they held.

The demonstrators also blamed the instability, increasing civilian casualties and the collapse of Iraq's social structures since the war on the coalition forces, vowing to take action to end the occupation.

"We will sacrifice for you Iraq, with our blood and soul," they shouted. The slogan was familiar to Iraqis for years, but with the word "Saddam" instead of "Iraq".

The rally was organized by popular clerics from the Muslim Scientists Board, a Sunni group, and those from the Hawza, or Shiite supreme authority.

Some of the organizers themselves participated in the demonstration, warning against the attempt to ignite ethnic strife in Iraq and to divide the country.

Meanwhile, a similar joint demonstration was held in Fallujah, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, where the resentment against the American forces was prevalent.

Hundreds of Muslims, mainly Sunnis

and some Shiites, gathered in the restive town, calling for continuous resistance against the occupation forces.

"We hope the resistance, in all their forms, will continue after your brother (Shiite Muslims) realize that the invasion is not for the sake of some of our people but for their own agenda," said Harith al-Dhari, head of the Muslim Scientists Board.

US-led multinational forces launched before dawn on 20 March last year the military campaign to remove Saddam Hussein's regime, which was toppled on 9 April last year.

Iraq then witnessed daily violence, with thousands of civilians becoming the victims of the resistance against invading forces and terrorist acts across the country. — MNA/Xinhua

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## Blasts echo across Baghdad hours after Powell visit

**BAGHDAD, 21 March**—Blasts echoed across central Baghdad and warning sirens sounded in the headquarters of the US-led administration on Friday, the eve of the anniversary of the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

At least two blasts followed the sound of mortars or rockets being fired. A US military spokesman said there were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage.

The US headquarters compound, which is known as the "Green Zone" and is one of Saddam's former palace complexes, has been targeted repeatedly by guerillas firing rockets and mortars. Friday's attack came less than an hour after US President George W Bush ended a speech calling for unity and determination in the fight against terrorism.

Iraq's US governor, Paul Bremer, spoke live to CNN from inside the Green Zone shortly after the blasts: "We think they are outside the Green Zone but we just don't know yet. It's only just happened." US Secretary of State Colin Powell had spent several hours in the headquarters compound earlier on Friday before leaving for Saudi Arabia. — MNA/Reuters



*Iraqis in a large protest in Baghdad against the American occupation of Iraq on 19 March, 2004. —INTERNET*

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

**BAGHDAD, 21 March**—As of Friday, 19 March, 2004, 568 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq a year ago, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 385 died as a result of hostile action and 183 died of non-hostile causes, the department said. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

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

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in

Iraq had ended, 430 US soldiers have died - 270 as a result of hostile action and 160 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,868 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence

Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 432.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

- Marine Cpl Andrew D Brownfield, 24, Akron, Ohio; died Thursday due to wounds received from a mortar attack at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq; assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

- Army Pfc Ernest Harold Sutphin, 21, Parkersburg, W Va; died Thursday in Landstuhl, Germany, from injuries sustained in a vehicle incident in Kirkuk, Iraq on 11 March; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division (Light).

MNA/Xinhua

Internet

## Iraqi reporters rebuff Powell, leave news conference

**BAGHDAD, 21 March**—Iraqi journalists walked out of a Baghdad news conference given by US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Friday in protest at lack of security and the killing of two Iraqi journalists by US troops.

"We declare our boycott of the conference because of the martyrs," Najim al-Rubaie of Iraq's *Distar* newspaper said in a statement read at the start of the news conference as Powell and Iraq's US governor Paul Bremer looked on.

"We declare our condemnation of the incident which led to the killing of the two journalists... who were killed at the hands of the American forces."

More than 30 Iraqi journalists then stood up and walked out.

After the walkout, Powell said he respected the right of

the journalists to express their feelings.

"It is something that would never have happened at an earlier time in the history of Iraq, certainly not in the last 30 years," he said.

Powell said he regretted the loss of life of the journalists, and all loss of life in Iraq.

"But let's be clear who is responsible for this," he said. "Those individuals left over from the old regime do not want to see the Iraqi people live in peace. They do not want to see democracy take root." Powell said he did not have the full details of the

Arabiya incident but he was certain that troops would not have deliberately killed journalists. He said that sometimes in the confusion after a guerilla attack, "mistakes happen, tragedies occur".

Iraqi journalists demanded an investigation into the incident.

"We walked out because we need them to ensure that we are safe under the occupation and yet they have done nothing," Ahmed al-Samraee, an Iraqi producer with the Qatar-based Al Jazeera satellite channel, said after the walkout.

MNA/Reuters

## Peace protesters climb London's Big Ben tower

**LONDON, 21 March** — Two anti-war protesters climbed London's landmark Big Ben clock tower at the Houses of Parliament on Saturday ahead of a demonstration to mark the first anniversary of war in Iraq. The pair unfurled a banner which read "Time for Truth" after they reached the clock face 328 feet above London using mountaineering equipment.

Environmental campaign group Greenpeace said they organized the stunt to protest against the British and United States Governments' policies over Iraq to send a clear message to (Prime Minister) Tony Blair that we and the British people are fed up with the half-truths and evasions on Iraq." Greenpeace executive director Stephen Tindale told Reuters.

He said the pair were buffeted by strong winds during their one-hour climb after clambering over two

security fences at the base, evading some of the tightest security measures in Britain. Armed police guard Parliament and concrete blocks ring the building to

prevent suicide car bombings. Britain is on alert for terror attacks after Madrid bombings that killed 202 people.

MNA/Reuters



*One of thousands of anti-war demonstrators protest in Hollywood on the first anniversary of the start of the US-led war in Iraq on 20 March, 2004. —INTERNET*

## Indo-Singapore joint naval exercises conclude

**NEW DELHI, 21 March**—The 12-day bilateral exercises between the Indian and Singapore navies in Kochi in southern India concluded on Friday.

The exercises, which included training and professional interaction and visits to the naval training establishments, started on March 8 with harbour phase followed by the sea phase, the *Press Trust of India* quoted naval sources as saying.

The sea phase exercises included intermediate and advanced level exercises with ships of the two navies sailing off the Kochi Coast in Kerala State, they said.



## Annan calls for independent probe into UN in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 21 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Friday for a broad independent probe into the UN-administered Iraq oil-for-food programme, saying it was “highly possible” there had been a lot of wrongdoing.

Annan, in his first comments on the burgeoning allegations, has been under pressure to conduct an investigation into corruption from Iraqi leaders as well as the US officials searching for former president Saddam Hussein's hidden assets.

The United Nations has begun an in-house probe of its own staff but Annan stressed a wider, independent investigation was needed to cover outside firms and individuals.

This would involve approval from the 15-nation Security Council, which supervised the programme.

“I think we will need to have an independent investigation, and an investigation that can be as broad as possible to look into all these allegations which have been made and get to the bottom of this, because I don't think we need to have our reputation impugned,” Annan told re-

porters. “It is highly possible there has been quite a lot of wrongdoing,” he said.

The programme, begun in December 1996, involved oil companies paying revenues to a UN escrow account while the United Nations paid suppliers of goods Iraq bought. Its purpose was to ease the impact of 1991 Gulf War sanctions on ordinary Iraqis.

A comprehensive probe, UN officials said, would need support from Council members to investigate the middle men who bought the oil, companies that supplied civilian goods and the French bank BNP-Paribas, which handled a UN-Iraqi account.

Since some of the firms and individuals charged with accepting bribes are nationals of the 15 Council members, the body could set limits on any probe.

The US General Accounting Office, an interagency body, headed by the Treasury

Department is trying to locate and seize 10 billion US dollars to 40 billion US dollars in estimated hidden Iraqi assets.

Of this amount, the GAO in a report on Thursday, charged that Saddam acquired 5.7 billion US dollars from the proceeds of oil smuggled through Syria, Jordan, Turkey and elsewhere.

Iraq's elites raised an additional 4.4 billion US dollars in illegal revenue by imposing oil surcharges and commissions from suppliers of goods to Iraq under the oil-for-food programme.

Annan said the United Nations would go “ahead full speed” in investigating its own staff. This would include charges against the head of the UN oil-for-food programme, Benon Sevan, who has denied them.

But Annan said, “Given the nature of the operation, which involved so many

companies, so many countries, we will need quite a lot. Whoever undertakes the investigation will need quite a bit of cooperation from others.”

The allegations come at a time when the United Nations is mending its relations with the Bush Administration but is being bashed by US conservatives and the conservative Press, which has come close to calling the world body an evil empire.

Ahmed Chalabi, the head of the Iraqi Governing Council's finance committee and a fierce critic of the United Nations, is in charge of the Iraqi probe. He has hired a long-time acquaintance, British businessman Claude Hanks-Drielsma as an adviser. The KMPG international accounting firm has been hired through Hanks-Drielsma to go through the Iraqi documents and give the United Nations a report. — MNA/Reuters

သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုး ပြည်ထောင်စု

## US 'shipping WMDs into Iraq'

BAGHDAD, 21 March—US forces have been shipping parts of missiles, chemical and germ warfare agents and nuclear weapons into southern Iraq, according to an exclusive report in our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej*. Quoting Iraqi Transportation Ministry sources, the report said US forces offloaded this equipment from US cargo ships at the port of Umm Qasr, near Basra, during Ashoor.

It said riots in the area, coupled with major explosions that killed and injured a large number of Iraqi people including a prominent religious scholar, had enabled the parts to be offloaded while the attention of the Iraqi people was elsewhere.

*Akhbar Al Khaleej* said the US, in co-ordination with British forces stationed in large numbers in the south of Iraq, had imposed stiff security measures around the port to ensure the unloading could be done in secret in the dead of night. The deliveries were also planned to coincide with the signing of the Iraqi interim constitution which was later cancelled.

The report said some of the parts were made in the US during the 1980s and 1990s for weapons that had been bought by former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein—weapons which UN inspectors earlier reported had been destroyed. Other parts originated in Eastern Europe and Russia. The report added that this material had been transported to an unknown destination. — Internet



US Army troops in Stryker vehicles, sporting newly designed anti-missile wire cages, seal off an area in the northern Iraq city of Mosul on 19 March, 2004 after witnesses said a Humvee military vehicle was attacked with a rocket propelled grenade.

INTERNET

## HK, Thailand sign air services agreement

HONG KONG, 21 March — Air routes between Hong Kong and Thailand have been further liberalized after successful talks between their two aviation authorities.

Delegations representing the Hong Kong and Thai governments concluded two days of talks here Friday to liberalize the bilateral air services arrangement.

The new arrangement marks another major step in the progressive liberalization policy in air services, after Hong Kong earlier last week also signed an arrangement with Malaysia.

The new agreement removes limitations on the direct air route between Hong Kong and Thailand, and with immediate effect airlines of both sides can operate passenger services between Hong Kong and all Thai destinations without limitation on routing or aircraft type.

Hong Kong airlines will have the flexibility to combine a number of Thai destinations in their services and allow passengers to stopover in the kingdom's cities. The arrangement also provides for expanded fifth-freedom rights for passenger and cargo services.

The bilateral code-share arrangement has been further liberalized to provide more opportunities for airlines of both sides to code-share with partner airlines on services to and beyond Hong Kong and Thailand.

Hong Kong's Economic Development and Labour Bureau hailed the agreement as a “win-win deal” which offers a liberal framework for airlines to plan ahead and operate services in response to market demand.

It also provides much improved flexibility for airlines to develop new products that suit travellers' needs and further enhance tourism and economic ties between Hong Kong and Thailand.

Thailand is one of the most popular holiday destinations for Hong Kong residents, as well as an important source of inbound tourists from the Southeast Asian region.

MNA/Xinhua

## US soldier dies in S Korea in military training

SEOUL, 21 March — A US soldier stationed in South Korea died during physical training earlier this week, according to military officials on Friday.

Sergeant Esau A Zakka from Kansas City, Missouri, died Tuesday after falling unconscious while leading physical training in Camp Greaves, less than four kilometres from the demilitarized zone that separates South Korea and North Korea, Chae Yang-to, a base spokesman, was quoted by South Korean *Yonhap* news agency as saying. The exact cause of Zakka's death is under investigation, Chae said. Zakka, 31, was a forward observer attached to the 506th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd US Infantry Division and has been stationed in South Korea for about six months, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Filipino protesters burn a make coffin symbolising victims of war in Iraq during a protest outside the US embassy in Manila on 19 March, 2004. Dozens of anti-war activists protested the one-year anniversary of the US-led invasion in Iraq.

INTERNET

## Drop in foreign support for US worries experts

WASHINGTON, 21 March—A decline in popular support for the United States among many of its traditional allies in the year after the Iraq war has foreign policy experts worried and is playing into the presidential campaign.

A poll released this week by the Pew Research Centre of opinion in eight European and Middle Eastern countries showed that dislike and even contempt for the US was growing. Among Europeans, particularly in France and Germany, much

of the public had lost confidence in the honesty of the US Government and its commitment to democracy, it showed. In some Islamic allies like Pakistan and Jordan, a majority of respondents had a more favourable view of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin

Laden than of the United States. “It should be of deep concern to Americans to see the extent to which we are disliked by what used to be our friends. We need partners to fight terrorism and conduct foreign policy,” said Pew pollster Andrew Kohut.

John Steinbruner, director of the Centre for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, said the Bush Administration seemed exclusively focused on domestic opinion and was disdainful of overseas viewpoints. — MNA/Reuters



# Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

## US Military deaths in Iraq

With superiority in military might, US and allies troops invaded Iraq. As a result, Iraqi military broke up and the people of Iraq had none to rely on. But, the Iraqi people, who cannot endure the intrusion of alien troops, repulse the intruders using every means and the death toll of US troops has risen day by day.



*US troops comb an area near the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday March 8, 2004, following an attack by Iraqi guerillas at a passing US military convoy.*



*A group of US soldiers survey the remains of rockets, which were fired on 7 March, 2004 into the US military headquarters in Baghdad.*



*US troops carry the corpse of their fellow comrade following the bomb attack on a military vehicle in Samarah, Iraq, on 19 February 2004.*



*A US soldier extinguishes a fire that engulfed a Hummer military vehicle following an attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on 2 March, 2004, killing a US soldier.*



*Iraqis examine a car used by US officers after it was attacked near Baghdad on 21 February.*

### US Military deaths in Iraq

Date	Incident	Death toll
20-3-2003 to 21-3-2004	combat	391
20-3-2003 to 21-3-2004	non-combat	177
Total		568



Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

# Tatmadaw always making efforts for national development in the interest of the people



*Tatmadaw members of No 66 Light Infantry Division taking part in Aunglan-Taungdwingyi Railroad Project in Magway Division.*



**The Tatmadaw which is capable of over coming all obstacles**

*Tatmadaw members of No 66 LID and the people making combined endeavours for implementing South Nawin Dam irrigation system in Pyay District, Bago Division.*



*Tatmadawmen rebuilding the embankment of Monyo Dam near Thanpayakhwun Village, Monyo Township.*

## Construction tasks jointly carried out by the Tatmadaw and the people

Subject	Period	Location
South Nawin Dam canal building	13-12-92 to 25-4-95	Paukkaung Township, Pyay District, Bago Division Length-5696 feet Benefited acre-4858
Monyo Dam embankment reconstruction	29-9-98 to 30-10-98	Near Thanpayakhwun Village Monyo Township
Aunglan-Taungdwingyi Railroad Project	17-5-96 to 27-12-96	Aunglan-Taungdwingyi railroad Length-7.3 miles

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



The Tatmadaw is discharging its three main duties — national-defence, training and serving community welfare services. The Tatmadaw has been discharging these duties upholding, unyielding spirit and the spirit of preserving Tatmadaw's fine traditions at risk to their lives. Tatmadaw members take pride in sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat while serving the interest of the nation and the people. Collective and harmonious efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people have resulted in better transport with fine roads in the entire Shan State including Shan State (South) and (East). In their bid to implement road projects, the Tatmadaw and the people have been joining hands in repairing old roads, constructing new ones and upgrading the existing ones.

tion.

Myanma Alin daily interviewed those in charge of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Strategic Road, and Kengtawng Region Road Project in the Eastern Command area about the road

tasks. To enable the regions that are difficult of access to enjoy better transport, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on construction of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road for development of

the regions on the west bank of Chindwin River and ensuring easy access to Kale Region, the gate way to Chin State (North). Thanks to the collective endeavours of the Tatmadaw and the (See page 9)

## Transport facilities constructed by the Tatmadaw and the people

"Construction of economic and social infrastructures including roads and irrigation facilities where necessary in all parts of the nation is not only for the present but also for the posterity".

The above-mentioned guidance has been given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. So far, the government has constructed 55 roads stretching around 2,000 miles the length and breadth of the nation.

Indeed, such drive has helped contribute towards greater progress of the nation and enhance national solidarity among the national races. In the past, some parts of the nation were difficult of access. So there was less opportunity to forge friendship among the people. But, now, with the emergence of new transport facilities across the nation, the people have enjoyed fruitful results of smooth and secure transport. It has also led to further cementing of amicable friendship among the national races.

When we were on a long journey to many regions using Union Highways, we had a convenient and easy travel thanks to the new roads and bridges in every region. Formerly, one

had to spend at least one day to get to another region taking a long journey. Now, one can travel to another distant region within a day. Commodity flow has been faster than it was in the past. Many ten-wheel trucks can be seen travelling on the roads even in the hilly regions.

This achievement is due to the combined efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people.

Among the transport facilities in the entire nation are Myitkyina-Man-

Dawei-Mawlamyine Road, Taungup-Ma-ei-Kyaukpyu Road, Monywa-Hkamti Road, Minbu-Seikphyu-Pakokku-Monywa Road,

project.

In response to our question, Major Aung Kyi who was in charge of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa

### Maung Maung Kyaw

Minhla-Thayet-Pyay Road, Monywa-Kalewa Road, Pyinmana-Taungwingyi Road, Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway Road and Toungoo-Pyay Road. These

Strategic Road Project said "The road linking Monywa and Kalewa in Sagaing Division is 115 miles long. We launched the project on 1 June 2000. In the past, lo-



Tatmadaw members participating in the Monywa-Kalewa Road Project.

dalay Road, Mandalay-Bhamo Road, Myitkyina-Putao Road, Hpa-an-Zarthabyin-Mawlamyine Road, Taunggyi-Ywangan-Hanmyinmo Road, Pyinmana-Pinlaung Road, Sittway-An-Minbu Road, Kawthoung-Bokpyin-

facilities have been built by the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. The Tatmadaw has also contributed towards emergence of roads in all parts of the na-

cal people had to travel over 160 miles to get to Kalewa from Monywa because they had to pass through Mahamyaing jungle. The road was completely impassable in the rainy season. So, local people had to rely on the only waterway along Chindwin River with great difficulty."

"However, now we have constructed the 115-mile Monywa-Kalewa Road and thus people can use this all weathers and it saves 45 miles".

The majority of the nation's population live in rural regions. That is why the State laid down the five rural development tasks. The State, the people and the Tatmadaw are joining hands to accomplish these

## Roads built by the Tatmadaw and the people

Sr	State/Division	Road
1.	Yangon Division	Taikkyi-Phugyi-Phaunggyi
2.	Shan State	Yangon-Bago six-lane road Tarkaw-Mongpyin-Kengtung Kengtung-Tachilek Yaksawk-Kyaukgu-Nawngkhio Lshio-Muse-Kholam-Kengtawng Mongnai-Kengtawng Mongpan-Kengtawng Pathein-Thalathkwa-Mawtinsun Pathein-Thalathkwa-Ngwehsaung Tarkwe-Kazan Maubin-Hsamalaung
3.	Ayeyawady Division	Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Tanai-Nanyun Pasawng-Khemaphyu-Htihta-Sawhta
4.	Kachin State	Kawtkyik-Kawtparan-Zarthabyin
5.	Kayah State	Bawgaligy-Mawchee Wabodaw-Kamamaung Papun-Kamamaung
6.	Kayin State	Magway-Taungwingyi Pathein-Monywa Gangaw-Yaymyetni Thayet-Mindon Natchaung-Gangaw Pakokku-Kyunchaung-Seikphyu Pakokku-Minywa Pakokku-Myosoe-Zeebya Aunglan-Hsathwa
7.	Magway Division	Budalin-Kalewa-Tamu YeU-KhinU Thetkeyin-Phaungpyin-Hkamti Kale-Natchaung Kale-Kyikon Natchaung-Gangaw Leshi-Panhsat-Sumprabum Lahe-Yankyon Lahe-Hsawtlaw-Ponnyo Laungngaung-Ayikyein Mawlaik-Pyaungbok-Sawbwa-Yayshin Ponnyo-Satphaung-Ayikyein Ayikyein-Tanpakhwe Ponnyo-Kyunhsaung-Ayikyein
8.	Sagaing Division	Yangon-Sittway Theinseik, Thanbyuzayat-Phayathonsu Wiyaw-Laykay
9.	Rakhine State	Taninthayi-Taungphayu-Mandaing Layhnya-Bokpyin
10.	Mon State	Bagan-NyaungU-Myingyan Patheingyi-PyinOolwin Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyikha Thantlang-Lonle
11.	Taninthayi Division	
12.	Mandalay Division	
13.	Chin State	



Tatmadaw members in action at the Sittway-Yangon Highway Project.



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

(from page 8)

people in translating the guidance into reality, now local people can make a journey between these two regions in a short time.

We also interviewed Major Soe Nyunt who was in charge of strategic roads construction project (Kengtawng Region) that links Shan State (East) and (South).

"Well, Major Soe Nyunt, I learnt that you Tatmadaw members have constructed many roads for better transport in the regions in Shan State (South). So, may I know the names of the roads you have constructed up to now?"

"Yes, so far we have constructed three roads under the Shan State (South) Kengtawng region roads construction project. They are Kholam-Kengtawng Road, that is 41 miles long, Mongnai-Kengtawng Road, 45 miles long, and Mongpan-Kengtawng Road, 46 miles long. We started to build the first road on 2 March 2001, the second road on 2 March 2001, and the third road on 13 December 2001".

"Very well! I would like to know how you overcame the difficulties to complete the project".

"As you know, this region is secluded one and there are many ravines here. We firstly cut down the wild trees along the axis.



A heavy machinery seen at the Kholam-Kengtawng Road Project.

We found it very difficult to do so. But this is a small matter because we have already taken the oath to sacrifice our lives for the people if necessary. We got a helpful hand from the local residents. We took responsibilities for construction of new roads, not for repairing

project. As I have told you, we have to overcome natural barriers with great difficulties. We have to cut down wild trees, we have to carry out construction work on hillsides and mountainsides and along the edges of ravines. One day, unfortunately, I slipped and

**Being born of the people, when there is nothing special for carrying out national-defence duties and training, the Tatmadaw members serve the interest of the people. Wherever they are assigned duties, the Tatmadaw members regard the regions they are residing as their native places and take part in community welfare services and the nation-building tasks.**

the old ones".

At that time, I noticed something with Maj Soe Nyunt. "Major, I'm afraid, but one of your legs is missing. Did you lose it in the battle?"

"No, I was injured while I was engaged in this

fell down to the foot of a ravine and I had a broken leg. But, I take pride in that because I lost one of my legs while serving the interest of the people".

The Tatmadaw is discharging its three main duties — national-defence,

undergoing training and serving community welfare services. The Tatmadaw members have been discharging these duties upholding, unyielding spirit and the spirit of preserving Tatmadaw's fine traditions at risk to their lives. Tatmadaw members take pride in sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat while serving the interest of the nation and the people. Collective and harmonious efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people have resulted in better transport with fine roads in the entire Shan State including Shan State (South) and (East). In their bid to implement road projects, the Tatmadaw and the people have been joining hands in repairing old roads, constructing new ones and upgrading the existing ones.

The roads linking Shan State (East) and (South) are strategic ones. Moreover, the government is implementing Kengtawng Hydropower Project in Kengtawng Region. So, these strategic roads will play more important role in national development in the interest of the people.

Furthermore, the people can travel from the plain regions to Kengtung, east bank of Thanlwin River, in all weathers conveniently, thereby further forging friendship among the national races and trading regional produce and products.

Being born of the people, when there is nothing special for carrying out national-defence duties and training, the Tatmadaw members serve the interest of the people. Wherever they are assigned duties, the Tatmadaw members regard the regions they are residing as their native places and take part in community welfare services and the nation-building tasks.

Joining hands, the Tatmadaw and the people have been implementing community welfare services in marching towards the na-

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

#### Poem

## Because we've been dutiful

- \* In that era of colonialism  
And in the Fascist period  
Myanmar's Independence  
Discerning it and working together  
In ways many, citizens all  
With much strength, overthrew  
the intruders
- \* From then on, the Tatmadaw  
Secured newly won Independence  
Sacrificing lives and in all districts  
Went to battle there who resisted  
For period of forty years.
- \* Today, with mutual understanding  
With equated thoughts, stopped fighting  
Thoughts of peace, undeterred  
Belief strengthened forever.
- \* Journey left to be continued  
Making Tatmadaw the pillar  
All nationals, hands held together  
With firm vow, clean thoughts  
Turn nation's zeal toward economy  
Turn toward social life, for success.
- \* Objectives four by three  
For their success, move vibrantly  
For we're Myanmar citizens  
Let us make sure we've been dutiful,  
Let us go all out and stay  
Let our sons be humble.

Lwin Ko Hsay (Trs)

tion's goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In this way, the Tatmadaw has been constructing roads and bridges day and night for ensuring secure and smooth transport for the people and national development.

The Tatmadaw members sacrifice self-interests, endure hardships and overcome and surmount all the difficulties and hindrances. It is because the

people are their parents. Being good sons of the people, the Tatmadaw members always discharge the duties in the interest of the people. Now, the number of roads constructed for the benefit of the people by the Tatmadaw is growing in the nation. With the emergence of these fine transport facilities, the people have enjoyed fruitful results of economic growth.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Translation: MS)

## Transport facilities constructed across the nation

Subject	1988	2004
Tarred road (mile)	5543	8398
Gravel road (mile)	1569	3194
Bridge (above 180 feet)	16	168
Railroad (mile)	2793	3906
Railroad under construction	-	145
Railroad in the process	-	515



The map of the 115-mile Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road (Kalewa in the north and Monywa in the south).

**Government has been building new...***(from page 16)*

the past and there are now 168. Likewise, there were 21 airports and at present there are 28 and there were 6 airports which can be used by Fokker F-28 and there are now 20 such airport facilities.

Progress has been made in education, health and social sectors as well as in trading due to better transportation in the region and fulfillment of transport facilities will benefit posterity.

The government is building sound economic infrastructures while making efforts for ensuring better transport. Altogether 28 dams and reservoirs including Thaphanseik Multipurpose Dam, the largest of its kind in the nation, were constructed in Sagaing Division, benefiting some 600,000 acres of farmland.

Meanwhile, river water pumping projects were implemented and altogether 61 river water pumping tapping stations were established together with underground water stations in Sagaing Division, benefiting over 90,000 acres of farmland.

There were some 2.8 million acres of cultivable land in the division in the past and there are now over 3.9 million acres and there were over 1.2 million acres of farmland in the past and there are now 1.8 million acres.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for a documentary photo at the opening of Monywa Airport. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win formally unveils the stone plaque of Monywa Airport. — MNA



Therefore, paddy production has been on the increase and the division has become the granary of Upper Myanmar. Likewise, cultivation of pulses and beans, oil crops and cotton is making progress in the division. Improvement in the agriculture sector will help the division make progress in other economic sectors.

The economic growth of the division was 10 per cent in 2001-2002 and 15 per cent in 2002-2003. It will be over 10 per cent in 2003-2004. Therefore, the division will be able to contribute 12 per cent in the GNP of the State. The per capita income of the division was some K120,000 in 2002-2003 and it is expected to be some K150,000 in 2003-2004.



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivers an address at the opening of Monywa Airport. — MNA

This development is due to the goodwill of the State and the efforts of service personnel who contributed their shares in boosting of the production. Those who are able to contribute to regional development are service personnel and the Tatmadawmen in the region. Regional development will meet with success only if the State, the people and the Tatmadaw can make intergrated and well-coordinated efforts. Only when there is harmonious development across the nation will the Union make progress. Hence, officials at different levels are to make concerted efforts with goodwill for national development. Efforts are to be made based on mutual understanding, unity, diligence and abiding by rules and regulations. Only then will the economy in the region make progress and peace and tranquillity prevail in the nation.

Therefore, all are urged to strive together with the government for development of Sagaing Division and perpetuation of sovereignty, realizing right or wrong as

well as good or bad.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 thanked the Ministry of Transport and Shwe Than Lwin Co that built the airport opened today and the ministries and Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council for contributing their shares in successful realization of the project.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe delivered an address, saying that Monywa, being an industrial city of north-east region of Myanmar, is of importance in the economic sector of the region. Monywa Airport was extended in accord with the guidance of the Head of State with the aims of ensuring improvement of living standard of the region as well as local people and better transport and development of industries because it is a region where not only Myanmar people but also tourists often visit.

In the past, there was only the Yangon International Airport to connect foreign countries by air. Nowadays, Mandalay International Airport of international level has been opened and upgrading and extension tasks are being carried out at Yangon International Airport. Similarly, Magway Airport was opened on 6 June 2003; Homalin Airport on 3 August 2003; and Patheingyi Airport on 14 March 2004. And, Monywa Airport was inaugurated today. In addition, other airports are being upgraded for the



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

purpose of serving Boeing 737-400 flights.

Owing to giving the contract on construction of Monywa Airport by the Ministry of Transport, Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd started its construction tasks on 10 May 2002 and built the tarred runway which is

8500 feet long, 100 feet wide and 24 inches thick. The runway of the airport can withstand the load of local flights and Boeing 737-400 Jet flights weighing 150,000 lb. In addition, one 180 feet long and 60 feet wide one-storey Passenger Lounge was constructed for the convenience of 250 passengers at a time on arrival and for departure. And, the 16 feet in length, 16 feet in width and 50 feet in height control tower was built there. In conclusion, the minister called on those present to strive for durability of the airport built by the Government spending a large sum of money with a view to ensuring smooth transport and building a modern and developed nation according to the economic policy of the Government.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a speech on the occasion. Afterwards, Dr Win Myint Aung of Monywa, on behalf of the local people, thanked for the opening of the airport. Next, the Secretary-1 presented gifts to Superintending Engineer U Tin Win, on behalf of workers of Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd.

The Secretary-1 and party took the designated places. At the auspicious time, the commander and the minister together with Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd Chairman U Kyaw Win formally opened Monywa Airport.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 formally unveiled the stone inscription of the Airport. Next, the Secretary-1 and party sprinkled scented water on it. The Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photos in front of the archway of the airport. Later, the Secretary-1 and party cordially conversed with those present. —MNA



On behalf of the local people, Dr Win Myint Aung speaks words of thanks at the opening of Monywa Airport. — MNA





Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivers an address at the closing ceremony. — FSD

## SWRR Minister inspects departmental tasks in Mandalay, PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 21 March— Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address at the concluding ceremony of Basic Medical Platoon Course No 1/2004 at Anawrahta Hall of Central Fire Services Training School in PyinOoLwin on 19 March. Next, the Director-General presented gifts to instructors. In the afternoon, the minister,

together with the Director-General of Social Welfare Department and officials, went to Child Nursery and Women's Vocational Training School in Mandalay and inspected functions there.

On 20 March, the minister inspected welfare shop, poultry farm and pig breeding farm at Central Fire Services Training School. He also inspected repaving of roads in the

school. Next, the minister looked into water supply system and construction of 20,000-gallon capacity water tank. Afterwards, the minister inspected perennial crop plantations and wheat plantation of PyinOoLwin Township Immigration and National Registration Department. This morning, the minister inspected functions of INRD of Mandalay International Airport.— MNA

## Tractors handed over to Ministry of Forestry in Muse

YANGON, 21 March— A ceremony to hand over tractors and trucks donated by China International Forestry Group (CIFG) was held at the compound of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading in Muse yesterday morning, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

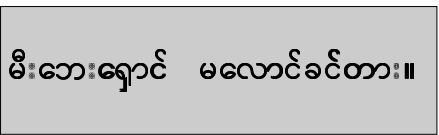
Also present were

Managing Director U Win Tun of Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forest Department, local authorities, Chinese Deputy Minister of Forestry Mr Lei Jiafu, managing Director Mr Qu Guilin, CIFG President Mr Zhanghangde and Shweli Mayor Mr Si Lizhand and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Chinese Deputy Minister Mr Lei Jiafu gave speeches. Next, MTE Managing Director U Win Tun and CIFG President Mr Zhanghangde signed and exchanged documents related to the donations. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Chinese Deputy Minister Mr Lei Jiafu and officials inspected the heavy machinery.

Today's donations were 2 tractors and 18 trucks.

MNA



Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe attends the ASEAN+3 Senior Policy Seminar. MNA

## F & R Deputy Minister attends ASEAN+3 Senior Policy Seminar in Manila

YANGON, 21 March— Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe attended the ASEAN+3 Senior Policy Seminar on Monetary and Financial Integration in East Asia held in Manila, the Philippines, on 18 and 19 March.

At the meeting on 18 and 19 mornings, monetary and financial integration in East Asia, cooperation in exchange rate of foreign

currency, collective saving of reserve foreign currency, exchange of information, close supervision systems and matters relating to regional organizations were discussed. The participants exchanged their views and discussed future tasks. On 19 March afternoon, the Meeting on Asia Bond Market Initiative-ABMI followed. All working groups presented their accomplishments and

reviewed the Terms of Reference (TOR) to form the Focal Group.

They agreed to submit the TOR to the Meeting of ASEAN+3 Deputy Heads of Finance & Central Banks to be held in Singapore. Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe together with Director of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Ohmma Sein arrived back here by air yesterday evening.— MNA

## Ancient Pyu coins donated to National Museum

YANGON, 21 March —Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, accompanied by officials, arrived at Sittway in Rakhine State on 19 March morning. At Buddhaw Maw Monastery in Pyidawtha Ward, the minister accepted five ancient Pyu coins from Sayadaw U Nanuttara and presented a certificate of honour to the latter. The minister next offered provisions to the Sayadaw. It is found that the coins depict the picture of Siriwitsa on one side and the picture of conch on the other. These ancient artefacts will be displayed at the National Museum. — MNA



The front and reverse sides of the five ancient Pyu coins. — CULTURE

## Archaeological works in Rakhine State inspected

YANGON, 21 March— Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected renovation of Shwe Kyetpha Pagoda built by King Khattathin during the period of Laymya from 818 to 1430 AD, near the Laungkyet Taungmaw Stone Inscription on Laungkyet Hill in MraukU on 19 March. Next, the minister saw over maintenance and renovation of Koethaung Stupa built by King Teikkha in 1553 AD and Archaeological Museum in MraukU. Yesterday morning, the minister paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw Township.

The minister inspected ancient Danyawady Palace excavation site south of Maha Muni Image. Director U Kyaw Oo Lwin of Archaeology Department Branch (MraukU) reported on excavation of the palace gate and court building sites. The minister next looked into excavation of the gate of the city wall at ancient Vesali City. Next, the minister saw over construction of the platform and erection of the walls of Anauk Mya Tazaung Pagoda in MraukU. After paying obeisance to Shitthaung Stupa, the minister inspected maintenance of Ananda Chandra stone inscription. In the evening, the minister paid homage to Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway.— MNA



The excavation site of the entrance gate of city wall at ancient Vesali City. CULTURE

## Film actors beat cricket veterans

YANGON, 21 March— The cricket match between Myanmar Actors' team and Cricket veterans team, organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation Organizing Committee and Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, was held at the sports ground-4 in Thuwunna this morning.

Present were Patrons of the organizing committee U San Tin Aung (Shwebo) and U Aung Naing, Committee Chairman Academy U Nyunt Win, officials and spectators.

Myanmar Actors' Cricket team beat Cricket veterans team. Ko Nyi Gyaw of Myanmar Actors' team won the man of the match. After the match, Academy U Nyunt Win presented prizes to the two teams.

MNA

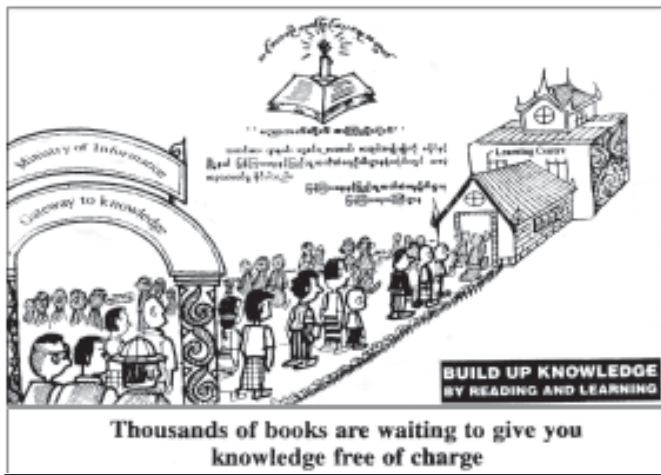
## ရေးမြေစာမေးပွဲအောင်မြင်သူများစာရင်း ကြေညာခြင်း

မြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ နယူးလီကောမီရှင်နှင့်အသင်းတို့က စာတိုကိုင်တွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အငယ်တန်းသတင်းထောက်(လစာနှုန်း ကျပ်၅၄၀၀-၁၀၀-၅၅၀၀) ရာထူးနေရာများ၌ ဖြည့်စွက်ခန့်ထားရန် လျှောက်ထားသူများအား ၆-၃-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့က ထိုသတင်းစာတိုကိုင်တွင် ရေးမြေ စာမေးပွဲပြုလုပ်ခဲ့ပါသည်။ ရေးမြေစာမေးပွဲအောင်မြင်သူများမှာ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါအတိုင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	နံအမှတ်	အမည်	အဖအမည်
၁။	၄	အောင်နိုင်စိုး	လှကျော်ထွန်း
၂။	၈	လင်းလင်းဦး	ညွန့်ဆိုင်
၃။	၁၂	အောင်ထွန်းဦး	ကျော်ငွေ
၄။	၁၃	အောင်သိန်းကျော်	အောင်ကျော်စိန်
၅။	၁၇	မောင်လင်းထွန်း	အောင်စိန်
၆။	၁၉	တင်ကို	သောင်းရွှင်
၇။	၂၁	ကိုကိုလတ်	ကျလား
၈။	၂၅	ရန်နိုင်ဟိန်း	ကြည်မောင်
၉။	၂၇	မြင့်ထွေး	အောင်မြင်
၁၀။	၂၈	နိုင်သူလတ်	ညွန့်နိုင်
၁၁။	၄၀	ကျော်မျိုးသန့်	စတင်
၁၂။	၄၃	မျိုးမင်းဦး	စိန်ငွေ
၁၃။	၆၉	ဦးသိန်းအေး	တာကန်
၁၄။	၇၁	ဦးမင်းထွန်းဦး	မြင့်အေး
၁၅။	၇၄	ဦးမျိုးမောင်မောင်စိုး	စိုးသန့်

ရေးမြေစာမေးပွဲအောင်မြင်သူများအား ၃၀-၃-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့ နံနက်(၉)နာရီခွဲတွင် အမှတ်၂၁၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်းရှိ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း(ရုံးချုပ်)၌ လူတွေ့စစ်ဆေးခြင်းပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ သို့ပါ၍ ၂၉-၃-၂၀၀၄နေ့ ညနေ ၄:၀၀ နာရီ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ မန်နေဂျာသတင်းဌာန၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ဖုန်း ၂၉၄၆၂၁) သို့ဆက်သွယ်သတင်းပေးကြပါရန် အကြောင်းကြားပါသည်။

အညှိအချင်းစစ်ဆေးရေးအဖွဲ့



## ADVERTISEMENT

## China willing to expand trade with Ireland

**BEIJING, 21 March** — China is willing to further trade ties with Ireland and welcomes Irish enterprises to participate in Chinese economic progress, said Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai.

Bo told visiting Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Harney that Sino-Irish trade developed very quickly, recording a 2.34-billion-US-dollar trade volume last year, up 60.5 percent year-on-year, one of the highest growths in China's European Union trade partners.

Sino-Irish trade has huge potential, Bo said. Ireland is cutting-edge in many aspects such as education and software and China will enhance cooperation in those sectors. China witnessed huge success in economic development and Ireland is very in-

terested in expanding trade with China, said the Irish official.

The Irish Government encourages enterprises to invest in China and do business with their Chinese partners. China's accession to the World Trade Organization also benefited the Irish business circle, Harney said.

Bo urged the European Union to grant China the full market economy status to facilitate Sino-EU trade and Harney said that as it holds the EU presidency in the first half of this year, Ireland will actively promote solving the issue at an early date.

MNA/Xinhua

## Way to grow new body parts in animals discovered

**CANBERRA, 21 March** — Australian scientists have found a way to grow new body parts in animals, giving hope to creating arteries and ureters for treating human patients.

The scientists at Monash University in Melbourne and the University of Queensland have found healthy cells grow around objects, including plastic tubes and small balls, inserted into the peritoneal cavity, close to the bowel, the *Australian Associated Press* reported Thursday.

The head of anatomy and cell biology at Monash, John Bertram, was quoted as saying that any object which emulates the shape of the desired organ could be inserted into the peritoneal cavity and stem cells would grow around it.

"So what happens is that the cells come in and form a

biological coating on these foreign objects and the size and the shape and the dimensions of these new biological structures are one the investigator can control," Bertram said.

The scientists have succeeded in creating new arteries, ureters and bladder patches in experiments on mice, rats and rabbits.

The new part is then inserted into the appropriate location, where the body will accept it.

Within about 10 years the scientists hope to grow parts of the urinary tract which can be grafted onto damaged kidneys, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Win Mu Tin,**  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for BASF Aktiengesellschaft  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.  
Dated: 22 March, 2004

## Seven die in highway accident in N-W China

**Xi'AN, 21 March** — Nine vehicles collided on a highway in the northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Thursday morning, leaving seven people dead and 14 injured.

The accident occurred at 4:30 am at the Tingkou section of State Highway 312, when a heavy truck went out of control and hit eight other vehicles, including a double-decker bus.

The death toll included three people on the truck and four on the bus, said local police.

The injured are receiving treatment at the People's Hospital of Changwu County, and Tingkou Hospital.

Local police were still investigating the case.

MNA/Xinhua

## မြန်မာ့စွမ်းပြနိုင်ငံအားလေးပါ

## Malaysian PM stresses importance of C'wealth intra-travel

**KUALA LUMPUR, 21 March** — The promotion of Commonwealth intra-travel would not only draw economic benefits but also forge stronger ties among peoples of the member states, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Friday evening.

The inaugural Commonwealth Tourism Ministers' Meeting (CTMM) was an important milestone in promoting the intra-travel, Abdullah said in his keynote address at the opening of CTMM here.

The text of his speech was read out by Malaysian Information Minister Khalil Yaakob.

"There are 53 Commonwealth member countries with about 1.7 billion people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, one can imagine the immense economic and cultural gains that can potentially be gained through the promotion of intra-Commonwealth tourism," he said.

The ministers or their representatives from 38 Commonwealth member states are participating in the meeting.

The 53 Commonwealth countries presently account for one-seventh of international tourist activity and receipts.

The Prime Minister said that developing intra-Commonwealth tourism would be a strong catalyst to further expand the industry, which has carved a niche for itself in many economies.

"I believe this meeting will focus on the sharing of information and the exchange of ideas that will greatly benefit the Common-

wealth nations."

Abdullah said that the underlying goal of the Commonwealth must be to ensure the well-being of the people in each respective country. Malaysia is keen to play a prominent role in the Commonwealth community and have contributed extensively in the past.

It hosted the 1989 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the 1998 Commonwealth Games, the Southeast country have also provided training assistance to selected member countries in several fields including agriculture, environment and remote sensing. — MNA/Xinhua

## China jails human trafficker for life

**SHANGHAI, 21 March** — A court in Shanghai sentenced a human trafficker to life in prison on Thursday for smuggling 51 people out of the country between 2000 and 2002, the official *Xinhua* news agency said.

Dong Feng earned 1.8 million yuan (217,500 US dollars) as head of the smugglers, *Xinhua* reported. His wife and brother were handed shorter sentences and fined two million yuan each, it added.

*Xinhua* said the three had appealed an earlier sentence, but the court rejected them. Shanghai court officials were not available for comment.

Dong focused primarily on Japan, the *Shanghai Daily* has reported.

Of the 51 people smuggled out of the country, usually through fake papers, 28 remained in Japan and 11 were sent back. The others returned on their own accord or failed to make it out of the country, *Xinhua* said.

The sinister role of the snakehead, or people smuggler, resurfaced last month when 19 people, mostly Chinese migrants, were swept away by a rising tide while collecting shellfish on a northwest England beach.

MNA/Reuters

## World historic, cultural cities expo to be held in Nanjing

**BEIJING, 21 March** — Nanjing, a historical city in east China's Jiangsu Province, will host an exposition on the world's historic cities from 30 April to 6 May, sources with the Chinese Ministry of Culture (MoC) said at a Press conference here Thursday.

The exposition is co-sponsored by the MoC, the Ministry of Construction, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and China's National Commission for the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO), with support from the municipal government of Nanjing and some departments of Jiangsu.

The organizers said the exposition will cover six major projects, namely dialogues among world historic cities, a cultural seminar, cultural events, a historic city show and evening ball and carnival, with a total of 53 programmes.

So far, 11 foreign cities including Barcelona, Florence, Kyoto, Paris and Vienna have been invited to attend the exposition, together with seven Chinese ancient capital cities such as Beijing, Hangzhou and Xi'an, as well as Lijiang and Pingyao which are listed as the world's cultural heritage.

MNA/Xinhua

## China reported explosive growth in sales of MP3 music players

**BEIJING, 21 March** — Over 1.77 million units of MP3 players were sold in China last year, a leap from 528,000 units in 2002, and the sales also shot up 130 per cent to 1.55 billion yuan (187 million US dollars).

Liu Junguo, a senior analyst with CCID Consulting, a domestic research firm releasing the figures, attributed the explosive growth to the increasing number of personal computers and mass music resources on the Internet.

Xiao Gao, a graduating college student in Beijing, has viewed her MP3 player an important part of her life.

"I need to rush here and there to attend various kinds of job fairs and I meet a lot of frustrations during job-hunting, but listening to music

downloaded from the Internet helps me disperse all the weariness and disappointments," she said.

The robust demand from customers attracted more and more players to the market. There are more than 100 companies and 300 brands producing the players, Friday's *China Daily* reported.

Domestic players, with their aggressive price and marketing strategies, dominated the market with more than 70 per cent of the market share.

Three home brands Aigo,

Lenovo and MSC topped the market last year, which were closely followed by Samsung Electronics and iRivers from South Korea.

Liu predicted the shipments of the digital music-playing devices would continue to grow at the same pace in the next two years.

But he warned the skyrocketing growth seen in 2003 may be curbed by a shortage of flash memory cards, which is the main storage format for MP3 players, and the ensuing price hikes.

MNA/Xinhua

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး  
သစ်ပင်ကိုနှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး။



# ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## WHO says legal drugs pose greatest health threat

BRASILIA, (Brazil), 21 March— The health threat from legal drugs like alcohol and tobacco is much greater than that from illegal narcotics, the World Health Organization said here.

The first report of its kind by the global body found that dependence on alcohol and cigarettes has a much greater cost for societies than illegal drugs like cocaine and crack.

The Neuroscience of Psychoactive Substance Use and Dependence report said that drug addiction is a growing problem, especially in poor countries which have rising rates of alcohol consumption and smoking.

There are about 200 million illegal drugs users worldwide, or 3.4 per cent of the world population, it said. Illegal drugs contributed 0.8 per cent to global ill health in 2000, while alcohol accounted for 4.1 per cent and alcohol 4 per cent.

The percentages are based on a measurement used by WHO which gauges the burden that premature deaths and years lived with disability impose on society.

The "main global health burden is due to licit rather than illicit substances", the report said.

Men in rich countries are especially vulnerable to suffer from alcohol- and cigarette-related bad health.

"Health and social problems associated with use and dependence on tobacco, alco-

hol and illicit substances require greater attention by the public health community," WHO Director-General Dr. Lee Jong-Wook said in a statement.

The report also found that it may not be possible to fully cure drug dependence because of long-term changes to the way the brain works. Health experts need to consider a range of factors in treating drug dependence because it is a disorder caused by genetic disposition, as well as psychological and cultural factors, it said.

"Like major psychiatric disorders, substance dependence may not be curable but improved effectiveness of available treatment has contributed significantly to recovery," said Dr. Catherine Le Gales-Camus, assistant-director-general of noncommunicable diseases and mental health at WHO. The global launch of the report took place in Brazil, a country with spiralling drug-related violence, which has in the past led to rough treatment of drug users.

Any person can become a drug addict and that dependence is a disorder, making it crucial to eradicate the stigma suffered by drug users that can make treatment more difficult, the report said. — MNA/Reuters

## Bali to close airport during Hindu's silence day

JAKARTA, 21 March— The Ngurah Rai International Airport in Indonesia's resort island of Bali will close for 25 hours during the Hindu's New Year observance of Nyepi, or silence day, which falls on Monday.

"All flight schedules from and to Denpasar will be closed. Only special flights, such as an emergency landing, are allowed," airport spokesman Ngurah Ardita was quoted on Saturday as saying by Detikcom online news service.

The airport is located in the Bali capital of Denpasar.

He added Bali seaports also will be shut down during the celebration.

The observance, as traditionally required in the past years, will be marked by an absolute quite on the predominantly Hindu island. Traffic will be banned from the streets and people should refrain from lighting fires and electrical lamps. The government has declared Nyepi as a national holiday.

Bali is Indonesia's largest resort for foreign tourists, accommodating around 100,000 foreign arrivals every month. — MNA/Xinhua

## Arroyo signs Quarantine Act

MANILA, 21 March— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday signed into law a measure strengthening the regulatory capability of the Department of Health and the Bureau of Quarantine Services on public health threats.

The new law, known as the "Public Health Threat and Quarantine Act," upgrades the penalties and powers on quarantine regulations as the present quarantine laws were virtually toothless in containing contagious diseases, Arroyo was quoted as saying by a statement from the Presidential Palace.

Arroyo, who signed the act in Victorias City in the central province of Negros Occidental where she is on a campaign sortie to seek support for her in the May 10 presidential election, cited the importance of the law and the institutionalization of the preventive measures in the fight against contagious diseases.

The new law empowers the President to declare the existence of a contagion or disease considered a threat to public health.

In the case, the health secretary, through the Bureau of Quarantine Services, could prevent the entry of persons, properties and vessels from an infected country, or implement quarantine and other measures until such time the President declares the contagion or disease as no longer posing a threat to public health.

The new law penalizes any person who violates any regulation, guideline, and condition of quarantine, or knowingly conceals or

falsely provides material information on matters requiring full disclosure a fine of no less than 10,000 pesos (177.62 US dollars) nor more than 100,000 pesos (1,776 US dollars) or its equivalent in subsidiary imprisonment.

It also provides that any vessel or aircraft violating quarantine procedures by failing to, or falsely submitting, requisite documents and clearances would be fined 100,000 pesos (1,776 US dollars) but not more than 1 million pesos (17,762 US dollars) without prejudice to the confiscation and/or destruction of the apprehended vessel or aircraft.

MNA/Xinhua

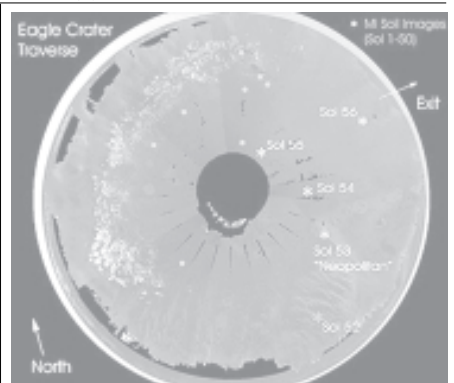
## Dengue fever will prevail in Indonesia until May

JAKARTA, 21 March— Indonesian Minister of Health Achmad Suyudi said here Friday that dengue fever will prevail until May because the rainy season in the country will last until that month.

"The dengue fever period is predicted to prevail until April, and in some areas it will continue in May," the minister was quoted by Kompas online as saying.

In line with his prediction, he renews call for efforts to eliminate mosquito's nest because the insect helps spread the disease.

MNA/Xinhua



This NASA image shows an overhead view of the Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity landing site at Meridiani Planum, nicknamed 'Eagle Crater'.

INTERNET

## Mars "blueberries" give strong support to water theory

LOS ANGELES, 21 March— The tiny, round "blueberries" found on Mars by Opportunity rover strongly support the theory that water once existed on the Red Planet, a NASA scientist has said.

Philip Christensen, a scientist from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, announced the finding at the 35th annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conference being held this week in Houston, Texas.

At Meridiani Planum where Opportunity has landed, a patch of tiny spherules — also called "blueberries", was closely examined by a German-made Spectrometre at the rover's robot arm, and has now been identified as hematite, which is typically formed in water.

The spectrometre is designed to study minerals that contain iron, which are common on the Martian surface.

Earlier this month, Opportunity has uncovered geologic evidence that the flat, featureless Meridiani Planum once was covered with water.

Three days later, scientists announced that Opportunity's twin, Spirit, discovered signs that small amounts of water once welled up in the soil of Gusev Crater where the rover landed on January 3.

MNA/Xinhua

## Seven die as caisson collapses in eastern coal mine

JINAN, 21 March— Seven miners were confirmed dead and four injured when a caisson collapsed Thursday in a coal mine under construction in the eastern Shandong Province, a local official told Xinhua Saturday.

The accident occurred at 1:30 a.m. at Dongda Coal Mine in Tengzhou City, said an official in charge of the coal mine construction.

The 11 miners were all employers of a construction company under a state-owned coal mining group, the official said without giving his name.

Rescue efforts ended at 10:20 a.m. Friday and the injured were being treated at local hospitals. "One of them was seriously wounded in the leg and the other three were slightly injured," he said. The cause of the accident was under investigation, according to the official.

MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese doctor begins 49-day fast for world record

CHENHUI, 21 March— A 50-year-old Chinese herbalist doctor began Saturday his planned 49-day fast in Ya'an City of southwest China's Sichuan Province, hoping to beat the 44-day record set last year by US magician David Blaine. Under the supervision of a notary public and social supervisors, Chen Jianmin went into a glass room in Bifengxia Valley, a mountain resort in Ya'an City.

Chen has to live alone in the 15-square-metre room built halfway up the mountain in the coming 49 days during which he can not leave the room or have food, and can only drink water. — MNA/Xinhua



A man jogs with his dog at sunset in Mercer County Park in West Windsor, NJ, on 19 March, 2004. In the second snow storm of the week, the area received about three to four inches of snow early in the day but much of it melted by late afternoon as the sun came out and the temperature rose. — INTERNET

မူးသစ်အနွှာရယ် လူရန်စွယ်  
ကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက် လက်ချင်းဆက်။

## SPORTS

## Petkovic strike earns Spartak 2-2 draw with Saturn

Moscow, 21 March—Serbian defender Dusan Petkovic scored a late equalizer to earn Spartak Moscow a 2-2 draw at Saturn Ramenskoye in a Russian Premier League match on Friday.

Petkovic blasted a 20-metre free kick into the top corner three minutes from time for the nine-times Russian champions.

His strike made amends for his own goal 19 minutes earlier when under pressure from Saturn's Argentine striker Nikolas Pavlovic. Spartak have now drawn their first two league games of the season. Spartak full back Dmitry Parfyonov opened the scoring with a 21st-minute penalty, his second spot kick in two games.

Alexei Medvedev brought the home side level five minutes into the second half before Saturn edged ahead in the 68th minute, setting the stage for a dramatic finale.

Torpedo Moscow, who crushed Rostov 4-0 last week to top the standings after the opening round, travel to Vladikavkaz on Saturday to take on Alania, while champions CSKA Moscow, held to a 0-0 draw in their opener by last year's strugglers Torpedo-Metallurg, face city neighbours Dynamo. —MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Ryan Giggs back heels past Gary Doherty against Spurs on 20 March, 2004. To help his team win 3-1—INTERNET

## Arsenal all set to equal best season-start record

LONDON, 21 March—Arsene Wenger hopes his Arsenal side can equal the long-standing English record of going 29 league games unbeaten at the start of a season when they face Bolton on Saturday.

Arsenal lie nine points ahead of Chelsea at the top of the Premier League and are favourites to win the title once again.

No team has managed to achieve such a remarkable unbeaten start record in the English league since Liverpool in 1987-88 and Leeds in 1973-74. Wenger, speaking to reporters at the club's training ground in north London, said: "We are hungry to win every game and want to keep going."

"We know the consequence of achieving another good result and have already broken one record this season scoring in every game."

"We want to do as well as we can and are now in the final sprint with the final 10

games. If we are still unbeaten with four games to go, maybe we can go the whole season without getting beaten."

"We want to see how far we can go and it has put us in good stead so far not thinking too far ahead."

It is still mathematically possible to lose the league so the players are still on their toes."

Wenger is determined to gain revenge over Bolton after Sam Allardyce's side effectively prevented them from winning the title last season.

Arsenal threw away a two-goal lead at the Reebok Stadium as Martin Keown's late own goal helped Bolton secure a 2-2 draw.

MNA/Reuters

## Woods seeks consistency as record-breaking bid falters

ORLANDO (Florida), 21 March—Tiger Woods's bid to win a fifth straight title in the Bay Hill Invitational came unstuck on Saturday when he shot a two-over-par 74 to fall 15 strokes behind third-round leader Stuart Appleby.

The world's top ranked player completed 56 holes on one-under 215 and is tied for 46th place.

After opening with a five-under-par 67, Woods has been on a downward spiral in the subsequent 36 holes, recording his first consecutive over-par rounds since last year's PGA Championship at Oak Hill.

"I tried my best," Woods said. "It's not going to happen, but hopefully I can get it going and play well next week and get it going for Augusta."

"If I can win that one, I think that will be a little bit bigger than this one."

Woods continues to tinker with his swing, but has not found the consistency which was his stock in trade during the glory days of 2000 and 2001 when he seemed invincible and won 15 events on the tour, holding all four major titles at one time.

"I had it the first day, the first day this week. I really had it," Woods said.

"I was so excited about some of the things I was working on Tuesday and

Wednesday and they were coming together.

"Went out there on Thursday and I really hit it well. Didn't make any putts, but, man, I hit it good."

"That, to me, is exciting because I know my putting is going to come around."

"Just a matter of getting my ball-striking in there, where I can give myself enough looks at putts."

"If I give myself enough looks at putts, I figure I'm a decent putter, I can make a few."

After this event, Woods is playing the Players Championship next week before heading to the first major of the year, the US Masters two weeks later, where he has won three of his eight major championships.

"I'm swinging a lot better; that's the funny thing," Woods said. "I'm hitting my irons terrible but I'm driving it well now."

"Ninety per cent of my shots were really good. The things I'm working on are starting to come together. It's just the other 10 per cent that are off the charts."

MNA/Reuters

## Federer to face Henman in Pacific Life Open final

INDIAN WELLS (California), 21 March—Top-ranked Roger Federer survived a raucous crowd to beat a pumped up Andre Agassi 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday and will meet ninth-seeded Tim Henman in the Pacific Life Open final.

World number one Federer will face his nemesis on Sunday after the Briton posted a clinical 6-3 6-2 win over Georgia's Irakli Labadze in the other semifinal.

In reaching his second Pacific Life Open final, Henman suffocated Labadze with his net rushing attack and returned serve with authority.

The British number one converted 16 of his 23 net approaches, broke the Georgian four times and committed only 10 unforced errors to 22 from his foe.

Earlier, Federer battled in searing 109 degree temperatures could not find his rhythm until late in the match. The Swiss picked up his game when it counted, however, whizzing groundstrokes toward the lines and serving with precision.

The match turned in the ninth game of the final set with Agassi serving up 40-15. Instead of crisply putting away a forehand volley, the 33-year-old smoothed it crosscourt.

Federer managed to fire a return at the American, who poked the ball into the mid-

dle of the court where the informal Swiss player tracked it down before burying a forehand winner.

"That turned out to be more crucial than it seemed at the time," Agassi said.

"I felt I hit the volley the way I wanted. He looked like he was on the full stretch but he generated enough pace to get it up the line quickly and that obviously led to the break. He came up with some really good shots."

Federer then ran off three straight points against the disappointed Agassi, grabbing the break to 5-4 when the American missed a backhand crosscourt.

Federer coolly served out the match, winning with two aces after nearly two hours on court.

In attempting to win his second title here, Agassi came out firing, returning beautifully and exposing the twice Grand Slam champion's one-handed backhand.

Eight-times Grand Slam champion Agassi broke Federer to 3-2 when the Swiss double faulted and won the first set when he ripped a backhand crosscourt winner.

But in the second set Federer began to control the court with his devastating forehand and dug his way into Agassi's service games.

Federer broke Agassi to 4-1 by forcing a forehand error and won the set when the American made a mistake on his backhand.

Both men raised their levels in a spectacular third set, where Agassi fought off three break points in the opening game.

The American also fought off another break point in the fifth game and pressed the Swiss with Federer serving at 3-4.

Agassi held two break points but Federer ripped a forehand crosscourt winner and pasted a forehand down the line.

Federer, who is 21-1 this year, then ran off the next two games to reach his first Pacific Life Open final.

"He raised his game at the most crucial times," Agassi said. "One or two points was the difference in this match."

I know he was a millimetre away from losing. But he's the kind of guy who never allows you to get com-

fortable, no matter what goes on."

Federer and Henman have met seven times, with the Briton winning six matches, including a 7-6, 6-1 victory in Rotterdam last month when the Swiss suffered his only defeat of the year.

Federer said he would try to play the match on his terms.

"I'm not going to start changing too much about my game," Federer said. "If he wants to win the tournament, he's got to beat me playing my game."

He has to change something in his game. That's something we'll see tomorrow."

Henman said he is brimming with confidence.

"When we come out I'll put the record behind me and try to show authority on court," he said.

"I've had success against him and will try to continue that. My game matches up pretty well against him."

If I let him dictate, it will be a pretty uncomfortable day. But if I stay aggressive, I think I have a pretty good shot." —MNA/Reuters

## Answer for yesterday's Cross Puzzle



## Bayern held by Hertha in further blow to title hopes

BERLIN, 21 March—Bayern Munich's slim hopes of retaining the Bundesliga title suffered another blow when they were held to a 1-1 draw by strugglers Hertha Berlin on Saturday.

Leaders Werder Bremen, now eight points ahead of Bayern in second place, can stretch their lead over the champions to 11 points with nine games remaining if they win at VfL Wolfsburg on Sunday.

In Berlin, Dutch striker Roy Makaay opened the scoring for Bayern with a superb effort from 20 metres on eight minutes, but the capital club levelled two minutes from the break with a penalty by Brazilian midfielder Marcelinho.

Hertha, who had started the season dreaming of qualification for the Champions League, stayed second from bottom in the 18-strong table.

MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Geremi (L) vies for the ball with Fulham's Mark Pembroke during Premiership football match Chelsea v Fulham at Stamford Bridge in London on 20 March, 2004.—INTERNET



**MRTV-3**



**22-3-2004 (Monday)  
(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 "Drugs  
Elimination Sector"
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Myanmar Traditional  
Snack "Dawei Ngamoun"  
(Fish Crispies)
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Pictureque Views in  
Southern Shan State  
(Part-I)
- 9:25 Let-Ah-Hla-Ahka
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Myanmar Traditional  
Musical Instruments)  
(Drum)
- 9:40 Song "Summertime"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 The Oldest Anthropoid  
Primates of Pondaung  
in Myanmar (I)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**22-3-2004 (Monday)  
Regular Programmes for  
Viewers from Abroad  
Evening Transmission  
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar Pano-  
rama & Myanmar Sen-  
timent"
- 15:36 Victories of the State,  
the People and the  
Tatmadaw "Drugs  
Elimination Sector"
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Myanmar Traditional  
Snack "Dawei Ngamoun"  
(Fish Crispies)
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Pictureque Views in  
Southern Shan State  
(Part-I)

- 15:55 Let-Ah-Hla-Ahka
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Myanmar Traditional  
Musical Instruments)  
(Drum)
- 16:10 Song "Summertime"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 The Oldest Anthropoid  
Primates of Pondaung  
in Myanmar (I)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Fabulous Bagan (I)
- 16:40 Myanmar Beauty &  
Myanma Nature Photo  
Contest
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 The Folk Art of Mak-  
ing ornaments with  
leaves
- 16:55 The Rakhine Dance,  
The Pride of Yoma
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Archaeological Mu-  
seum, Pakhangyi (I)
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Greetings From  
Chin Hills"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 "My Friends" Recent  
Paintings (Min Wae  
Aung)
- 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 Victories of the State,  
the People and the  
Tatmadaw "Communi-  
cation Sector"
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Traditional Chin Li-  
queur (Khaung Yay)
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Wa Traditions & An  
Engagement Cere-  
mony
- 19:55 Wararya Dance
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Putao Surrounded by  
Natural Scenic Beauty  
Song "The Outstanding  
Ones"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Travelogue "Yangon to  
Bagan"
- 20:25 Song "What Love is"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Stone Inscription
- 20:40 Mandalay-Lashio-

- Muse Union Highway
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 The Marking of a  
Myanmar Saung  
(Harp)
- 20:55 Sandaw chain
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 King Thayawaddy's  
Bell
- 21:10 Song "Speaking  
through our eyes"
- 21:12 The Grand Bagaya  
Monastery (INWA)
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 New Century Biotech  
Development Centre  
(Zoology Department)
- 21:30 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar Pano-  
rama & Myanmar Sen-  
timent"
- 21:35 Victories of the State,  
the People and the  
Tatmadaw "Drugs  
Elimination Sector"
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Myanmar Traditional  
Snack "Dawei Ngamoun"  
(Fish Crispies)
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Pictureque Views in  
Southern Shan State  
(Part-I)
- 21:55 Let-Ah-Hla-Ahka
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Myanmar Traditional  
Musical Instruments)  
(Drum)
- 22:10 Song "Summertime"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 The Oldest Anthropoid  
Primates of Pondaung  
in Myanmar (I)
- 22:25 Songs On Screen  
"Through My Eyes"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Fabulous Bagan (I)
- 22:40 Myanmar Beauty &  
Myanma Nature Photo  
Contest
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 The Folk Art of Mak-  
ing ornaments with  
leaves
- 22:55 The Rakhine Dance,  
The Pride of Yoma
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Archaeological Mu-  
seum, Pakhangyi (I)
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Greetings From  
Chin Hills"
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 "My Friends" Recent  
Paintings (Min Wae  
Aung)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**22-3-2004 (Monday) &  
23-3-2004 (Tuesday)  
Evening & Morning  
Transmission  
(23:30 - 1:30)**

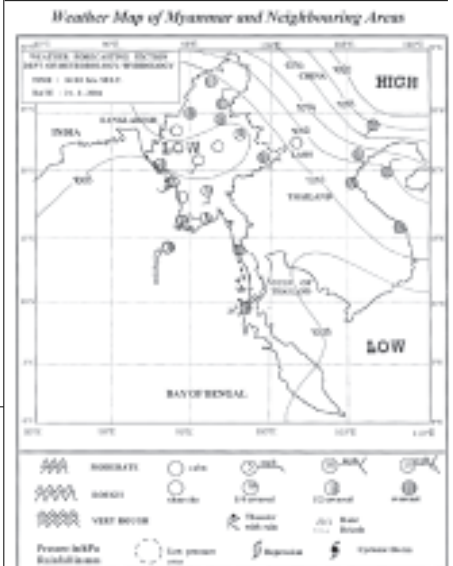
- 23:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar Pano-  
rama & Myanmar Sen-  
timent"
- 23:36 Victories of the State,  
the People and the  
Tatmadaw "Drugs  
Elimination Sector"
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Myanmar Traditional  
Snack "Dawei Ngamoun"  
(Fish Crispies)
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Pictureque Views in  
Southern Shan State  
(Part-I)
- 23:55 Let-Ah-Hla-Ahka
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Myanmar Traditional  
Musical Instruments)  
(Drum)
- 00:10 Song "Summertime"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 The Oldest Anthropoid  
Primates of Pondaung  
in Myanmar (I)
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Fabulous Bagan (I)
- 00:40 Myanmar Beauty &  
Myanma Nature Photo  
Contest
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 The Folk Art of Mak-  
ing ornaments with  
leaves
- 00:55 The Rakhine Dance,  
The Pride of Yoma
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Archaeological Mu-  
seum, Pakhangyi (I)
- 01:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Greetings From  
Chin Hills"
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 "My Friends" Recent  
Paintings (Min Wae  
Aung)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"

**23-3-2004 (Tuesday)  
Morning Transmission  
(03:30-07:30)**

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

- 03:36 Victories of the State,  
the People and the  
Tatmadaw "Communi-  
cation Sector"
- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 Traditional Chin Li-  
queur (Khaung Yay)
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Wa Traditions & An  
Engagement Cere-  
mony
- 03:55 Wararya Dance
- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:05 Putao Surrounded by  
Natural Scenic Beauty  
Song "The Outstand-  
ing Ones"
- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 Travelogue "Yangon to  
Bagan"
- 04:25 Song "What Love is"
- 04:30** **National News**
- 04:35 Stone Inscription
- 04:40 Mandalay-Lashio-  
Muse Union Highway
- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 The Marking of a  
Myanmar Saung  
(Harp)
- 04:55 Sandaw chain
- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 King Thayawaddy's  
Bell
- 05:10 Song "Speaking  
through our eyes"
- 05:12 The Grand Bagaya  
Monastery (INWA)
- 05:15** **National News**
- 05:20 New Century Biotech  
Development Centre  
(Zoology Department)
- 05:30 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar Pano-  
rama & Myanmar Sen-  
timent"
- 05:35 Victories of the State,  
the People and the

- Tatmadaw "Drugs  
Elimination Sector"
- 05:40** **Headline News**
- 05:42 Myanmar Traditional  
Snack "Dawei Ngamoun"  
(Fish Crispies)
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:50 Pictureque Views in  
Southern Shan State  
(Part-I)
- 05:55 Let-Ah-Hla-Ahka
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 Myanmar Traditional  
Musical Instruments)  
(Percussion Instru-  
ments) (Drum)
- 06:10 Song "Summertime"
- 06:15** **National News**
- 06:20 The Oldest Anthropoid  
Primates of Pondaung  
in Myanmar (I)
- 06:25 Songs On Screen  
"Through My Eyes"
- 06:30** **National News**
- 06:35 Fabulous Bagan (I)
- 06:40 Myanmar Beauty &  
Myanma Nature Photo  
Contest
- 06:45** **National News**
- 06:50 The Folk Art of Mak-  
ing ornaments with  
leaves
- 06:55 The Rakhine Dance,  
The Pride of Yoma
- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 Archaeological Mu-  
seum, Pakhangyi (I)
- 07:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Greetings From  
Chin Hills"
- 07:15** **National News**
- 07:20 "My Friends" Recent  
Paintings (Min Wae  
Aung)
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See  
Myanmar"



**WEATHER**

Sunday, 21 March, 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:**  
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Kchin and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (6°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperatures were (41°C) each in Minbu and Aungmye.

Maximum temperature on 20-3-2004 was 39.0°C (102°F). Minimum temperature on 21-3-2004 was 18.5°C (65°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-3-2004 was 76%. Total sun shine hours on 20-3-2004 was (9.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 21-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southeast at (10:30) hours MST on 20-3-2004.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 22-3-2004:** Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Southern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-3-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-3-2004:** Generally fair weather.



Monday, March 22

View today:

- 7:00 am**
- 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းထွန်းဆရာတော်  
အများကြီး နိုင်ငံတော် သံသယဟာ  
မှယက အပွဲ အကန့်တော်တော်ချစ်  
အဘိဓမ္မာပညာရှင် အဘိဓမ္မာ  
ဟောသဒ္ဓမ္မဓမ္မာတိက တိပိဋကဓမ္မာ  
အတ္ထာဂါရိတဆရာတော်ဘွဲ့ရ မိမိပြာ  
သာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 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. (၅၅) နှစ်မြောက်တစ်ပတ်တော်  
ရုတ်ပြုအခါအခွင့်
- 8:00 am**
- 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
- 7. Song of national races
- 8:20 am**
- 8. Cute Little Dancers
- 8:30 am**
- 9. International news

- 8:45 am**
- 10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song  
(၅၅) နှစ်မြောက်တစ်ပတ်တော်  
တစ်ပတ်တော် ကာကွယ်ရေးဦးစီးချုပ်  
ဇိန်ချစ်မျိုးကြီးသန်းရွှေ မိမိပြာသည့်  
မိမိ့ နှစ်မြောက်တစ်ပတ်တော်
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Songs to uphold  
national spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- 3. Practice in reading
- 4:45 pm**
- 4. တစ်ပတ်တော် ရုတ်ပြုအခါအခွင့်  
ဆရာတော်များ (၁၀၀၀ နှစ်)
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. အစောဆုံးတက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး  
ရုတ်ပြုအခါအခွင့်  
တတိယနှစ် (ဆရာတော်အထူးပြု)  
(ဆရာတော်)
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. ထက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတော်
- 5:30 pm**
- 7. Dance Variety
- 5:40 pm**
- 8. Dance and song for  
national races
- 5:45 pm**
- 9. Musical programme (The  
Radio Myanmar Modern  
Music Troupe)
- 5:55 pm**
- 10. ကျင်းပသောရေလှောင်တံခံ

- 6:05 pm**
- 11. Musical programme
- 6:15 pm**
- 12. Discovery
- 6:30 pm**
- 13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
- 14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
- 15. Industrial achievement
- 7:15 pm**
- 16. Musical programme
- 7:30 pm**
- 17. (၅၅) နှစ်မြောက်တစ်ပတ်တော်  
ရုတ်ပြုအခါအခွင့်
- 7:40 pm**
- 18. (၅၅) နှစ်မြောက်တစ်ပတ်တော်  
တစ်ပတ်တော် ကာကွယ်ရေးဦးစီးချုပ်  
ဇိန်ချစ်မျိုးကြီးသန်းရွှေ မိမိပြာသည့်  
မိမိ့ နှစ်မြောက်တစ်ပတ်တော်  
"ပြည်သူ့အကွယ်တစ်ပတ်တော်"  
ပြည်သူ့အကွယ်တစ်ပတ်တော်  
တတိယနှစ် (ဆရာတော်အထူးပြု)  
တတိယနှစ် (ဆရာတော်အထူးပြု)  
"ပြည်သူ့အကွယ်တစ်ပတ်တော်"  
ပြည်သူ့အကွယ်တစ်ပတ်တော်  
တတိယနှစ် (ဆရာတော်အထူးပြု)  
တတိယနှစ် (ဆရာတော်အထူးပြု)  
(ဆရာတော်)
- 8:00 pm**
- 19. News
- 20. International news
- 21. Weather report
- 22. "နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ"  
"ဆရာတော်အထူးပြု" (ဆရာတော်-ဆရာ)
- 23. The next day's  
programme



Monday, March 22  
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/  
Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch Time Music  
-If you asle me to  
(Celine Dion)  
-Wishing and hoping  
(Ani Difranco)
- 9.00 pm** Songs of nationalities  
part I
- 9.15 pm** Article
- 9.25 pm** Women affairs
- 9.35 pm** -Spotlight on Monica  
-Betcha she don't  
love you  
-Sweet kisses
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

## Government building new airports, upgrading old ones to facilitate air transport

### Monywa Airport in Sagaing Division opened

YANGON, 21 March—In honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open Monywa Airport which had already been built in Monywa, Monywa District, Sagaing Division was held at the pandal of the airport this morning, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint,

mental officials, the chairmen of Monywa District and Township Peace and Development Councils and members, District and Township level departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, teachers and students, the Chairman of Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd and officials, local people and others.

Before the opening ceremony, Fokker F-28 aircraft of Myanmar Airways carrying

The runway was upgraded into the 8,500 feet long tarred one complete with magnificent buildings and it was thus opened today in honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The government has been building new airports and upgrading the old ones to facilitate the air transport not only in international route but also in domestic route. In the process, a new airfield was constructed in Homalin while Kalay airport was upgraded. At the same time, extension

railroad has facilitated better transport in the region. With the emergence of Shwebo-Myitkyina motorway, Sagaing Division and Kachin State can be accessible both by train and car.

The emergence of transport facilities contribute to regional development and improvement of the living standard of local people as well as development of economic, education, health and social sectors of the region. Thus, the government has been building roads and



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses inauguration ceremony of Monywa Airport in Monywa.— MNA



Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, members of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council, Sagaing Division level depart-

passengers touched down at Monywa Airport at 7.50 am.

Next, the ceremony to open Monywa Airport followed at 8 am.

In his address, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Monywa Airport was 5,000 feet long and 100 feet wide and it was of earthen type mixed with gravel in the past, adding that it was upgraded into 6,000 feet long and 100 feet wide facility with tarred runway by Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co as the first phase and it was opened on 16 November 2003. Since then, it is being used by passenger planes including Fokker F-28.

of runway of Hkhamti airport is under way.

In addition, motorways, railroads and bridges were built to form a network of transport in Sagaing Division while building new airports and upgrading the old ones.

Better transport was brought about in Sagaing Division with the emergence of Kalay-Gangaw-Pakokku-ChaungU railroad and Chindwin river crossing Sinbyushin Bridge. Likewise, with the emergence of Chindwin river crossing Monywa Bridge and Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa motorway, the division can easily be accessible from Chin State and the regions on western bank of Chindwin river.

Similarly, the emergence of Mu river crossing bridge and Budalin-YeU-KhinU

bridges across the nation to enable the national races to keep in touch with one another. Now, one can travel from easternmost to

westernmost or from northernmost to southernmost part of the Union.

There were over 13,600 miles of motorway in 1988

and there are now 18,100 miles of motorway while there were 16 bridges with a length of over 180 feet in (See page 10)

## Commander inspects development tasks of townships in Yangon South District

YANGON, 21 March—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by divisional departmental officials, this afternoon, inspected regional development tasks and agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in Dalla, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships.

First, the commander and party arrived at Yakhaingchaung Bridge on Dalla-Lekkhokkon Road in

Twantay Township. Superintending Engineer U Nyunt Maung San reported on arrangements for upgrading of the bridge into the 250 feet long and 24 feet wide reinforced concrete one, repair of bridges on the road and maintenance of the road.

The commander and party went to Lekkhokkon Village in Kungyangon Township. At Lekkhokkon Beach Hotel, the commander met with departmental officials and local people and heard reports on salient points of the town-

ship. Similarly, national entrepreneurs also reported on carrying out the livestock breeding tasks and requirements.

Afterwards, the commander saw over preparations of prawn ponds at Taw Myint Aye prawn breeding farm in Wetkaik Village, Kungyangon Township. On arrival at Top Win sea prawn breeding farm, they inspected breeding of sea prawn at the ponds. The commander gave instructions on extension of livestock breeding tasks for economic development of the region.

At Lekkhokkon Station Hospital, the commander looked into the patient ward, the operation theatre and the medical store. Head of the Township Health Department Dr Tin Tun reported on health care service being provided in the township. Next, the commander presented K 100,000 donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council to Station Hospital Surgeon Dr Daw Mya Mya Hlaing.

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Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects breeding of sea prawn at ponds near Wetkaik Village, Kungyangon Township.— YANGON COMMAND