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Laying groundwork for emergence of developed and peaceful democratic State

Measures are being taken for increase in per capita income and development of national economy, for national solidarity to be strong and politics to be stable, for elimination of internal insurgency so that the rule of law and tranquillity prevail, and for developing highly qualified human resources in our country as preparatory groundwork for the emergence of a developed and peaceful democratic State.

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

(From address delivered at the parade of the 56th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of State Council of PRC.—MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt meets Chinese Vice Premier

YANGON, 24 March— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt met with Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Madam Wu Yi and party who arrived here to pay a goodwill visit, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 10 am today. Also present at the call were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for National Planning

and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General U Soe Tint of Government Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department.

The guests were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun.— MNA

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Chinese State Council Vice Premier hold discussions

YANGON, 24 March— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Madam Wu Yi held a discussion at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 10.30 am today.

Also present at the discussion were Secretary-1 of

the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Foreign

Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for

(See page 11)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt holds discussion with Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of State Council of PRC.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 25 March, 2004

Let's strive for perpetuation of the Union

Peace and stability, economic growth and human resource development are the most fundamental requirements for the development of a nation or a region. But, for a nation like the Union of Myanmar where more than 100 national races live, national unity and Union Spirit are also necessary in addition to these requirements.

In his meeting with members of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council, District and Township Peace and Development Councils and social organizations, departmental personnel, national race leaders, entrepreneurs and townsmen at the city hall in Lashio on 20 March, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that spiritual development should be cultivated as it strengthens the nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.

After regaining independence, due to the deterioration of national unity and the lack of regional stability, the Union of Myanmar lagged behind in development. The Tatmadaw Government, immediately after its assumption of State responsibilities, realized that national economy would be strong and, national development and perpetuation of the Union possible only with regional peace and strong national unity. Accordingly, it made constant efforts towards this end and achieved considerable success.

Now, in the regions where peace and stability prevails, national people and their leaders are working in concert with the government for regional development by successfully implementing such enormous plans as border area development plan.

As a result, border areas are developing at the same rate as other regions and the socio-economic life of the people living in the border areas has improved. Moreover, they are essaying to wipe out the cultivation of poppy and production of narcotic drugs once and for all from the soil of Myanmar by implementing the 15-year plan for elimination of narcotic drugs with added momentum.

Due to the cooperation between national race leaders, regional authorities and local people, this plan is meeting with considerable success.

We would like to call upon the entire national people to strive for the perpetuation of the Union by maintaining regional peace and stability, national unity and success already achieved in all national endeavours.

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)



“အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦး ဖြစ်ရန်၊ ဝန်ထမ်းအဖြစ်၊ ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်”

Myanmar Federation of Women's Affairs

Plenary Meeting of State/Division
Organization for Women's Affairs

Yangon

28-29 March 2004

59th Anniversary

Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 25 March — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Daniel Mulhall, at present the Ambassador of Ireland to Malaysia, as the non-resident Ambassador of Ireland to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Daniel Mulhall was born in 1955. He obtained Master of Arts from the National University of Ireland. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland in 1978 and served in various capacities at the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland and at the diplomatic missions in New Delhi, Vienna, Brussels and Edinburgh. Since October 2001, he has been serving as the Ambassador of Ireland to Malaysia. He will concurrently serve as the Ambassador of Ireland to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Kuala Lumpur. He is married with two children. — MNA

Quiz on general knowledge

YANGON, 24 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition will be held at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here from 26 March to 4 April. At the 'nation-building endeavours' booth, a quiz on general knowledge will be organized.

Any visitors to the exhibition can take part in the quiz which will start at 12 noon. Prize winners will be announced and awarded handsomely at 2 pm.

MNA

Tiger-Myanmar Amateur Open



YANGON, 24 March — Tiger Myanmar

Amateur Open-2004 organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation continued this morning at Yangon Golf Club, Danyingon, here.

After the second round, Myo Min Aung fired 143 strokes including 71 strokes on the second

round, followed by Zaw Zin Win with 147 and Bo Bo and Thein Zaw Myint with 150 each. Han Event Management organized the championship together with co-sponsors Canon, Ping Golf Equipment, Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel, Air Mandalay, Wilson and Imperial Jade Drinking Water. The championship will continue tomorrow. — MNA



Myo Min Aung takes part in the tourney.

MGF



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



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets with local people at Hnawkuto village in Salingyi Township. — MNA

Information Minister tours Monywa District

YANGON, 24 March — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan visited the Shwezigon Pagoda in Monywa and donated K

10,000 to the pagoda on 21 March morning.

The minister discussed matters on cleanliness of the pagoda with members of the pagoda board of trustees on the pagoda platform.

The minister held a meeting with local people in Ton Village, Salingyi Township. The minister fulfilled the requirements and presented publications to the village library.

Later in the morning, the minister also met with local people and members of social organizations at Hnawkuto village in Salingyi Township and discussed assistance to be rendered for rural development. The minister presented a TV set to the village, school textbooks to the village basic education primary school and publications to the village library through officials. Monywa District Information and Public Relations Department and District USDA publications to the village library.

Next, the minister went to Thanlyetkaing village and inspected the ruined primary school and attended to the needs.

In the afternoon, the minister met with local people at Hsakra village in the township and presented K 50,000 for renovation of the post-primary school, K 50,000 for renovation of Thanlyetkaing village primary school, books to the village library and school textbooks and exercise books to the schools. Monywa District IPRD also donated publications to the village library.

Afterwards, the minister held a meeting with township level departmental officials at Salingyi Township PDC office.

On the occasion, the minister discussed matters related to renovation of schools, upgrading of rural roads and implementation of rural development tasks.

At the meeting with the village folks at Kyadet village, the minister discussed cultivation of crops with water from artesian wells.

On 22 March morning, the minister addressed the opening of self-reliant library donated by Pakokku U Ohn Pe at Shadaw village.

In his address, the minister said that in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on opening of more libraries across the nation for development of human resources the Ministry of Information has been opening libraries throughout the country. The minister urged the villagers to maintain the library for its durability.

He thanked the donor and presented publications to the library through Pakokku U Ohn Pe. Wellwishers also donated K 650,000 to the library built at a cost of K 4 million. The minister formally unveiled the signboard of the library.

In the afternoon, the minister inspected the wall magazine to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day at NyaungU District IPRD and left necessary instructions.

MNA

582 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 March—As of Tuesday, 23 March, 582 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq a year ago, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 394 died as a result of hostile action and 188 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

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, 444 US soldiers have died — 279 as a result of hostile action and 165 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,920 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 434.

The latest death reported by US Central Command:

— A 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division soldier died

Monday from a non-hostile shooting in Mosul, Iraq.

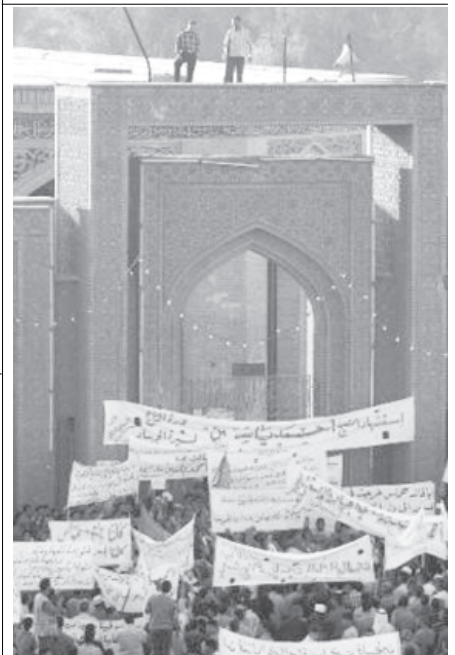
The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defence:

—Marine Lance Cpl Andrew S Dang, 20, Foster City, Calif., killed Monday by hostile fire near Ar Ramady, Iraq; assigned to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force; Camp Pendleton, Calif.

—Army Pfc Christopher E Hudson, 21, Carmel, Ind.; killed Sunday by an explosive in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 12th Armoured Cavalry Regiment; Fort Hood, Texas.

Internet

ထုတ်တုန့်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း



Iraqi demonstrators protest against the assassination of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Baghdad's Azamiya neighbourhood, Iraq, on 23, March 2004.

INTERNET

Subway trains in Singapore to have marshals soon

SINGAPORE, 24 March — Singapore will soon deploy marshals on subway stations and trains as part of its efforts to fight terrorist activities.

Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence Tony Tan made the announcement on Sunday.

Tan stressed the need for the country's subway stations and trains to be safeguarded as many Singaporeans use the facilities daily.

He noted that the recent bomb attacks on the railway stations in the Spanish capital of Madrid highlighted the urgency to adopt a multi-faceted approach to counter-terrorism.

Currently, Singapore has already provided air marshals for some of its international passenger flights.

MNA/Xinhua

Rocket hits Baghdad's Sheraton Hotel

BAGHDAD, 24 March—A suspected guerilla rocket struck a central Baghdad hotel used by foreign contractors and journalists early Wednesday, but caused limited damage and no injuries.

"There's evidence of some sort of rocket hitting the hotel at about the sixth floor," said one guest at the Ishtar Sheraton hotel.

The powerful blast, about a third of the way up the hotel, shattered some windows and smashed concrete.

The blast shook people from their beds inside the hotel and in nearby neigh-

bourhoods. Iraqi police and the US military set up a cordon outside the building.

The Sheraton and the adjacent Palestine hotel, both situated in a well-defended complex used by foreigners in the heart of the city, have been attacked several times in the past.

US-led occupying forces blame Saddam Hussein sup-

porters and foreign Islamic militants for guerilla attacks in the country since the former Iraqi president was toppled last April.

Tuesday, guerillas shot dead 11 Iraqi police and police trainees in two separate daylight attacks, the latest deadly strikes against Iraqis working with the US-led occupation.—Internet

China to raise ideological, moral standards of young people

BEIJING, 24 March— China says it faces serious challenges in raising the ideological and moral standards of its 367 million people under 18 years old, such as the negative effects of dishonesty, cheating, superstition, evil cults, pornography, drug addiction, money worship and corruption in the world of some grown-ups.

The Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and the State Council issued a package of proposals Monday on improving the ideological and moral standards of young people, saying that great changes at home and abroad have broadened the all-round development of young people, and new thoughts and ideas in line with social

progress are enriching the minds of the young people. Yet those negative influences arising from the changes should not be ignored, according to the lengthy document.

The fast expansion of the Internet and other new media created new channels for young people in learning and entertainment, while harmful information is also

spreading fast and corrupting the souls of some young people, it says. Under the influences of various negative factors, a small number of young people had empty minds and their behaviours were out of tune, and some even committed crimes.

The document says that the ideology and morality of the young people in China has direct bearing on the quality of the Chinese nation as a whole and the prospects of the country and the destiny of the Chinese nation.

The majority of the young people in contemporary China love the motherland, strive for progress, treasure unity and friendship, civilized behaviour and politeness, it says.

The document acknowledges that there is room for improvement in the work of both governments and the society.

Some leading officials in some regions and departments have insufficient understanding of the work of raising ideological and moral standards of young people, according to the document.

MNA/Xinhua

IFATCA seeks to provide more sophisticated service

HONG KONG, 24 March — More than 800 air traffic controllers and aviation experts from almost 80 countries worldwide were gathering here on Monday to discuss ways for providing more sophisticated, efficient and well-coordinated air traffic control (ATC) services.

Hong Kong Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Stephen Ip said at the opening of the annual conference of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) Monday that "looking ahead, as more airports open in different parts of the world, and with airlines flying to more destinations to meet the increasing demands of the travelling public, I envisage air traffic worldwide will grow in leaps and bounds."

He said as air travel continues to grow, airspace and airport congestion problems are becoming more acute. All these call for worldwide efforts.

He added that answers to these challenges lie in enhancing the reliability of ATC hardware and software, harmonizing ATC rules and protocols, maintaining a vigilant oversight of ATC standards, and in-

vesting in human resources to ensure that ATC professionals are well-trained to meet the highest standards.

MNA/Xinhua

Hamas spiritual leader Yassin killed in Israeli attacks

GAZA, 23 March — Palestinian Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was killed early Monday in Israeli missile attacks, Hamas officials confirmed.

Witnesses said Israeli Apache helicopters fired three missiles at Yassin and his two bodyguards as they left a mosque and killed them instantly.

Four people were killed and 17 wounded in the attack, witnesses said.

Ambulances and fire trucks raced to the scene.

MNA/Xinhua



A Salvadoran soldier patrols the Najaf Power Plant on Tuesday, 23 March, 2004 in Najaf, Iraq.—INTERNET

နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းဖြင့်

စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

Nine police recruits killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 March—Gunmen opened fire on a van filled with police recruits south of Baghdad, killing nine, and assailants shot and killed two policemen — twin brothers — north of the capital. Early Wednesday, attackers fired a rocket that struck the Sheraton Hotel, where foreign contractors and journalists stay. Security guards said there were no reports of casualties.

The slayings were the latest to target police and other Iraqis who work with the US-led occupation.

The rocket hit a sixth-floor ledge and the explosion left the lobby strewn with glass, said security guard Rabah Nasser.

US soldiers protect the Sheraton, which is ringed by a concrete blast wall to ward off bombing attempts. A US military spokesman said he had no information on the blast.

Tuesday's roadside attack in the south took place between Musayeb and Hillah

when a car pulled in front of the minibus and assailants sprayed it with small arms fire, police in Hillah said.

A US military official confirmed that nine people died and said two were wounded. Iraqi police said one wounded trainee survived.

In the northern city of Kirkuk, gunmen in a car killed two policemen and wounded two others, police Capt Abdul-Salam Zangana said. He identified the slain victims as twin brothers Ahmed and Mohammed Kadhim, killed as they were

parking their car in a main square and as worshippers left a nearby mosque.

Iraqi police fired in the air after protesters burned two police cars and two hand grenades were thrown at the governor's office, witnesses said. Television footage showed US soldiers remaining behind at the building, protected by concrete blast barriers, as police with assault rifles moved down the street to disperse the crowd. At least two police and three protesters were wounded.

Internet

China, Cambodia sign package of cooperation agreements

PHNOM PENH, 24 March—China and Cambodia on Tuesday signed a package of agreements aiming to further strengthen economic cooperation and trade between the two countries.

At a ceremony attended by visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, the two sides signed nine cooperation documents, including five exchanges of notes, three memorandums of understanding and an agreement.

Under the agreement, the two countries decided to strengthen their economic and technical cooperation.

Under the exchanges of notes, the Chinese side will provide a grant of two million yuan (241,800 US dollars) for goods for King Norodom Sihanouk, and 400 sets of police motorcycles for the Cambodian Government.

It will also conduct preliminary technical study of the missing link section of the trans-Asia railway network in Cambodia, launch human resources training programmes in the country, and make a study of the rehabilitation of the office buildings and library of Cambodia's Senate.

The Chinese Government also agreed to have a feasibility study of Kirirom III hydropower project and to cooperate on Sihanoukville Textile Industrial Park project.

"For the last five years, Chinese investment has been increasing," said Jimmy Gao, president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia.

Trade between China and Cambodia yielded a total of more than 320 million US dollars in 2003, up 16.1 per cent compared to 2002. China has become one of Cambodia's major foreign investment countries.

Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi arrived in Cambodia on Friday, starting her five-day official visit to the nation at the invitation of Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng.

She leaves here Tuesday afternoon for Myanmar to continue her 4-nation Asian tour. Cambodia is her second leg of the tour following a visit to Laos. — MNA/Xinhua



Surgeons battle to save the life of a man with gunshot wounds in Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital on 15 March, 2004. —INTERNET

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Three northern California servicemen killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 March—Three Northern California men are among the latest US soldiers to die from injuries suffered in Iraq.

Marine Lance Corporal Andrew Dang of Foster City was killed Monday about 60 miles west of Baghdad. The Defence Department said the 20-year-old was hit by hostile fire.

Army First Lieutenant Michael Vega, 41, died Saturday at a hospital in

Washington, DC, nine days after a vehicle accident in Iraq. Vega was raised in Vallejo, and most recently lived in San Joaquin County.

Army Major Mark Taylor of Stockton, 41, also died Saturday during a rocket attack in Fallujah. Taylor was a

surgeon, just about four days from completing his second deployment in Iraq.

"People have forgotten there's a war going on over there," said Roberta Taylor, Mark Taylor's mother. "The flags are all tattered. The yellow ribbons are tattered." —Internet



Street vendors hurriedly remove items as a fire burns at a nearby gas station in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 23 March, 2004. Three people were injured in the blaze, but the cause of the fire was not known. —INTERNET

Iraqi security guard shot dead in northern Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 24 March—An Iraqi security guard was shot dead and three others were wounded in the northern city of Mosul on Monday when assailants opened fire on them as they were walking to work, Iraqi security officials said.

The men worked for the Facility Protection Service, an organization set up by the US Administration in Iraq to guard embassies, ministries and other administrative offices and buildings.

"One FPS individual was killed and three were injured by small-arms fire this morning," Lieutenant Colonel Hilal Othman, the assistant director of the FPS in Mosul, told Reuters.

"One civilian was also injured in the incident."

Security guards, police and other Iraqis working for organizations established by US authorities in Iraq have increasingly been targeted by insurgents.

MNA/Reuters

Delhi University, University of West Indies sign MoU

PORT-OF-SPAIN, 24 March—Delhi University of India and the Institute of Business, University of West Indies (UWI) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote bilateral links between the two institutions in the field of education.

The MoU will provide for student and faculty exchanges, promotion of joint research and summer projects for post graduate and doctoral students between the two institutions.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by the India's High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago Virendra Gupta and Dr Rolph Balgobin, Executive Director of the Institute of Business, UWI for the respective institutions.

"India attached great importance to its continuing cooperation with fellow developing countries in the area of human resource development and building institutions of higher learning," Gupta said at the signing ceremony.

"It is crucial for both countries to develop their respective knowledge bases thereby enabling them to formulate directions for future growth," he said. — MNA/PTI

Calligraphy, painting auction to be held in Beijing

BEIJING, 24 March — A three-day auction dedicated to Chinese calligraphy and paintings will start in Beijing on Friday.

A total of 1,703 calligraphy items and paintings spanning from ancient times to the modern era, including original works of famous Chinese painters Qi Baishi, Wu Zuoren and Zhang Daqian, will be put up for sale at the auction, which will be hosted by

Sungari International Auction Co Ltd.

It will be the largest of its kind and the artistic works will be arranged into seven specialized groups, according to Zhao Yu, art adviser of Sungari International.

MNA/Xinhua

Jimmy Carter criticizes Bush, Blair for waging war on Iraq

LONDON, 24 March—Former US president Jimmy Carter has strongly criticized US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair for waging an unnecessary war to oust former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein based on “lies or misinterpretations”, the British *Independent* newspaper reported Monday.

In an interview with the paper on the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq led by US and Britain, Carter, who was US president from 1977 to 1981, said the two leaders probably knew that many of the claims being made about Saddam’s weapons of mass destruction were based on imperfect intelligence.

“There was no reason for

us to become involved in Iraq recently. That was a war based on lies and misinterpretations from London and from Washington, claiming falsely that Saddam was responsible for the September 11 attacks, claiming falsely that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction,” Carter told the paper.

“And I think that Presi-

dent Bush and Prime Minister Blair probably knew that many of the allegations were based on uncertain intelligence... a decision was made to go to war (then people said) ‘let’s find a reason to do so’,” he added.

Carter, who before the Iraq war made clear his opposition to a unilateral attack and said the United

States did not have the authority to create a “Pax Americana”, also told the paper that Blair had allowed his better judgement to be swayed by Bush’s desire to finish a war that his father had started.

“I think the basic reason was made not in London but in Washington. I think that Bush Jr was inclined to finish a war that his father had precipitated against Iraq. I think it was that commitment of Bush that prevailed over, I think, the better judgement of Tony Blair and Tony Blair became an enthusiastic supporter of the Bush policy,” Carter argued.

According to the paper, it was extremely rare for a former US president to criticize an incumbent, or a British prime minister.

Carter’s comments would add to the mounting pressure on Bush and Blair, who launched war against Iraq in last March on the grounds that Iraq’s alleged banned weapons had posed threat to the international community, the paper said.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers search a house in Baghdad’s al-Jihad quarter, on 23 March, 2004.

INTERNET

US wrongly kept auto safety data secret

WASHINGTON, 24 March—A national consumer group asserted on Monday the Bush Administration has wrongly blocked public access to important auto safety data, including information about warranty claims and consumer complaints.

In a lawsuit filed in federal court, Public Citizen challenged a 2003 Transportation Department regulation that restricts Freedom of Information Act requests for some auto industry documents held by the government.

As part of landmark auto safety legislation prompted by the Firestone tyre debacle, Congress ordered the industry in 2000 to regularly turn over safety data to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Lawmakers did not require the information be kept confidential.

The Firestone saga involved deadly blowouts and rollovers of mainly Ford Explorer sport utility vehicles. Firestone, a unit of Japan’s Bridgestone Corp., eventually recalled millions of tyres.

The disclosure order is designed to give regulators, who did not pick up on the Firestone tyre and rollover problems until they became the subject of lawsuits and media reports, a much better chance of identifying defect trends early.

NHTSA, in fact, credited the early warning data with helping it to flag a potential defect that led to another large recall of a different Firestone tyre model last month.

The Transportation Department approved a rule last July permitting it to withhold data on warranty claims, child restraint systems, some consumer complaints, tyres and auto dealer reports. The agency said confidentiality was necessary to prevent “substantial competitive harm” to manufacturers.

But Public Citizen said the government did not prove that releasing the data would hurt the industry. “Similar information gathered by the DOT in defect investigations has

been routinely disclosed in the past,” the group said.

A NHTSA spokesman declined to comment on the suit, but noted the confidential data represents a small part of the information that auto makers, equipment manufacturers and other companies must submit. Consumers have access through the NHTSA website to details on crashes, injuries, deaths, and foreign recalls. But Public Citizen Attorney Amanda Frost said the Administration had pushed through a significant exemption to the Freedom of Information Act on critical data. “The agency has failed to show how disclosure would harm manufacturers, but this exemption would surely harm consumers,” Frost said.—MNA/Reuters

Canada welcomes WTO ruling

OTTAWA, 24 March—The US Government has no legal grounds for the heavy duties it imposed on Canadian softwood, Canada’s Trade Minister said Monday in reaction to a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling.

“This is a major victory for Canada. The WTO panel’s message is clear: the countervailing and anti-dumping duties imposed by the United States on Canadian softwood lumber exports are baseless,” International Trade Minister Jim Peterson said in a statement.

The US International Trade Commission (ITC) was wrong to conclude that imports of Canadian softwood were likely to increase, a finding it used to justify slapping heavy duties on the lumber, the WTO said in a ruling released Monday.—MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed by friendly fire in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 March—A US soldier was killed by friendly fire before he was about to start off on a patrol in northern Iraq, the US military said in a statement on Monday.

His unit made a test fire ahead of the patrol near Samarra, 110 kilometres north of Baghdad, on Sunday, killing the soldier, said the statement.

The accident is under investigation, it added.

After the latest incidents, 397 US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire since the US-led war broke out a year ago while 186 other soldiers died in non-combat accidents during the period.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill five Iraqi police trainees

MUSSAYAB (Iraq), 24 March—Gunmen shot and killed at least five Iraqi police trainees on Tuesday as they headed to work in the town of Hilla, south of Baghdad, witnesses and hospital officials said.

Reuters Television footage showed a yellow minibus riddled with bullet holes, the seats splattered with blood.

Some sources said as many as nine men were killed, all of them training to join the new Iraqi police force. A Reuters cameraman saw five of the victims.

Local officials said the minibus came under fire from another car shortly after leaving the nearby town of Mussayab on its way to Hilla. Staff at Mussayab General Hospital said three other trainees were still in hospital.

There have been several drive-by shootings in the Hilla area in recent weeks, and drive-by attacks have been on the increase throughout the country.

MNA/Reuters

Mexico to host World Water Forum in 2006

MEXICO CITY, 24 March—Mexican President Vicente Fox announced Monday that his country will host the 4th World Water Forum in March 2006, the first time the week-long triennial meeting on water scarcity was held in a American state.

“There isn’t a simple formula to solve the recent global water crisis,” Fox told a ceremony Monday at Los Pinos Presidential House marking the World Water Day, noting that water was a “strategic and national security matter.”

MNA/Xinhua

French President to visit Russia

PARIS, 24 March—French President Jacques Chirac will pay a working visit to Russia on April 1-2, Chirac’s office confirmed on Monday.

Chirac is expected to arrive in Moscow on April 1 for talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, said Chirac’s office. His visit to Russia was first announced earlier by Moscow.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder is also expected to visit Russia at the beginning of April, probably on April 2, although the journey has yet to be officially announced.

Chirac and Schroeder telephoned Putin two days after Putin’s March 14 re-election to ensure him of their desire to reinforce ties between the European Union (EU) and Russia. Chirac’s last visit to Russia last May when he participated in the ceremonies at the 300th anniversary of Russia’s second largest city of St. Petersburg before flying for the G-8 summit in the French town of Evian on 1 June.—MNA/Xinhua



Demonstrators release balloons and carry a banner in support of French TV cameraman Fred Nerac who has been missing in Iraq since March, outside Le Louvre museum in Paris, on Monday, 22 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

US and allies deaths in Iraq

Since the start of the US invasion of Iraq on 20 March 2003, a total of 684 Americans and allies died in hostile and non-hostile action in Iraq. Iraqi guerillas have resisted the intruders and as a result Americans and allies have suffered a high toll of casualty.



US soldiers check a burned out vehicle that was riddled with bullets that was aimed at US soldiers who patrolled downtown Baghdad on 19 February.



A truck seen damaged by a roadside bomb, apparently intended for US military convoys, in Baghdad, Iraq, on 9 March, 2004.

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



A car bomb destroyed Polish base in Hilah, Iraq, on 19 February, 2004.



A huge car bomb destroyed a five-storey hotel in central Baghdad, on 17 March, 2004, killing at least 10 people.

US and allies casualty in Iraq
(Up to 23 March 2004)

	Hostile	Non-hostile	Total
US	394	188	582
UK	48	12	60
Others	37	5	42
Total	479	205	684

A US soldier sits in a crater caused by the car bomb that exploded in Baghdad on 12 Feb, 2004.



Debris seen inside a clothing store at Baghdad's Karada commercial district on 13 March, 2004 in Iraq after a bomb exploded in the store.



Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Joint endeavours made by the Tatmadaw and the people in carrying out nation-building tasks



Railroads being built by Myanmar Railways and the Tatmadaw in Namhsan, Shan State (South)

Sr.	Railroad	Length
1.	Namhsan-Ponchaung	55 miles
2.	Hsaikkhaung-Ponchaung	48 miles
	Total	103 miles

Tatmadaw members from No 55 LID lay sleepers at the Hsaikkhaung-Ponchaung railroad section.

Tatmadaw members from No 55 LID carry out land preparations for construction of Namhsan-Ponchaung railroad section.



Tatmadaw members from No 55 LID carrying out earth work at Hsaikkhaung-Ponchaung railroad section site.



**Tatmadaw,
an efficient
force**



Tatmadaw members from No 55 Light Infantry Division in action at the Hsaikkhaung-Ponchaung railroad section site.

Railroads constructed by Myanmar Railways and the Tatmadaw in Namhsan

Sr.	Work progress	Length
1.	Completion of embankment	70.13 miles
2.	Laying rock	56.52 miles
3.	Laying sleeper	50.12 miles
4.	Laying railway line	47.47 miles
5.	Monghseik-Kaunghsai railroad section	10.23 miles
6.	Pyinthaya-Htiri railroad section	4.30 miles

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



To present the significant and noble attributes of Myanma Tatmadaw that are beyond compare with other nations of the world, Myanma Tatmadaw is one that has emerged as an answer to the call of the historical needs of Myanmar.

the fascists, the Tatmadaw improved itself to be the National Tatmadaw capable of representing the State and the entire mass of the national people. Being one with the people and winning full public support, Myanma Tatma- daw became the

which makes heroic sacrifices, the Tatmadaw which does not seek personal gain, the Tatmadaw of noble spirit and high morale, the Tatmadaw which possesses true quality of overcoming obstacles, the Tatmadaw which can endure hardship,

The Tatmadaw always upholds the Four Oaths, never breaches the promise it has sworn on the country and the people. It mirrors that the Tatmadaw not by any means would betray the national cause. The members of the Tatmadaw are those

border areas although there sparked unrest because of the instigation of the colonialists.

In the address delivered at the 55th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade on 27 March 2000, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe provided guidance with respect to the Union Spirit. In his speech, Senior General Than Shwe said Tatmadawmen from different national races had worked together for long years with a sense of esprit de corps among them, sacrificing one's life for another; that loving kindness and loyalty they showed each other were none but firm Union Spirit in the Tatmadaw; and that efforts therefore should be made to keep Union Spirit alive and dynamic all over the country. The Tatmadaw is not a mercenary one. Being the patriotic Tatmadaw

eignty, which is Our Three Main National Causes. Unity among national brethren is needed for the Union not to disintegrate.

Perpetual sovereignty depends on the causes that can hold the Union together. What is most important is national solidarity.

Being a country made up of a diversity of national races, the Union of Myanmar is liable to lose her independence and sovereignty resulting in the collapse of national solidarity, if she lacks Union Spirit.

What's more, impossible will be the drive to establish a prosperous nation. It is therefore not possible to guess how high the value of Union Spirit is.

Union Spirit is the spirit that binds together the entire national races regardless of their different regions as well as the spirit taking roots on the

Myanma Tatmadaw endowed with twelve fine traditions

Myanma Tatmadaw played a crucial role in the national independence struggle while engaging in the anti-colonialist struggle and the anti-fascist resistance. Myanma Tatmadaw is to be considered as an organization that has suited the historical needs. It is not for nothing that Myanma Tatmadaw came into existence. This is what made Myanma Tatmadaw unusual.

People's Tatmadaw. On 27 March 1945, the Tatmadaw with strong belief and determination, declared war on the fascists. The anti-fascist movement day on which the Tatmadaw earned the attributes to become National Tatmadaw was designated as the Armed Forces Day. In the address given at the Golden Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade on 27 March 1995, Com-

the tenacious and persevering Tatmadaw and the Tatmadaw which always upholds Our Three Main National Causes.

It is patriotic spirit that gave birth to the Tatmadaw, its members risk their lives to protect the country without considering any privileges like salary and food ration. The patriotic Tatmadaw is the Tatmadaw that wards off any kind of dangers to the extinc-

who have pledged to risk their lives for their country, their people and their Tatmadaw. Apart from winning back the independence hand in hand with the public, the Tatmadaw launched military operations to defeat the

keeping always in the fore the interest of the country and the people, the members of the Tatmadaw on their part should harden their belief and strengthen their resolve.

The belief and resolve of

nationalistic spirit that cherishes the single motherland.

The Tatmadaw has to shoulder immense national defence duties: to protect the sovereignty of the country and to shield the country from the danger that can tear it apart. The abilities and efficiency needed for national defence duties should be acquired through training.

Moreover, Tatmadaw members are to be equipped with Union Spirit in discharging community welfare services where they are assigned.

(See page 9)

Tatmadawmen from different national races had worked together for long years with a sense of esprit de corps among them, sacrificing one's life for another; loving kindness and loyalty they showed each other were none but firm Union Spirit in the Tatmadaw; and efforts therefore should be made to keep Union Spirit alive and dynamic all over the country.

It was on 27 March 1945 that the Tatmadaw together with the people waged the anti-fascist resistance a milestone in the history of Myanmar. Systematically organized and well-trained from BIA, to BDA, and to PBF, the Tatmadaw reached a level at which it could fight the enemy face to face. It can also stand as an institution that can organize and represent the entire national people. From the fight against

mandar-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said the members of the Tatmadaw should be well aware of the Tatmadaw which was not the kind common to a certain country but one which possessed such 12 fine traditions — the patriotic Tatmadaw, the disciplined Tatmadaw, the loyal Tatmadaw, the united Tatmadaw, the efficient Tatmadaw, the Tatmadaw

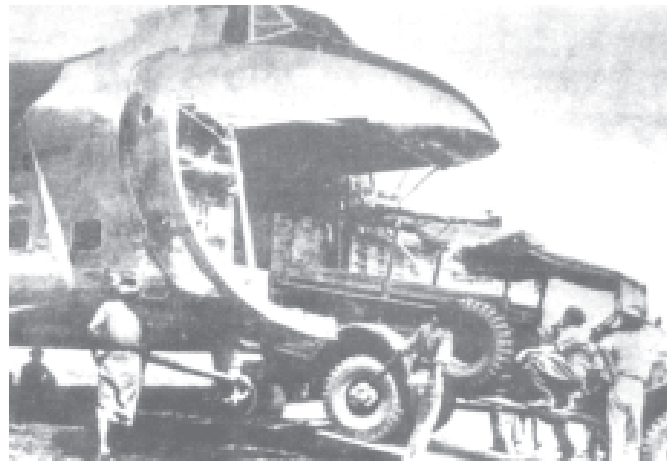
tion of the lineage, language and the Sasana without the bidding of anyone.

The Tatmadaw has a reputation for high standards of good discipline. Good discipline is the backbone of the Tatmadaw. Only when the Tatmadaw keeps good discipline will it be treated with respect by the public. The reason why the Tatmadaw stands firm up to now like this is that it has kept good discipline since founded.

Tekkatho Tin Kha

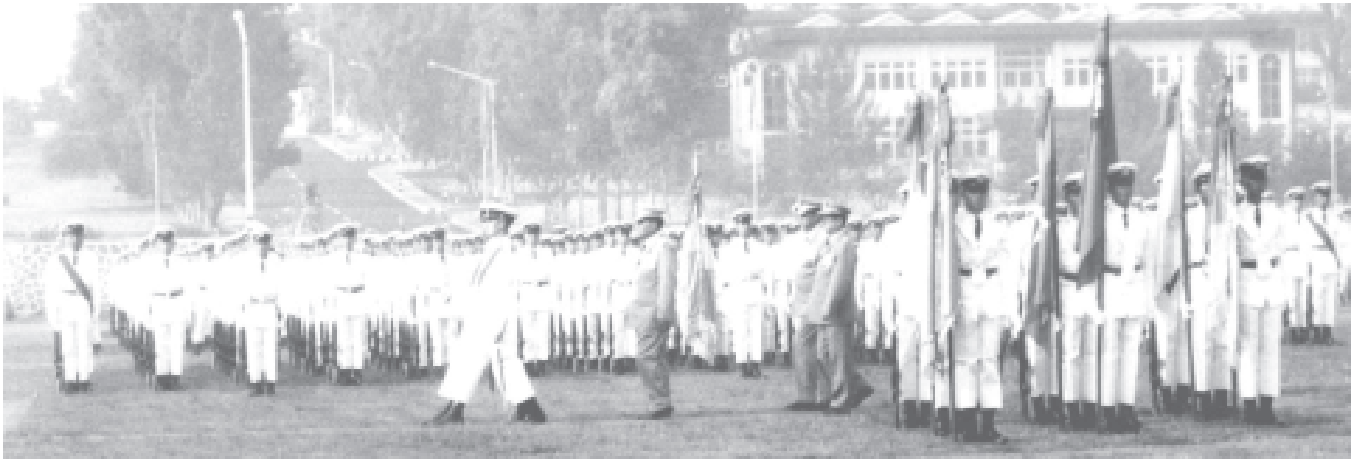
alien invasions and could drive them out of the motherland. Moreover, it took measures to restore stability and ensure the rule of law to the entire nation including

the members of the Tatmadaw are the national cause — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sover-



Apart from winning back the independence hand in hand with the public, the Tatmadaw launched military operations to defeat the alien invasions and could drive them out of the motherland.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day



The Tatmadaw acquires abilities and efficiency needed for discharge of national defence duties through training.

(from page 8)

Only then, will they win greater trust of the people, and could they well preserve one of the Tatmadaw's twelve noble tradition — a patriotic Tatmadaw.

At the graduation parade of Nos 41 and 42 intakes of the Defence Services Academy, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the Tatmadaw is of noble spirit and high morale.

Here, he added that the word "noble" means extraordinarily high morale. And the word "high morale" is not concerned with wealth, education and good lineage but with dignity based on excellent morality and purity.

Myanmar's Tatmadaw possesses a fine tradition of extraordinary capability, which other nations of the world cannot practise at all. World nations recognized that Myanmar's Tatmadaw could endure all the difficult conditions and grapple with

various kinds of hardships to help the nation regain the independence.

This tradition cannot be deliberately created. It is also an excellent attribute of Myanmar Tatmadaw, which is incomparable in the world history. In the course of Myanmar's history, the Tatmadaw has preserved its fine traditions and stood by the people.

Whenever the nation encountered threats or alien invasions, the Tatmadaw members always managed to crush all the destructive forces at risk to their lives. The Tatmadaw which came into existence together with the anti-colonial struggle, anti-fascist movement and independence struggle has never deviated from the trend of national history.

Being born of the people, while defending and safeguarding the lives and property of the people, the Tatmadaw always discharges national political responsibilities dutifully joining hands with the people.

Since the Tatmadaw's birth, some organizations and bodies have resorted to all possible means and ways to reconstitute the Tatmadaw, an already efficient and united force.

Nowadays in the world, if a country experiences an alien invasion, its armed forces will be the only one that is able to resist the alien invasion.

And which organization is capable of defending and safeguarding its motherland in such situation? There is no organization but the Tatmadaw that will crush internal and external destructive elements in cooperation with the people.

Preserving its fine traditions, the Tatmadaw has stood by the people throughout the nation's history by annihilating internal and external destructive forces. So, the people are fully convinced that the Tatmadaw will keep on firmly standing by the former in the future.

Such reserve forces as

Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Brigade have undergone military training to take part in national-defence duties and nation-building tasks.

In addition to those organizations, Myanmar war veterans with Union Spirit and vast military experience and the Union Solidarity and Development Association made up of over 20 million members are also capable of brilliantly serving the interest of the people hand in hand with the Tatmadaw.

Together with reserve forces, the Tatmadaw upholding Our Three Main National Causes has stood as the force capable of defending and safeguarding the nation and the people at risk to their lives.

With regard to national-defence and nation-building duties, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, at the 56th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, gave guidance, calling on Tatmadaw members to participate with might and main in defending the country with their lives, to uphold Our Three Main National Causes at the cost of their lives and to abide by the Twelve Traditions of the Tatmadaw with "The Brave Never Die" spirit. Tatmadaw members have made a strong resolve to continue to stand as a reliable force for the people by following the guidance.

The Tatmadaw has firmly stood by the people and defended and safeguarded the nation's independence and sovereignty in successive

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Poem

Noble companion of Tatmadaw

(Verse hailing the Tatmadaw)

With equal drops of sweat, we shall repay
We'll march together, traditionally pretty flowers
Feel tired? Even then won't rest
For those who want to part, will deal as comrades true
Till axe-handles are eliminated, we'll work hard overtime
The way we're striving, won't rest till sunset
Only when colonial troubles had ended, the hangers-on start anew
Stop awhile and scheme, will do no wrong but right
Hands held with the Tatmadaw, will not end this noble partnership
Without fail you come along, straight together
In this Union our abode, we brethren together in harmony
The people shall meet us, with sweet words
Matter of welcoming you with songs, to enjoy refuge in future without harm
Noble seven-step policy, to lead us to the winning post
To get closer to the Golden Land, ushering us with Golden Dream
In correct Myanmar policy, joyous in pursuit of same path
New era shall reflect specially, loving couples, shall also rejoice.

Tekkatho Tin Kha (Trs)



Tatmadaw members, equipped with Union Spirit, discharge community welfare services wherever they are assigned.

eras. And now, the Tatmadaw has been carrying out national-defence and nation-building tasks to the best of its ability in cooperation with the entire people.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw is worthy of highest honour as it is endowed with the twelve noble traditions.

(Translation: KTY + MS)

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends broadcasting of fertilizers in Lashio, Mongyai townships

YANGON, 24 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, attended the third scattering of fertilizers on the 150-acre Hsinshweli hybrid summer paddy plot at Nampaung village-tract, Lashio Township on 21 March morning.

An official reported on work progress. The commander gave an account of measures for ensuring local rice sufficiency. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented gifts to local farmers and delivered a speech. In his speech, he said that successful introduction of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy in the rainy season and summer will help boost production and raise per capita income and living standard of local farm-

ers. He called on departmental personnel and local people to take part in regional development project and to make efforts in building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the commander and officials also attended the broadcasting of fertilizers on the 90-acre Hsinshweli high-yield paddy plot in Mongyai Township. The commander reported on measures being taken for making greater progress in cultivating monsoon and summer paddy.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe met with officers and other ranks and their families of local regiments and units at Mongyai Station and elaborated on extended agriculture and livestock breeding and collective efforts for regional development. — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than highlights locals' participation for success of rural development plans

YANGON, 24 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence inspected a pepper plantation at Nattaungmaw in Kwechaung village-tract, Thandwe Township on 20 March.

Accompanied by Chairman of Rakthine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station, officials of State Peace and Development Council Office, local authorities and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with pepper farmers, and urged them to grow other crops including monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses and winter crops in addition to pepper.

An official of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported to him on pepper growing method and disease prevention measures and gave replies to questions raised by the farmers.

At Ywama Station Hospital in the township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected operation theatre, laboratory, medical store and wards.

At his meeting with local people at the hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the Government is implementing the five rural development tasks as the whole nation will develop only if there is progress in the rural areas as well as urban areas. His visit to Ywama Model village is for its development. The villagers are taking part in building the Taungup-Maei highway and the road linking the highway and the village. The village now has a station hospital and health care centres and a high school. A computer will be provided for the school. Efforts should be made to raise farming to develop the village. Villagers are urged to grow beans and pulses and edible crops after harvesting monsoon paddy. Local strains of chicken should be raised in addition to prawn breeding and fishing. Plans that are being laid down and implemented by the Government will achieve success only with the participation of the local people. He then presented a computer to the school.

The commander explained rural development plans,

urging locals to render cooperation.

At the high school, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with teaching staff and discussed academic matters.

Villagers have contributed cash and labour in building the six miles four furlongs long all-weather road linking the highway and the village.

In Maei, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with local people and officials. An official presented reports on the location and area of Maei, and development undertakings. The commander and Chairman of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Tint gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the Government has opened primary, middle and high schools in rural areas, and upgrading them as necessary. It is also opening more station hospitals and dispensaries and disseminating health knowledge, taking disease prevention measures and treating patients. In addition, it is also making arrangements for rural transport development and supplying potable water to villages and striving to develop the agricultural sector.

Maei will gain further progress as it lies at the junction of An-Taungup Highway and Taungup-Kyaukphyu Highway, that will be opened soon. Scientific methods should be introduced to the regional agriculture to raise per acre yields of crops. The Government can provide only ideas and draw rural development plans. But the local people themselves will have to strive for development of their own regions.

During inspection of Maei-Kyaukphyu section of Yangon-Kyaukphyu Highway Project, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report on progress in implementing the project, gravelling, bridge erection task and completion of seven over 180-foot bridges on Taungup-Maei-Kyaukphyu Highway out of a total of 14, presented by engineers.

He gave instructions on completion of road and bridge projects within the scheduled period and launching of the Taungup-Maei section and Maei-Kyaukphyu section of Yangon-Kyaukphyu Highway as targeted. — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win accepts cash and kind for Tatmadawmen

YANGON, 24 March — The third cash donation for Tatmadawmen who will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade was held at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Management Committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Armed Forces Day Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein, Reserve Parade Commander Col Nyi Tun and senior military officers, wellwishers and guests.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win accepted 2,286 bottles of army rum donated by Myanmar Economic Corporation; 3,600 viss of Hamilton's carp worth K 3,060,000 by Latkhataung Sayadaw Ashin Padumasamāṇa and Natsintaya Sayadaw Ashin Paññateja; K 500,000 by Tamoenye region cultural troupe Chairman U Yan Pe Zone (a) U Than Htay and U Myint Lwin and party; K 1 million by Tamoenye, Shaikhao and Lonhang village people; two tons of jelly fish worth K 2 million by U Aung Ko Ko (AKK Group); K 500,000 by U Myat Lwin (Myat Thabyay Computer Showroom);

one Micro Computer Electronic Time Recorder worth K 300,000 by Managing Director U Tun Tun of Luminary Co Ltd; one light box worth K 150,000 by Real Life Advertising Co; K 200,000 by Cholia Organization of Bo Sun Pek; K 360,000 by U Sai Kyaw Tun of Nanhtak Tawwin Restaurant-1 and 2; 2,880 bottles of soft drinks worth K 153,960 by MGS Co Ltd; K 100,000 by U Tin Htay-Daw Cho Cho Thwe and K 200,000 by U Khin Maung Zaw-Daw Moe Moe Aung of Hmawby.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint accepted K 100,000 donated by U Khin Maung Swe-Daw Kyi Kyi; K 100,000 by U Myint Thein; K 300,000 by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association; 100 dozens of traditional medicine packets worth K 100,000 by Ma Su Su Aye Aung; 50,000 by U Khin Aung-Daw Khin Myint Thu; K 20,000 each by U Shwe Tha; SAT Daw Hla Hla Than and U Tin Than; and Daw Khin Myaing; K 10,000 by Daw Tin Tin; K 200,000 by Myanmar Rice and Paddy Wholesalers Association; K 50,000 by Sgt Ba Myint (Retd)-Daw Ashar; K 30,000 by Haji U Min Lwin; K 20,000 by U Kyaw Tint and K 200,000 by U Tun Min.

Certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers. Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win spoke words of thanks.

Altogether 26 wellwishers presented donations worth 6,141,150 and K 3,980,000, totalling K 10,121,150.—*MNA*



USDA Secretariat member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donations. — *MNA*

USDA multiplier course opened

YANGON, 24 March — The opening ceremony of the basic organizational multiplier course No 20 for the executives of Mingala Taungnyunt Township Union Solidarity and Development Association was held in conjunction with a cash donation ceremony at the office of the association in the township this afternoon.

Member of the Secretariat of USDA (Central) and in-charge of Mingala Taungnyunt Township USDA Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the ceremony and delivered an opening address. In his speech, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan spoke of the need to open cultural and moral courses, vocational courses, computer courses, music and drawing courses and sports courses for the youths in the summer.

At the cash donation ceremony, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented K 20,000, which was accepted by the joint secretary of the township USDA. The chairman of Mingala Taungnyunt Township Peace and Development Council presented K 15,000; the administrative officer of the township development affairs department, K 10,000; the company commander of the township auxiliary fire brigade, K 20,000; Police Lt-Col Than Ngwe of the township, K 10,000; and U Maung Maung Aye and U Tin Win Aung, K 10,000. Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. Altogether 70 trainees will attend the course, which last two weeks. — *MNA*



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepts donation of books from a wellwisher. — *MNA*

Books and journals donated to IPRD

YANGON, 24 March — Wellwishers donated books to libraries of the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information at the meeting hall of the IPRD (Head Office) on Pansodan Street here this morning. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments/enterprises under the ministry and others.

U Soe Moe Than donated 375 copies of Yangon Directory and 375 copies of Mandalay Directory worth K 1,125,000 in total; Daw Swe Swe Aung and Daw Wai Wai Aung, 1,350 copies of novels worth K 461,550; Daw Tin Tin Nu and family, 955 copies of *Lonmalay* women magazine worth K 95,500; Daw Tin Ma Oo of Myohsethit book house, 360 copies of *Ne-ta-ga* novel and 360 copies of *Taik-pwe-win-a-may* novel worth K 252,000; Major Tin Win (Rtd) of Pale book house, 190 copies of books on economy worth K 190,000; U Khin Maung Win and 13 friends in Japan, 100 copies of Thu-do-hnit-kyun-daw book worth K 55,000; U Win Myint in Japan, 100 copies of books on religion worth K 40,000; U Myat Thu Win of Shweminttha Co Ltd, 200 copies of Dagon annual magazine worth K 10,000; U Myint Zaw-Daw Than Than Oo and family, 108 copies of magazines and journals worth K 7,525; U Ko Thu Rein of Shweminttha Co Ltd, 58 copies of magazines and journals worth K 4,000; and U Khin Maung Tin and family, 230 copies of books on fiction and non-fiction.

Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

After the wellwishers had explained the purpose of their donations, the deputy minister gave a word of thanks to them. Today, wellwishers donated a total of 5,892 kinds of books and journals worth K 2,242,075 in total. — *MNA*



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses coordination meeting to hold Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival.— MNA

Prime Minister attends coordination meeting for celebration of Thingyan Festival

YANGON, 24 March — A coordination meeting for celebration of Myanmar traditional cultural Thingyan festival was held at Zeya Thiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthar this evening, with an address by Prime

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, ... (from page 1)

Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.

The Vice Premier of the State Council was accompanied by delegation members and Ambassador of the Chinese Embassy Mr Li Jinjun.

The two leaders of the two States exchanged views on mutual interest of Myanmar and China. They discussed that they were satisfied with all-round development in bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and China in recent years. The development serves interest of the people from two countries. There are many opportunities for economic cooperation between Myanmar and China. In future, they will have to strengthen more and more relationship and cooperation between the two countries.— MNA

Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, chairmen of District Peace and Development Councils in Yangon Division, delegates of social organizations, chairmen of Thabin, Music and Motion Picture Asiayons and officials.

The Prime Minister delivered a speech. He said Myanmar traditional cultural Thingyan festival will be held in accord with Myanmar traditional customs. It is therefore necessary for the people to participate in the festival politely and gently, while refreshing themselves with cool water. They also need to discharge the State duties with renewed strength in the New Year and preserve and safeguard the essence of Myanmar style and culture and national character.

He said the panel of patrons, discipline committee and traditional culture preservation committee and prize distribution committees were formed for systematic holding of the festival.

He said it is the Thingyan traditional festival that Myanmar people cherish and value. The festival includes religious and cultural activities such as throwing water on each other, taking Sabbath, setting animals free, donating blood and taking caring of elderly people. It is a festival that Myanmar people preserve the traditions.

He spoke on preservation of Myanmar culture and avoiding alien culture and habits and quarrels during the festival.

He said efforts are being made with greater momentum among the youths in order to love and cherish Myanmar traditional culture and customs.

He said it is necessary for officials to take measures for control and supervision of the revellers to see that they participate in the Thingyan festival happily.

He called for preservation of Myanmar traditional customs in accord with the lofty aims of the Thingyan festival and participation in the festival happily.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on works on discipline, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin on preservation of traditional customs and prize distribution. Those present also reported on the respective works.

Next, the Prime Minister took part in the discussions.

Cash and kind donated to MMCWA

YANGON, 24 March — Wellwishers today donated cash and kind to hail the 14th Annual Conference of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. The ceremony was held at the MMCWA at the corner of Parami Road and Thanthuma Road here.

Present on the occasion were MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members and guests.

The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd presented K 2.5 million; U Aung Zaw Ye Myint, K 500,000; Mo Asiatic Co, K 300,000; Dr Thin Nwe Win of Royal Ruby Co, medicines worth K 305,000; Ma Naw of Credit Co, medicines worth K 500,000; U Mya Oo of Baby Vita Co, Baby Vita child tonics worth K 300,000; Tri Star General Trading Co, 20 units of sewing machine worth K 610,000; and Dr Tint Lwin of Pyi Phyto Tun Co, K 630,000.

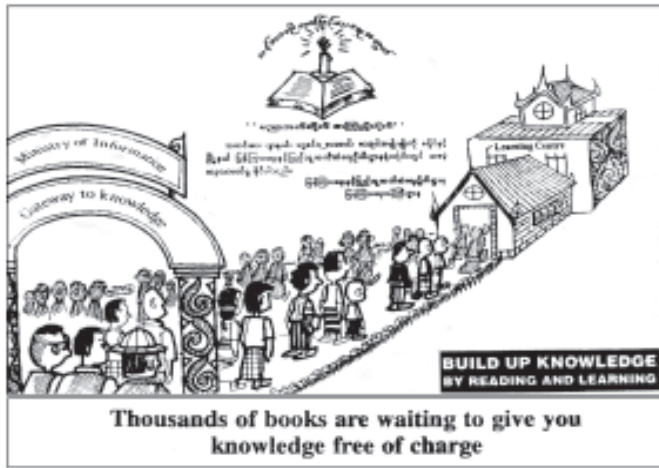
Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted the donations, presented certificates of honour to wellwishers and spoke words of thanks. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Chinese Assistant Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian sign the agreement.— MNA



Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank Managing Director U Than Yi and Chinese Export-Import Bank President Mr Yang Zilin sign the agreement.— MNA



ADVERTISEMENT

Zambia, Congo to sign accord aimed at restoring trade

LUSAKA, 24 March — Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are scheduled to sign an agreement for establishing a Joint Permanent Commission aimed at restoring trade between the two countries.

Zambian Deputy Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Geoffrey Samukonga disclosed in an interview on Monday that arrangements are being made for a trip to the DRC during which the agreement will be signed.

Samukonga said the government was very keen to restore trade that existed with

the neighbouring DRC before the civil strife broke out in that country.

The deputy minister reiterated that the DRC was an important potential and huge market for Zambia's agricultural and manufactured products. He disclosed that the Export Board of Zambia was ready to move in and see what type of products Zambia can be exporting to the neighbouring country.

Samukonga indicated that the export of maize to the DRC this year was a clear sign that the market was open for other agriculture produce.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Mu Tin,

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L., for HSBC Holdings plc.

P.O. Box 60, Yangon.

Dated: 25 March 2004

India asks SAARC countries to widen pace of eco integration

NEW DELHI, 24 March — Asking SAARC countries to deepen and widen the pace of their economic integration, India on Monday called for a multilateral tax treaty for the region and a forward-looking investment regime.

Addressing the first meeting of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) inter-governmental expert group on investment, arbitration and avoidance of double taxation here, Foreign Secretary Shashank said such a tax accord would offer greater and more comprehensive protection to investors and provide relative legal certainty as regards their tax status.

Similarly, a mechanism for settlement of investment disputes at the regional level would serve as one of the means of attracting foreign investment in the SAARC region, he said.

The experts from the SAARC countries deliberated on various issues concerning trade facilitation measures which will supplement the agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area signed during the SAARC Summit in Islamabad in January.

They discussed various

proposals intended to create conditions conducive for promoting trade and investment in the region.

Shashank said the hectic pace of globalization, the stakes involved for the region in the multilateral trade negotiations and the rush of bilateral and regional trading agreements being entered into the world over make it imperative for SAARC nations to step up the pace of their economic integration.

"We have the potential, talent and resources to make South Asia an economic powerhouse of the world. We must therefore seize the moment or else be content with being marginal players on the world stage," he said.

Emphasizing the need for deliberations on investment regime to be forward-looking, taking cognizance of recent changes, Shashank said it should be conducive to promotion of intra-SAARC private investment flows.

It should also increase the competitiveness of the SAARC region by evolving coordinated investment promotion programmes and regional approach to investments.

He noted that the success-

ful conclusion of SAFTA was a landmark achievement and sent a clear signal of the strong commitment of the member states to forging close economic ties.

At the SAARC Summit, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had contended that development of greater economic stakes in each other would naturally result in greater sensitivity to the one another's concerns and pave the way for ambitious goals like free trade area, an economic union, open borders and a common currency for the region.

"We strongly believe that if SAARC is to make a difference to the lives of the common people of our region, it is important to register early progress in the area of economic cooperation," he said.

Acknowledging that a lot of spadework would need to be done for creating an enabling economic environment for ensuring the success of economic integration, he said India would be hosting meetings of SAARC bodies on standards, quality control measurement as well as Customs cooperation in the next few months. — MNA/PTI

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India.
25 March 2004

Indian gets Arab world's highest award

DUBAI, 24 March — An Indian was among five scholars from across the world to receive the King Faisal International Award, considered as the Arab equivalent of Nobel Prize in the region.

The 750,000 Saudi riyal (7.5 million rupees) prize is awarded each year for outstanding work in the fields of science, medicine, Islamic studies, Arabic literature and service to Islam.

Indian Ali Ahmad Nadvi shared his prize for Islamic studies with Saudi Yacoub Al-Bahussain. In a book on Islamic jurisprudence in financial matters, Al-Nadvi has attempted to adapt some of the concepts of earlier Islamic scholars to modern circumstances, according to the citation.

Al-Nadvi, who is the head of Shariah advisers at Al-Rajhi Financial Company, said one of the most distinctive features of Islamic Shariah is its stress on humanism and justice.

Al-Bahussain has made original studies of the funda-

mental rules of Islamic jurisprudence.

Prince Sultan, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation, presided over the prize distribution ceremony at Al-Faisaliah Centre on Sunday.

This year's Science Prize went to Briton Semir Zeki, a professor of neurobiology at University College London, for his seminal work on the organization of the visual brain. Swiss Professor Ulrich Sigwart, a professor of cardiology and chief of the cardiology centre at Geneva University, won the prize for medicine.

The prize for Arabic language and literature went to Hussain Muhammad Nassar of Egypt, a professor of Arabic language at Cairo University.

MNA/PTI

HK's private sector job vacancies surged in December 2003

HONG KONG, 24 March — Hong Kong's private sector job vacancies surged 28.9 per cent in December 2003 over the same month in 2002, said the Census and Statistics Department on Monday.

According to the department, vacancies increased across many of the private sectors in December 2003 over the year-ago period, with the business services up the most at 86 per cent.

Significant increases in vacancies were also registered in the restaurants, the retail trade and the import and export trade.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil hosts int'l forum against racism

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 March — An international forum against racism opened in the Brazilian capital of Brasilia on Monday.

The forum, which will end on Wednesday, draws the attendance of representatives from governments and social organizations in Africa and South America.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Matilde Ribero, Brazil's special secretary-in-charge of racial equality affairs, said the forum will boost Brazil's cooperation

with other South American and African countries in the combat against racism.

Ribero said the delegates will present the forum's decisions to their respective governments. Delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, along with representatives from Angola, Mozambique, South Africa and Santo Tome and Principe, attended the forum.

MNA/Xinhua

Training programme launched for N-E China's "IT" managers

BEIJING, 24 March — China's Ministry of Information Industry (MII) and Microsoft China have jointly launched a month-long training programme for 100 IT managers from enterprises of northeastern China regions, sources said here Tuesday.

The programme, which started on Sunday and includes courses on software development, project management and quality management, aims to provide technological assistance and support for local enterprises and step up their IT application and service, said Zhang Qi, director of the MII's electronics and information administration.

Meanwhile, the MII launched the programme in a

bid to carry out the central government's strategy for rejuvenating China's traditional industrial base in these regions, according to Zhang.

"IT popularization and application can play a key role in upgrading traditional industries and improving their creativity and competitiveness," Zhang said.

Microsoft global vice-president and Greater China CEO Tim Chen also expressed his hopes to help northeastern China regions regain the vitality in industrial development through the company's IT service.

China's northeastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, known as "the industrial cradle of new China", contributed the coun-

try's first batch of steel, machine tools, locomotives and planes after the founding of new China in 1949. However, they have fallen behind in economic development in recent years, though they still have potential in these industrial sectors.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's inspection tour in northeastern China in August 2003 ignited the launch of a new round of development in these regions, whose revival has been listed by the central government as a third most important long-term strategy after the opening-up in the southeast more than two decades ago and the western development policy four years ago.

MNA/Xinhua

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Zambia seizes mill, hotels in anti-graft fight

LUSAKA, 24 March — The Zambian Government said on Monday it had seized one of the country's biggest mills and an upmarket tourist resort popular with foreign tourists in its widening anti-corruption crackdown.

President Levy Mwanawasa launched a campaign against graft in 2002 and has made it the main focus of his rule, vowing not to spare even his predecessor, Frederick Chiluba, who is out on bail after pleading not guilty to theft involving 40 million US dollars.

The seized mill, Mansa Milling, provides ground maize, the southern African nation's staple food, to most parts of northern Zambia, a senior officer in the anti-graft task force told Reuters.

It, along with other seized properties, will now be run by the state. The anti-graft task force also seized Manchichi Bay lodge, one of Zambia's

best-known tourist resorts, popular both with locals and foreign tourists. It is built on the fringes of Lake Kariba, southern Africa's biggest man-made lake.

"The task force on corruption has seized Manchichi Bay lodge in Siavonga and Mansa Hotel...in its continued investigations into the plunder of national resources," Mwanawasa's aide for Press and public relations, Jack Kalala, said in a statement.

Kalala did not give the size or the value of the seized companies, which also included a courier firm and a fishery. The government said in December that

money misappropriated from the Treasury had been used to buy the properties.

Kalala said Mwanawasa had directed the ministers of finance, tourism and trade and commerce to appoint interim management teams for all the seized hotels and firms.

The government said last week it would widen its anti-corruption fight to Europe, where buildings bought using public funds had been identified.

The anti-corruption task force has already seized farms and irrigation equipment, houses, limousines and cash since 2002.

MNA/Reuters

Abdullah takes oath of office as Malaysian PM

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 March — President of the National Front, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday afternoon took oath of office as Prime Minister a day after the Front won the 11th general election by more than a two-third majority in the 219-seat Parliament.

The ceremony was held at the Balai Rong Seri (Throne Room) of the National Palace here. The National Front, known as the Barisan Nasional (BN), grouping 14 component parties, has ruled Malaysia since its independence from Britain in 1957.

Abdullah, 64, signed the instruments of office witnessed by Chief Justice Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim.

Present on the occasion were former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak. Earlier, Abdullah told a news conference at his official residence that the first Cabinet meeting of the newly-elected BN government would be held next Wednesday.

On the new Cabinet lineup, he said that he would need a little time to decide on

the issue. "On whether there'll be changes, on who'll be in the line-up, let's leave it to later. I don't have anything specific yet," Abdullah said.

Besides, he said, the Cabinet line-up should have the capability to contribute toward further enhancing the government administration, so that the people would be able to benefit from whatever policies and programmes implemented in their interest.

The Prime Minister also reminded the newly-elected BN members of Parliament and state assemblymen to work hard, to refrain from resorting to corrupt practice, to uphold their core values and maintain their dignity and credibility, as well as to always give attention to the needs of the people.

MNA/Xinhua

Bilateral Cyprus talks end, no deal

NICOSIA, 24 March — Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos said on Monday bilateral talks with Turkish Cypriots on a peace deal had reached no agreement and would now move to Switzerland, where Turkey and Greece would join them.

Greek and Turkish Cypriots have been meeting almost daily since February 19 to agree on a UN peace plan which aims to reunite their island before it joins the European Union on May 1. But both sides have refused to budge on their key demands.

"At this phase of talks there has not been any significant progress, in any case not on issues of substance," Papadopoulos told Reuters after talks in Nicosia with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş and United Nations envoy Alvaro de Soto.

MNA/Reuters



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Stem cells may not be able to heal damaged hearts

LONDON, 24 March — New research by scientists in the United States has cast doubt on the ability of stem cells to mend a broken heart by repairing damaged muscle, but they may help it in a more indirect way.

In two reports published online by the journal *Nature*, scientists who injected stem cells from bone marrow into the hearts of mice that had suffered a heart attack said they did not turn into heart muscle cells.

"These studies demonstrate that the stem cells tested do not form new heart muscles when injected into damaged tissue," said Professor Loren Field of Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

Stem cell are master cells in the body that have the capability to transform into any cell or tissue. Researchers believe they have the potential to revolutionize medicine.

Scientists had hoped that stem cells could pave the way for new treatments for heart attack patients after finding that blood-forming stem cells taken from bone marrow could repair damaged heart muscles.

Clinical trials in humans are already under way.

But when Field and her colleagues and another team of scientists including Leora Balsam of Stanford University School of

Medicine in California injected stem cells in the hearts of mice they found the cells survived but did not seem to change into new heart cells.

"If we are delivering bone marrow to patients with the expectation that it will regenerate the heart, that may not be realistic," Balsam said in a statement.

But the scientists noticed that mice with the transplanted stem cells did show an improvement in how their hearts pumped blood.

They suspect that instead of changing into heart muscle cells, the stem cells may help the damaged heart by recruiting new blood vessels that may help heart muscle cells that would have otherwise have died to stay alive.

Field said the findings suggest there may be alternative and perhaps more efficient ways to heal damaged hearts.

"We're all interested in finding ways of regenerating the heart. I think what this study points out is that it's not easy," Balsam added. — MNA/Reuters

Study finds drug to prevent breast cancer not fully used

WASHINGTON, 24 March — A drug that cuts the rate of breast cancer by 50 per cent in women most at risk is not being used as much as it could be, because doctors are failing to offer it and some patients are confused about taking it, US researchers said on Monday.

Women may be afraid to take the drug Tamoxifen because it raises the risk of cancer of the uterus, as well as the risk of blood clots that can cause heart attacks, embolisms or strokes, the team at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago found.

They looked at the records of 219 women with higher-than-average breast cancer risk. Only 63 per cent of the women were offered Tamoxifen and only 26 per cent accepted, they found.

"Our findings indicate that both physician practice and the attitudes of at-risk women are responsible for low rates of Tamoxifen usage," the researchers wrote in their report, published in

the American Cancer Society journal *Cancer*.

Tamoxifen, a pill used to treat breast cancer, has been shown to reduce cancer rates by 49 per cent in women who have a high risk of the disease either because they have had precancerous lesions, a strong family history, or for other reasons.

Women with lesions called atypical hyperplasia or lobular carcinoma in situ benefited the most. They had an 86-per-cent reduction in cancer when they took Tamoxifen.

And the study in *Cancer* showed these were the women most likely to be offered Tamoxifen.

"That makes sense," said Dr Monica Morrow, a breast

surgeon who led the study.

"What doesn't make sense is that women significantly less likely to have side effects, such as premenopausal women and those without a uterus, did not accept Tamoxifen more frequently than other groups," Morrow added in a statement.

She said better education is clearly needed. While Tamoxifen increases the risk of uterine cancers, the risk is so low to start with that it still remains more unlikely than breast cancer.

"There clearly is a lot of confusion among women about the risks and benefits of Tamoxifen chemoprevention," Morrow said.

MNA/Reuters



Insurance Institute for Highway Safety photo of a crash test on a 2004 Suzuki Verona. The 2004 Suzuki Verona got a lower safety rating than other inexpensive cars in high-speed crash tests conducted by the insurance industry.—INTERNET

PM General Khin Nyunt attends ...

(from page 16)

Managing Director of Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank U Than Yi and China Export Credit and Insurance Corporation Mr Yang Zilin signed the Government Concessional Loan Agreement for MPT Project Phase II between the Export-Import Bank of China and the Financial Institution Authorized by the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and PRC Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun signed the MoU of Cooperation for Promoting Trade and Investment between China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation and the Ministry of Finance and Revenue of the Union of Myanmar.

President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and Vice-Chairman of China Council for Promotion of International Trade Madam Gao Yan signed the MoU between UMFCI and China Council for Promotion of International Trade.

Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and President of China Export-Import Mr Yang Zilin signed Loan Agreement on Hydraulic Steel Structure (Lot HSS-1) of Yeywa Hydro Power Project.

Director-General of Hydro Electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and President of China National Electric Equipment Corporation Mr Jia Ding signed Commercial Contract for the Supply of Hydraulic Steel Structure (Lot HSS-1) for Yeywa Hydro Power Project.

Managing Director of Myanmar Post and Telecommunications U Maung Maung Tin and Chairman of ZTE Corporation Mr Hou Weigui signed the Cooperation Agreement on Myanmar National Telecommunications Network Construction Project.

Director-General of Hydro Electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and President of China National Heavy Machinery Corporation Mr Lu Wenjun signed Commercial Contract for the Supply of Hydraulic Steel Structure Works and Electrical and Mechanical Equipment for Kun Hydro Power Project.

Managing Director of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo and Vice-President of State Grid Corporation of China Mr Zheng Baosen signed Commercial Contract on Myaungtika-Hlinethaya-Yekyi 230 kv Transmission



MPT Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin and ZTE Corporation President Hou Weigui of China sign agreement.—MNA



Myanmar Ceramics Industries Managing Director U Soe Yi and China National Technical Import & Export Corporation President Mr Jiang Xinsheng sign MoU.—MNA

Lines & Substation Project.

Managing Director of Myanmar Ceramic Industries U Soe Yi and President of China National Technical Import and Export Corporation Mr Jiang Xinsheng signed the MoU of Agreement for the Supply and Installation of Complete Equipment for Float Glass Production Line with Melting Capacity of 150 Tpd and For Tempered

Glass, Laminated Glass and Mirror Glass Production Lines.

Managing Director of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise U Kyaw Shein and President of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd Ms Luo Yan and President of China Huanqiu Contracting and Engineering Corporation Mr Wang Shihong signed Contract for Establishment of No 4 Urea Fertilizer Fac-

tory at Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division.

Director-General of Hydro Electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and General Manager of China International Trust and Investment Corporation Technology Co Mr Sun Xiaowsen and Vice General Manager of China Water Resources and Hydropower Construction Group Corporation Mr Liu Qitao signed

the MoU on Hydraulic Steel Structure (Lot HSS-2) and Electromechanical Equipment (Lot EM-1) of Yeywa Hydro Power Project.

Similarly, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Deputy Minister of Commerce of PRC Mr Chen Jian signed MoU on National Theatre Renovation Project; MoU on rice milling machine installation project; MoU for feasibility

study on combined harvester production project; MoU on feasibility study on small-scale hydropower project; study project on probation of quality sugarcane and cotton strains; MoU on geological and minerals exploration in Myanmar-China border region; and MoU Lashio-Muse railroad project in the morning.

MNA

Secretary-1 hosts dinner in honour of Chinese Vice Premier

YANGON, 24 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win hosted a dinner in honour of Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Re-

public of China Madam Wu Yi and party, who are currently here on an official visit to Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha this evening.

The dinner was attended

by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office

and heads of departments, PRC Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.

During the dinner, vocalists entertained the guests to the accompaniment

of Myanmar Athan modern music troupe. After the dinner, artistes of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture presented cultural dances to the guests.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win hosts dinner to Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of State Council of PRC and party.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends signing of MoUs between Myanmar and China

YANGON, 24 March — Myanmar and the People's Republic of China signed a number of agreements today at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here this afternoon, in the presence of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Vice Premier of PRC State Council Madam Wu Yi.

Also present were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, heads of departments, officials, members of the PRC goodwill delegation, PRC Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and party.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Assistant Minister of Commerce of PRC Mr Chen Jian signed the MoU between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Re-



Hydro-electric Power Department Director-General U Win Kyaw and China International Trust & Investment Corporation Technology Co General Manager Mr Sun Xiaowen sign MoU.— MNA

public of China on the Promotion of Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation; the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the governments of PRC and Union of Myanmar; and the Frame of

Agreement between the Governments of the PRC and Union of Myanmar on Provision of Concessional Loan.
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Circulation
22,678

Secretary-1 attends opening ceremony of Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant in Kyaukse



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects production process of Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant in Kyaukse.— MNA

YANGON, 24 March— A ceremony to open Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant at the foot of Nwalegawk Hill in Kyaukse was held at the venue on 22 March, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, the deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor, the Commander of No 99 LID, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, divisional authorities, departmental officials, the President of Yunnan Machinery Import & Export Corporation and officials of the People's Republic of China, officials of Hsinmin Cement Plant and workers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, local people and guests.

First, the Secretary-1 and party cordially met with those present at the ceremony and the President of Yunnan Machinery Import & Export Corporation and officials.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye and President of Yunnan Machinery Import & Export Corporation Mr Chen Fang formally opened the plant.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveiled the stone inscription of the plant. The Secretary-1, Lt-Gen Ye Myint,

Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the commander and officials sprinkled scented water on it.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 inspected the plant.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party saw over running and controlling of the plant and the kiln, the power station and the packaging tasks. Lt-Gen Tin Aye conducted them round the respective sectors.

At the briefing hall, Member of the Board of Directors Col Aung San reported on the location and area of the plant, the purpose of building it and production process of cement. Furthermore, he reported that Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant is one to produce 700 tons of BS 12-1989 type day. Machinery for the plant were imported from Yunnan Machinery Import & Export Corporation. Similarly, the civilian construction tasks for the plant were carried out by AyonU Construction Co.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye reported on arrangements made for manufacturing cement at Hsinmin-1 and Hsinmin-2 Cement Plants.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tin Aye presented gifts to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and officials. Mr Chen Fang also presented souvenir to the Secretary-1 and party. Later, the Secretary-1 presented the fruits to Chinese engineers who participated in the construction of the plant.

Hsinmin-1 and Hsinmin-2 Cement Plants were built in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division.

Hsinmin-1 produces 400 tons of cement a day with the use of wet process. The plant was opened on 15-5-2003.

Hsinmin-2 manufactures 700 tons a day with the use of dry process.— MNA



Aerial view of Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant in Kyaukse.— MNA