

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 345

6th Waxing of Hnaung Tagu 1365 ME

Friday 26 March, 2004



To improve economic, health and education sectors

It is our duty to protect the life and property of the people so that they will be able to live with peace of mind and to create an environment in which they will be able to earn their living freely. Economic infrastructures have been built to ensure economic development in all the regions across the Union. To avoid a situation in which only one or two major cities are well-developed and all the rest of the nation have to depend on them socially and economically, 24 development regions have been established and measures are being taken to improve economic, health and education sectors and to narrow the gap among the regions.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address delivered at the graduation parade of the 4th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects booths at Armed Forces Day Exhibition

YANGON, 25 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected the booths at the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition and gave guidance this evening.

Accompanied by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister of the State Chief of Military Intelligence General Khin Nyunt, and member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Senior General Than Shwe arrived at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, where the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition will be held, at 4.55 pm today.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed there by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, member of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, senior military officers from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), and deputy ministers.



Senior General Than Shwe inspects booths of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition.— MNA

At the museum, Senior General Than Shwe inspected the entrance hall of the museum, the 'twelve objectives of the State' booth, the booths of the Tatmadaw (Navy), the Tatmadaw (Air) and directorates of the Ministry of Defence.

After inspecting the booths for nearly an hour, Senior General Than Shwe left the museum at 5.45 pm.

MNA

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Circulation

22,684

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



Senior General Than Shwe inspects booths at 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 26 March, 2004

Further strengthen
Sino-Myanmar friendly ties

The Union of Myanmar has always practised an independent and active foreign policy and maintained friendly relations with neighbours and other countries in the region, adhering to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. It has always been on good terms with global nations especially with her neighbours. Economic, trade and cultural cooperation with neighbouring countries are being enhanced.

The Union of Myanmar established diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China on 8 June 1950. Both countries share over 2,000 kilometres of border and they have been living on friendly terms throughout their long history. It is encouraging to see that the friendly ties between the two countries are flourishing. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe paid a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China from 6 to 11 January 2003. During his visit, discussions were held to promote the bilateral economic and trade cooperation. With goodwill, the People's Republic of China has been rendering assistance to Myanmar in its development endeavours.

Vice-Premier of the State Council of the PRC Madame Wu Yi is now on a goodwill visit to Myanmar at the invitation of State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received and had discussions with her at Zeyathiri Beikman in Yangon on 24 March 2004. They expressed satisfaction to see the all-round development in the Sino-Myanmar relation in recent years. They discussed matters relating to promotion of bilateral economic cooperation.

In the same afternoon, agreements and MoUs were signed in the presence of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Vice Premier Madame Wu Yi.

It is certain that the Sino-Myanmar friendly relations will further be strengthened through promotion of economic, trade and cultural cooperation.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနမှ ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်၊ လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရှုလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ ဖော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန် ဖြစ်သည်။

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(၂၅-၄-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့

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)



“အမျိုးသမီးဘဝ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကြိုပန်း ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”
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'

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

Prime Minister sends congratulations to Malaysia

YANGON, 25 March— General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, who has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Malaysia.—MNA

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Bangladesh

YANGON, 26 March— On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which falls on 26 March 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

FM sends felicitations to Bangladesh

YANGON, 26 March— On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which falls on 26 March 2004, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr M Morshed Khan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

459 tourists arrive by cruiseliner

YANGON, 25 March — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels & Tourism and with assistance provided by the Ministry of Transport and arrangements made by Tour Mandalay Co, MS Prinsendam cruiseliner carrying 459 tourists arrived Thilawa Port here this morning. The tourists in groups were scheduled to visit Yangon downtown, Bagan and Mandalay. The vessel will leave here on 26 March evening.—MNA



Myo Min Aung leads Tiger Golf C'ship

YANGON, 25 March— The Tiger Myanmar Amateur Golf Championship continued for the third round at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon this morning. Myo Min Aung was leading with 213 strokes after the third round. Thein Zaw Myint and Zaw Zin Win with 222 each were behind the leader. Bo Bo

scored 224 and Naing Naing Lin with 225. The championship is being organized by Han Event Management together with co-sponsors Canon, Ping Golf Equipment, Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, Air Mandalay, Wilson and Imperial Jade Drinking Water.

The fourth and final round continues tomorrow.—MNA



Bo Bo seen in action on the third day. — MGF

U Soe Win accredited to New Zealand

YANGON, 26 March— The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to New Zealand.—MNA

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 25 March— The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Names	Appointment
(a) U Tha Oo	Rector
Pro-Rector	Panglong University
Panglong University	Higher Education Dept
Higher Education Dept	(Upper Myanmar)
(Upper Myanmar)	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	
(b) U Wan Tin	Rector
Pro-Rector	Sittway University
Sittway University	Higher Education Dept
Higher Education Dept	(Lower Myanmar)
(Lower Myanmar)	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	
U Soe Myint	Rector
Pro-Rector	Hinhthada University
Hinhthada University	Higher Education Dept
Higher Education Dept	(Lower Myanmar)
(Lower Myanmar)	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	

MNA

UMFCCI officials meet Thai guests

YANGON, 25 March — Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry Vice President U Aung Lwin, Joint Secretary-1 U Myo Nyunt, Joint Secretary-2 Dr Maung Maung Lay and CEC member U Myat Thin Aung met with a four-member delegation headed by Governor Mrs Anchalee Chavanich of Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand at the UMFCCI head office yesterday morning. They discussed matters on investment, trade affairs, industrial zones and economic cooperation.—MNA



The UMFCCI officials meet with Thai guests.— UMFCCI

Guerillas attack US convoy in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 March—Guerillas attacked a US military patrol west of Baghdad early Wednesday and an ensuing fight left three civilians dead and two US soldiers injured, the US military and Iraqi hospital officials said.

The fighting came after assailants shot at a van carrying police recruits south of Baghdad, killing nine, while gunmen killed two policemen in the north. The slayings Tuesday were the latest to target police and other Iraqis who work with the US-led occupation.

Associated Press Television News footage of the aftermath of the fighting in the town of Fallujah, 55 kilometres west of Baghdad, showed two civilian cars burned, bloodstains on the ground and bullet holes in walls, as well as two wounded Iraqis being taken into a hospital.

"American troops came under attack while they were patrolling in the main street," Fallujah resident Ahmed Ali said. The US military said two "coalition personnel" were injured. The pair were airlifted from Fallujah to a combat hospital after ambushers detonated a roadside bomb and

raked their vehicle with gunfire, a US official said.

Muthana al-Jumeili, a doctor at Fallujah General Hospital, said three civilians died and three others were wounded. Fallujah is a hotbed of insurgent activity.

On the eastern outskirts of Baghdad, three civilians - a three-year-old boy, his grandmother and a male relative - were killed when an explosion destroyed the car they were riding in, according to relatives. Six other people were injured in the blast, which relatives said was caused by a mine in the road.

Also before dawn Wednesday, attackers fired a rocket that struck the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad, where foreign contractors and journalists stay. The rocket hit a sixth-floor ledge and the explosion left the lobby strewn with glass.

Internet

ထိုက်ထိုက်နက်နက် ဖိုင်း

German President criticizes biased Western media

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 25 March—German President Johannes Rau has criticized Western media for biased reports about Africa, saying it only focuses on problems on the continent and neglects its achievements, local newspaper *Daily News* reported Wednesday.

Speaking at the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation in Dar-es-Salaam Tuesday, Rau, who is on a five-day visit to Tanzania, said that such an attitude is not helpful and should be altered.

"Does anyone in Germany know, for instance, that Tanzania is today a stable democracy or Botswana has high performance economy?" Rau asked.—MNA/Xinhua



British soldier on patrol in the southern Iraqi city of Basra recently. A bomb exploded in Basra, close to the headquarters of 8,800 British troops who have occupied southern Iraq since the US-led invasion.—INTERNET

Iraq handover still faces many hurdles

BAGHDAD, 25 March—A US plan to turn Iraq into an example of democracy in the Middle East is strewn with obstacles and time is running out to overcome them with less than 100 days to go until handover time.

The White House, accused of choosing June 30 as the sovereignty transfer date to fit a domestic timetable for the presidential election in November, must work hard to convince a suspicious Iraqi public that the political process underway is in their best interests.

Iraq's US-picked interim Governing Council signed a temporary constitution earlier this month to oversee its transition to democracy under a directly elected assembly that will draw up a permanent charter next year. But the United Nations has yet to endorse the text — a move seen as crucial to give it a sense of legitimacy but which

would also isolate Iraq's most influential cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani and his followers, who have already heavily criticized the document.

A UN team is due to arrive in Baghdad within days to advise officials on how to elect a new caretaker government to take control from July 1.

It will also help to create the mechanisms for direct elections to a national assembly by the end of January.

But on Monday, Sistani threatened to boycott the team if the United Nations endorses Iraq's interim constitution in a Security Council resolution.—Internet

Chinese language learning centre opens in Damascus

DAMASCUS, 25 March—A Chinese language learning centre, the second of its kind in the Arab world with the first in the Egyptian capital of Cairo, opened here on Tuesday.

Syrian Cultural Minister Mahmud Sayyed and the Chinese Ambassador in Syria Zhou Xinhua attended the opening ceremony and cut a ribbon symbolizing the start of the centre. A photo exhibition entitled "Magnificent China" was also held to celebrate the opening. Mahmud Sayyed told *Xinhua* that the opening of the centre will further enhance the friendly relationship between Syria and China and promote bilateral cultural exchanges.

He also expressed appreciation for the advanced facilities in the centre and the beautiful natural and historical Chinese sceneries in the exhibition. Three kinds of classes will be available in the centre according to different needs of local people, including common language, business-oriented class and weekend class.

As of today, over 100 Syrians has enrolled to learn the Chinese language. —MNA/Xinhua

International "IT" conference opens in Kenya

NAIROBI, 25 March—A four-day international information and communication technology conference opened in the Kenyan capital Nairobi Tuesday.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the Kenya Information and Communication Technology Federation Mike Eldon said: "Kenya aspires to be competitive in world markets and this will definitely raise the standards of living of Kenyans."

He said it was necessary to introduce the concept of e-government among East African countries, upgrade the infrastructure and develop human capacity to achieve the goal.

The conference will field a series of high-level training workshops to enhance the skills and knowledge of East Africa's telecommunications service providers and users.

MNA/Xinhua

Pentagon finds Iraq deals riddled with problems

WASHINGTON, 25 March—A report by the US Defence Department's inspector-general has found major problems with some of the early contracts to rebuild Iraq, including poor planning, pricing and a lack of oversight.

According to the report on the inspector-general's website, procurement rules were not followed in 22 of 24 deals awarded by the military on behalf of the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad and its now-defunct Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA).

Many of these contracts, the biggest of which was to create an Iraqi media network, were not competitively bid. In one example, a contractor was paid even though he was on vacation. In another, vehicles were airlifted into Iraq at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars without proper approval. And in a third, a media contractor was used to organize garbage removal.

"In each phase the ORHA/CPA and DCC-W (Defence Contracting Command-Washington) cut corners from generating the initial requirements to surveillance of the contractor," said the March 18 report on the web site (www.dodig.osd.mil).

The Iraq contracting process is under investigation by several government

departments amid widespread allegations of overcharging and cronyism.

A contract to equip the Iraqi Army was cancelled this month after complaints over the bidding process. The contract is being rebid, causing a delay in supplying the new Army.

The latest Pentagon report covers small contracts, mostly

MNA/Reuters

Blast heard in central Baghdad, smoke near hotel

BAGHDAD, 25 March—At least one loud explosion was heard in central Baghdad early on Wednesday, and a cloud of smoke rose near the Sheraton Hotel, *Reuters* witnesses said.

The US military said it had no immediate information. Guerillas have in the past targeted Baghdad hotels used by foreign contractors, business people and journalists. —MNA/Reuters



Oil fire : Iraqis watch the fire that broke out on Iraq's oil export pipeline from the southern city of Basra, to the Faw peninsula on the Gulf in the Maamur zone 100 kilometres (62 miles) further south of Basra. —INTERNET

Some guards, reserves sent to Iraq with doubtful health

WASHINGTON, 25 March—To meet the demand for troops in Iraq, the military deployed National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers whose medical fitness was doubtful.

The Kansas City Star found more than a dozen members of the Guard and Reserve who said they were shipped to Iraq with little attention paid to their medical histories. Some suffered asthma, diabetes or Tourette syndrome. Others had recent surgery, hearing loss or back ailments.

"They funnelled us through the medical part: boom, boom, boom," said Michael Scott, an Iowa National Guardsman who had a herniated disc. "They let it be known they weren't real

interested in hearing about stuff. 'No, you're fine right now.'"

How many Guard and Reserve troops were unfit is unclear. But the problem prompted a complaint from a director at a military medical command centre in Germany, where many casualties from Iraq are treated. An April 14, 2003, memo, obtained by *The Star*, called unfit troops a "KEY medical issue" and went on to say, "Frankly, we are burning out a lot of time and effort on shipping back folks who

never should have come in the first place. Also runs a high risk of damaging folks."

The Pentagon said it was concerned and in recent months began requiring more scrutiny of soldiers' medical backgrounds before the soldiers were shipped overseas.

Each of the soldiers who spoke with *The Star* said they knew of others who—like themselves—were sent to Iraq despite health problems ranging from heart disease to allergies requiring refrigerated medications. Several said many soldiers did not

get physicals; rather, medical screeners asked them only a few cursory questions.

Once in Iraq, the soldiers faced severe conditions and a lack of medical care that often worsened their conditions.

David Lloyd, a 44-year-old mechanic with the Tennessee National Guard, died in Iraq of a heart attack last August. His wife, Pamela Lloyd, said her husband hadn't been aware he had a problem, but his autopsy showed three blockages.

Internet

UAE to host "Sister City Forum" in May

ABU DHABI, 25 March — The United Arab Emirates is to host "Sister City Forum" in Dubai on May 15-18, the official WAM news agency reported Tuesday.

More than 600 delegates from cities around the world are expected to join the forum sponsored by the UAE Government, a top municipal official said Tuesday at the preparatory meeting of the event's Supreme Organizing Committee.

The forum will seek to strengthen cooperation between Dubai and the cities with which UAE have twinning protocol and cooperation and friendship pacts, the official said.

They include Istanbul, Osaka, Beirut, Guangzhou and Shanghai, Geneva, Gold Coast, Casablanca, Damascus, Detroit and Jerusalem.

The official noted that cooperation would bolster interaction with these cities in economic, commercial, political and technical fields.

During the event, each city will showcase its experience in best practices, while cultural shows will also be staged by folk troupes from participating cities.

MNA/Xinhua

Early Pentagon contracts in Iraq were badly done, report says

WASHINGTON, 25 March—In awarding the first contracts in Iraq, the Pentagon "cut corners," couldn't show that it got "fair and reasonable" prices and didn't follow up to see if the work was done properly, a new Defence Department inspector general's report says.

Experts on contracting said Wednesday that the Pentagon report shows a disturbing, but not surprising, institutional problem with spending in Iraq that's probably far worse than the Department of Defence indicates.

The 68-page report shows that "no one's minding the store," said Steven Schooner, the co-director of the government procurement law programme at George Washington University's

law school. "The equivalent of this is to (hire contractors to) renovate my bathroom and say, 'I'll be back in a month.'"

The 18 March report, which reviewed 24 contracts worth nearly \$123 million—a small percentage of the tens of billions of dollars being spent in Iraq—found:

Government officials didn't monitor work on 13 of the contracts to make sure the jobs were being done.

Officials "inappropri-

ately awarded personal services contracts" in 10 of the 24 cases.

Defence Department contract officers didn't show that they were getting reasonable prices in 22 of the 24 contracts.

Thirteen of the contracts, worth \$111 million, were essentially given out without a competitive bidding process. Those contracts mostly provided services and computers for the humanitarian efforts of the Iraqi reconstruction.—Internet

US credit card delinquency hits new record high

WASHINGTON, 25 March — The percentage of US credit card payments that were past due increased to a new record in the final quarter of 2003, the American Bankers Association reported in a survey released on Tuesday.

The report said that seasonally adjusted percentage of credit card accounts 30 or more days past due rose to 4.43 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year, surpassing the previous all-time quarterly high of 4.09 per cent set in the third quarter of last year. However, delinquency rates for some other types of consumer loans dropped.

The association's survey showed that the delinquency rate on a composite of other types of consumer loans, including auto loans and home equity loans, declined to a seasonally adjusted 1.89 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2003, down from 2.14 per cent in the previous quarter.

MNA/Xinhua

Middle East to adopt open skies policy in 2006

ABU DHABI, 25 March — Airports across the Middle East region will adopt an open skies policy in 2006 to boost regional aviation and related markets, the English newspaper *Gulf News* reported Tuesday.

"The adoption of an open skies policy by the civil aviation authorities across the region will only benefit the Middle East's civil aviation sector," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of Dubai Civil Aviation and chairman of Emirates Group in the United Arab Emirates.

"For example, Beirut International Airport recorded 20 per cent growth in 2003 as a result of the open skies policy," he said.

The UAE official noted that civil aviation has grown into an industry that includes many diverse aspects as a

result of increasing globalization.

"With increasing globalization, rules of industrial competition and business location have changed drastically," Al Maktoum said.

"International gateway airports are driving and shaping the urban development, giving rise to the emerging 'airport cities'."

"Dubai International Airport is a prime example of an airport city. Airport cities are now dealing with issues more than just aviation—issues such as real estate, retailing, cargo handling, hotels, en-

tertainment centres, logistics, e-commerce, warehousing and finance," he explained.

"Airports themselves are not just functional areas where aircraft land and take off. Airports represent big business and require clear strategies and precise business sense," Al Maktoum added.

Official figures showed that the ongoing airport developments and expansions could exceed 15 billion US dollars in the Middle East region out of the 50 billion US dollars all over the world, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

China launches nationwide check on teaching materials

BEIJING, 25 March — China has started a special nationwide check on the quality of teaching material, reference books, dictionaries and children's reading material published last year, China's publication watchdog said Tuesday.

This is the latest move adopted by the State Press and Publication Administration (SPPA) to step up monitoring of the country's book market in 2004, which has been titled "The Year of Book Quality" by the SPPA.

China boasted over 190,000 kinds of publications in 2003, among which

some 110,000 were newly published. However, many errors were found in those books, especially in teaching material, reference books, dictionaries and children's reading material, which aroused dissatisfaction among the general readers.

The SPPA therefore in

2003 launched a special check on dictionaries and exposed 19 unqualified ones.

During this year's check, the SPPA said, publishers are required to first examine their own publications, and then the local publication authorities and the SPPA will give a spot check on their books.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝတ်မှုမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Omar Juma, 4, stands outside his home in Fallujah, Iraq, on Wednesday, 24 March, 2004, in the aftermath of fighting on late Tuesday.—INTERNET

China issues new rules to supervise futures market firms

BEIJING, 25 March — China issued new guidelines on corporate governance for futures brokerages, urging the companies to upgrade management and become more competitive, reported *China Daily* on Wednesday.

The rules, drafted by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the industry watchdog, clarify the standards of corporate structure, rights and liabilities of the shareholders and requirements for risk management and internal control of futures brokerages.

These companies are asked to make their decision-making process more scientific by clearly separating the functions of the board members and managerial staff.

Minority shareholders are expected to get more protection and more supervision will be put on risk control, according to the paper. — MNA/Xinhua



Firefighters tend to a large oil pipeline blaze near the southern Iraq city of Basra on 24 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Widow of soldier in Jessica Lynch unit blasts Bush

CENTER POINT (Texas), 25 March — At a ceremony on Tuesday marking the one-year anniversary of the Iraqi attack on Private Jessica Lynch's Army unit, the widow of a soldier who died in the fight blasted President George W Bush for "lying to America" to justify the Iraq war.

In bitter comments beside the grave of Army Specialist James Kiehl, widow Jill Kiehl accused Bush of fabricating reasons to launch the invasion that toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"The evidence that's starting to come out now feels like he (Bush) was misleading us," Kiehl said, holding the couple's 10-month-old son Nathaniel, born seven weeks after his father died.

"It's almost as though he had things fixed so it would look like he needed to go to war," she said.

James Kiehl, a 22-year-old computer engineer, was one of 11 members of the 507th Maintenance Company killed when their convoy took a wrong turn at Nassiriya in southern Iraq on March 23, 2003 and were attacked by Iraqi fighters.

Seven others were captured, including Lynch, who was held for nine days before

US troops rescued her from a hospital.

Several members of the unit, not including Lynch, attended the ceremony in Center Point, 35 miles northwest of San Antonio.

Jill Kiehl described herself as "bitter" about Bush's decision to declare war on Iraq.

"It's upsetting that he (Bush) would have lied to America to get what he wanted," Kiehl said.

"In a way, it's like he used people. That's how I feel. I

think the reasons for going over there were bogus and misleading."

Bush justified the invasion on grounds that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and was linked to al-Qaeda, the Islamic extremist group blamed for the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington. So far, no such weapons have been found and little evidence of al-Qaeda connections has turned up.—MNA/Reuters

ဘားငါးပွဲဖြိုး ပြည်အကျိုး

Fighting in Iraqi town kills two civilians

FALLUJA (Iraq), 25 March — Fighting in the turbulent Iraqi town of Fallujah killed two civilians and wounded two others after a roadside bomb injured two US soldiers on Wednesday, witnesses and the US military said.

A US military spokeswoman said guerillas fired small arms after the bomb exploded at about 1.30 am (2230 GMT Tuesday). Two soldiers had been wounded and a military vehicle destroyed. Witnesses said the civilians were caught in the crossfire. Reuters television footage showed the bodies of two Iraqis in hospital after the clashes. It showed a wounded man in a hospital bed and another with bandages on his neck and arm. — MNA/Reuters



Iraqi workers push a pickup truck covered in ashes away from a blazing fire raging near the southern town of Faw, Iraq, on Wednesday, 24 March 2004.—INTERNET

Iraqi working for "Time" magazine shot in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 March — An Iraqi working for Time magazine in Baghdad was shot and critically wounded on Thursday, the magazine said, the latest casualty in a series of recent attacks on journalists and staff of media organizations.

"A member of Time's staff in Baghdad was shot and injured this morning," the magazine said in a statement. "An Iraqi citizen, he is in critical condition at the American military hospital in the Green Zone in Baghdad."

Last week, gunmen ambushed and killed three Iraqis working for a US-funded television and radio station near Baquba, northeast of Baghdad.

Two Iraqi journalists working for Dubai-based satellite news channel Al Arabiya were also shot dead in their car in Baghdad last week. Arabiya said they were killed by US troops at a checkpoint, but the US Army says it is still investigating.

Earlier this month, a translator working for Voice of America was shot dead in his car along with his mother and daughter in an apparently

targeted attack. In January, gunmen opened fire on a CNN convoy south of Baghdad, killing two Iraqi staff.

Some Iraqis working for foreign media organizations in Baghdad have also received threatening letters.

Guerillas in Iraq have increasingly been focusing their attacks on "soft targets", including Iraqis working for foreign organizations.

MNA/Reuters

HK, Japan forge closer ties on ICT cooperation

HONG KONG, 25 March — The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government signed Tuesday the first Arrangement on Cooperation with Japan to forge closer ties in the development and cooperation of information and communications technology (ICT).

The arrangement was signed by Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, John Tsang, and Kozo Takahara, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications of Japan.

Tsang said the signing of the ICT co-operative arrangement marked an important milestone in forging the partnership between Japan and Hong Kong.

"This arrangement provides a framework for cooperation in a wide range of ICT areas covering broadband and wireless communications, multimedia, e-commerce, e-government, and manpower development.

"With the full implementation of the Chinese Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) this year and our vast experience and connection with the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong can play a highly useful role in facilitating the Japanese ICT industry in exploring the Chinese Mainland market, especially the con-

sumer market in the affluent Pearl River Delta region.

He said Japan is Hong Kong's third largest trade partner in the world, adding, "I would like to take this opportunity to encourage Japanese companies, especially small and medium sized enterprises, to partner with Hong Kong companies to grasp the enormous business opportunities offered by the Chinese Mainland market," Tsang said.

Takahara said, "I believe it is very significant to enter into the Arrangement on Cooperation with Hong Kong where the world's foremost infrastructures in information and communication have been in place. For example, the penetration rate of broadband is 52 per cent of households and the penetration rate of mobile phone is 107 per cent of the population.

He said statistics indicated that more than 2,100 Japanese companies have settled down in Hong Kong and many of them expect to explore the Chinese Mainland market through Hong Kong — gateway to the Chinese Mainland market. — MNA/Xinhua

Democrats say Bush abuses power in slamming critic

WASHINGTON, 25 March — Democrats on Tuesday accused the White House of election-year "abuses of power" in trying to discredit former top US counter-terrorism official Richard Clarke, who has accused President George W Bush of ignoring threats from al-Qaeda before the September 11 attacks.

Democrats took to the Senate floor to lambast the Bush White House, which had fiercely condemned Clarke on Monday.

"We are seeing abuses of power that cannot be tolerated. The President needs to put a stop to it right now. We need to get to the truth and the President needs to help us do that," Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said.

Clarke specifically accused Bush of paying insufficient attention to the al-Qaeda

threat before the September 11, 2001 attacks and thereafter focusing on Iraq at the expense of efforts to crush the Islamic militant group.

His attack coincided with efforts by Bush to make his leadership on security and terrorism the major theme of his campaign for re-election in November.

It also said Clarke was speaking out for political reasons and was acting out of pique for having been passed over for a top job under Bush.

Top Democrats tried to turn the political tables on Bush by accusing the Administration of attempting to squelch dissent and bad news on a range of fronts.

They recalled moves to discredit former treasury secretary Paul O'Neill, who questioned Bush's Iraq policy in a book in January, and the leaking of the identity of CIA operative Valerie Plame when her husband, former diplomat Joseph Wilson, accused Bush of hyping prewar intelligence on Iraq.

Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota pointed to a "shroud of secrecy" in the Administration. In remarks aimed at Bush, New York Senator Charles Schumer said, "Don't hide the facts ... don't try to undermine those who would present the facts."

Daschle called "impeccable" Clarke's reputation from 30 years in four administrations and told reporters, "I happen to believe Mr. Clarke." He also called for an investigation of Clarke's allegations.—MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to invest big sum in HIV/"AIDS" prevention

HANOI, 25 March — Vietnam will have to invest 214.6-304.4 million US dollars in HIV/AIDS prevention between now and 2010, according to the Ministry of Health on Wednesday.

Under the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Control Through 2010 and Vision 2020, recently approved by the Vietnamese Government, the country will lower the HIV/AIDS infection rate among its population to below 0.3 per cent in 2010.

MNA/Xinhua



Anti Iraq war protesters march through the centre of Sydney, on 20 March behind a banner reading 'End the Occupation'.—INTERNET

Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

State by state break down

US military forces invaded Iraq on 20 March, 2003 and due to the resistance of Iraqi guerillas, the Americans have been suffering heavy toll of casualties. Up to 23 March, 2004, the death toll of American forces in Iraq has reached 582.

US military fatalities in Iraq Up to 23-3-2004

State	Amount	State	Amount
Alabama	13	North Carolina	14
Arizona	15	North Dakota	4
Arkansas	4	New Hampshire	4
California	56	New Jersey	13
Colorado	8	New Mexico	2
Connecticut	7	New York	22
Columbia	4	Nebraska	7
Delaware	6	Nevada	5
Florida	18	Ohio	17
Georgia	15	Oklahoma	9
Hawaii	4	Oregon	9
Idaho	6	Pennsylvania	30
Illinois	20	Rhode Island	5
Indiana	18	South Carolina	13
Iowa	10	South Dakota	5
Kansas	7	Tennessee	13
Kentucky	6	Texas	43
Louisiana	8	Utah	5
Maine	5	Virginia	14
Massachusetts	9	Vermont	6
Maryland	7	West Virginia	12
Michigan	22	Washington	8
Minnesota	4	Wisconsin	10
Mississippi	10	Wyoming	5
Missouri	10	American Samoa	3
Montana	4	Puerto Rico	8
		Total	582

US soldiers carry a wounded GI hit by a roadside bomb on 18 February, 2004.



Iraqis survey the scene of a suicide attack in front of the police station in the town of Kirkuk, north of Baghdad, on 23 February, 2004.

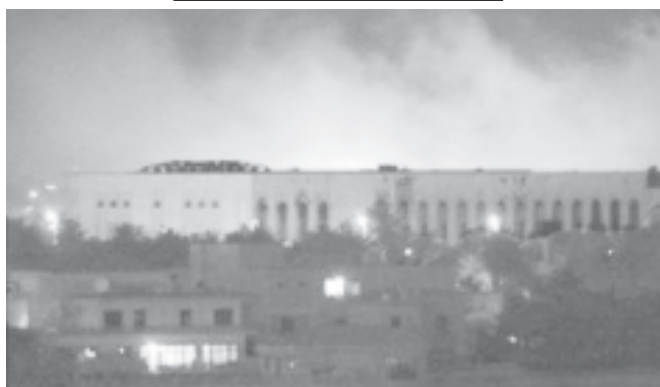


A car was attacked near Haswa, 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of Baghdad, on 21 Feb, 2004. Guerillas fired on a US military convoy killing an Iraqi translator and wounding four American soldiers.



An explosion tore apart a five-storey hotel catering to foreigners in the heart of Baghdad on 17 March. The attack killed 27 people.

Two explosives-laden trucks were detonated outside a Polish military camp in Hillah, south of Baghdad on Feb, 18, 2004.



Huge smoke billows at a base for Coalition forces and civilian personnel, after an explosion on 7 March, 2004 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Nation-building duties jointly discharged by the Tatmadaw and the people



Kholam-Kengtawng Road constructed by the Tatmadaw and the people

1.	Launching date	2-3-2001
2.	Macadam road (mile)	41
3.	Gravel road (mile)	31
4.	Wood bridge	12
5.	Reinforced concrete bridge	7
6.	Concrete conduit	88



*Macadam road and a concrete conduit on
Mongpan-Kengtawng Road built by
Tatmadawmen.*

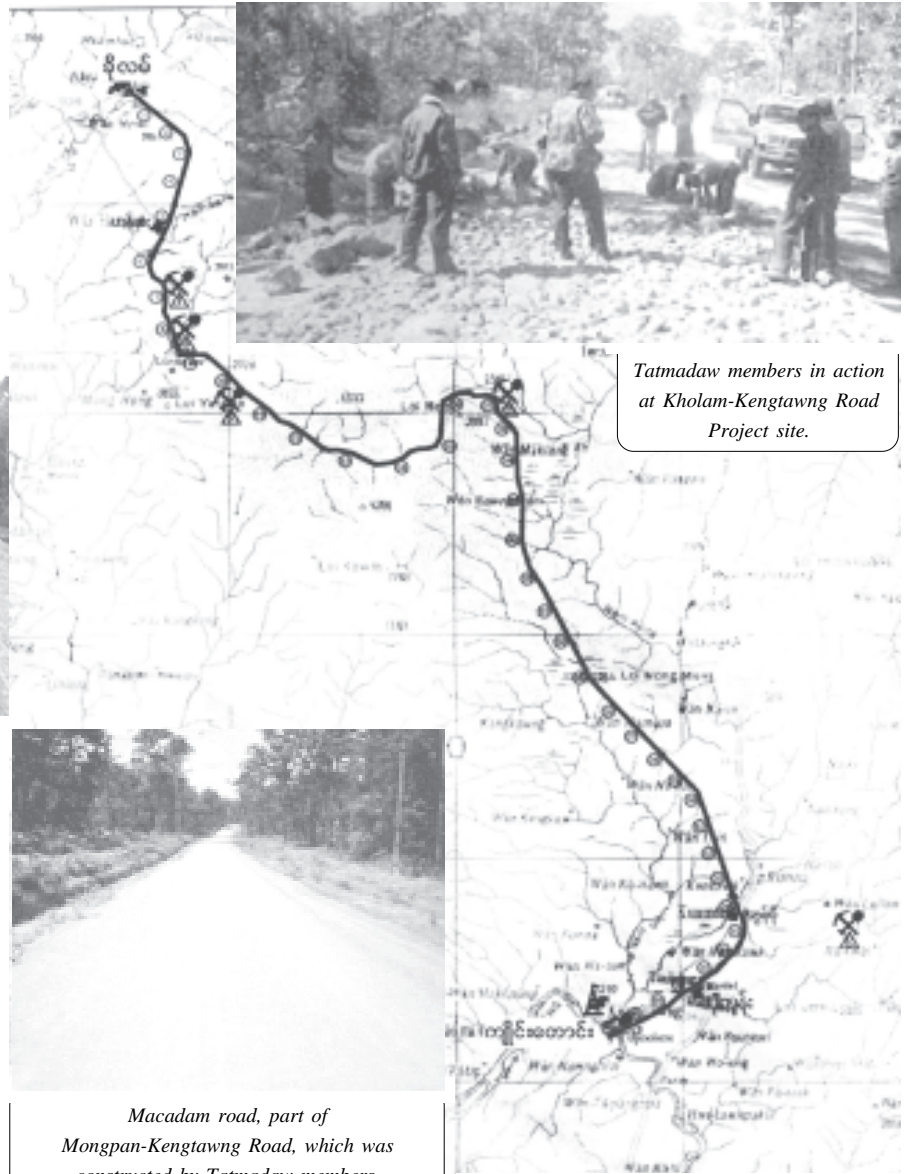
Mongpan-Kengtawng Road constructed by the Tatmadaw and the people

1.	Launching date	13-12-2001
2.	Macadam road (mile)	46
3.	Wooden bridge	34
4.	Concrete conduit	94
5.	Guard-rail post	1300



*Macadam road, part of
Mongpan-Kengtawng Road, which was
constructed by Tatmadaw members.*

*Steel frame bailey bridge
built by Tatmadawmen on Mongnai-Kengtawng
Road.*



*Tatmadaw members in action
at Kholam-Kengtawng Road
Project site.*

The map of Kholam-Kengtawng Road.



**Tatmadaw,
which
possesses
storong
morale &
perserverance**

Mongnai-Kengtawng Road constructed by the Tatmadaw and the people

1.	Launching date	2-3-2001
2.	Earth road (mile)	45
3.	Wooden bridge	2
4.	Steel frame bailey bridge	360

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



Ensuring clean water supply is one of the five rural development tasks.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt declared in his address delivered on 30 August 2003 to shape democratic system that is in conformity with the nation and the people. The Prime Minister said that the Government was in the process of introducing phase-by-

alization of the seven-point future policy programme.

Now, I am going to discuss the second objective — **to crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia**

able to strive for the national development, instead, they had to pay attention to restoration of peace and stability because of the multi-coloured insurgency that broke out soon after the regaining of independence, and the alien intrusion. An unrest

external destructive elements as the Tatmadaw, which is discharging the State duties, can do the job dutifully only with the people's support, and its duty included ensuring the national peace and stability. The people's participation is required in

Armed Forces Day Objectives, which are of vital importance for the nation

The following objectives of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day have been laid down for the national development:

— 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; and

— to build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold "Our Three Main National Causes"

For me, I was thinking that the 58th Anniversary Armed Forces Day had

passed not long ago. But when I saw the objectives, on TV and dailies, I knew that the Armed Forces Day was drawing near again. Time and tide waits for no man. Man needs to use time effectively. Time cannot be bought with money. There are many examples in which some persons have to pay much throughout their life for wasting the invaluable time. After seriously thinking about the objectives one by one to the best of my intellectual level, I have come to realize essence of laying down the Armed Forces Day objectives by the Head of State and the leaders of the Tatmadaw.

Concerning the first objective — **to strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point future policy programme** —

phase changes towards the multi-party democracy; that the materialization of the democracy must be based on history and the objective conditions of a nation; that it was true that the practice of democracy varied from one country to another. His words are true to the current global conditions. Whatever system a nation is practising, there must be an enduring Constitution that continuously serves the interest of the entire people of the Union. As the nation-building tasks will be implemented stage by stage, we are sure that the discipline-flourishing democratic nation, where political stability prevails, will emerge. The entire people of the nation will join hands with the Government and strive energetically with full Union Spirit for the emergence of a Constitution and practical re-

strategy. Myanmar after existing under her own monarchs as an independent nation fell under subjugation after the unity had collapsed. All the national races fought back the colonialists with whatever weapons they had in their hands. Due to the inequality in firepower and lack of correct leadership, the armed resistance of Myanmar did not achieve its aim, and the people had to live under the colonialist enslavement. But the entire national people including members of the Sangha were able to unitedly strive to regain independence in 1948 with the leadership of the Tatmadaw. Since then, Myanmar has been able to stand again as an independent and sovereign nation. But the national economy was in a state of decline, as the previous governments were not

broke out in the nation in 1988, and during the disturbances, some persons tried to grab power through short

crushing the internal insurgency. So also, their role is important in driving out an alien intrusion. A develop-

Byuha Maung

cut instead of collectively trying to solve the problem and to end the turmoil. Due to unavoidable situation, the Tatmadaw took over the State duties on 18 September 1988 to save the nation from falling apart. The neo-colonialists have been instigating destructive elements inside and outside the nation, and launching attacks on political and economic fronts to pave the way for the persons in their favour to grab power. The participation of the people is required in crushing the internal and

ing nation like Myanmar, which is striving hard for development, will have to crush the internal and external destructionists, that may break up the nation, through people's militia strategy.

Now let's deal with the third objective — **to implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people.** The Government has to pass through a lot of work programmes and

(See page 9)



A large number of people attending a mass rally to show unanimous support for the seven-point policy programme of the State.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day



(from page 8)

difficult and delicate situations to keep the nation on the right track. Here, I would like to present a passage from the address delivered by Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association at the Association's

progress among regions. For the same reason, with the five rural development tasks laid down to fulfil the most fundamental needs in rural areas, the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people are working together for the development of rural areas

ral health promotion; and rural economic development.

Now, the fourth objective — **to build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold "Our Three Main National Causes"**. Here, all must note the fact



Members of the people's militia actively took part in endeavours for safeguarding the nation's independence.

Annual General Meeting for 2003 as follows:

"When it comes to fostering the development, emphasis is also placed on the effort to see that there is no development gap between one region and another. Special plans have been laid down and are being implemented to develop the regions which lagged behind in development owing to various reasons in the past.

"Not only were a central committee and a work committee formed to carry out development tasks for raising the living standard of national races residing in the border areas, a separate ministry had been set up to accelerate these measures continuously.

As concentrated efforts have been exerted to ensure development in all sectors, fruitful results are now in sight.

"In modernizing the State, steps are being taken to make sure that not a single region is left unattended. Plans have also been laid down to ensure equitable

where the majority of the country's population reside."

The five rural development tasks are: rural transport facilitation; adequate rural clean water supply; rural education promotion; ru-

— the nation will be strong only if the Tatmadaw, strong. It is sure that we will face insults and aggression of others if the defence of our country is weak.

Only if both the eco-

nomie and political powers of the nation are strong, will it be able to win the respect of the neighbouring and regional countries.

In this 21st century, wars are not waged conventionally with lethal weapons alone. The first strategy is the IT warfare. Highly advanced and sophisticated weapons are used in aggressive wars. For example, the war in Kosovo in 1999, the war in Afghanistan in 2001 and the US-Iraq War in 2003. The break up of the national unity will lead to the disintegration of the Union and the loss of sovereignty. In this regard, "Our Three Main National Causes" must be accepted and followed by all the national races as the national policy.

It is the duty of the Tatmadaw to crush together with the people all the enemies trying to harm "Our Three Main National Causes". The Tatmadaw is discharging duties in the interest of the nation and the people with true goodwill. It is striving to raise the socioeconomic standard of the people, and at the same time, ensuring peace and stability and public security in the nation.

The Tatmadaw, loyal to the State and the people, is striving in all sectors to lay down sound foundations for the future democratic nation. If we study the past and present situations, we can know that a modern and powerful Tatmadaw is needed to ward off all enemies from inside and outside the nation.

At the 56th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Poem

Myanma Tatmadaw is like this

- * As the Tatmadaw, it emerged
Embryonic status, the roots are
Based on patriotism, love of nation.
- * For national people, sacrificed lives
The Independence
Has been wrested back.
- * For national people, for mind and body
Peace
Has been formulated.
- * For national people, progress and development
Pride not to wane, plan and get ready
Laying down the path, that situation
Is definitely seen.
- * For national people, Road Map was written
Future of the nation
Has been charted out.
- * As in Road Map, the seven point.
Unfailingly, must be implemented
The movements, are clearly seen
Are truly discernible.

Po Wa (Trs)

General Than Shwe said, "The Tatmadawmen will have to strive together with the people for the successful implementation of the State's 12 objectives, while keeping in the fore "Our Three Main National Causes"; to strive for dynamism and propagation of Union Spirit, while trying to foster national unity; to make efforts in cooperation with the people to implement the five rural development tasks; to strive hand in hand with the people take thrifty measures, to reduce wastage and to accelerate the production sector for the national de-

velopment; to make efforts to build a brilliant Tatmadaw to protect and defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The four 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives which have been laid down to serve the long-term interest of the nation, the people and the Tatmadaw, will help lay sound foundations for the future democratic State with full essence and the present generation to hand down good heritage to the posterity.

(Translation: TMT)



Tatmadaw which is upholding "Our Three Main National Causes".

Secretary-1 meets industrial ...

(from page 16)

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected various kinds of small-scale vehicles, fan of watercraft and speed boats, agricultural equipment and foodstuff displayed at Monywa industrial zone. They also viewed production of traditional medicines.

They attended the ceremony to open Shwepyiaye school building at Monywa BEHS-2. The Secretary-1 formally unveiled the signboard of the building. They also viewed round the multimedia teaching centre.

At the opening ceremony, an official reported on arrangements made for opening the new building. Principal Daw Htay Myint handed over the documents related to the building to No 2 BED Director U Hla Aung. The Secretary-1 delivered a speech. He said that in a bid to implement the 4-year special plan for promotion of the education standard, success has been achieved thanks to the harmonious efforts of the State,

teachers, parents and students. In the process, continued endeavours are to be made for greater success, he said. Progress is being made in carrying out tasks for ensuring all nationals to be literate, enrolment of cent per cent school-going-age children and high rate of the students pursuing education to middle and high schools.

He said that in this regard, achievement is to be made both in quantity and in quality. Teachers are to nurture and teach the students with goodwill through the most effective use of pedagogical aids to turn out highly-qualified new generations and reliable ones. Next, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the teachers and members of the school board of trustees.

The 130' x 24' school building was constructed in three months at a cost of K 15.5 million including K 2.5 million donated by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council; K 3 million each by Gomorra medical house and Honda-Meaner Co; K 1.5 million

by Tin Win Tun Co; and K 1 million by U Kyaw Kyaw Sein, Daw Nan Yadana Win and brothers & sisters.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the Union Highway under construction in Monywa. Officials reported on work progress and the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to construction site of a bridge across Yama Creek in Yinmabin Township. Officials reported on construction of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road and the 15-mile road to link Monywa-Pale-Gangaw Road and Pakokku-Monywa Road, and progress in building the bridge. The commander reported on preparations to be made for timely completion of road and bridge construction tasks. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the construction site. On completion, the bridge will be 947 feet in length and it will link Aungchantha village in Yinmabin Township and Yondaw village in Salingyi Township. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe greets Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of State Council of PRC at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building. (News on page 16)— MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of State Council of PRC and party at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building. (News on page 16)— MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction tasks on Maei-Minkyaung road section

YANGON, 25 March—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected construction of road sections and bridges on Maei-Minkyaung road section of Yangon-Kyaukpadaung Highway on 21 March. Accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of

Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at Londawpauk Bridge Construction Project in An Township and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen

Maung Oo and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected construction of Maei-Londawpauk-Minkyaung road section with the use of geotextile process. They also saw over progress in building Thanthamagyi Bridge in Yanbye Township. On arrival at Thanthamachay Bridge in Yanbye Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party

heard reports on progress of construction tasks and gave necessary instructions.

They proceeded to Thazintanpauk Bridge in Yanbye Township and fulfilled the requirements.

In Lainggaung Island, they looked into construction of the road between Thazintanpauk Bridge and Wamphike Bridge in Yanbye Township. In the

island, four fresh water ponds have been dug for the public use. Next, they inspected progress in construction of Minkyaung Bridge.

Out of 14 bridges which will be 180 feet and above on Taungup-Maei-Kyaukpadaung Road Section, eight bridges have been built and six are under construction.

In the evening, Lt-Gen

Khin Maung Than and party inspected An-Padekyaw-Maei Road construction project and gave necessary instructions. An-Padekyaw-Maei road section is under construction in progress. — MNA

Lectures, exam for BED correspondence courses announced

YANGON, 25 March—The lectures and exams for the trainee teachers of BED correspondence course for 2003-2004 academic year will be held at Yangon Institute of Education. Lectures will be given for the first year of course No 22 and the second year of course No 23 from 22 April to 13 May. Trainees are to report not later than 21 April and will not be allowed to report three days beyond the target date. The examinations for the courses will be held from 17 to 21 May. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction of An-Padekyaw-Maei Road.— MNA

Deedokpauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway in Rakhine State commissioned into service

YANGON, 25 March — Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Deedokpauk Bridge on Maei-Kyaukpyu section of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State, was commissioned into service on 22 March.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address at the opening of the bridge held on the eastern bank of Deedokpauk Creek.

He said infrastructures have been built in various sectors for development of all regions of the Union formed with 14 states and divisions. Development infrastructures have been built in all states including Rakhine State and border regions which lagged behind in develop in the past for certain reasons. Transport plays a key role in developing a region. Smooth and better transport helps promote trade and production, thereby leading to developing the regional economy. At the same time there will be a harmonious progress in health, education and social sectors.

Moreover, increase in the relationship among the brethren will promote exchange of knowledge and widening the scope of visions among themselves leading to further strengthening national unity and Union Spirit. Thus, the Government has been giving priority to the transport development. In the past Rakhine State relied on air and water transport. Thus, the Government has been building many bridges in the state to help improve its road transport. Now the state has three highways — the Sittway-MraukU-An; the Taungup-Padaung; and the Gwa-Ngathaingchaung — linking a network of roads reaching all the directions of the nation. The section of the Yangon-

Kyaukpyu Highway passing through marshlands was built with the use of geotextile method. Of the 14 over 180-foot bridges on Taungup-Maei-Kyaukpyu Highway, eight bridges — the Kaingshe, the Tanlwe, the Hsapyin, the Lamu; the Maei; the Kyaukpaukgyi; the Sanepauk; and the Deedokpauk — have already been opened.

When all the bridges are completed, Ann-Maei-Kyaukpyu and An-Maei-Taungup highways linking the southern and northern Rakhine State will emerge. The Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway will also emerge magnificently as the Yangon-Sittway Highway. Thus there will be three gateways — An, Taungup and Gwa — to the state and four highways in the state. Deedokpauk Bridge is an important facility on the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway. It is one of the 169 over 180-foot bridges built by the Public Works since 1988. The PW has built 28 over 180-foot bridges in Rakhine State alone.

The 592-foot bridge is a reinforced concrete facility supporting a 24-foot motor way. Its maximum load bearing capacity is 60 tons. It will help develop the state. Rakhine State is rich in natural resources and an offshore natural gas deposit has been found in the region. Rakhine State saw a 13.6 per cent rise in the gross domestic product in fiscal 2002-2003 when compared to that of fiscal 2001-2002. Per capita income of the state in fiscal 2002-2003 was K 79,770, up K 29,027 from K 50,743 in fiscal 2001-2002.

The Government can provide all necessary assistance and create sound foundations, but the real force behind the region's development lies in the local people. Thus, all will have to make harmonious efforts for the development of their region.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun said there are 18,436 miles of roads in the nation, up 4,801 miles from 13,635 in 1988. In Rakhine there are now 897 miles of roads, up 449 miles from 448 in 1988.

In his speech, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo said rapid progress is clearly evident in every sector as the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw have realized the political, economic and social objectives in harmony for making the whole Union a peaceful, modern and developed one since the Government started assuming the responsibilities of the State.

Such measures are being taken with the aim of upholding 'Our Three Main National Causes' — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — which is national policy. Now is the time when efforts are under way to implement the seven-point

Secretary-1 inspects factories in Kyaukse

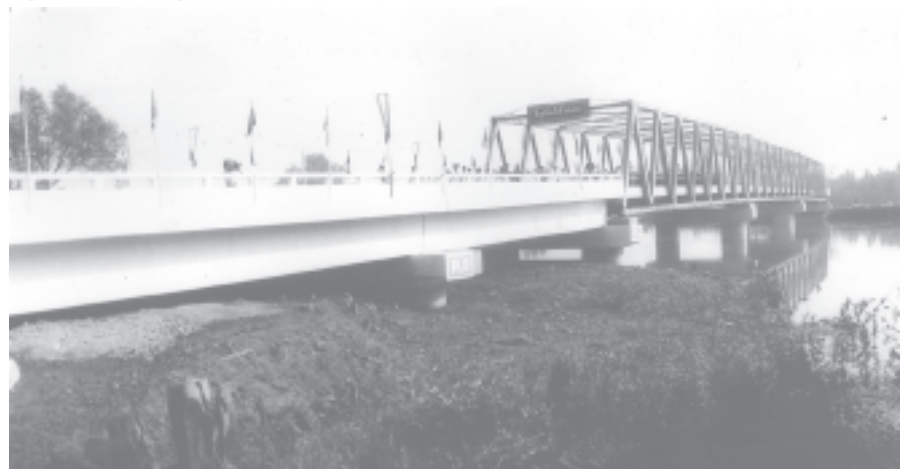
YANGON, 25 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, the mayor of Mandalay, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, inspected the factories under the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, on 22 March morning.

At the briefing hall of the Cement Plant (Kyaukse), Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win reported on the factories established in Kyaukse Township; Managers of respective factories, on progress in building factories, installation of machines to the factories, work capacity, production and distribution of the products; and the manager of the asbestos factory, on factory construction tasks and conditions on manufacturing products. The Secretary-1 gave instructions. The Secretary-1 and party looked into the production process at the bicycle factory, sewing machine factory, vest factory and shoe factory. Afterwards, they headed for the farm machinery factory of the Agricultural Mechanization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at Ingon in Insein Township. Director-General U Win Maw reported on production work of the smelting work. The Secretary-1 looked into the production process at the factory. Officials reported on salient points of the factory, products and staff affairs.

The director-general gave a supplementary report. The Secretary-1 left necessary instructions. The factory has a capacity to produce 10,000 power-tillers and 5,000 combined harvesters. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects products of Myanmar Agricultural Equipment Factory in Ingon, Kyaukse Township.— MNA



Deedokpauk Bridge seen on Maei-Kyaukpyu road section of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway in Yanbye Township. MNA

political programme that will promise the emergence of a new, discipline-flourishing democracy and the perpetuation of the

Union.

Next, a representative, on behalf of the local national people, spoke words of thanks for the

construction of Deedokpauk Bridge. Also present were Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station, local authorities, cultural dance troupe and

local people totalling over 2,000.

Later, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Col Myint Soe formally opened the bridge. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party together with the locals inspected the bridge.

MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than addresses opening ceremony of Deedokpauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway in Yanbye Township.— MNA



ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်တိုးရေးအဖွဲ့

ရန်ကုန်ပြည်သူ့ဆေးကုသရေးအဖွဲ့
ပြည်သူ့ဆေးကုသရေးအဖွဲ့

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သတ်တန်းနှင့် မြေသိမ်းဆေးမှုများကို ရန်ကုန်ပြည်သူ့ဆေးကုသရေးအဖွဲ့တွင်
အောက်ပါအတိုင်း ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	သတ်တန်း	သတ်တန်းကာလ	စာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည့်ကာလ
၁။	အပတ်စဉ်(၂၂)	(၂၂-၄-၂၀၀၄)	(၁၄-၅-၂၀၀၄)
	ပထမနှစ်	မှ	မှ
၂။	အပတ်စဉ်(၂၁)	(၁၃-၅-၂၀၀၄)	(၂၀-၅-၂၀၀၄)
	ဒုတိယနှစ်		

နောက်အကျဉ်းသတင်းပို့ရမည့်ရက် - (၂၁-၄-၂၀၀၄) ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့
(၃)ရက်ထက်ကျော်လွန် နောက်ကျ
ခြင်းကို ခွင့်မပြုပါ။
(စောသောဘော)
ဌာနခွဲမှူး (စီမံ)
ပြည်သူ့ဆေးကုသရေးအဖွဲ့
ရန်ကုန်ပြည်သူ့ဆေးကုသရေးအဖွဲ့

မျိုးစိမ်းတင်ဒါအော်လီယံ

၁။ အမှတ် (၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာစက္ကန့်နှင့် ဓာတ်ဆေးလုပ်ငန်း
ကြီးကြပ်မှုအဖွဲ့၏ မိမိစိမ်းစက်ရအတွက် အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများအား
မြန်မာကျပ်ငွေဖြင့်ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း ကြော်ငြာအပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	အကြောင်းအရာ	အရောင်းတွက်
1.	Potassium Chlorate	23MT
2.	Lactic Casein	5MT
3.	Red Phosphorus	4MT
4.	Hide Glue	2MT

၂။ တင်ဒါဝယ်ယူမှုရက်/အချိန် ၅-၄-၂၀၀၄၊ နေ့လယ် ၁၂:၀၀နာရီ
၃။ သိရှိလိုသည့်အချက်များရှိပါကရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်-၅၄၃၆၆၅၆
ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာစက္ကန့်နှင့် ဓာတ်ဆေးလုပ်ငန်း

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that
KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOPCON
is a Corporation organised under
the laws of Japan, of 75-1
Hosuruma-cho, Itabashi-ku
Tokyo, Japan, Manufacturers
and Merchants; are the Owners
and Sole Proprietors of the
following trademark:-



(Reg No. JN278/1993)

The said trademark is used in
respect of the description of
goods following, that is to say:-
"Surveying apparatus and in-
struments; measuring appa-
ratus and instruments
electronic apparatus and
instruments, optical apparatus
and instruments, medical
apparatus and instruments".
Any imitation or fraudulent use of
the said trademark will be dealt
with according to law.

Htein Lin Co (LL.B) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND
PATENT LAW FIRM LTD
DePENNING & DePENNING
Patent and Trademark Agents
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Intellectual Property House
31 South Bank Road
Chennai - 600 028
Akashanda Building
16 Napan Sea Road
Mumbai - 400 031
MA-99 Mezzani Road
DLF Phase-II
National Capital Region 122002
India. 26 March 2004

Chinese cultural relics spanning 5,000 years discovered

CHONGQING, 25 March — Archaeologists claim that cultural relics they discovered in Yunyang County, southwestern China's Chongqing municipality, cover each culture of a 5,000-year period with distinct cultural strata.

"We discovered human traces of each period from the Neolithic Age to the imperial Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, which covers 5,000 years," said Professor Luo Erhu with the archaeological department of prestigious Sichuan University.

Nearly 1,000 articles were unearthed at the site.

Luo acknowledged that "essential historical articles were discovered at each cul-

tural stratum, especially those after the Shang (16 Century BC-11 Century BC) and the Zhou (11 Century BC-221 BC) dynasties, which are well preserved and uninterrupted in age."

During the excavation which started on February 28, archaeologists unearthed four spiral trapeziform ash pits with a diameter of one metre of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), the first of its kind ever spotted in the Three Gorges Reservoir region and seldom seen around the country.

"The function of those pits is still under investigation," said Luo, "but it should be related to certain religions or customs."

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria seeks visa clearance to fight drug trafficking

Lagos, 25 March — The Nigerian federal government has called for international cooperation on visa clearance of Nigerians travelling to drug source countries, in order to screen out potential drug traffickers, a senior Nigerian Government official said here Tuesday.

Abdul Danbata, commander of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), told reporters in

Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos that it was imperative for foreign embassies in the country to submit visa applicants to drug source countries to the agency for screening before the visas are granted.

He said NDLEA visa clearance unit ensures that all intending travellers to drug source countries are screened before they are recommended to foreign embassies. —MNA/Xinhua

Don't Smoke

78% of Angolans
drink non-treated
water

LUANDA, 25 March — At least 81 per cent of the Angolans survive on non-treated water, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) was quoted by local media as saying on Tuesday.

The institute presented their findings of a Multiple Indicative Inquiry (MICS) on the World's Water Day Monday. It said 41 per cent of Angolan families live without proper sanitation, and more than 40 per cent get water from unsafe sources.

Angolan news agency Angop reported.

The document stated that the diarrhoea is killing nearly two million children worldwide per year and causes other diseases.

The children who already suffer from other illness are the first to get sick and die of diseases related to drinking unclean water, such as diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid fever. —MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Mars rover peers at edge of ancient seashore

WASHINGTON, 25 March—NASA's Mars rover *Opportunity* is sending data back to Earth from an ancient martian seashore, scientists reported on Tuesday.

"We think *Opportunity* is now parked on what was once the shoreline of a salty sea on Mars," said Steve Squyres, principal investigator for the science payload on *Opportunity* and its twin Mars exploration rover, *Spirit*.

On March 2, astronomers announced that the Red Planet was "drenched with water" at some point. But the rovers' analysis of Mars rocks has now produced the first concrete evidence that liquid water might actually have flowed on planet's surface.

"If you have an interest in searching for fossils on Mars, this is the first place to go," said Ed Weiler, NASA's associate administrator for space science.

In a presentation titled "*Opportunity* hits the beach," Squyres and other

Mars rover scientists stressed that the rocks they observed are at the side of a crater that shows sedimentary rock. Instead of being merely drenched, these rocks were formed by flowing water, the researchers said.

Squyres said the amount of water indicated by these rocks represents the difference between "water you can draw from a well, and water you can swim in."

"This was a habitable environment on Mars, a salt flat," Squyres said. But when asked whether he expected to see evidence that Earth-type life had existed at the site, he said, "I don't expect to see microbial fossils and I certainly don't expect to see dinosaur tracks."

Scientists do not yet know how big

the body of water might have been, how deep, or when or how it formed.

Even so, this finding is a bull's-eye for the rover team, whose mission was to investigate areas believed to have been covered with water long ago. If there was water, theorists believe, there might have been life on the Red Planet.

"We're back on Mars. It's great to be there and even better to know that in due course, human explorers will follow," NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe told the briefing.

Asked whether this discovery would affect the pacing of the Bush Administration's plan to send humans to Mars someday, O'Keefe replied, "It certainly would have an impact."

MNA/Reuters

HK resumes chilled chicken imports from Mainland

HONG KONG, 25 March—Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government Monday resumed the importation of chilled chickens from the Chinese Mainland.

According to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) of the Hong Kong Government, about 24,000 Mainland chilled chickens were imported to Hong Kong on the first day of import resumption, and it is very likely that the number of imports will increase in the near future.

The first batch of 5,000 chilled chickens which arrived on Monday morning was transferred to Man Kam To Food Control Office for inspection.

Superintendent of the FEHD Fan Yung-kai said samples of the imported chilled chickens will be tested for H5 virus.

Fan also said that the government will have to evaluate the situation before deciding when to resume the importation of poultry viscous and chilled ducks and geese.

In order to reduce the risk of the outbreak of avian flu, the FEHD is carrying out additional measures.

MNA/Xinhua

World champion "Snake Man" killed by cobra

BANGKOK, 25 March—Thailand's Boonreung Buachan, holder of the Guinness Book of World Records title for spending the most time penned up with snakes, was killed by a cobra which bit him during his daily show, a hospital doctor said on Monday.

Boonreung, 34 and dubbed Snake Man, was rushed unconscious to Prai Bung Hospital near his home town, 350 miles northeast of Bangkok, Dr Wipa Praituan told Reuters.

"He was brought here with no signs of life. He wasn't breathing and his heart didn't beat," she said.

Boonreung was listed by the Guinness Book of World Records in 1998 after living with snakes in a glass box for seven days.

An epileptic, he went into convulsions after being bitten, but no one took him to the hospital initially because they thought he was suffering an epileptic fit.

Boonreung's father said he would give his son's 30 snakes to a zoo because nobody in the family dared deal with them.—MNA/Reuters

UN reports dietary deficiencies threaten billions

UNITED NATIONS, 25 March—Dietary shortages of crucial vitamins and minerals like zinc and iron may be keeping as many as a third of the world's people from reaching their full potential, researchers told a UN panel on Tuesday.

"Resources and technology to bring vitamin and mineral deficiencies under control do exist. What we need is the will, the effort and the action to fix this problem," said Venkatesh Mannar of the Ottawa-based Micronutrient Initiative, which co-funded studies with the UN children's agency UNICEF.

Severe deficiencies in key nutrients can trigger medical problems including

anemia, cretinism and blindness, but less extreme deficiencies can also cause serious problems, said the studies presented to a meeting of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, an arm of the World Health Organization.

A shortage of iron in the diet crimps young children's development and intelli-

gence and a deficiency in Vitamin A compromises the immune system of about 40 per cent of children under five in developing nations, the researchers said. They said a shortfall in iodine causes as many as 20 million babies a year to be born mentally impaired.

Zinc deficiency may be

the most under-reported global health problem, they said.

As many as one-fifth of the world's population lack enough zinc in their diets, putting children in particular at risk of dwarfism, diarrhoea and serious respiratory infections like pneumonia, the studies found.

MNA/Reuters

Recording industry sues 532 people for online music piracy

LOS ANGELES, 25 March—The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) filed lawsuits against 532 people Tuesday, for alleged illegal online sharing of digital music.

This is the latest in a series of aggressive moves that the RIAA has taken in its fight against increasing online music piracy, which costs the recording industry dearly.

Among the accused included 89 individuals using networks at 21 universities in Arizona, California, New York, Indiana, Maryland, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Washington.

This is the first time that users of university computer

networks are accused by the RIAA. The other 443 people accused are those who use commercial Internet access providers in California, Colorado, Missouri, Texas and Virginia.

The defendants face potential civil penalties or settlements that could cost them thousands of dollars. Settlements in previous cases have averaged 3,000 US dollars each.

"We are sending a clear message that downloading or

'sharing' music from a peer-to-peer network without authorization is illegal, it can have consequences and it undermines the creative future of music itself," RIAA president Cary Sherman said in a statement.

So far 1,977 people have been accused by the RIAA since it launched the offensive against illegal online music piracy late last year. The RIAA has reached out-of-court settlements in about 400 cases.—MNA/Xinhua

Ethiopia to build hydroelectric power project over Nile

ADDIS ABABA, 25 March—Ethiopia announced Tuesday its plan to construct a hydroelectric power project under the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) while Egypt insists on its huge quota of Nile water over other countries sharing the river.

The Ethiopian News Agency quoted government officials as saying that four large-scale dams would be built around River Abay (Nile) very soon.

Tefera Beyene from the dam and hydroelectric power design department of the Ethiopian Ministry of Water Resources said a study would begin soon to enable the launch of the first hydroelectric power project.

Tefera said the funds for carrying out most of the projects has already been secured from the international community.

According to him, part of the investment for the construction of the Baro-Akobo hydroelectric power project was obtained from the Norwegian Government.

"Other irrigation and water drainage development projects would also be under-

taken around river Dedesa and lake Tana. Ethiopia and Egypt are working together for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the respective countries on the utilization of the resources of River Abay (Nile)," Tefera added. A study enabling to launch Geba hydroelectric power project on Baro-Akobo River basin is also being carried out with a fund allocated by the government, said Tefera.—MNA/Xinhua

Mexico smashes human trafficking ring, arrests 44

MEXICO CITY, 25 March—Mexico's Government said on Tuesday it had arrested 44 suspects in an operation to break up a trafficking ring taking migrants to the United States.

The government said the ring provided papers and assistance to hundreds of undocumented South and Central American migrants travelling across Mexico from the southeastern state of Quintana

Roo to northern Chihuahua State, from where they were smuggled across the border into the United States.

"The civil servants helped to take the migrants to the border region in the north of

the country, where they illegally provided them with official documentation and helped hundreds to enter the United States," Interior Minister Santiago Creel told a news conference.—MNA/Reuters

Archaeological find reveals centuries-old trade in north China

TIANJIN, 25 March—Chinese archaeologists have recently unearthed Chinese and Japanese coins and a dainty scale made of ivory in the northern municipality Tianjin.

"These represent booming commerce and foreign trade in the area centuries ago," said Chen Yong, head of the Tianjin municipal cultural heritage protection centre, who is in charge of a month-long excavation into an ancient commercial street in today's Jixian county on the city's outskirts.

The excavation, which started on February 26, covered 400 square metres of the Drum Tower Front Street, located in the Drum Tower Square in the county seat, said Chen. Chen and his colleagues have unearthed copper coins spanning from the remote Western Han Dynasty (206 BC - 24 AD) to

the end of the Qing Dynasty in the early 1900s. "We've also found coins ingrained with Japanese characters, a sign that foreign trade already boomed in the ancient town several centuries ago."

He did not say how old the coins exactly were or what they looked like.

MNA/Xinhua

PRC State Council Vice Premier and party leave for Bagan-NyaungU

YANGON, 25 March— Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of the State Council and party of the People's Republic of China who arrived here at the invitation of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, left here by special aircraft for Bagan-NyaungU at 2 pm today.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Secretary-1 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, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department and officials and embassy officials of the Chinese Embassy.

Before their departure by air, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented goodwill delegation video tapes and documentary photo album as gifts to Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi. MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win sees off Chinese Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of State Council and party at Yangon International Airport to visit Bagan-NyaungU.— MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets Mandalay Division Agricultural Supervisory Committee

YANGON, 25 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with members of Mandalay Division Agricultural Supervisory Committee and officials at Central Command in Mandalay on 22 March.

Also present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, Secretary of Division PDC Lt-Col Kyi Thein and officials.

The division manager of Myanma Agriculture Service reported to the meeting on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, long-staple cotton, sugarcane, beans and pulses, oil crops, maize and kitchen crops in



Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets officials of Mandalay Division Agricultural Supervisory Committee.— MNA

the division, cultivation projects and accomplishments.

Officials of Irrigation Department and Water Resources Utilization Department explained water inflow at dams, maintenance

of main canal and tributary canals, water supply, targeted acres of land to be irrigated by water pumping stations and planned acreage and actual sown acreage. Officials of the respective departments also pre-

sented reports on rain fall, plans and accomplishments sector wise.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that efforts should be made

to ensure regional rice sufficiency, extend paddy cultivation, raise per acre yield, reduce cultivation cost, and keep records systematically. Means should be sought to raise per acres yield. Field tours should be made down

to the grassroots to extend sown acreage. The committee members and officials of the related departments will have to find means to remedy the weaknesses for cent per cent realization of the projects. — MNA

Regional development measures inspected in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 25 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and departmental officials, arrived at the work site of Myitnge bridge construction project on 23 morning.

At the briefing hall, Project Chief Engineer U Soe Min reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on the erecting of piles, the laying of concrete, construction of approach bridges on the bank of Singaing and on that of Myitnge, progress of making concrete frames, and tasks left to be done.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on efforts

to finish the construction in time and inspected the work site.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Thittetgon Diversion Weir near Ledwington village, where he inspected the digging of a main ditch for the diversion weir and heard reports on tasks being carried out there and supply of water to irrigated farmland.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the

construction project of the 25-story modern Zegyo market and a condominium.

At the briefing hall, he heard reports on tasks being carried out at the construction project and gave instructions on works to be carried out.

He also fulfilled the requirements.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Sagaing Bridge on the

border of Mandalay Division and Sagaing Division, where they were welcomed by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials arrived Monywa in Sagaing Division in the evening. MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for PRC

YANGON, 25 March — Myanmar delegation led by Auditor General Maj-Gen Lun Maung this morning left here for Beijing, the People's Republic of China, to attend the ceremony to sign MoU between the two countries.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Chief-Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Deputy Auditor General Daw Thin Thin, Acting Director-General of the Auditor-General's Office U Myo Myint and officials.

Members of the delegation were Deputy Director-General of the Auditor-General's Office U Khin Maung Lin, Director U Thein Myint and Assistant Director Daw Myint Myint. MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects extended digging of Thittetgon Diversion Weir.— MNA



The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi visits Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

PRC goodwill delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 25 March — The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Madam Wu Yi, accompanied by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and officials, this morning visited Shwedagon Pagoda here.

Members of the Pagoda board of trustees and officials welcomed them.

The PRC Vice Premier and members of the delegation had a documentary taken at the pagoda. Afterwards, they offered flowers, light and incense sticks to Buddha Image at the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book. Next, the Vice Premier donated cash to the pagoda funds through the pagoda board of trustees. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects development tasks in Tangyan Township

YANGON, 25 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station and officials, inspected thriving of Hsinshweli paddy strain at 40 acres of land in Mongpat Village, Tangyan Township, on 22 March.

At the hall of Tangyan Station Highland Reclamation Project, Col Khin Maung Myint of Tangyan Station reported on cultivation of crops at 500 acres of highland farmland and Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station and officials on arrangements for cultivation of Hsinadana paddy strain in Hsenwi Station and mixed cropping of maize and pigeon pea. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected preparations for cultivation tasks.

Next, they attended the ceremony to broadcast fertilizers at model Hsinshweli summer paddy fields in Khoyoung Village-tract, Tangyan Township.

At Lwepanglon Hall in Tangyan Station, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe met with officers, other ranks and family members of the station. He also met with local people at the town hall in Tangyan.

They proceeded to Tangyan Agricultural Farm of Hong Pang Agricultural Development Co Ltd in Hwekyein Village-tract, Tangyan Township, and inspected poppy-substitute perennial crops plantations, the macadamia nursery, the tea nursery and tea plantations.

Afterwards, they saw over Takaw-et Suspension Bridge across Thanlwin River in Tangyan Township and progress in construction of 55 miles long Tangyan-Mongywang-Mongshu Road.

Next, they went to Tangyan Station Livestock Breeding Farm and inspected pig breeding farm, fish breeding ponds and raising of layers and attended to their needs. — MNA

POEM:

Honouring the "The Fragrance of the Tatmadaw's honour"

- * The Tatmadaw is for Myanmar
With firm morale held to bosom
Noble heart, sweat and blood
Stands guard against all enemies.
- * The Tatmadaw is united
National, throughout the land
Assembled together in unity
Repulsed, not to be ever enslaved.
- * The Tatmadaw, throughout history
For Myanmar nation, regarded life
As if it were a leaf, undeterred
Traditionally, steadfastly, gives of itself.
- * The Tatmadaw, to build new nation
Hands held unitedly, with wisdom and tenacity
With full strength and industry
A foundation is built again.
- * The Tatmadaw works for Motherland's
Modernity, development and economic wellbeing
Giving priority to national weal
With full cognizance, it strives.
- * All those traditions, many and varied
To the brimful, Tatmadaw's honour
In the fragrance of Tabaung summer's mist
Old and new leaves changing, poetically
We embellish and take pride
And in unison, salute.

Yan Naing Oo (Trs)

Military parade columns finalize practice of parade drills for Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 25 March — Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, member of the State Peace and Development Council, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the military parade columns practising final drills marching from Myoma Grounds to the Resistance Park this morning.

Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, and senior military officers watched and inspected the final parade drills.

Anawrahta, Kyansitha, Bayintnaung, Nawaday, Aungzeya, Hsinbyushin, Bandoola, Myawady and Aung San columns under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein and Reserve Parade Commander Col Nyi Tun practised the final parade drills in line with the parade procedures.

After giving necessary instructions, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win left Myoma Grounds at 10 am.

MNA



WEATHER

Thursday, 25 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, except for isolated light rain in Mon State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Monywa, Minbu and Magway.

Maximum temperature on 24-3-2004 was 37.0°C (99°F). Minimum temperature on 25-3-2004 was 19.7°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-3-2004 was 77%. Total sun shine hours on 24-3-2004 was (9.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 25-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from North-west at (12:33) hours MST on 24-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26-3-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-3-2004: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-3-2004: Fair weather.

Deputy Minister receives guest

YANGON, 25 March — Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung received Ambassador of Bangladesh Mr A B Manjoor Rahim at 2 pm today at the deputy minister's office here.

Also present at the call were Immigration and National Registration Department Director-General U Maung Htay and officials. — MNA

Rural roads opened to hail 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 25 March — Director-General of the Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs attended the opening of Thayetngu-Mayan rural gravel road and Chaunggalay-Kyonpadaw gravel road in Pantanaw Township recently. The Thayetngu-Mayan Road is 1 mile and 2 furlongs long and 8 feet wide.

The Chaunggalay-Kyonpadaw road is 3,850 feet long and 8 feet wide. The director-general also inspected progress in construction of Pyintongyi-Tuchaung-Gonmin rural earthen road. — 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



Senior General Than Shwe receives Vice Premier of State Council of PRC

YANGON, 25 March— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of the State Council and party of the People's Republic of China at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann,

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 and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

The Chinese Vice Premier and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe together with Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi of State Council of PRC and party pose for documentary photo at Credentials Hall.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Bangladeshi President

YANGON, 26 March— On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which falls on 26 March 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

MNA

Secretary-1 meets industrial entrepreneurs in Monywa Industrial Zone

YANGON, 25 March— Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win met with industrial entrepreneurs at the meeting hall of Monywa Industrial Zone, Monywa, Sagaing Division, on 21 March morning.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and officials.

At the meeting, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported on allotment of plots for industrial entrepreneurs at the industrial zone, measures being taken

for better transport and electricity supply and production of small vehicles.

Next, the commander reported on security measures, power supply, installation of auto-telephones, fire prevention, arrangements being made for construction of the foundry plant, the machine tool factory and the mould factory and improvement for industrial technology.

Chairman of Monywa Industrial Zone U Myat Zaw reported on requirements of electricity at the zone. Divisional Engineer of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise U Sein Win gave a supplementary report.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that as Monywa Industrial Zone is one having good prospects for development in future, the State is fulfilling requirements

of it. Factories and workshops in the zone are to manufacture products with full capacity. With the assistance provided by the State, the foundry plant and the mould factory are to be established as soon as possible, and arrangements are to be made for running the factories and the plant. On completion, the private industrial sector will achieve more progress. So, it is necessary to have more successes in production of import-substitute and agricultural farming industries. Furthermore, preparations are now to be made for conducting the research and development works. Later, he urged the entrepreneurs to harmoniously, correctly and fairly perform upgrading of the industrial zone. Next, he cordially greeted the industrial entrepreneurs.

(See page 10)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects construction of Yama Creek Bridge in Yinnabin Township.— MNA