

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 346

7th Waxing of Hnaung Tagu 1365 ME

Saturday, 27 March, 2004

## Four political objectives

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

## Four economic objectives

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

## Four social objectives

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



*Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveils signboard of Myanmar Convention Centre.— H*

## Myanmar Convention Centre opens in Yangon

YANGON, 6 March — Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township, here was opened this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

The centre was built by Yangon City Development Committee.

The opening ceremony,

held at the centre, was also attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, the

vice mayor, chairmen and members of social organizations, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, YCDC members, officials and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and YCDC Chairman Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the centre.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveiled its signboard.

Speaking on the occasion, the mayor said that Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to YCDC to construct a multi-purpose building for Yangon to have the characteristics of an in-

ternational level city. The committee also received instructions from Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt to facilitate the work of implementing the project.

The main building occupies 1.1 acres of land in the eight-acre compound, where a 300-seat restaurant, a parking lot and a lawn complete with flowers are located. The

ground floor houses a 192-foot by 128-foot hall, with a 64-foot wide stage, which can seat 2,500 people. The car park can accommodate 500 cars and the lawn can be used for outdoor receptions and entertainment programmes. Moreover indoor receptions and entertainment programmes can be also held in the building. International level conferences, seminars and workshops can be organized in the main hall. Besides, the building and its compound can be used for holding international trade fairs. The Prime Minister has given instructions to YCDC to make Yangon a modern city where commercial, trade, financial, banking and administrative institutions can run their businesses smoothly and conveniently; to fulfil all the health and socio-economic needs of the city dwellers; and to understand its importance in various sectors.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the centre.

MNA



*Newly opened Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township.— MNA*

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 27 March, 2004

## The Tatmadaw in perpetual service of the State and the people

Today is the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces (Tatmadaw) Day of the Union of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw was born during the period of independence struggle and it has been able to strive hand in hand with the people to regain the independence. This could be documented in the history of Myanmar.

The Tatmadaw has emerged in line with the national political cause and needs of the nation and it is the gathering point of the siblings of the national people who are endowed with patriotism. The Tatmadaw is also named patriotic one because it has been performing national defence duty at the risk to their lives based on patriotism. On 27 March, 1945, the Tatmadaw daringly launched anti-fascists resistance, which is famous in the history of Myanmar, together with the entire national people.

Since the time of anti-fascists movement, the Tatmadaw has been standing as an independent one representing the entire people. The Tatmadaw with fine historical tradition has been safeguarding the nation sacrificing many lives, blood and sweat. It always protects the lives and property of the national people and serves the interests of the people.

Now, the Tatmadaw turns its 59th year in safeguarding the State and the people. Now is the time when efforts are being made with the strength of the national people for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and fruitful result has been achieved in these endeavours thanks to the united efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

At such a time, internal and external destructive elements who are jealous of the nation's success and do not want to see the progress of the nation are making plots to undermine the nation. Using various excuses, they attack the Tatmadaw which is leading the nation. The people and the Tatmadaw remain united although there are many attempts of the destructive elements to drive a wedge between the people and the Tatmadaw.

The unity of the Tatmadaw which has been loyal to the State and the people in the successive eras and the unity between the Tatmadaw and the people has stood the test of the time.

We firmly believe that the Tatmadaw with great historical traditions will be able to lead the nation to the national goal of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

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)



“အမျိုးသမီးတပ် ဖွဲ့ဖြူဖို့၊ ပိုင်းဝန်းကြီးပန်း ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”  
Myanmar Federation of Women's Affairs  
Plenary Meeting of State/Division  
Organization for Women's Affairs  
Yangon 28-29 March 2004

59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Armed Forces Day Objectives

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

## People's Desire

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

## Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends opening of display on works of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literature and Art Competition

YANGON, 26 March —

A ceremony to open the display on works of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literature and Art Competition was held at the Defence Services Museum on U Wisara Road here this morning. Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and Chairman of the committee for the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literature and Art Competition member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win formally opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon. It was attended by Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, members of the committee for Literature and Art Competition, members of the work committee for holding Literature and Photos display, and members of other various com-



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win views round the works of literary and art competitions. — MNA

mittees, departmental officials, and prize winners of various competitions.

After the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win formally unveiled the portrait of State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe, objectives of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the pictures depicting the opening of Ye Ywa Hydro-electric Station and Ayeyawady

Bridge (Magway).

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party viewed round the prize winning works and photos displayed at the museum, and left there.

The works of the Literary and Art competition will be displayed at the museum up to 4 April. At the display, quiz will be staged and prizes will be presented to winners. — MNA

## Training courses conclude

YANGON, 26 March—The Financial Law Course No 15 and Civil Planning Course No 6 concluded at the Central Training School of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Ward-51, Dagon Myothit (North) this morning.

Director-General of Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint made a speech on the occasion and presented prizes to outstanding students. Next, the director-general presented completion certificates to leaders of the trainees. The director-general addressed the conclusion ceremony of the garden short-term course and the gardener course sponsored by Development Affairs Department. The garden short-term course was attended by 15 trainees and the gardener course 15 trainees.—MNA

## 92 tourists arrive in NyaungU

YANGON, 26 March— Under the supervision and assistance of the Ministry of Transport and arrangements of Adventure Myanmar Travels & Tours Co Ltd, a chartered plane of Bangkok Airways with 92 tourists arrived at NyaungU Airport yesterday morning.

They were welcomed there by officials of the ministries concerned and Adventure Myanmar Travels & Tours Co Ltd and traditional dance troupes. While in Myanmar, the tourists will visit Bagan, Inlay and Mandalay and they will leave Mandalay International Airport for Bangkok, Thailand, on 31 March evening.— MNA

## Myo Min Aung secures Tiger Golf C'ship trophy in Amateur Open



YANGON, 26 March—  
The Tiger Myanmar

Amateur Open 2004 concluded at Yangon Golf Club, Danyingon, this afternoon.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony followed. Prizes were presented to daily best scorers.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave away championship trophy to Myo Min Aung. Mr David Teng presented gifts

to the Minister for Sports, the Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism and the Singaporean Ambassador.

In the open, Thein Zaw Myint won the second prize with 294 strokes, Bo Bo the third with 296, Zaw Zin Win the fourth with 301 and Derek Htet Doe the fifth with 302. The open was organized by Han Event Management with co-sponsors Canon, Ping Golf Equipment, Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, Air Mandalay, Wilson and Imperial Jade Drinking Water.

MNA



Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing De Cruz presents the fourth prize to Zaw Zin Win. — MGF

## မီးဘေးရှောင် မလောင်ခင်တာ။

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရနှင့် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ၊  
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လိုအပ်သည်ကိုစွဲရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ  
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၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ဧပြီလအတွက် (၁၁-၄-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့  
(၂၅-၄-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့



# New Spain PM firm on troop pullout from Iraq in meetings with Blair, Powell

MADRID, 26 March—Spain's incoming Prime Minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, stood firm in his first meetings with foreign leaders on a pledge to withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq by June 30 unless the United Nations assumes control of the occupying forces there.

Zapatero held six hours of back-to-back talks with officials, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair and US Secretary of State Colin Powell before and after a memorial mass for the 190 victims of the March 11 Madrid train bombings.

Miguel Angel Moratinos, who is expected to become foreign minister after the government is sworn in early next month, told reporters that "the message was clear" in talks with the two main proponents of the war in Iraq. "Unless the current

parameters of the military presence in Iraq change, the Spanish troops will come home on June 30," he said.

While a spokesman for Blair said "the overall tone was one of warmth and understanding between the two leaders," there was

nothing to suggest that any breakthrough occurred to comfort the rocky alliance.

Despite the talks between Zapatero and Powell lasting less than half the planned 45 minutes, a senior US official described it as "overall a positive meeting." Moratinos told reporters that Powell "showed an interest in working together with Spain to ascertain what the role of the UN might be (in Iraq) and what political and military mandate it might have."

Zapatero's Socialist Party won an unexpected general election victory on March 14 having campaigned on a pledge to pull Spanish troops out of Iraq unless the United Nations took over from the US-led coalition.—Internet



An Iraqi prepares to pour more fuel on a blazing US Army Humvee vehicle following a shootout between American forces and guerillas in the restive town of Falluja on 25 March, 2004. Two US soldiers were killed and four wounded in two separate attacks on convoys in Iraq, the US military said.—INTERNET

## Bangladesh, Vietnam to boost bilateral trade

DHAKA, 26 March—Bangladesh and Vietnam signed three agreements on trade, agriculture and culture during Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong's three-day official visit to Bangladesh, the official *Bangladesh News Agency* reported Wednesday.

In a joint Press statement issued on Wednesday at the end of the visit, the two countries agreed that bilateral trade volume has been modest and the untapped potential needs to be explored.

An agreement on avoidance of double taxation, a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of agriculture, and a protocol on cultural exchange between the two countries were signed during the visit.

The statement said the two sides also agreed to make further efforts for sustainable cooperation in the fields of investment, trade and commerce, agriculture, fisheries, education, information technology and telecommunications, culture, and tourism.

It said the two countries specified the areas, particularly pharmaceuticals, garments, jute, leather, cement, frozen food, chemical, mechanical appliances, handicrafts, wooden furniture, petroleum products, for more trade and closer cooperation.

The two countries also agreed that there

are vast scope and opportunities for joint investment in such potential sectors as textiles and garments, frozen fish, leather goods, home appliances, agro-based industries, motor-bike manufacturing, as well as petrochemicals, added the statement.

The two sides, moreover, agreed to revive the Joint Commission on Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

The statement said Bangladesh's future participation in the Asian Regional Forum (ARF), Ganges-Mekong Cooperation Initiative, and the proposed East West Economic Corridor which is a highway linking Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar, were all discussed during the talks, and Vietnam responded positively to these issues.

Bangladesh also responded positively when Vietnam asked Bangladesh for support for its accession to the World Trade Organization.

MNA/Xinhua

## APEC TEL 29 meeting opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 26 March—More than 250 delegates from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies attended the 29th APEC Telecommunication and Information Working Group Meeting (APEC TEL 29) here Wednesday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the meeting, Hong Kong's Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology John Tsang said, "As the global economy and the ICT (information communication and telecommunication) industry seem to be on a positive trend upwards, it is time for governments, industry and academia to rethink the challenges we all face in realizing the maximum benefits of ICT".

He said, "There are many issues we need to address, such as the digital divide and e-security, two areas that have occupied APEC TEL discussions."

The APEC TEL Working Group was formed in 1990. It is committed to improving the telecommunications and information infrastructure in the region and to facilitating effective cooperation, free trade and investment and sustainable development. —MNA/Xinhua

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## Three US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 March — Separate attacks north and west of Baghdad on Thursday killed three US troops, military sources said.

A US Marine was killed and two were wounded Thursday in an ambush west of Fallujah, US military sources said.

Attackers used homemade bombs, rocket-propelled grenades, and guns and rifles, the sources said.

Fallujah, west of Baghdad, is part of the "Sunni Triangle," the restive region of anti-US sentiment north and west of the Iraqi capital.

Earlier Thursday, a roadside bomb in Baqubah killed a US soldier and wounded two others, military sources said.

The blast took place 30 miles (48 km) north of Baghdad. Also, one US soldier was killed and another wounded Wednesday in an attack north of Baghdad, Brig General Mark Kimmitt said Thursday.

The soldier's unit fired back, killing three of the attackers, Kimmitt said.

The attack took place in Taji, which is about 19 miles (30 km) north of Baghdad.

Kimmitt said Thursday US forces are fired upon an average of 22 times a day.—Internet

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

BAGHDAD, 26 March—As of Thursday, 25 March, 584 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq a year ago, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 394 died as a result of hostile action and 190 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Ukraine, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, Estonia and Poland have reported one each. Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 446 US soldiers have died — 279 as a result of hostile action and 167 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,949

US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 434.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

—A 1st Infantry Division soldier was killed Thursday near Baqubah, Iraq, when an explosive detonated. —A soldier was killed Wednesday in a gunbattle with insurgents near Taji, Iraq.—Internet

## HK legislature passes new bills on copyright protection

HONG KONG, 26 March—The Hong Kong Legislative Council passed and approved two bills Wednesday to reinforce actions against copyright violation.

The bills are the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2003 and the Copyright (Suspension of Amendments) Ordinance 2001 (Amendment) Notice 2004. Under the existing copyright ordinance, making an infringing copy of a copyright work for sale or hire is already an offense.

A spokesman for the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau said that the newly enacted offense will not change the scope of the existing offense as far as copyshops are concerned. However, it will

facilitate enforcement action and prosecution work against illicit reproduction of printed works and strengthen copyright protection for such works.

"However, copyright work owners and users need more time to consider the appropriate scope of end-user criminal liability. To allow more time for continued discussions in this regard, all provisions relating to end-user criminal liability have been deleted from the Bill," said the spokesman.—MNA/Xinhua



Indian activists shout anti-US slogans to demand the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq during a protest in New Delhi, on 25 March.—INTERNET

# Report details low army morale, suicide in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 March—US soldiers in Iraq were plagued by low morale, experienced spikes in suicides last July and November and lacked access to some medications sought by military mental-health specialists to treat emotional problems, Army experts reported on Thursday.

A 12-person Army Mental Health Advisory Team issued a 38-page report on issues faced by US soldiers in Iraq, including suicide, combat stress and the availability of help from the Army. The team traveled to Iraq from August to October 2003 and interviewed almost 760 soldiers.

The report found a "significant proportion" of soldiers "experienced and reported behavioral health concerns, and that there was an unmet need for behavioral services."

Army Surgeon General Lt General James Peake noted that the report focused on a period when US soldiers faced a mounting insurgency and questions over the length of their deployment.

During a Pentagon briefing, team members gave fresh details on Army

suicides, saying that since last April, 22 male soldiers and two female soldiers had taken their own lives in Iraq and Kuwait. All but one were by gunshot, with the lone exception being an overdose of headache medication.

Three other Army deaths — two last year and one this year — are under investigation as possible suicides, officials said. In addition, seven soldiers have committed suicide after returning from Iraq, officials said.

Col Bruce Crow, a clinical psychologist who served on the team, said suicides peaked with five in July and four in November but averaged about two per month for most of 2003. U.S. troops faced heightened attacks during those two months. He said the only suicide by an Army soldier in Iraq this year occurred this month.

Army officials disclosed some of the suicide findings on Wednesday, including a suicide rate of 17.3 per 100,000 soldiers among soldiers in Iraq, much higher than the overall Army rate.

Crow said this compared to a rate of 15.6 per 100,000 during the Vietnam War and 3.6 during the 1991 Gulf War. The report also detailed low morale among Army soldiers, with 72 percent of those questioned characterizing morale as either low or very low in their unit and 52 percent saying their personal morale was either low or very low.

Combat stress was caused by seeing dead bodies, personally coming under attack or knowing someone who was killed or seriously wounded, the report said. Other factors included soldiers' uncertainty over when they would go home. —Internet

ဝက်သ္မန်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Homeless women protest outside an administration building in the southern Iraq city of Basra on 24 March, 2004 after they and their families were evicted from government owned premises.—INTERNET

## Chinese Govt enhances drafting of development guidelines

BEIJING, 26 March— The Chinese Government is accelerating the reform of strategic planning by integrating the idea of sustainable growth into the formulation of its social and economic development goals.

Zhu Zhixin, Vice-Minister of the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC), told an international seminar here Wednesday that the Chinese Government had changed the title of the traditional "Five-Year Plan" to the "Five-Year Programme" in a bid to cater to its development policy into an increasingly market-oriented economy.

For the past five-plus decades, the Chinese Government had drafted plans for each five-year period, setting major policy goals of social and economic development.

In drafting policy goals for the 2006-10 period, the Chinese Government has increased public participation by contracting research projects of major economic and social issues to non-governmental institutes.

In a break from the traditional practice of setting similar policy goals for various areas of the vast country, the central government now attaches importance to the drafting of regional development programmes.

It is composing five-year programmes on the development of such regions as the Yangtze River Delta, the areas around Beijing and Tianjin municipalities, the traditional industrial zone in northeast China and the areas around Chengdu and Chongqing cities in the southwest.

In addition to regional goals, the government is conducting experiments in drafting county-level development programmes in six counties around the country, including Suzhou, Ningbo, Yibin, Qinzhou, Zhuanghe and Anxi.

At the same time, the government is drafting strategic programmes on major industries such as energy, transportation and raw materials. It also promulgated regulations on preliminary study, coordination, public participation and consultation of policy goal development. —MNA/Xinhua

## Australian mineralogist finds sand capable of cleaning up pollution

CANBERRA, 26 March — A type of sand found in Australia was discovered to have the potential ability of cleaning up pollution from mines and industrial waste streams.

The specific property of the sand grains was discovered by Ian Grey, mineralogist of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia's leading scientific research organization.

Grey discovered that tiny holes contained in the sand grains were just the right size to capture and filter out heavy metal and radioactive pollutants from mining and other industrial wastes.

The sand grains were found in the Murray Basin in southeastern Australia.

"The weathering has created nanoscale porosity in the sand grains," Grey said on Wednesday in a statement, adding

"This means the grains may act like molecular sieves, selectively absorbing a variety of different chemicals within the nanopores."

The sand "may have opened the door to new ways to prevent pollution reaching the environment and to clean up environments already polluted," said Grey.

Grey, who is developing sand rich in titanium as a clean fuel for the future, is one of the six recipients of annual Clunies Ross Awards this year.

The awards were established to recognize outstanding Australian researchers in memory of Sir Ian Clunies Ross, an early Australian pioneer of science and technology.

MNA/Xinhua

## US soldier killed in Iraq bomb blast

BAGHDAD, 26 March— A US soldier died in a bomb blast north of Baghdad on Thursday amid warnings that attacks will likely increase with fewer than 100 days left before the coalition hands over sovereignty. A day earlier, a gunbattle with guerillas left one American soldier and three rebels dead.

A 1st Infantry Division soldier died and two were wounded when a homemade bomb exploded near Baqouba, the military said. The soldiers went to the area after Iraqi security notified them that a homemade bomb had been found. The two injured soldiers were in stable condition.

The gunbattle that killed one soldier occurred Wednesday near Taji, just north of the capital, said Brig General Mark Kimmitt, the US military's deputy director of operations. A US soldier was also wounded.

On Tuesday, guerrillas attacked a patrol in the town of Hamam al-Alil, 210 miles north of Baghdad, wounding a US soldier, Kimmitt said. Troops returned fire and killed one attacker.

He said the military was worried by attacks on Iraqi police. On Wednesday, the police chief of southern Babil province was shot and killed. A day earlier, nine police recruits were killed in a nearby attack on their vehicle.

"We remain concerned at what is clearly a program of intimidation and targeting of not only the Iraqi police service, but all Iraqi government officials," Kimmitt said. "A significant number of Iraqi police have been killed in the past year, somewhere in the order of 350."

Internet

## China expects huge "IT" market in 2004

BEIJING, 26 March — China's IT market is expected to reach 289.8 billion yuan (35 billion US dollars) in 2004, up 15 per cent year-on-year, a leading IT consulting firm announced here Wednesday.

The hardware market will reach 190.1 billion yuan (23 billion US dollars), indicating a yearly rise of 10 per cent. The software and IT service market are expected to reach 53.9 billion yuan (6.52 billion US dollars) and 45.8 billion yuan (5.54 billion US dollars), up 25 per cent and 27 per cent year-on-year respectively.

According to a report on "China IT trends in 2004" issued by China Computer World (CCW) Research, governmental bodies and

manufacturing and power industries may contribute greatly to the IT market growth this year.

Governmental bodies are expected to purchase 40 billion yuan (4.84 billion US dollars) worth of IT products this year, the manufacturing industry, 28.7 billion yuan (3.47 billion US dollars), and the power industry, 5.9 billion yuan (713.42 million US dollars).

The report says that China will experience a "golden age" in its IT mar-

ket in the five years to come, with a yearly hefty growth rate of 18.5 per cent.

In 2003, China's IT market reached 252 billion yuan (30.47 billion US dollars), an increase of 11 per cent over the previous year.

CCW Research also predicts that China's online gaming market will likely reach 1.65 billion yuan (199.52 million US dollars) this year, representing a rise of 26.9 per cent over 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi firemen sit next to their fire truck near the burning pipe station of an oil well in Kubazah oil field in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, on 26 March.—INTERNET



# Fate of Australian troops in Iraq looms over poll

CANBERRA, 26 March — Bringing Australian soldiers back from Iraq by Christmas has become a major political issue as an election looms, and the opposition's popular new leader insisted on Thursday that the troops had to come home.

Opposition Labour leader Mark Latham, who has taken the lead in opinion polls, has vowed to bring Australia's 850 troops home by Christmas if his centre-left party wins power in an election widely expected in October or November.

But Latham, who once called President George Bush "dangerous" and "incompetent" over his decision to go to war in Iraq, has refused to change his pledge or kow-tow to the United

States.

He said the handover to an Iraqi Government when occupation formally ends on June 30 was the logical time to withdraw troops as this ended Australia's international responsibility to Iraq.

"Labour has a realistic proposal here and we are

sticking to it," Latham told Australian television.

"Australians are worried about security in this country and we are going to be much safer as a nation if we have our troops here instead of on the other side of the world."

A Newpoll survey this week found 65 per cent of Australians thought the coun-

try's role in Iraq had put it at greater risk of a terror attack.

Latham's row with the government over troops in Iraq has finally given Labour the chance to take the lead on national security, an area dominated by Howard for more than two years.

MNA/Reuters

## Hu Jintao meets Iraqi Governing Council president

BEIJING, 26 March — China is ready to take an active part in Iraq's reconstruction and will join the international community in helping Iraqi people take the path to peace, stability and development at as early a date as possible, said Chinese President Hu Jintao here Thursday afternoon.

Hu made the remarks in a meeting with Bahr Ul-Uloum, president of the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC), who arrived here earlier Thursday afternoon as a guest of the Chinese side. This is the first China tour for the IGC president.

Hu said Sino-Iraqi friendship has a long history and the two countries established diplomatic ties as early as in 1958.

The Chinese Government and people treasure bilateral friendship and will, on the basis of mutual respect, equality and reciprocity, consolidate and develop bilateral

friendship and cooperation, said Hu.

Noting that Iraq's political and economic reconstruction has gained worldwide attention, Hu said China has always respected Iraq's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Iraqi people's choice and rights and interests, and supported the United Nations' due role in the reconstruction.

He said the Chinese side is deeply sympathetic with Iraq's current difficulties, and has provided Iraq with humanitarian aid within its capacity.—MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese people to enjoy better reproductive health care

BEIJING, 26 March — The Chinese people are expected to enjoy better reproductive health care in the coming years with the development of three programmes in the country, reported Wednesday's China Daily.

The three programmes, all started in 2001, are the Programme for Improving the Quality of Contraceptive Care, the Reproductive Tract Infection Intervention Programme, and the Healthy Baby Promotion Programme.

By now, the programmes have included 19 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, and results in some regions are "encouraging", said Xiao Shaobo, a senior official with the National Population and Family Planning Commis-

sion. Xiao made the remarks at a special session of the seventh meeting of World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Advisory Panel for Asia and the Pacific, which started at Beijing University.

In the future, the commission will strive to bring such programmes into the country's medium and long-term planning for scientific and technological development, and the national HIV prevention and control actions, said Xiao.

The official also noted that the WHO has been mak-

ing contributions. As a kind of return, Chinese scientists said they are ready to help other countries.

China is a huge market for reproductive health products and services. There were 344 million women aged from 15 to 49 years by 2000. Among them, 251 million women are married and each year 7.46 million women are newly married, according to China Daily.—MNA/Xinhua

## Mubarak meets IAEA head over Mideast situation

CAIRO, 26 March — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met on Wednesday with Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the official MENA news agency reported.

During the meeting, ElBaradei informed Mubarak of the outcome of recent meetings held by the agency on weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and the IAEA's activities in this regard, MENA said, without elaborating.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival on Tuesday, ElBaradei said he was expected to discuss with Egyptian officials on security issue as well as the situation in Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua

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Iraqi men cheer by an American humvee that burns after it came under attack during a shootout in the Iraqi town of Fallujah, on 25 March.—INTERNET

## Bechtel says Iraqi worker killed in attack

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 March — Bechtel Corp, the giant San Francisco-based engineering and construction firm working on infrastructure projects in Iraq, said on Wednesday that one of its subcontractors was killed in a mortar attack in Baghdad last Thursday.

Bechtel, which has received close to three billion US dollars in government contracts to help rebuild Iraq, confirmed a report that an Iraqi construction worker was killed March 18 when a mortar shell landed inside the Green Zone in Baghdad and exploded.

Bechtel spokesman Jonathan Marshall declined to give any more information about the incident, saying the privately held company's "policy is not to comment on security matters".

The Iraqi worker was be-

lieved to be the first person killed in a shelling of the heavily protected Green Zone since a US Army officer died in a rocket attack in October, the Los Angeles Times reported Thursday.

The October attack was against the Rashid Hotel, where US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying.

Bechtel's contracts in Iraq run through 2005 and include rebuilding ports, power plants, telephone systems, railroads, and bridges amid other projects.

MNA/Reuters

## Four foreign experts receive Chinese science, technology award

BEIJING, 26 March — American mathematician Shing-Tung Yau, German economist Juergen Voegelé, Japanese medical scientist Yutaka Mizushima and Italian entrepreneur Elio Maticena received here Wednesday the Chinese governmental award for international scientific and technological cooperation.

A noted Harvard professor, Shing-Tung Yau solved two important academic problems, the Calabi Conjecture and Positive Mass Conjecture. The Calabi-Yau Manifold, named after one of his most distinguished works, has been proved very vital in theoretical physics and mathematics.

In 1982, Yau, became the first Chinese American to win a Fields Medal, which was regarded as the Nobel Prize in mathematics. Yau, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, donated 28.56 million yuan (3.44 million US dollars) and 2.98 million US dollars for helping China set up several mathematics institutes.

With six honorary professorships at prestigious universities in China, Yau has

advised dozens of Chinese doctoral candidates.

Juergen Voegelé works for the World Bank in China. Since 1992, he has taken active roles in 46 World Bank aid programmes in China, costing 6.953 billion US dollars.

From 1994 to 2002, he coordinated the Loess Plateau Watershed Rehabilitation project, benefiting approximately 50 counties and more than one million people in Shanxi, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces as well as the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

Yutaka Mizushima served as senator and consultant to the Japanese Prime Minister on medical development. In 1993, he decided to give the right of use of Lipo-PGE1 injection, the best of his 30-plus patents, to the Chinese.

MNA/Xinhua



US troops secure the downtown area of Mosul in northern Iraq recently.

INTERNET

# Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

## Loss of Iraqi people

During the US invasion of Iraq which started on 20 March 2003, Iraq has lost many lives and property including invaluable antiques. Following the invasion, Iraqi people are facing numerous hardships almost everyday.

### Loss of Iraqi people due to US-led invasion of Iraq

Subject	Loss
Deaths resulting from cluster bomb	279
Children deaths (From March 2003 to March 2004)	93
Iraqi deaths due to air strikes (From March 2003 to March 2004)	1187
Deaths due to indiscriminate shooting of US and allies forces	212
Iraqi deaths during US-led war against Iraq (From March 2003 to March 2004)	10618
Iraqi servicemen deaths during about the US-led invasion against Iraq	10000
Building destroyed in US-led invasion	\$ 4.91 bn
Loss of antiques from about Archaeological Museum	\$ 7 billion



Flames and smoke rise from a burning oil pipeline near the Iraqi town of Samarra, Iraq, on 26 Feb 2004.



Several members of the media and a US serviceman have been caught attempting to ship Iraqi paintings, weapons and other war souvenirs to America. The photo shows a gold dagger from Iraqi museum that was seized in Atlanta, America.



Iraqi women weep as they stand in front of their house destroyed in a car bomb attack in the city of Hilla, 100 kms south of Baghdad on 19 February, 2004.



A man is rescued from the rubble after a bomb explosion at Mount Lebanon Hotel in central Baghdad on 17 March, 2004.



Mona Hassan cries while she is comforting her five year-old son Ali Mustafa at Baghdad's hospital. Ali and his four brothers were wounded by an unexploded cluster bomb they found in the garden of their home.



Iraqi men survey the damaged house in the village of Aamriya, near the anti-American hotbed of Falluja, 30 miles west from Baghdad, on 16 February, 2004.



Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

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

## Roads built by the people and the Tatmadaw

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



*Tatmadawmen in action at Htiri-Htihtehto section for timely completion of Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad.*



*Thedaw Dam has emerged in Letpandan Township, Bago Division, thanks to collective endeavours of the people and the Tatmadaw.*

## Railroads constructed by the people and the Tatmataw

Sr.	Subject	1988	Extension	2004
1.	Railroad (mile)	1976.35	1022.01	2998.36
2.	Railway line (mile)	2793	1113	3096
3.	Railroad being built (mile)			145
4.	Railroad in the process (mile)			515.05



*Lapin Bridge has emerged thanks to the collective endeavours of the people and the Tatmadaw.*

## Irrigation facilities constructed by the people and the Tatmadaw

No	Irrigation facility	Township	Irrigated area
1.	Rahaingkwint Dam	Gwa	625
2.	Kungyangon Sluice Gate	Kungyangon	21400
3.	Thedaw Dam	Letpandan	12000
4.	Thittetkon Diversion Weir	Myittha	5000
5.	Kyetmaukleti Dam	Myaing	1200
6.	Ponmakyi Dam	Mahlaing	500
7.	Myotha Dam	Ngazun	1500
8.	Nankathu Dam	Ingapu	14000
9.	Moemakha Sluice Gate	Twantay	40000



*Monywa-Kalewa Road, which reflects combined efforts of the people and the Tatmadaw.*

## Bridges built or being built by the Tatmadaw

Sr	Bridge	Township	Feet	Note
1.	Dawlan	Hlaingbwe	1000	opened
2.	Ngamoeyek	Yangon	660	opened
3.	Pathaung	Myeik	810	opened
4.	Pahtolon	Kani	450	opened
5.	Lapin	Kalewa	220	opened
6.	Tein	Mingin	360	constructed
7.	Myoma	Kani	540	constructed
8.	Yonebin	Lewe	270	under construction
9.	Ahsonchaung	Tatkon	190	under construction
10.	Ngalaikchaung	Pyinmana	300	under construction
11.	Hsinthechaung	Pyinmana	210	under construction

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



Today is the auspicious occasion of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. The Armed Forces Day is also the day of significance for the entire national people of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar is a Union where over 100 national races reside. The national brethren such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have been living on the same land, partaking water from the same source and sharing weal and woe for years countable by the thousand.

Therefore, the national solidarity is of paramount importance for perpetuation of sovereignty. These two points are interrelated. Likewise, the national solidarity is a key factor in safeguarding independence and sovereignty. The stronger the national solidarity the greater perpetuation of the sovereignty is ensured.

The most important requirement of the Union of

Myanmar today is to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national

came sovereign nation again in 1948. The British colonialists exploited rich natural resources of Myanmar such as teak, paddy, oil, cotton, pulses and beans and gems. In addition, they drove

people are to strive together with the Tatmadaw for enabling the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with nations of the world.

The national objective today is Our Three Main

modern and developed nation, tapping and utilizing those natural resources.

In striving for national development, prevalence of peace and tranquility is of utmost importance.

89 dated 25 May 1989 with a view to taking measures for improvement of socio-economic life of people in border areas that lagged behind in development in successive eras because of poor



*Lawka Nanda river water pumping station in Nyaung U District, Mandalay Division.*

## Upholding Our Three Main National Causes

solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

This is essential not only at present but also in the long-run. Moreover, it is the national duty for not only the entire national people residing in the country but also the Myanmar living abroad.

Myanmar stood tall among the world community for many years as a sovereign nation with its own monarchs.

However, the British colonialists waged three aggressive wars on Myanmar—in 1824, in 1852 and in 1885—and occupied her. Myanmar was under servitude for 124 years and be-

a wedge among the national brethren to prolong their subjugation.

As a result, internal insurgency broke out for over 40 years after the independence was regained. Nowadays, national unity has been restored out of goodwill and efforts of the government. Lessons need to be drawn by reviewing bitter experiences of the past. We should know why we had been under the yoke of colonialists, how much blood and sweat had to be sacrificed for restoring independence and why it is needed to forge national unity, erasing doubt among the national brethren.

The entire national

National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. The entire national people are to put Our Three Main National Causes in the fore.

Currently, all-out efforts are being made for the emergence of a new modern and development nation. In this context, the strong national force is a key player. Sound economy is imperative for the emergence of a strong national force.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources in which the entire national people must take pride. The entire national people are to build a

*Hla Tun (Twantay)*

Hence, the government has given priority to prevalence of peace and national unity.

Thanks to genuine goodwill and correct endeavours of the government, altogether 17 national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and are now taking part in regional development tasks hand in hand with the government.

The government formed the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races under the Notification No 23/

transport and lack of security. Chairman of the Central Committee is Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

Under the Central Committee, the Work Committee with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt as Chairman and 18 subcommittees and regional committees at different levels were formed and work is well under way for successful realization of the national objectives. The main objective is to bring about

(See page 9)



*Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the greatest and longest of its kind in Myanmar, to be opened soon.*



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



(from page 8)

harmonious and equitable development throughout the nation including border areas that lagged behind in development due to various reasons. **Thanks to efforts of the Tatmadaw peace and tranquillity prevails in the regions, where there was no full security in the past. The national race**

five rural development tasks—ensuring better transport in rural regions, water supply, improvement of education standard, enhancement of health care and economic development—have been laid down and are being implemented.

Market-oriented economic system has been adopted based on the four

pumping stations have been implemented and those irrigation facilities are now benefiting about 300,000 acres of farmland.

For development of the industrial sector, the government established 19 industrial zones in states and divisions and steps are being taken for development of private industrial sectors and

transport.

Efforts are being made for human resources development. Education sector plays a key role in human resource development. Education promotion programmes have been laid down and are being implemented. As a result, basic education high schools and basic education middle schools complete with multimedia classrooms have emerged. Almost all children have been able to attend classes as steps are being taken for enrollment of all-school age children. The number of students including those who are pursuing monastic education has reached over 7.8 million.

There were 32 universities, degree colleges and



*Scene of Mongla, a border town in the process of development.*

**leaders in cooperation with officials concerned have been able to carry out regional development tasks within a short time. With the participation of the local people, regional development endeavours are making progress with added momentum.**

The government has spent over K 54,186 million on development of border areas and national race from 1989 to 29-2-04. At present also, efforts are being made with added momentum for development of border areas.

Similarly, the 24 development zones have been designated so as to bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation. It has also aimed at improving education, health, transport and economic sectors of those regions. At the same time, the

economic objectives for development of national economy. For agricultural development, the government has built 158 dams and reservoirs from 1988 up to date, spending over K 68,881 million. The irrigation facilities are now benefiting 2.15 million acres of farmland. In addition, 265 river water

for setting up of medium and large-scale industries.

A network of major roads and 168 major bridges with more than 180 feet in length including Ayeyawady river crossing bridges as well as economic infrastructures which are the lifeblood of the State have been constructed for ensuring better

colleges across the nation in 1988 and the figure now stands at 212. Courses and subjects taught at the institutions of higher learning have been extended and doctorate courses added. Hence, altogether 364 doctorate degree holders have emerged.

The government has laid down national educa-

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

### Poem

## Noble-hearted Tatmadaw

- \* **National cause  
Is Independence  
Mortals must die one day  
And when that comes, only when  
Independence regained  
Share the merits, he declared.  
With no rations, without pay  
With no self-interest, not scared  
Not withdrawing, sacrificing life  
Leaving a legacy  
Patriotic Tatmadaw.**
- \* **For the nation  
National defence  
Divisive intrusion, war in blaze  
Sending the Union, to the verge of  
precipice  
It was four times that it had to be saved  
Not faltering, with utmost faith  
With much goodwill, not scared  
Not reneging, exerting will  
Writing a chronicle  
National Tatmadaw.**
- \* **Patriotic Tatmadaw  
People's Tatmadaw  
Our Tatmadaw  
Differs from armies round the world  
Of various calling  
Not mercenary, not puppet  
Will serve the nation  
Knowing gratitude repaying it  
Noble traits, feeling satisfied  
Ever smiling  
Noble-hearted Tatmadaw.**

Thiha Aung (Trs)

tion promotion programmes and is implementing them with added momentum for ensuring uplift of the education standards of the entire nation. In the basic education sector, over 3,827 post-primary schools have been opened to enable children in rural areas to pursue education up to middle school level. At present, a total of 40,152 basic education schools have been opened throughout the nation. Those situations are the tangible

results on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. In other words, they are the development of Myanmar which is an independent and sovereign one.

Therefore, future Myanmar will make progress with extra impetus so long as the State, the Tatmadaw and the people are making integrated and well-coordinated efforts **upholding Our Three Main National Causes.**

(Translation: TS)



*Government Computer College in Panglong, Loilem District, Shan State (South).*

## Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development of Mawlaik

YANGON, 26 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspected the People's Hospital in Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Division on 25 March.

Accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kale Station and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited the wards, oral and dental department, operation theatre, X-Ray room, delivery room, medical stores, the main building and the compound. He stressed the need to ensure cleanliness of the buildings and the compound, maintenance of the buildings and systematic use and storage of medicines.

At the Mawlaik Township Basic Education High School, he inspected classrooms, computer room, domestic education room, multi-medical centre and the school maintenance work. He also inspected the town by car.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with Tatmadaw members at the regional battalion, speaking of the need to dutifully carry out the nation-building tasks, to conduct farming on manageable scale to raise their family income, to join

hands with the locals for regional development and to strive to improve the health and education standards of the families. He presented sewing machines to the battalion, and inspected welfare shops, crop cultivation, vegetable cultivation and fish breeding.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with departmental personnel and local authorities at the regional battalion and discussed region development undertakings. Lt-Gen Ye Myint said collective efforts are required for the success of the departmental functions. Weekly meetings should be held to coordinate town greening and development. The town will have to extend perennial crops plantation. Graveling of the 36-mile Kalewa-Mawlaik earth road should be carried out only after it has been upgraded and extended. As the town is located in the area where a lot of creeks are flowing, dams should be built to supply potable water to Mawlaik. Local authorities and departmental personnel will have to supervise the town development undertakings. The participants also took part in the discussions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived back here on 26 March. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents sewing machine for battalions and units of Mawlaik Station. — MNA

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets Tatmadawmen, local people in Taungup

YANGON, 26 March— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station, arrived in Taungup on 22 March.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with officers, other ranks and family members of Taungup Station. He also met with departmental officials, social organization members and local people at the town hall and gave necessary instructions. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than saw over digging of Wetkyeik Lake being undertaken by Township Development Affairs Committee for supply of water to the town. Officials reported on digging of the lake. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions.— MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivers an address in meeting with departmental personnel in Taungup. — MNA

## Regional development tasks inspected

YANGON, 26 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station and officials, held a meeting with local people at Kamar village affiliated basic education high school in Manaung Township on 23 March afternoon. On the occasion, officials reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy, beans and pulses, and winter crops, education and health sectors of the region and water supply. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander fulfilled the requirements. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that at a time when the government is implementing the five rural development tasks, local people are to take part in the tasks for regional progress especially for development of agricultural sector which plays a major role in raising the economy of rural regions. He called for systematic extended breeding of local species of poultry.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party looked into the affiliated basic education high school and attended to the needs. They held a similar meeting at Pyinkok village BEPS. Officials reported on measures being taken for regional development. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered a speech and greeted local people. They also inspected Thitpon Station Hospital and Police Station. At the meeting with local authorities, members of the school board of trustees and teachers at Thitpon affiliated BEHS, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on educational matters. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the 51.5-mile long Manaung bypass. — MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife being welcomed by Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr A B Manjoor Rahim and wife to the reception to mark the anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Bangladesh on Friday. — MNA

## Lt-Gen Maung Bo fixes ...

(from page 16)

development tasks the whole nation is seeing progress in all sectors.

There will be national unity only if there is peace and stability and the rule of law in the entire nation. Similarly, the national unity ensures social development which will also bring economic development. Transport development is the most basic task in developing a nation. Thus, roads reaching all the directions of the nation have been built, and bridges large and small play an important role in the transport development. The cost of building a bridge is high, by they will continue to stand as the valuable heritage for the posterity. No government in the past had ever dreamt of building a mammoth bridge like the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) linking Mawlamyine and Mottama. The bridge will be opened in the coming December. Thanks to the bridge there will be a direct road link from Kawthoung to Machanbaw in the northernmost top of the nation via Yangon and Mawlamyine. The bridge is an outcome of the correct leadership of the State, collective effort of the departments, Tatmadawmen and the people.

As the Government is rendering assistance for progress of Mon State, the locals will have to strive more for their region, where Mawlamyine, the third largest city in Myanmar, is located to become at least in the third

important region for the State. The State is providing supervision and assistance for region development. But the actual development of a region relies on the efforts of its people.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun also gave a speech, saying that as the State Peace and Development Council is building the country as a peaceful, modern and developed democratic country, emphasis is being paid on development of infrastructures such as human resource development sector, industry sector, agriculture and livestock breeding sector, transport sector, etc. In doing so, the transport sector plays an important role. So, roads, bridges, airports and railroads were built as a network throughout the country.

Of the infrastructures, Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) where iron frames have already been installed today is located on 842 miles long Kawthoung-Myeik-Dawei-Mawlamyine-Yangon Union Highway and it links Mawlamyine and Mottama. According to the decision of the meeting 1/98 of Special Projects Implementation Committee held on 26-10-1998, construction tasks of the bridge started on Mawlamyine bank on 18 March 2000 and on Mottama bank on 1 November 2000. At present, the longest bridge in the country is Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) which is 8,989 feet long. In future, Mawlamyine Bridge (Thanlwin) will be the longest one in the nation. It will be rail-cum-road one which will have 11,575 feet long motor road and

21,618 feet long railroad. The iron frames weighing 19,000 tons worth US\$ 13 million were installed at the bridge. Later, the minister urged local authorities and people to participate in the construction tasks.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung made a speech. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min took the designated places. At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party fixed the golden bolts at the designated steel frames and sprinkled scented water on them.

Next, they posed for documentary photos together with the workers on the bridge. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party passed through the bridge. Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) lies on Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Kawthoung Highway and it is crossing Thanlwin River to link Mawlamyine and Mottama of Paung township.

The motor road will be 11,575 feet long —1,624 feet long approach road on Mawlamyine bank, 2,252 feet long the one on Mottama bank and the 7,699 feet long main bridge. The railroad will be 26,466 feet long—8,716 feet long approach road in Mawlamyine bank, 10,051 feet long one on Mottama bank and 7,699 feet long main bridge. The bridge will have 28 feet wide motor road along with six feet wide pedestrian ways on both sides and 14 feet wide railroad. On completion, the bridge will be the longest and biggest one built by Myanmar engineers in the country.— MNA



## Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects development tasks in Tangyan, Lashio

YANGON, 26 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 and Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station, inspected model orange plantations of regiments and units in Tangyan Station on 23 March. At the site of Namhlimkham region coal mine in Lashio Township, site in-charge Lt-Col Myo Kyin and officials reported on production of coal and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected road construction tasks in Namhpau Village of Lashio Township and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, he went to the Konmyint-2 Highland reclamation project at the entrance of Lashio. Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint reported on land

reclamation and preparations for cultivation tasks.

Next, State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence viewed competitive crops plantations of regiments and units of Lashio Station.

On arrival at Sasana Aye Monastery in Lashio, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe looked into construction of Dhammayon which will be 90 feet long, 54 feet wide and 16 feet high and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party paid homage to five bronze Buddha images being kept in the Dhammayon. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe supplicated on construction of MyoU Pagoda which will be 108 feet high to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya of the monastery. Later, he fulfilled the requirements of construction tasks.

MNA

## Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends ceremony to present prizes to booths to mark 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 26 March—A ceremony to present prizes to exhibition booths to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, where the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day exhibition is being held, at 3 pm today with an address by Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

Also present on the occasion were Chief of Staff (Navy) Capt Nyan Tun, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers, the deputy director-general of Myanmar Police Force, heads of department, guests and others. First, master of ceremonies Staff Officer (Grade II) of Directorate of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute Major Kyaw Kyaw Myint read the list of prize-winning exhibition booths.

Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented prizes to booth of the Ministry of Industry-1 that stood first, booth of the Ministry of Construction that stood second, booth of the Ministry of Rail Transportation that stood third, booth of the Ministry of Commerce that stood fourth, booth of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs that stood fifth, booths of the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Energy that won consolation prizes.

Next, Chairman of Panel of Judges for the Exhibition Booths Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung presented prizes to booth of Northern Command



Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents a prize to booth of the Ministry of Rail Transportation. — MNA

that stood first, booth of North-West Command that stood second and booth of Coastal Region Command that stood third; Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, booths of Western Command, North-East Command and South-West Command that won consolation prizes; Chief of Staff (Navy) Capt Nyan Tun, booth of Directorate of Ordnance Services that stood first, booth of Directorate of Signals that stood second and booth of Directorate of Artillery Force that stood third; Deputy Quartermaster-General Col Myint Ohn, booths of Directorate of Armoured Force, Directorate of Supply and Transport and Directorate of Military Engineers that won consolation prizes.

The ceremony ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.—MNA

### POEM:

### Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day: The past, the present and the future of the Tatmadaw

#### The Past

For the sake of the race, religion and Sasana  
Independence and sovereignty  
Providing leadership for national affairs  
Sacrificing lives.  
Soon after Independence regained  
The bundle was broken, became varicoloured  
For pleasure of towns and cities  
Tatmadaw has to work incessantly  
For years on end.

#### The Present

For national unity  
Consensus reached with success  
Achieved nearly full per cent  
Journey's not far  
Stability in several sectors  
In cities, towns, far-flung areas  
With leadership for kith and kin  
Development on equal status  
All throughout the Union.

#### The Future

National politics  
Think, reason, consider  
Take leadership in village and tract  
Play your part  
Tatmadaw's tradition  
Unavoidable, in one part, sector  
Shouldering responsibilities dutifully  
In leadership role.

Kyaw Saw Han (Trs)



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win and family hand over cash donation for the pagoda to Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone. — MNA

## Cash donated for renovation of Shwephonepint Pagoda

YANGON, 26 March — The presenting of cash donations for the third renovation of the Shwephonepint Pagoda and religious buildings was held at the pagoda in Pazundaung Township here this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee for All-round Renovation of the pagoda Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads, officials and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, cash donations amounted to K 16,420,635. The ministers and the deputy minister accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwisher. Afterwards, the ministers and party viewed religious buildings. —MNA

## Rural road opened to hail Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 26 March—Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open the new tarred 5th Street in Pyu, Bago Division, was held at the archway of the street on 25 March morning. Executive Officer U Soe Nyunt of Pyu Township Development Committee and U Aye Lwin and U In Shauk, on behalf of wellwishers and Road Repaving Committee, formally opened the tarred street.

Also present on the occasion were township authorities and departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women Affairs Committee, War Veterans Organization, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, staff of Development Affairs Committee and local people.

MNA

## Roads, bridges in Bago, Ayeyawady and Magway Divisions, Rakhine State inspected

YANGON, 26 March— Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected maintenance of Yangon-Pyay Highway and upgrading of Pyay-Padaung-Taungup Highway on 20 March.

In Pyay, Bago Division Superintending Engineer U Tin Htut of Public Works reported on the approach road to Nawade Bridge.

Next, the minister inspected upgrading tasks on Padaung-Taungup road section. He also saw over construction of Yangon-Taungup-Kyaukphyu Road and progress in building road sections and bridges on it.

On 21 March, the

minister looked into construction and extension into roads and bridges on Yangon-Kyauk-phyu Road Project. Next, he inspected Yangon-Maei-Madekyaw-An Road by car.

The minister saw over the site for construction of Htan Creek Bridge and upgrading of An-Minbu road section.

On 24 March, the minister inspected maintenance of Pathein-Monywa Road and construction of Shwe Creek Bridge on it. The bridge will be 500 feet long and it will have 28 feet wide motor-way and three feet wide pedestrian way on either side of the bridge. It can withstand 60-ton load.

MNA

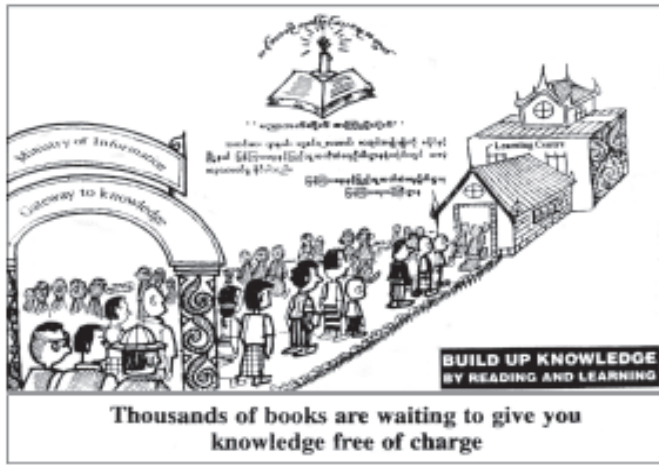
## Measures for ensuring secure and smooth transport coordinated

YANGON, 26 March— The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held the meeting at Yangon Command Headquarters this evening, attended by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. The commander gave instructions on tasks of the Supervisory Committee for convenient travelling of the people. Next, members of the Supervisory Committee and officials took part in the discussions. The commander gave necessary instructions.—MNA

### သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း အချို့မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမှာ ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်း၊ လမ်းစည်းကမ်း ချိုးဖောက်မှုများကြောင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သဖြင့် ဒဏ်ရာရသူ၊ သေဆုံးသူများ များပြားလာသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ကြေအေးသည့်ဖြစ်စေ မကြေအေးသည့်ဖြစ်စေ ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်း လမ်းစည်းကမ်းမှ ယွင်းသော ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများအား တည်ဆဲဥပဒေအရ ထိခိုက်ရောက်ရောက် အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ



## ADVERTISEMENTS

### လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်)

#### နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာစကား သင်တန်းသားလျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်) တွင် တရုတ်၊ အင်္ဂလိပ်၊ ဖြစ်သစ်၊ ဂျာမန်၊ ဂျပ်နီ၊ ကိုရီးယား၊ ထိုင်းဘာသာစကား၊ ဖြစ်သစ် (ဘာသာပြန်/စကားပြန်) နှင့် မြန်မာဘာသာစကား (နိုင်ငံခြားကျောင်းသားအတွက်) ညနေ သင်တန်းများ ဖွင့်လှစ်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ သင်တန်းစတင်ဖွင့်လှစ်သည့်ရက်မှာ (၂၆-၄-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့ဖြစ်ပြီး သင်တန်းစတင်ဖွင့်လှစ်သည့်ရက်မှာ (၁-၄-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့မှ စတင်လက်ခံပါမည်။ သင်တန်းစတင်ဖွင့်လှစ်သည့် အခန်းကဏ္ဍသို့ အသုံးပြုနိုင်သည့် နံရံအတွင်း ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်တွင် လာရောက် စုစည်းပေးခြင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ဖုန်း- ၅၁၄၇၄၃(ရင်းခွဲ- ၁၂၃)

### YANGON GOLF CLUB "ANNUAL-AT-HOME & PRIZE DISTRIBUTION"

Members, their families & guests are cordially invited.

Day & Date - Sunday, 4th April, 2004.  
Time - 12:00 Noon  
Place - Yangon Golf Club

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (067)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (067) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-3-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

### SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

### TRADE MARK CAUTION

PHARMACIA ENTERPRISES S.A. of 6 Circuit de la Foire, Internationale, L-1347, Luxembourg, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

### AROMASIN

Reg. No. 4590/1998

in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,  
for PHARMACIA  
ENTERPRISES S.A.  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.  
Dated: 27 March 2004

## ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပကိုအားပေးပါ

March 27, 2004

### CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMED FORCES DAY!

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### Sri Lanka to hold int'l export trade exhibition

COLOMBO, 26 March — The Sri Lankan Government has planned to hold a major international export trade exhibition on November 10 to 14 in the capital, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Ravi Karunanayake said on Wednesday.

"Our dynamic island unveils a brilliant opportunity for the world to view and exploit the vibrancy of the Sri Lankan market in a confluence of products and related displays," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Vietnam to build first hydroelectric plant abroad

HANOI, 26 March — Vietnam will start construction of a hydroelectric plant, first of its kind abroad, on Laos' Nam Pagnou River in mid-May, the Foreign Investment Department under the country's Ministry of the Planning and Investment told Xinhua on Wednesday.

Capitalized at more than 250 million US dollars, the plant, named Xekaman 3, will have a capacity of 250 megawatts. This build-oper-

ate-transfer project is under the energy cooperation programme between the two countries.

The plant, which is invested by the Vietnam-Laos Power Development and Investment Joint Stock Company, is scheduled to become operational in 2008.

The two governments have also allowed the company to invest in three other hydroelectric plants in Laos with capacity of 55 mega-

watts, 310 megawatts and 200 megawatts.

Now, Vietnam has 29 operational investment projects worth nearly 30 million dollars in Laos, mainly on the fields of pharmaceuticals, construction materials and services.

The country has so far invested more than 210 million dollars in 101 projects abroad, said the department.

MNA/Xinhua

## WHO says gains ground in TB fight, MSF disagrees

GENEVA, 26 March — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday it was gaining ground in the fight against tuberculosis, but a leading aid agency said the fight was being lost.

In a report marking World Tuberculosis Day on Wednesday, the United Nations agency said three million of an estimated 8.8 million TB sufferers worldwide each year now received treatment.

But some two million people still die from the disease, which mainly attacks the lungs, and the WHO said there was some way to go to reach its goal of detecting 70

percent of all infectious cases by 2005 and curing 85 percent of them. "It is thought that with currently available drugs and the DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course) control strategy, the tuberculosis epidemic can be controlled," Catherine Watt, of WHO's Stop TB Department, told journalists.

"Nonetheless, there is ongoing research into new drugs and new diagnostic tools in order to speed and improve control," she said.

The agency's DOTS strategy, launched a decade ago, was making inroads into the disease by improving patient surveillance and drug

treatment, WHO officials said.

But WHO's generally optimistic tone contrasted sharply with the view of leading aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), based in Brussels.

MSF called for an urgent increase in investment in new drugs and better diagnostic tests, arguing current tests were largely ineffective when HIV/AIDS was also involved. "We are losing the battle against tuberculosis because we rely on archaic diagnostic tests and drugs," the aid group said.

The main diagnostic test for the curable disease was

invented in the 19th Century and has only a 50-per-cent success rate in detecting TB in patients who also have HIV/AIDS, MSF said in a statement.

The WHO said despite improvements by many African states in their TB control programmes it was still struggling in Africa, where the disease formed a lethal partnership with HIV/AIDS.

"The situation in Africa is very much on the edge mainly as a result of HIV... We mustn't think that we've got it all sewn up. We think we can do it, but time will tell," said the WHO's Brian Williams. — MNA/Reuters

## UN projects historic city populations by 2007

UNITED NATIONS, 26 March — For the first time in history, most of the world's population will live in cities by 2007, UN demographers said on Wednesday.

They said that 48 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas in 2003 and this was "expected to exceed the 50-per-cent mark by 2007, thus marking the first time in history that the world will have more urban residents than rural residents."

They projected that the world's urban population would rise to 5 billion by 2030 from an estimated 3 billion in 2003. Conversely, demographers expect the rural population to decline to 3.2 billion from 3.3 billion in 2003 by that year.

Global urban populations would grow at an annual average rate of 1.8 per cent and double at that rate in 38 years, according to the UN Population Division report, "World Urbanization Prospects: The

2003 Revision."

Tokyo, the world's most populous city with 35 million, was projected to still be the largest in 2015 with 36 million people, followed by the Indian cities of Mumbai at 22.6 million and New Delhi at 20.9 million. Next on the list were Mexico City at 20.6 million and Sao Paulo at 20 million.

The population division simultaneously released another report, "World Population Policies 2003," which

said high mortality was the most significant concern for developing countries.

"The number one issue that is of concern to the developing world is mortality and for some countries also rapid population growth," UN Population Division director Joseph Chamie said at a news briefing. "In contrast, the concern for many and most of the developed countries is low fertility and declining population growth."

MNA/Reuters

## Huge fire destroys public market in northern Philippines

MANILA, 26 March — A public market with some 892,857 US dollars' worth of goods was completely destroyed in a huge fire that started at dawn Wednesday in the northern Philippine province of Cavite.

No one was hurt in the blaze but the fire razed 468 stalls and partly burned the adjacent municipal hall, the Philippine Daily Inquirer online news reported. The report said the fire broke out at

around 1:45 am (1745 GMT Tuesday) in one of the stalls and spread to the other booths.

"The fire quickly spread because of the combustibility of the goods such as cooking oil, cartons, and dry goods," said Rafael Edgamo, municipal fire marshal. Fire fighters were hampered in putting out the blaze because the source of water for their hoses was far from the fire scene, the report added. — MNA/Xinhua



# မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Studies say gene findings could help fight malaria

WASHINGTON, 26 March — The discovery of four genes that help or hinder the malaria parasite as it infects mosquitoes could lead to new ways to battle one of the world's biggest killers, researchers in Germany said on Thursday.

Two of the mosquito genes kill the Plasmodium parasite in the insect's gut and two others actually promote the parasite's development, the researchers report in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

Studying their effects could lead to novel ways to fight malaria, which is transmitted by mosquitoes and kills a million people every year around the world, most of them children.

"Many researchers focus on the direct effects of Plasmodium on the human body but the mosquito is an equally important battleground in

fighting the disease," said Fotis Kafatos, Director-General of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany.

"We now see a way to potentially stop the parasite in its tracks," Kafatos, who led the study, added in a statement.

"These studies are the first to show the power of the mosquito's immune system, and give us some very real options for fighting the disease in the insect before it even has a chance to be passed to a human."

When female mosquitoes feed on an infected ani-

mal, they suck in Plasmodium parasites with the blood.

There they grow and develop, moving from the gut into the insect's salivary glands, where the parasites are injected into another animal as the mosquito feeds. In humans, malaria causes fever, an enlarged spleen and kidney damage.

But some mosquitoes do not transmit the parasites. Colleagues of Kafatos identified two genes that control proteins made by the mosquitoes, called TEPI and LRIM1, which kill the parasite in the gut.

MNA/Reuters

## China adopts IPMA-HR certification programme

BEIJING, 26 March — China will adopt an international senior human resources (HR) certification programme into its HR talents training system, so as to create more internationalized HR experts for the country.

An agreement on adopting the certification programme was signed here Wednesday between the Chinese Training Centre of the State Administration of Foreign Expert Affairs (SAFEA) and the United States International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR).

According to the agreement, the SAFEA Training Centre will be the only agency in China to operate the IPMA-HR certification programme across the country, including the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions.

Zhang Jianguo, deputy director of the SAFEA, said the adoption and promotion of the IPMA-HR certification programme will greatly advance the development of China's human resources management, and help improve China's HR evaluation system and management level.

Neil Reichenberg, executive director of the IPMA-HR, said the core of the IPMA-HR certification programme is a human resources competency model which contains 22 competencies focusing on the new and emerging roles for human

resource professionals.

Reichenberg said the certification programme includes two designations — certified professional (IPMA-CP) and certified specialist (IPMA-CS).

The programme contains two components — a behavioural component based on the IPMA-HR competency model and a technical component that is based on the human resource management experience of an applicant, said Reichenberg, adding that there is a written examination that needs to be passed in order to obtain certification. —MNA/Xinhua

## World's toughest cyber law on trial in Romania

BUCHAREST/LONDON, 26 March — A decisive test for what is called the "toughest cybercrime law in the world" began on Tuesday with the opening of a high-profile case of a Romanian man charged with spreading a computer virus.

Dan Dumitru Ciobanu, wearing black jeans and leather jacket, appeared in the northern city of Iasi. He is accused of making "Blaster.F", a mild copy of one of last summer's harshest Internet worms.

At the time, the original Blaster worm — whose author remains unknown —

wreaked havoc on computer networks, inflicting untold damages on businesses and universities.

Blaster F was never considered much of a threat but if convicted, the 24-year-old faces between three and 15 years in prison — twice the sentence for rape in Romania.

Romania has enacted tough laws to protect its emerging reputation as a hub of skilled programmers for Western companies and erase any connection with cybercrime syndicates that law enforcement officials say are being run out of Eastern Europe. As the trial begins, the Ciobanu case has reignited an international debate on appropriate justice for cybercrimes, particularly one that until recently was dismissed as the handiwork of tech-savvy teenagers showing off.

"If they are curious how such a programme works, young programmers should also be curious to see the legal consequences," Romania's Deputy Communication Minister Adriana Ticau said.

Ciobanu's lawyer

Gabriela Barnoveanu told Reuters: "a game was turned into a crime" and added that the case had been adjourned to April 6.

Ciobanu was briefly held by police last year after specialists traced the outbreak to two of his computers. His version of the worm infected roughly 1,000 computers. Police said he admitted to modifying the original Blaster virus by switching the names of folders and changing a message inside the programme to Romanian.

The repeated outbreak of Internet viruses has triggered a call for swift and unflinching justice from business officials, law enforcement officers and the public alike.

Romanian authorities say tough justice is required.

MNA/Reuters

## 12-year-old Chinese pianist admitted to German conservatory

SHENZHEN, 26 March — A 12-year-old boy in Shenzhen, a boomtown in the south China province of Guangdong, has been admitted to a German conservatory for his outstanding talents as a pianist.

Jia Zhichao, a student of the Shenzhen Schumann Piano School, will be the youngest ever to enter the Robert Schumann Higher School of Music, a noted conservatory established to commemorate the late composer.

His alma mater would finance his living expenses in Germany, said Huang Peiyu, Jia's present tutor and a former graduate of the German conservatory.

Jia, winner of the "special talent award" at a piano competition for children two months ago in Germany, impressed worldwide pianists with his wonderful performance and deep insight. He stood out among his worldwide rivals as a "young Mozart from China".

Jia started to take piano lessons at five years old and passed level 10, the highest level in China's piano proficiency testing system, when he was barely 10. Many children in Shenzhen have taken up piano since Li Yundi, an alumnus of a Shenzhen-based piano school, won the 14th Chopin International Competition in 2000. He was 18 then. —MNA/Xinhua

## Snakebites claim 2,000 lives in Bangladesh annually

DHAKA, 26 March — Snakebites kill some 2,000 people every year in Bangladesh, mostly children and people of the working age group, reported the daily *Independent* on Thursday.

About 10,000 snakebite incidents happen in the country annually with about 20 per cent mortality rate, according to a survey conducted by the Bangladesh Government with the help of the World Health Organization in 1995 to 1996.

The hospitals of the country do not have facilities for treatment and the antidotes available in the market are not effective against the poison of the venomous snakes, said Professor M. A. Faiz of Dhaka Medical College.

The majority of the bites occur when the patient is awake and working during the daytime. Most patients of

the country receive pre-hospital treatment from the ojhass (untrained village doctors) including application of tourniquets.

Professor Faiz said the ojhass often incise the bite site, and let patients take herbal drugs, which further complicates the cure.

There is also delay in seeking formal medical attention. A study in Chittagong over a period of 10 years between 1983 and 1993 shows the mean time between the bite and hospital admission was about eight hours due to the time spent in seeking traditional treatment.

MNA/Xinhua

## Japan to cut beef tariff by 12%

TOKYO, 26 March — Japan will cut the tariff rate on beef imports by around 12 per cent in the second quarter of this year, said the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on Wednesday.

The tariff will move downward to 38.5 per cent from the current 50 per cent, the ministry said.

Japan took tariff measures to hold back import of frozen beef last August when volume of imports surged. After that, Japan slapped a ban on US beef in December due to mad cow disease. The suspension helped raise domestic beef price to the record high of 689

yen (6.5 US dollars) per 100 grammes last week.

If the import ban on US beef remains in place, the government would not need to raise the beef tariff rate, *Kyodo News* quoted ministry officials as saying.

But if the ban is revoked, resulting in an import surge, it could necessitate a hike in the tariff rate, the officials said.

MNA/Xinhua

## More Vietnamese urban dwellers suffer obesity

HANOI, 26 March — Ten per cent of Vietnam's urban dwellers are overweight or obese, according to the Nutrition Institute under the country's Ministry of Health on Thursday.

Especially, the institute warned about the growing number of obese children in big cities such as Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi Capital City. In 2003, Ho Chi Minh City had most obese children, accounting for 16 per cent of all children living in the city. It was followed by Hanoi where the number of obese children was 9.9 per cent.

Overeating and inactivity are attributed to obesity, the institute said at a recent seminar held in Ho Chi Minh City, adding diabetes and cardio-vascular diseases are consequences of this condition, and that 90 per cent of Type-2 diabetic cases in women are due to obesity. Obesity is also believed to worsen other diseases such as gallstones, fatty liver and chronic arthritis. —MNA/Xinhua

## No Internet cafes allowed around China's schools, residential areas

BEIJING, 26 March — Local governments across China have been ordered not to approve any Internet cafe operations in residential areas or within 200 metres of primary and high schools.

The General Administration for Industry and Commerce (GAIC), China's market watchdog, said here Wednesday that currently in China, many Internet cafes, especially those without licences, admit juveniles in violation of relevant regulations and spread unhealthy online information.

"They have brought great harm to the mental health of teenagers and interfered with the school teaching, which has aroused strong reactions from

the public," said the GAIC.

The Chinese Government has, therefore, launched a nationwide check on all Internet cafes from February to August so as to halt the entry of minors as well as to prevent access to detrimental information through the Internet, according to a circular released in February jointly by the Ministry of Culture, the GAIC, the Ministry of Public Security and other relevant government departments.

MNA/Xinhua

## SPORTS

## Bayern Munich to cut players' salaries by 15-20%

DORTMUND (Germany), 25 March — Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge says the club, out of the Champions League and at risk of ending the season without a title, plans to slash players' salaries.

"The volume of salaries has to be reduced by 15 to 20 percent," Rummenigge told Wednesday's issue of weekly Sport Bild in an article released a day before publication.

Bayern, the Bundesliga champions and Germany's most famous club, are 11 points behind leaders Werder Bremen with nine matches left and have also been knocked out of the German Cup.

Most German clubs are facing financial difficulties, mainly because of a sharp drop in revenue from television rights. Borussia Dort-

mund have already cut their players' salaries by 20 per cent.

"Expiring contracts will not be renewed under the old conditions," Rummenigge said. "We won't do crazy things any more."

Rummenigge said no decision had been made about the future of coach Ottmar Hitzfeld who has said he wants to fulfil his contract running until the end of next season.

"Second place (in the Bundesliga) would not automatically mean he stays, nor would third place signify he has to leave immediately," said Rummenigge.

Bayern's only reasonable goal this season is to secure second place and direct access to next season's Champions League.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Brazilian player Ronaldo (R) and Monaco's Julien Rodriguez fight for the ball during their Champions League quarterfinal first leg soccer match against Monaco at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium March 24, 2004.

Real Madrid won 4-2.—INTERNET

## Pires strike earns Arsenal 1-1 draw at Chelsea

LONDON, 26 March — A Robert Pires equalizer earned Arsenal a 1-1 draw with London rivals Chelsea in the first leg of their all-English Champions League quarterfinal at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

Icelandic striker Eidur Gudjohnsen put Chelsea ahead after 53 minutes but the hosts were pegged back six minutes later by Pires and they also had skipper Marcel Desailly sent off in the 83rd minute. Though the second leg at Highbury in a fortnight's time is set to be equally close, Arsenal's away goal makes them favourites to secure a probable semifinal with Real Madrid, who ran out 4-2 winners over AS Monaco at the Bernabeu.

Neither Arsenal nor Chelsea have reached the Champions League semifinals before. The draw ended Arsenal's five-game winning run in the Champions League but Arsene Wenger's side have

now gone 17 games without defeat against their west London rivals after beating them 2-1 on three occasions earlier this season.

Wednesday was clearly the toughest of their four meetings and the absence of Desailly, who will be suspended from the second leg, will be a blow for Chelsea when they face the English Premier League leaders and FA Cup semifinalists at Highbury on April 6.

Chelsea's Italian manager Claudio Ranieri, whose future has been the subject of mounting speculation, was at least given a vote of confidence from the Stamford Bridge fans, who sang, "There's only one Claudio

Ranieri", in a fast and furious first half.

On the pitch, Arsenal's Dutch forward Dennis Bergkamp was the first to test Marco Ambrosio but Pires posed a bigger threat to the Chelsea keeper minutes later when put clean through for a tight-angled shot.

Romanian striker Adrian Mutu replied for the hosts with a free kick into Jens Lehmann's arms, while the best chance of the half fell to Arsenal defender Sol Campbell, who could only head a Bergkamp free kick wide from close range.

Chelsea broke through eight minutes into the second half. Frank Lampard sent a 30-metre ball forward and, with the Arsenal defenders hesitating, Lehmann came storming out and his attempted clearance was charged down by Gudjohnsen, who twisted round to send a neat shot into the empty net.

It was a sweet moment for Gudjohnsen, who was sent off when these two sides met in the league at Stamford Bridge last month. The Bridge swiftly became a cauldron as Chelsea, through Lampard and Damien Duff, almost forced a second goal.

Their lead, though, lasted only six minutes before Arsenal left back Ashley Cole sent a high ball into the box and Pires out-jumped his marker to plant a superb header past Ambrosio and into the bottom corner.

It was the first goal Chelsea had conceded in the competition for 561 minutes, the third longest streak in Champions League history.

Chelsea responded by piling on the pressure, with Ranieri throwing on Argentine striker Hernan Crespo and attacking midfielder Joe Cole. The pressure nearly paid off when Gudjohnsen struck a fierce volley in a packed goalmouth, but Chelsea were soon to be rocked by Desailly's red card for a second yellow card, a foul on France teammate Vieira. — MNA/Reuters

## Real roar back to clinch 4-2 win over Monaco

MADRID, 26 March — Real Madrid fought back from a goal down at halftime to secure a convincing 4-2 win over Monaco in a pulsating Champions League quarterfinal on Wednesday.

In the night's other first-leg tie Arsenal got a vital away goal as they earned a 1-1 draw at London rivals Chelsea with the eventual winners facing Real or Monaco in the semifinals. At the Bernabeu, Monaco stunned Real when they snatched the lead late in the first half after centre-back Sebastian Squillaci took ad-

vantage of hesitant defending to poke home from close range at the second attempt.

But Real moved up a gear in the second half and goals from defender Ivan Helguera, Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo and Ronaldo helped them storm into a 4-1 lead nine minutes from time.

Monaco refused to fold,

however, and gave themselves hope of a second-leg comeback when Real old boy Fernando Morientes scored with a terrific header just over a minute later.

Real's David Beckham and Monaco's Lucas Bernardi will both miss the return in France after picking up bookings.

Monaco, who lost the Ligue 1 leadership to title rivals Olympique Lyon at the weekend, made a nervous start as they conceded possession to Real and sat back in their own half in the opening minutes.

Real skipper Raul, making a record 86th appearance in the Champions League, had the first chance in the ninth minute but sent a powerful header over the bar from five metres after Zidane wafted in a cross from the left.

Minutes later Ronaldo threatened after good work from Michel Salgado on the right but Gael Givet reacted quickly to snap the ball away from the Brazilian's feet as prepared to shoot.

But Real were made to pay for the failure to convert their chances when Monaco took the lead two minutes before halftime in one of their few forays into their opponents' area. Midfielder Lucas Bernardi's cross eventually found Giuly on the edge of the area and the Monaco playmaker managed to scramble a pass to centre-back Squillaci who poked home after the ball had rebounded off Real defender Alvaro Mejia.

But Real were a different side in the second half and got back on level terms just six minutes after the restart when substitute centre-back Ivan Helguera bundled in from three metres after Monaco's defence failed to clear a Beckham corner.

After squandering several good chances, Real finally took the lead on 70 minutes when Zidane drilled in at the near post after snapping up the rebound from a Luis Figo shot and seven minutes later Figo himself got on the scoresheet to make it 3-1. — MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's David Beckham plays a free kick while Monaco's player try to stop the ball with a wall during their Champions League quarterfinals first leg soccer match in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, March 24, 2004. — INTERNET

## Modena name Bellotto as new coach

ROME, 26 March — Lowly Serie A club Modena have named Gianfranco Bellotto as the replacement for sacked coach Alberto Malesani.

Malesani became the seventh Serie A coach this season to lose his job following Modena's 2-1 defeat to fellow strugglers Reggina at the weekend. Bellotto's previous experience includes spells in Serie B with Sampdoria and Venezia but he has never coached in the top flight.

"The chance to coach in Serie A doesn't come twice in one's life. I'll try to make the most of it," Bellotto was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Tuesday.

The 55-year-old faces a near-impossible task to turn results round quickly at the club, which has slipped to 15th place in the division and has not won a league match since early November. — MNA/Reuters

## S Korea beats Malaysia in Asian Olympic soccer qualifier

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 March — South Korea scored another 1-0 victory over Malaysia in its Group A Asian Zone Olympic soccer qualifier here Wednesday evening.

Following its identical 1-0 win over China and Iran, South Korea, who converted the winner from the spot in the first half, has accumulated nine points for a comfortable lead in the group. Iran ranked second on one win against one loss for three points. China scored one point from two games while Malaysia trailed in the group on one point from three games. Only the group winner will qualify for the men's soccer tournament in the Olympic Games. — MNA/Xinhua



Arsenal's French forward Robert Pires (L) of France celebrates his goal against Chelsea with Thierry Henry during their Champions League quarter-final, first leg soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London March 24, 2004. — INTERNET

## First India-ASEAN motor car rally in November

KOLKATA, 26 March — Confederation of Indian Industries is organizing the first ever India-ASEAN motor car rally through which it expects to encourage trade in the region.

The CII (eastern region) chairman, Sanjay Budhia, told reporters here that the rally was expected to create commercial interest in the infrastructure along the route, promote tourism and encourage economic cooperation in the region.

The rally, scheduled for November, would cover 5,023 kilometres through seven countries.

The rally would start from northeast Indian city of Imphal, enter Myanmar from Tamu before proceeding towards Mandalay, Taunggyi and Kengtung in that country.

It will then touch Phitsanulok in Thailand, Nong Khai and Seno in Laos, Da Nang, Ninh Hoam and Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, Phnom Penh in Cambodia and end at Bangkok.

CII is organizing the event in collaboration with Federation of Motors Sports Club of India and help from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. — MNA/PTI





## Prime Minister hands over ancient Buddha image to Ministry of Culture

YANGON, 26 March— A ceremony to hand over ancient Buddha image which was presented to the Prime Minister by Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee (Shwekyin) Dahattaw Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujatasara to the Ministry of Culture was held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha at 4 pm today, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Min-

ister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the Ministry of Culture.

At the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt handed over the Buddha image to Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.

The ancient Buddha image is of Antagu type and eight chapters of the life of Buddha were portrayed.

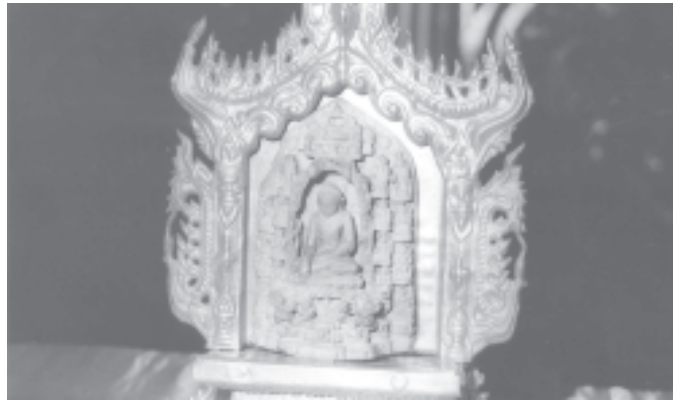
The image was recov-

ered at the ancient pagoda built in Wanpyay Village, Myinmu Township by King Alaungsithu renovated by Daw Baby and family of Mandalay.

So, they donated the Buddha image to Dahattaw Sayadaw and the Sayadaw presented it to the Prime Minister.

The Buddha image will be kept at the National Museum for public obeisance.

MNA



Ancient Buddha Image presented by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujatasara to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hands over ancient Buddha Image presented by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujatasara to Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.— MNA

## Lt-Gen Maung Bo fixes golden bolt at frame of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)

YANGON, 26 March— A ceremony to fix the golden bolt at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) being built by Public Works was held at the Mingala Mandat on the pier RP 10 of the main bridge this morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen

Ohn Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, engineers and workers of the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Project, local authorities and local people.

At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered an address. He said steel frame installation work of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) is about to be completed. The bridge lies on the 842-mile Union Highway linking Yangon and Kawthoung in the southern tip of the nation via Myeik, Dawei and Mawlamyine.

The total length of the bridge including the 7,699 feet main structure and two 3,876-foot approach structures is 11,575 feet or over two miles. The rail-cum-road bridge can bear up to 60 tons. The total expenditure of the bridge excluding the railroad will be K 20,579 million plus about US \$ 13 million. The bridge has been built by Myanmar engineers without taking assistance from foreign experts.

The Government has been upholding Our Three Main National Causes and implementing the 12 State's Objectives. In addition to other ministries, the Ministry for Progress of Border



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun fixes golden bolt at the frame of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine).— MNA

Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has been formed for development of all border areas,

rural areas and urban areas without leaving any region unattended.

Thanks to the border

areas development project, 24-zone development project and five rural

(See page 10)



The construction of the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) near completion.— MNA

## Armed Forces Day Parade live on TV, radio

YANGON, 26 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade from the Myoma Grounds to the Resistance Park will be broadcast live on Myanmar TV and Radio beginning 6 am on 27 March. — MNA

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