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Success of projects for development of border areas and national races key to successful realization of the national work programme

Senior General Than Shwe addresses meeting No 1/2004 of Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races

YANGON, 29 March — Meeting No 1/2004 of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was held this morning at the meeting hall of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) with an opening address by Chairman of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the Central Committee Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Member of the Central Committee Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary of the Central Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the Central Committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and

Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Joint-Secretary of the Central Committee Minister for the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Col Thein Nyunt, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental heads.

At the meeting, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyien acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe made a speech. He said that in implementing projects for development of border areas, the government had to make peace with national race groups, ensure peace and prevalence of law and order and forge national consolidation first.

Priority has been given to implementing tasks for development of border areas for ensuring development of border areas and national races and for further strengthening the national unity.

A ministry was formed to be able to carry out tasks for development of border areas and national races as border areas and national races lagged far behind in development. Moreover, Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was formed to enable other ministries to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for development of border areas and national races.

To effectively carry out a host of tasks for development

of border areas and national races on behalf of the Central Committee, Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races were formed.

Meanwhile, projects for eradication of narcotic drugs have been laid down and are being implemented to introduce poppy-substitute cultivation, livestock breeding and production activities and to enable local people to engage in proper livelihood after eliminating narcotic drugs in border areas.

Significant progress has been made in border areas with a sharp drop in poppy production since all-our efforts were made for development of border areas and national races during the period of ten years. As rapid development has been made in border areas works are to be reviewed at the current meeting to maintain the momentum of the development.

To ensure development of border areas measures for economic development in the region and better transport are being undertaken since better transport is of paramount importance for development of a region.

Although better transport has now been brought about in border areas there is still much to be done and continued efforts are to be made for the emergence of roads serviceable in all weather and tarred roads for better transport.

At a time when agriculture and livestock breeding is meeting with success and better transport is being brought about, the government has been able to make efforts for development of industrial and



Senior General Than Shwe addresses meeting No 1/2004 of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races. — MNA

electric power sectors and attend to the needs of education and health sectors to a certain extent. Hence, continued efforts are to be made to maintain momentum of the success.

Moreover, continued efforts are to be made for improvement of socio-economic life of local people and for alleviating of poverty in border areas. Accordingly, steps are to be taken for the emergence of human resources for ensuring continued development of border areas.

That is why emphasis is being placed on enhancing education and health sectors covering development of border areas. When the government started to launch tasks for development of border areas, schools were built in the regions where there was no habit of going to school and efforts had to be made to enable the school-age children to go to school. Currently,

there have been high schools in border areas and Nationalities Youth Resource

Development Degree Colleges were opened in (See page 8)

Excerpts from Senior General's address

- * Respective development projects including border area development projects are meeting with success and this reflects the correct national policy and correct national work programme
- * Continued efforts are to be made for improvement of socio-economic life of local people and for alleviating poverty in border areas
- * Border areas development tasks will meet with success all the more as progress has been made in economic, transport, production, industrial and electric sectors
- * Although better transport has now been brought about in border areas there is still much to be done and continued efforts are to be made for the emergence of roads serviceable in all weather and tarred roads
- * To ensure development of border areas measures for economic development in the region and better transport are being undertaken since better transport is of paramount importance for development of a region.



Meeting No 1/2004 of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races in progress. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 30 March, 2004

Strive for the development of the women sector and of the nation

In the course of Myanmar history, Myanmar women have enjoyed equal rights as men and have been able to take part in efforts for progress of own family, society and the State and people keeping abreast of men. It is something Myanmar women should take pride in. Therefore, all Myanmar women need not feel inferiority complex for being a woman. As they have full self-confidence and are equipped with manageable skill, it can be seen in the history that they have been able to carry out the duties the same as men for the nation and the people in times of emergency.

In his speech at the plenary meeting of delegates of state and division organizations for women's affairs of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held on 28 March at the Myanmar Convention Centre, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that, in the time of the present government, encouragement was being given to the development of the Myanmar women sector which is flourishing in line with the historical and cultural traditions for its further progress.

In encouraging the development of the women sector, efforts are being made for the women to be able to enjoy women's rights fully, to ensure that women are not deprived of their opportunities and to be able to enjoy more opportunities. With the aim of enabling Myanmar women to take part in the international women's movement, a Myanmar delegation was sent to the Fourth International Women Conference held in Beijing. Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was formed in 1996 to ensure that Myanmar women are fully enjoying their rights and that women's rights are developing in all sectors in accord with the times.

It can be seen that the committee, after forming work committees and various groups, is able to make efforts for development of Myanmar women in all sectors such as education, health, economy and culture.

Nowadays, women entrepreneurs, the ones who are taking a leading role in education, health, science and technology and information and communication technology sectors and those who are outstanding in sports, culture and social sectors have emerged continuously and thus it can be said that the women sector has entered its new era. As Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs has been transformed into Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation to take effective care of women's affairs on a wider national scale, we believe that the entire mass of Myanmar women, under the leadership of MWAF, unitedly strive for the development of the women sector and of the nation.



Daw Aye Aye Wai. — MNA Daw Khin Swe Oo. — MNA

Armed Forces Day exhibition crowded with people

YANGON, 29 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative exhibition continued today for the fourth day at the Defence Services Museum here.

The Tatmadaw men who participated in the Armed Forces Day parade drills and the public totalling 2,220 visited the exhibition today. The quiz contest was also conducted in the exhibition and prizes were awarded to the winners daily. — MNA

Plenary meeting of delegates of State/Division Organizations for Women's Affairs concludes



President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe addresses the meeting. — MNA

YANGON, 29 March — The plenary meeting of delegates of State/Division Organizations for Women's Affairs of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation continued for the second and final day at Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township this morning.

Present were Chairperson of Leading Committee for holding of State/Division Organizations for Women's Affairs President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Professor Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, Adviser Daw Khin Than Nwe and advisers, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and members of the Central Executive Committee, officials and guests.

President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Professor Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win acted as members of the Panel of Chairpersons at the

meeting. President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke on the occasion.

The delegates of Bago (West), Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions reported on work done from January to March 2004. Those present discussed the reports and general matters. President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe took part in the discussions. In the afternoon session, the delegates reported on the work done.

of Vice-President Professor Dr Daw May May Yi had discussions on prevention of violence against women, pre-

vention of trafficking in person and rehabilitation and resettlement, Daw Khin Lay Thet on education, health, economic and environment matters, Daw Than Than Nwe on culture, information and measures taken for young women and national races affairs and Daw Khin Khin Win on discipline, finance and management and organizational matters.

General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win reported on the suggestions.

The meeting concluded after closing remarks by President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe. — MNA



Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe. — MNA



Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet. — MNA



Vice-President Dr Daw May May Yi. — MNA



Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win. — MNA



Those present at the meeting. — MNA



Daw San San Htay. — MNA



Daw Khin Swe Win. — MNA



Daw Cherry Ye Khaung. — MNA



Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win. — MNA

Briton, Canadian killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 March— Gunmen killed a Briton and a Canadian guarding a power station near Mosul on Sunday, in the second straight day of violence in the northern Iraqi city that was home to large numbers of Saddam Hussein's military officers.

As US soldiers and Iraqi police sealed the area, witnesses reported two partly burned bodies, both clad in blue clothing and flak jackets, were seen beside a burning four-wheel drive vehicle. One victim had been shot in the head.

In London, the Foreign Office confirmed that one British national was killed. The Canadian Foreign Ministry said from Ottawa a Canadian was also killed and officials were trying to contact his family.

The two men were assigned to protect foreign engineers working for General Electric Co, a spokesman for the US-led coalition said on condition of anonymity. He confirmed

one was a Briton, and that the nationality of the second was unclear.

Earlier, an Iraqi official at the power station in East Mosul said the slain men were protecting foreign experts working at the station. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said a second car carrying experts escaped the attack.

General Electric is involved in efforts to rebuild Iraq's decrepit, electrical infrastructure, which has suffered from bombing and years of sanctions. Power blackouts are frequent.

Guerillas have targeted foreign civilians, possibly as a means of undermining reconstruction efforts in Iraq. Earlier this month, four

American missionaries working on a water project were shot to death in Mosul. One missionary survived with injuries.

Also Sunday, assailants detonated a bomb in Baqouba, a city northeast of Baghdad, injuring five bystanders, including two children. It was unclear whether the blast targeted a policeman who lives near the site of the explosion, or the house of a carpenter who has received threats because he has worked for American forces.

The blast in Baqouba, where anti-US guerrillas are active, wounded an eight-year-old boy and his 10-year-old sister, police Capt. Mohammed Hadi said. The policeman and

the carpenter were unharmed.

To the north, in Kirkuk, a bomb exploded at an intersection where police cars park daily. Three civilians were injured, police Col Dashti Aziz said. As bystanders gathered after the blast, gunmen opened fire from a passing car, but there were no casualties. Police said the shooters were later apprehended.

On Saturday, rebel rockets slammed into a government building in Mosul, killing two civilians and wounding 14 others.

The rocket launcher was hidden in a wooden cart that was wheeled to a blast wall surrounding the three-storey main government building, said Mosul police Sgt Jassim Mohammed.

In the country's south Saturday, a gunman shot and killed the Iraqi driver of a civilian truck carrying supplies to Japan's military, Japan's *Kyodo News Agency* said. The attack was an apparent robbery attempt.

Internet



US Army troops and Iraqi police officers recover a home-made rocket launcher fixed to a cart, after Mosul's city hall was attacked on 27 March, 2004. Police said that guerrillas fired two rockets at the city hall.—INTERNET

US, others delay elimination of damaging pesticide

OTTAWA, 29 March— The United States and other major powers on Friday agreed to delay the implementation of a deal to stop using a pesticide which is known to destroy the ozone layer, officials said.

Methyl bromide, a fumigant that kills soil and food pests, is due to be phased out by developed nations by January 1, 2005, under the 1987 Montreal Protocol to protect the atmosphere.

But delegates at a UN-sponsored conference in Montreal agreed that the United States and 10 other developed nations — which say they have yet to find a viable alternative — would be given exemptions allowing them to use the fumigant at least until the end of 2005.

"The high demand for exemptions to the methyl bromide phaseout shows that governments and the private sector will have to

work much harder to speed up the development and spread of ozone-friendly replacements," United Nations Environment Programme director Klaus Toepfer said in a statement.

US growers say they are concerned about a rule in the protocol that allows developing nations an extra 10 years, until 2015, before they have to phase out use of the pesticide.

The United States, the European Union and Japan have cut the use of newly produced methyl bromide to 30 per cent of 1991 levels. Overall US use is closer to 35 per cent because farmers are utilizing stockpiles of the fumigant. —MNA/Reuters

EU, Russia close to new trade deal ahead of 1 May

BRUSSELS, 29 March— Russia and the European Union said on Friday they were close to agreeing trade rules for when 10 new states join the bloc on 1 May.

Brussels wants the present Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to apply to Russia's ties with the new EU states from the day they join. But Moscow fears that would cost it trade and other privileges it now enjoys with its closest neighbours, many of whom will join the EU.

If the PCA is not ex-

tended, there will be no formal framework in place covering EU-Russian relations. Eight of the states joining the EU on 1 May are former Soviet bloc countries.

But EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and Russian Economy Minister German Gref were optimistic an agreement could be signed

when Commission President Romano Prodi meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on April 22 and 23.

"I would reckon we have solved 90 per cent of the problems and the remaining 10 per cent...have been laid down as part of the basic political principles," Lamy told a news conference. —MNA/Reuters

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Conscientious objector from Iraq war to face US court-martial

WASHINGTON, 29 March— The first Iraq war veteran to publicly object to the morality of the war will face a special court-martial on a charge of desertion, officials said.

But the Army said Florida National Guard Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia will be spared a possible death sentence, the most severe penalty for desertion in wartime.

The special court-martial, to be held on a military base in Fort Stewart, Georgia, means Mejia, 28, could receive no more than one year in a military prison and a bad conduct discharge if convicted, Fort Stewart spokesman Rich Olson said Friday.

A bad conduct discharge rules out veteran's benefits, but can be appealed and replaced with a general discharge ensuring full benefits, said Olson, adding no date for the court-martial had been set.

Olson said he did not have an explanation for why Fort Stewart commanding officer Major-General William Webster decided Friday on a special court-martial for Mejia, whose surrender in the Boston area earlier this month attracted widespread attention.

Mejia, a squad leader charged with deserting his unit on October 16 after he failed to return to Iraq following a 15-day home leave, has filed for conscientious objector status with the Pentagon. He is seeking an honorable discharge and dismissal of all charges against him, according to his civilian lawyer, Louis Font of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Internet

Iraqi minister escapes assassination

BAGHDAD, 29 March— Gunmen opened fire Sunday on a convoy carrying Iraq's minister of public works, killing a driver and a bodyguard and injuring two others, the US-led coalition said. The minister, Nisreen Berwari, was unharmed.

In another attack in the same city, Mosul, gunmen killed a Briton and a Canadian who were working as security guards for foreign electrical engineers at a power station. The ambush appeared to be part of a campaign to undermine US-led reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

The attacks highlighted the tenuous security situation in Iraq's third-largest city.

Berwari was returning to Mosul from a meeting in the city of Dohuk when her convoy was attacked, said Kristi Clemens, a coalition spokeswoman in Baghdad.

Iraqi police said the attack occurred around 11 am in the al-Karama neighbourhood of Mosul. They said the two men who were killed were both bodyguards, and that Berwari was in another car that was not hit by gunfire.

Berwari, who earned a degree at Harvard University's John F Kennedy School of Government in 1999, is one of five Kurdish ministers in the coalition-appointed interim government. There are 20 other ministers.

Previously, Berwari was development minister in the Kurdistan regional government, and she also served with United Nations organizations in Iraq. Another female political leader, Aqila al-Hashimi, was assassinated in September. She was a Shiite member of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

US soldiers and Iraqi police sealed off the area after the shooting. Witnesses saw two partly burned bodies, clad in flak jackets, lying beside a four-wheel drive vehicle that was on fire. One man had been shot in the head. — Internet



Iraqi children and municipality workers collect remains of a US military vehicle, at the site where a US Marine was killed and several others wounded the day before during clashes with guerrillas on 26 March in Fallujah 60 km north of Baghdad.—INTERNET

Iraq 'friendly fire' tragedy blamed on US Marine

WASHINGTON, 29 March— The worst US "friendly fire" incident of the Iraq war has been blamed on a Marine captain who called fighter jets to strike suspected Iraqi positions last March, unaware that dozens of Marines were fighting in the area, defence officials said on Sunday.

Ten Marines were killed and three wounded in the incident near the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriya and an investigation report, to be released on Monday by the US Central Command, said the dead were so shot up by both Iraqis and A-10 Air Force jets that it was almost impossible to determine exactly how they died.

But the year-long probe by an 11-member US military team concluded that actions by the unidentified Marine captain, a ground-based air controller, directly resulted in the confused incident during the firefight on 23 March, 2003.

It recommended that the officer receive some type of administrative discipline, but stipulated that "he didn't act with any negligence or reckless disregard," one of the defence officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

"It was a very ugly scene on the ground — just a terrible thing in the heat of battle," said another defence official.

Marine Corps officials, who spent the weekend discussing the report with the families of Marines involved, de-

clined to comment except to say that no action had been taken against the ground controller because the report had not yet been released.

Investigators found that the captain was in the city of Nassiriya at the time, could not see the action in a barren area near a canal and should have consulted his battalion commander, who would have known that US troops were in the strike area. But the report said he had been cleared by his immediate commander to call in air power.

Eighteen Marines were killed and 17 wounded in the area as Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion 2nd Marines from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, sought to seize bridges and a canal near Nassiriya. But the investigation concluded that apparently only 13 Marines were involved in the friendly fire strikes.

The air controller was from Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion and was being used because Charlie Company had no air controller. —Internet

Arab Summit falls apart over US reforms

TUNIS, 29 March— Egypt offered Sunday to host a summit of Arab leaders, trying to resurrect a meeting that collapsed because of deep divisions over how to bring more democracy to the Middle East and tackle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Arab League leaders had planned to use the summit, which was slated to start Monday, to submit proposals for political reforms in response to US calls for greater freedoms in the region. Many of the most powerful countries in the Middle East are led by absolute rulers or royal families.

But Israel's 22 March assassination of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin provoked widespread outrage in the Arab world, making it politically risky for some states to pursue a peace initiative or take a stand on a reform plan championed by the Americans.

At the summit, the Arab leaders had also intended to relaunch a two-year-old Saudi-crafted peace initiative toward Israel. Syria blamed host Tunisia for the collapse. "This decision is entirely inexplicable. It is inappropriate," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said Sunday.

Several governments called for an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers to overcome differences so the summit of the 22-member Arab League could be held.

Internet

Strong surveillance required for China's AIDS combat

BEIJING, 29 March — A Chinese AIDS expert suggested here Friday that health agencies should improve surveillance and testing capacities to find more HIV carriers and AIDS patients.

"The estimated number of HIV carriers in China is 840,000, but the recorded figure is only about 60,000, which causes big problems in China's AIDS campaign," said Shen Jie, deputy director of the China Disease Prevention and Control Centre, at the three-day UN High-Level International Conference on the Millennium Development Goals.

To prevent the country from being jeopardized by the AIDS epidemic, the Chinese Government has promised to implement a series of preventative measures, including free anti-retroviral treatment to poor AIDS patients.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany raises doubts over EU's Kyoto policy

BRUSSELS, 29 March — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said on Friday Europe should not rush into enforcing targets to curb greenhouse emissions if Russia fails to sign the Kyoto Treaty on climate change, warning it could harm in-

dustrial.

The European Union has set a 2005 start date for measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to fight global warming. But critics say the Kyoto Protocol's strict requirements may hamper Europe's effort to boost its eco-

nom competitiveness.

EU leaders renewed their commitment to economic reforms to boost competitiveness as well as to the early entry into force of the Kyoto Treaty in a joint statement at a Brussels summit.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqis gather on the site of an explosion in central Baghdad. Seven Iraqis were injured when a roadside bomb exploded during the morning rush hour on Saturday. Another five Iraqis and a US soldier were injured in bomb blasts, Sunday, in bloodletting ahead of talks between UN experts and Iraqi officials on the upcoming transfer of power in Iraq. —INTERNET

Doctors question evidence for shaken-baby syndrome

LONDON, 29 March — Doctors called on Friday for a rethink of shaken-baby syndrome after researchers cast doubt on one of the symptoms used to identify it.

The syndrome results from violently shaking an infant and is recognized by bleeding around the brain and from the eye, along with brain damage. It made international headlines in 1997 when British nanny Louise Woodward was convicted of killing a baby boy in Massachusetts by shaking him violently.

Now British and American scientists said there are serious questions about the syndrome and how it is diagnosed.

"We need to reconsider the diagnostic criteria, if not the existence, of shaken-baby syndrome," said John Plunkett, of the Regina Medical Centre in Hasting, Minnesota, and JF Geddes, a retired paediatric pathologist.

"If the concept of shaken-baby syndrome is scientifically uncertain, we have a duty to re-examine the

validity of other beliefs in the field of infant injury," they added in a *British Medical Journal* editorial.

Concerns about the validity of the syndrome arose after Patrick Lantz of Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina found little medical evidence to show that bleeding from the eye results only from physical abuse.

They searched for medical evidence after a 14-month-old baby suffered head and eye injuries after a television fell on him at his home.

Despite the father explaining it was an accident, the three-year old brother of the baby was taken into custody because the injuries suffered by the baby were thought to have been caused by severe shaking.

MNA/Reuters

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Prodi says Italy's left would recall Iraq troops

ROME, 29 March — The main voice of Italy's centre-left opposition, European Commission chief Romano Prodi, urged withdrawal of Italian troops from Iraq on Saturday in comments likely to win some voter sympathy ahead of local polls in June.

In a letter to the *Corriere della Sera* daily, former Prime Minister Prodi called the Iraqi war "unjustified and illegitimate". The "Olive Tree" centre-left coalition wanted a UN-led humanitarian operation in place of "occupation".

"If the Olive Tree today found itself responsible for the government, for the problem of whether to continue or interrupt its participation in this war, I don't hesitate to say that the choice would be to put an end to its intervention," he said.

Prodi's bid to spell out the centre-left's position on Iraq comes as they gear up for European and local elections in June.

The opposition was buoyed by the recent electoral triumph of Spain's socialists, who campaigned on a platform of withdrawing Spanish forces from Iraq. But it has so far failed to capitalize on broad Italian opposition to the war in Iraq and subsequent deployment of almost 3,000 Italian troops.

Though the Italian troop presence is not large, it has a great symbolic importance for the United States as it seeks international legitimacy for its role in Iraq after a planned July handover of sovereignty to Iraqis. A poll in early March showed that Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's coalition would get 45 per cent of the vote in a general election and the "Olive Tree" would win 40 per cent.

Prodi, the only man to have beaten Berlusconi at the polls, in a general election in 1996, appeared in his letter to be appealing to critics who saw the coalition's opposition to the presence of Italian troops in Iraq as too lacking in conviction.

"An indispensable condition to make this intervention legitimate would obviously be that it was approved by and then put in action under the authority of the UN," he said, adding that all countries, especially Muslim ones, should participate.

Prodi has said he would not run in the June elections, instead serving out his term as President of the commission which expires in October, but he has assumed the mantle of opposition leader as polls approach. — MNA/Reuters



Iraqi boys look at the site of an explosion in central Baghdad, Saturday, while US soldiers approach the scene. Another five Iraqis and a US soldier were injured in bomb blasts, Sunday, in bloodletting ahead of talks between UN experts and Iraqi officials on the upcoming transfer of power in Iraq.

INTERNET

Britain banking on private security firms in Iraq, report says

LONDON, 29 March— Britain is spending millions of pounds hiring private bodyguards, armed escorts and security advisers to protect its civil servants in Iraq, a London newspaper said.

It comes as police in Iraq said two British civilians were killed in a drive-by shooting in Iraq's main northern city of Mosul on Sunday.

The Foreign Office and Department for International Development has spent almost 25 million pounds on private security in Iraq following the war there last year.

The cost is set to rocket once sovereignty is handed back to the Iraqis in June, *The Independent* on Sunday said.

David Claridge, director of security firm Janusian, estimates that British companies have earned up to 800 million pounds from their security contracts in Iraq, according to the paper.

The government's largest contract was with British firm Control Risks, which has earned 23.5 million pounds, the paper said, adding that the company employed around 120 staff to protect some 150 officials and contractors.

The Foreign Office said it was unable to confirm the reports or news of the British civilians killed in Iraq Sunday.

Police in Iraq told *AFP* that two British nationals were killed in Mosul by armed, masked men who had opened fire from a car.

The victims were in a two-car convoy heading to a power station at the time of the attack.

Three British engineers in the first car managed to drive into the compound as the shooting began and escaped unhurt but the second car got caught up in the automatic weapons fire, an officer said.

The Independent meanwhile said that thousands of former soldiers and police officers from Britain, the United States, Australia and South Africa were earning as much as 600 pounds per day to protect Western officials, oil company executives and construction firm bosses.

Lured by lucrative private security work, Britain's elite fighting force, the Special Air Service, has suffered from an unprecedented loss of staff, the paper said.

Internet



An Iraqi man pushes his bicycle as he passes by a check point set up by US Army and the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps in Baghdad's Kazimiya neighbourhood, Iraq, on Sunday, 28 March, 2004. —INTERNET

Eastern China to capitalize on advantages to speed up development

BEIJING, 29 March — The acceleration of development in eastern China constitutes a crucial component part of the overall strategy of China's modernization construction and effective, practical efforts should be made to bring about the all-round, coordinated and sustained social and economic growth.

Premier Wen Jiabao made these remarks during his inspection tour of rural villages, urban neighbourhood communities, enterprises and schools in the cities of Wuxi and Suzhou in eastern China's Jiangsu Province from last Thursday to Saturday.

In his cordial talks with locals in the fields or farmers' homes in Dongsheng Village in Xishan District of Wuxi City, he said to local farmers that food safety was of concern to the people's livelihood and social stability, and called for effective measures to further raise the comprehensive grain production capacity. While in Jiangxiang Village in Changshu City, he underscored that the most resolute and rigid measures should be worked out and the illegal expropriation of cropland would be halted and misuse of farmland be ceased. The priority of the Chinese economy, noted Premier

Wen, is to maintain steady growth and keep away from dramatic shifts.

China is working to guarantee the supply of energy, raw materials and transport for leading industries and profitable enterprises while curbing issues such as blind investment in some industries, said Wen.

Meanwhile, he added, his country will also adopt measures to encourage farmers to plant more grain. Economically developed eastern China, a major sector in the country's modernization, aims to realize a balanced and sustainable economic and social development, Wen said.

Eastern China, undergoing rapid economic growth in recent years, he acknowledged, should pay more attention to updating its industrial framework and boosting high-tech industry and the service sector, including logistics and tourism. —MNA/Reuters

Kerry to have minor shoulder surgery

ST LOUIS, 29 March — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry will have minor outpatient surgery on his right shoulder next week that will keep him off the campaign trail for four days.

Spokesman David Wade said the Massachusetts senator aggravated an old injury to the sub-scapularis tendon — which helps move the shoulder — earlier this year when he braced himself against an abrupt stop on a bus tour in Iowa during the race for the Democratic nomination. "He will have outpatient surgery on his shoulder on Wednesday at Massachusetts General Hospital," Wade said. "It's a quick procedure that usually lasts less than an hour."

The injury did not bother Kerry during a recent weeklong skiing and snowboarding vacation in Idaho nor does it prevent him from occasionally tossing a football or baseball with reporters and staff.

Wade said Kerry, 60, was in pain only when he made certain movements such as "picking up a baby on the rope line".

MNA/Reuters

Chinese minister hopes for joint partnership

BANGALORE, 29 March — Chinese Defence Minister Gen Cao Gangchuan hoped there would be partnership between the defence industries of India and China as he witnessed a demonstration of Dhruv, India's Advanced Light Helicopter, at the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd in this southern city.

During his three-hour visit here, he discussed with Indian defence officials ways of mutual cooperation between the two countries, official sources said.

Leading a 13-member Chinese defence delegation, Cao, who arrived in a special IAF aircraft from New Delhi, visited the Jaguar structure and assembly shop at HAL, where he saw a static display of the Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT), developed by Indian engineers in a record 22 months. —MNA/Xinhua

Joint statement to strengthen Indo-Pakistani ties

NEW DELHI, 29 March — The joint statement issued by Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in January this year will go a long way in strengthening Indo-Pakistani bilateral ties, Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani said here on Saturday.

"The joint statement, if followed by Pakistan, will go a long way in building strong bridges of friendship between the two countries," he said in his address to troops on 41st raising day celebration of Special Services Bureau, which has been renamed as Sashashtra Seema Bal (SSB).

SSB is a special force, raised after the Indo-China war, permanently deployed along India's northeastern border.

MNA/PTI

Study says Army must do more to prevent suicides

BAGHDAD, 27 March—US soldiers have committed suicide at a higher-than-usual rate during the invasion and occupation of Iraq, and the Army must do more to try to prevent suicide and lessen combat-related stress, a new Army study says.

The study, the first of its kind undertaken in a war zone, was conducted from August through October to address the mental health of soldiers in Iraq. It was prompted by a spike of suicides in July, when five soldiers killed themselves, all with few warning signs.

Since the war in Iraq began in March 2003, 24 soldiers have committed suicide, an average of about two per month. The suicide rate for Army soldiers in Iraq in 2003 was 15.8 per 100,000, an increase from the Army average of 12.2 for 2003 and 11.9 from 1995-2002. That rate was still below the national average of 21.5 suicides per 100,000 for males ages 20-34, which roughly matches the age range of the bulk of the soldiers in Iraq.

USA TODAY obtained a draft of the study, which will be released today at the Pentagon. The study, conducted by Army psychiatrists and other researchers, involved only Army soldiers and did not cover Marines, Air Force or Navy personnel in Iraq.

Among the findings:

- Friends and colleagues had little or no inkling that comrades who killed themselves were contemplating suicide. The Army plans to address the problem by adding "buddy team" training to spot warning signs and by changing Army culture to remove the stigma associated with seeking counseling.

- The Army needs to field mental health teams closer to combat units in wartime. Surveys show that many soldiers who experienced anxiety did not know how or where to seek assistance.

- More than 60% of soldiers in Iraq reported "low morale." Army officials say the situation has improved because of better facilities in Iraq and a rotation plan that removes uncertainties about return dates.

Almost all of the soldiers who committed suicide were young, white enlisted troops, the study showed. Most were having problems with relationships, money or legal difficulties, said a Pentagon official with knowledge of the report.

About 15% of all Army soldiers surveyed in Iraq said they sought help for combat stress. The most common reasons cited were viewing large numbers of dead bodies during battle, anxiety over being ambushed and stress associated with transitioning from a combat force to an occupying force. —Internet



A US Army Stryker armoured vehicle blazes on a hillside road in the northern Iraq city of Mosul, on 28 March, 2004 after it was hit by a rocket propelled grenade, which struck slat armour and then set a fuel can alight, according to the US military. —INTERNET

West Virginia Senator on Iraq says 'My vote was wrong'

CHARLESTON, 29 March—US Sen Senator Jay Rockefeller regrets his vote to authorize a war against Iraq.

"If I had known then what I know now, I would have voted against it," Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said Friday. "I have admitted that my vote was wrong."

The Democratic-led Senate approved the war resolution 77-23 on 11, Oct 2002, one day after the US House approved a similar resolution.

"The decision got made before there was a whole bunch of intelligence," said Rockefeller, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee. "I think the intelligence was shaped. And I think the interpretation of the intelligence was shaped."

"We had this feeling we could be welcomed as liberators. Americans don't know history, geography, ethnicity. The administration had no idea of what they

were getting into in Iraq. We are not internationalists. We border on being isolationists. We don't know anything about the Middle East." Rockefeller also said he is disturbed at the failure to involve the United Nations in creating a new government and finding peace in Iraq.

Many of the senator's feelings were strengthened last week during a weeklong trip with four other Democratic senators to Iraq and four other Middle Eastern nations.

In Iraq, the senators visited a team of researchers investigating the presence of weapons of mass destruction.

"They have three million pieces of paper," Rockefeller said. "But it is a sham. There is nothing to point to any weapons of any kind."

Internet

Several wounded in series of blasts in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 29 March—At least six civilians were wounded, including a young child, in a series of blasts in the Iraqi capital on Friday evening, hospital officials said.

Doctors at Baghdad's Yarmouk Hospital said three men, a woman, a teenage boy and a child were brought into the emergency room shortly after the explosions. Two were seriously wounded and moved to another hospital.

There were reports of blasts in several places. It was not clear what caused them. In one residential district, blood stained the road and there was a hole from the impact of what witnesses said could have been a mortar or rocket.

"I was standing with my friends and then we heard a strong blast," Mohammed Sahib, a 16-year-old being treated in Yarmouk, said.

"Something fell on us from the sky. I don't know what it was, a missile or something else." —MNA/Reuters

Quota set to save snow lotus from extinction in N-W China

URUMQI, 29 March — Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has introduced a quota system this year for snow lotus plucking and dealing to curb the over exploitation of the rare plant.

Zhang Xiaopeng, director with the regional supervision centre of grassland resources, said not more than 700,000 snow lotus can be plucked in 2004, dropping one-third from last year.

Listed an endangered species, snow lotuses, which mainly grow on meadows near the snow line on Tianshan Mountains and Altay Mountains, are suffering a habitat shrinkage as

a result of snow line rising in recent ten years.

To make it worse, Zhang said, the rising demand for the rare plant from pharmacy and invigorant industries has caused an over exploitation and a quantity decline of snow lotuses.

Currently only three million snow lotuses are fitting to be plucked. Calculated with the 1-4 ratio between pluckable snow lotuses and the total existing ones, a figure provided by the supervision centre, the region now should have some 12 million these rare plants. But the figure in 1988 was 28.3 million.

Over 100 firms in Xinjiang are engaged in the business of snow lotus purchase and processing.

The supervision centre has ordered for strict management over the snow lotus business.

The licensing work will be strictly controlled and no firm can do the business without the authorization by the supervision centre, the order said. The supervision centre will set each authorized firm a business scales, Zhang said.

MNA/Xinhua



Sasha Cohen, of the United States, performs in the Ladies' Short Programme at the World Figure Skating Championships in Dortmund, western Germany, on 26 March, 2004. —INTERNET



US soldiers block the main entrance to the restive town of Fallujah, recently between guerillas and US troops west of the Iraqi capital.

INTERNET

China to set up more offshore helicopter rescue teams

BEIJING, 29 March — China plans to set up three more offshore helicopter rescue teams this year to guarantee safety in sea areas, said sources with the Ministry of Communications Friday.

The North Sea No. 1 helicopter rescue team was scheduled to be launched this April and the rescuers with two helicopters would be stationed in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, said an official with the ministry who asked to be anonymous.

Another two helicopter rescue teams, the East Sea No. 2 and the South Sea No. 1 helicopter rescue teams, were expected to be set up within the year, said the official.

At present, China has only one helicopter rescue team, namely the Shanghai Offshore Helicopter Rescue Team stationed in Shanghai, which will be renamed as the East Sea No. 1 helicopter rescue team.

With the new expansion, the four rescue teams will be stationed in the Bohai Sea, Shanghai, Taiwan Strait and Qiongzhou Strait for emergency help on the sea. China's offshore rescue work was still in its early stages and could only operate in daytime within a distance of 80 sea miles, said the official.

To better develop China's maritime rescue system, the Ministry of Communications purchased four helicopters this year for offshore rescue, which will be put into use in 2006, according to China News Service on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven killed during raid near Tikrit

BAGHDAD, 28 March— Four Iraqi paramilitaries and three armed suspects were killed on Friday during a raid near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, the US military said.

A military spokeswoman said four other members of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) were wounded in the incident at around 4 am (0100 GMT).

She said 21 individuals were captured in the raid. She gave no other details about the incident.

US troops and Iraqi security forces regularly raid homes and villages from their base in Tikrit, 110 miles north of Baghdad, looking for insurgents fighting the US occupation.

MNA/Reuters

Clinton, Carter, Gore show unity for Kerry

WASHINGTON, 29 March—Former presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter joined a who's who of Democrats in celebrating the party's next presidential nominee John Kerry on Thursday at a unity dinner peppered with tributes to party heroes and harsh criticism of President George W Bush.

The gathering of the brightest Democratic stars, including seven of Kerry's nine former campaign rivals, raised about 11 million US dollars for the party and featured strong denunciations of Bush's leadership and Republican campaign tactics from both Carter and Clinton.

The rare gathering of the two former presidents, along with former vice-president Al Gore, the Democratic nominee in 2000, highlighted an unusually high level of unity this year in a party where infighting and post-primary grudges have been a tradition.

"Never has the Democratic Party been more united than it is today, never have we been more poised to win a victory in November," said Kerry, who kicks off a 20-city fund-raising tour this weekend in California with a goal of raising 80 million US

dollars before the Democratic convention in July.

The speeches by Clinton and Carter featured strong attacks on Bush for alienating traditional allies, declaring war on the environment, eroding basic liberties, ratcheting up partisan political tensions and undermining the US role as a global leader.

"I am deeply concerned that our leadership today has been eroded by global doubts about our government's commitment to the basic principles of truth, peace and human rights," Carter said. "We see trust and friendship toward the United States at its lowest point in history."

"Respected human rights leaders no longer see our country as a noble example to be emulated, but as a focus of their almost universal condemnation."

MNA/Reuters

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation dutifully preserving traditional cultural heritage

Khin Pyi Chit

In our country, Myanmar, own cultural heritage has been preserved since years countable by the thousand.

The people of Myanmar are the ones who have been able to relay the culture of a sovereign nation from one generation to another since the times of Tharekittaya, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa and Kongbaung to this date lasting about 2000 years. As Myanmar people are endowed with physical and mental ability, buildings with great architectural designs have flourished in the country.

Culture includes traditions, literature, language, religion, cultural heritage, music and mode of dress. From the times of Pyu City State and Bagan City State and throughout the period of independence struggle to this date, outstanding Myanmar women have emerged in education, economic and social sectors.

In Myanmar, people residing in rural areas constitute 70 per cent of the population which stands at over 53 million. Schools, monasteries and training courses are the places where education disseminated. From the time of feudalism to this date, Myanmar women have been nurtured to be polite in words and deeds through the teachings of Buddha, literature created by monks and lay person scholars.

In building a new nation, uplifting of the women sector in line with own culture based on currently published literature and ancient teachings becomes a vital responsibility for Myanmar womenfolk.

Preserving own cultural traditions is the national duty. In striving for the community service, one cannot carry out a certain task individually but the united strength of a group can. Today, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation that will serve the interests of the mass of Myanmar women who constitute 50.3 per cent of the country's population has been formed.

With the aim of using the strength of Myanmar women in endeavours for national development, the government formed Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs in 1996. In 1995, a delegation of Myanmar women attended the Fourth International Women's Conference held in Beijing. The conference issued Beijing Declaration consisting of process for development of the women sector. In line with the political, economic, social and historical traditions, the future plan for development of Myanmar women sector has been implemented. Moreover, systematic measures have been taken in nation-building tasks.

As the women sector is very wide, there exist limitations in carrying out the women's affairs to cover the entire nation and thus MNCWA was transformed into Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation as a non-governmental organization on 20 December 2003.

MWAF was formed with seven lofty aims, they are:

- to enhance the role of women sector in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
- to safeguard women's rights
- to raise economic, health and education sectors of women and to safeguard their social security
- to nurture women so that they will cherish and value the traditional culture and customs of the national races
- to systematically carry out the tasks for prevention of violence against women and rehabilitation
- to launch campaign, as a national duty, on elimination of trafficking in women and children, and
- to cooperate with regional, internal and external organizations in carrying out matters on women's rights in accord with the traditional culture and customs of the national races.

To realize these objectives, the following bodies have been formed:

- (a) Central Organization for Women's Affairs
- (b) State/Division Organization for Women's Affairs as well as branches in the respective states and divisions
- (c) District Organization for Women's Affairs
- (d) Township Organization for Women's Affairs

- (e) Ward and village Organization for Women's Affairs

MWAF, a social organization, was formed to serve the interests of the State and the people and to promote the life of women.

In conformity with one of the four social objectives "uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character", the MWAF Cultural Work Group is conducting field tours of all parts of the nation.

Thanks to the encouragement of the State, like Myanmar women in the successive eras, present mass of Myanmar women have fully enjoyed women's rights. Those who have been assigned duties are found to carry out the tasks efficiently. Therefore, embracing social ethics, national culture and lineage, Myanmar women have been brilliantly participating in the national development tasks.

Regarding the cultural sector, under the correct leadership of the State, the body is taking organizational measures to help Myanmar young women to be pious ones, to adorn themselves traditional costumes, to love and cherish traditional culture and customs and to strongly resist the penetration of alien decadent culture.

The government with genuine goodwill has been taking systematic measures in elevating the role of Myanmar women. So, Myanmar women have been able to organize a network of women development activities across the nation including rural areas, where Myanmar traditions and culture originated.

In a bid to forge nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit among Myanmar women, the government designated the third of July as Myanmar Women's Day as a gesture of honouring Myanmar women mass. Besides, the government has acknowledged all the endeavours for development of Myanmar women sector. At the Myanmar traditional food and delicacies' fair, recently held with the sponsorship of the Yangon Division Organization for Women's Affairs, the Myanmar costumes show could draw the attention of the audience.

In its drive to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the State Peace and Development Council has been implementing the twelve objectives. It has also adopted the three tactics as part of the four social objectives. These three tactics — to uplift the morale and morality of the entire nation, to preserve and safeguard the cultural heritage and, and to safeguard the cultural heritage and national character — are fine ones, which play a main role in preserving traditions and national character. Geologists found out about 40 million years old anthropoid primates in Pongtaung Pongnya region. It has indicated that the human beings originated in Myanmar.

The State Peace and Development Council formed the Committee for Preservation of National Heritage on 10 September 1998 to effectively preserve and safeguard the cultural heritage.

Now national traitors are manufacturing fabrications that AIDS has widely spread in Myanmar with the intention of tarnishing the dignity of the mass of Myanmar women who are sharing equal rights with men. However,

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

59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition

Defence Services Museum
on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon.
26-3-2004 to 4-4-2004 (Free admission)

ငါးပုစွန်မွေးမြူသူများလိုင်စင်လဲလှယ်ရန်ကြေငြာချက်

နိုင်ငံတော်အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအတွင်းရှိ ငါးပုစွန်မြူရေးလုပ်ငန်း စနစ်တကျဖြစ်စေရေးအတွက် ငါးပုစွန်မြူရေးဆိုင်ရာ ဥပဒေ (နိုင်ငံတော်ငြိမ်ဝပ်ပိပြားမှုတည်ဆောက်ရေးအဖွဲ့ဥပဒေ အမှတ်-၂၄/၈၉) ကို ပြဋ္ဌာန်းခဲ့ပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ငါးပုစွန်မြူရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် အဆိုပါဥပဒေနှင့်အညီ ငါးပုစွန်မွေးမြူခြင်းလိုင်စင် ငါးပုစွန်သားပေါက်ထုတ်လုပ်ခြင်းလိုင်စင်အလုပ်ငါးပုစွန်မြူခြင်းလိုင်စင်သည်များကို ထုတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိရာ ယခုအခါလိုင်စင် ရရှိထားသူများသည် ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်တွင် လုပ်ငန်းဆက်လက် လုပ်ကိုင်ခွင့်ရရှိရန်အတွက် သက်ဆိုင်ရာခရိုင်/မြို့နယ် ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနများတွင် သက်တမ်းရက်ကုန်ဆုံးပြီး ရက်ပေါင်း (၃၀) အတွင်း လိုင်စင်အသစ်လဲလှယ်ကြရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

ထို့အပြင် ငါးပုစွန်မွေးမြူခြင်းဆိုင်ရာလုပ်ငန်းများကို စတင်လုပ်ကိုင်လိုသူများသည်လည်း သက်ဆိုင်ရာခရိုင်မြို့နယ် ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနများတွင် လိုင်စင်လျှောက်ထားရမည့် ငါးလုပ်ကိုင်ကြရမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ငါးပုစွန်မြူရေးလိုင်စင်မရှိဘဲ ငါးပုစွန်မြူရေးလုပ်ငန်းများကိုလုပ်ကိုင်နေကြောင်း စစ်ဆေးတွေ့ရှိရပါက ဥပဒေနှင့်အညီ ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း ကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။

one can witness vividly that Myanmar women are taking part in the nation-building tasks under the leadership of the State. The seminar on development of Myanmar women, the first Myanmar women conference and the second conference have been successfully held and systematic measures are being taken for development of Myanmar women in accord with the guidelines.

While making efforts for development of Myanmar women and perpetual existence of the Union, Myanmar women are preserving and safeguarding the cultural heritage of the nation under the leadership of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation in accordance with the motto "Strive collectively for development of the women's sector".

(Translation: BG + MS)

Myanma Alin: 29-3-2004



MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, and Vice-Presidents Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay The, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win chair the plenary meeting of state/Division Organizations for Women's Affairs (News on Page-2). — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a report.
MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents a report.
MNA

Senior General Than Shwe ...

(from page 1)

Yangon and Mandalay to enable the youths of border areas, who had completed matriculation, to continue to pursue higher learning.

Border areas development tasks will meet with success all the more as progress has been made in economic, transport, production, industrial and electric sectors.

Therefore, efforts are to be made for all-round development of border areas that lagged behind in development in the past.

Since its assumption of State duties the government has laid down Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as a national policy and work is well under way in accord with the 12 political, economic and social objectives which are the national work programmes for successful realization of the national policy.

Keeping Our Three Main National Causes in the fore, projects for development of border areas and national races, the 24-development zones projects and the five rural development tasks are being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation.

At present, the respective development projects including border area development projects are meeting with success and this reflects the correct national policy and correct national work programme.

The success of projects for development of border areas and national races a key role for successful realization of the national work programme being implemented for the emergence of peaceful modern and developed nation. With this concept, officials at different levels are to make concerted efforts for development of border areas and national races.

In his discussion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that Border Areas and National Races Development Central Committee was formed on 25 May 1989, and to be able to carry out the tasks laid down by the central committee, Border Areas and National Races Development Work Committee was also formed on 31 May 1989.

Under the supervision of the work committee, the respective sub-committees and regional working committees, hand in hand with national races living in border areas, have been able to translate the policy laid down by the meetings of the central committee into action and thanks to the harmonious efforts, border areas development projects nowadays are meeting with success.

In accord with the guidance given by the chairman of the Central Committee, economic infrastructures such as roads and bridges, energy and communications; social infrastructures such as education, health, public relations; manufacturing infrastructures such as agriculture, livestock breeding, mining and forestry have been built and at the same time, drug elimination plans have been implemented with added momentum. As a result, socio-economic life of some border areas have improved more than expected and the production of narcotic drugs has been significantly reduced.

Next, the Prime Minister presented regional development tasks carried out from 1989 to this date. He said that as regards the road and bridge sector, emphasis has been paid on construction of roads and bridges, the basic needs for border areas, and thus, 2903 miles of earthen road, 1698 miles of gravel roads, 315 miles of tarred road, 43 major bridges, 661 small bridges and 16 suspension bridges have been built and maintenance work for roads with the length of 3094 miles has been carried out. In the major regions, roads have been upgraded to become all-weather ones and as a result, transport between border areas and inner part of the country have become easier, and friendship among national brethren strengthened and speedy flow of commodity achieved.

As regards the energy sector, small and medium scale hydro power stations have been built in eight border towns and 251 power generators installed in 186 towns and villages. Power has been supplied to villages and as a result, small-scale industries are running in the towns and villages. Local national races, on self-reliance basis, have also built small and medium size hydro power stations and their living standard has risen.

As regards the communication sector, 47 post offices and 42 telegraph offices have been built and 80 telephone lines have been installed and these contributes much towards rapid development of social, economic and administrative sectors in border areas. Nowadays, one can contact Yangon from border areas through telephones.

With respect to the education sector, 65 Basic Education High Schools, 58 BEMSS, 644 BEPSs have been built. At present, the number of high school students in border areas has reached 7381, middle school students 32036 and primary school students 69204 totalling 108621, up from 1541 primary school students and 12 middle school students in

1989-90 academic year. Compared with 1989, the number of students in border areas has increased 69 times. Increase in the number of students in border areas meant to the fact that there is mutual understanding and the rule of law and it contributes much towards human resource development.

Turning to the public relations sector, altogether 97 TV retransmission stations have been built in border areas. Thanks to this effort, national brethren living in far-flung areas have a chance to study the development tasks carried out across the country as well as stability and development of the State and it contributes much towards economic and social development. Media tasks has been extended by providing TV sets to villages in far-flung areas. Through these tasks, education and knowledge has been disseminated to national races in border areas.

As regards the health sector, 54 hospitals, 32 rural health care centres, 53 health branches and 81 border area dispensaries have been built in border areas and matters relating to prevention, treatment and disseminating education have been conducted and better health care services have been provided for the people living in border areas.

In the agriculture sector, 31 agriculture offices and 117 agriculture camps have been established and there are now 43 dams—some completed and some under construction. Another 17 dams have been surveyed. Moreover, four canals and 11 tractor stations have been built and they provides better opportunities for regional food sufficiency and growing cash crops. Economy based on agriculture has flourished in border areas. It can be seen that people of border areas have earned their extra incomes through the agriculture sector and they have conducted cultivation of poppy-substitute crops.

In the livestock breeding sector, 19 farms and 41 veterinary offices have been opened in remote border areas and 111 pedigree cows and donkeys have been provided to farmers for reproductive process.

With regard to the forestry sector seven nurseries, four reserved forests and another four in progress and 12 timber mills have been established. Measures have been taken to produce forest products and prevent forest degradation. Illegal extraction of timber has been prevented.

In the mining sector, assistance has been provided for exploiting minerals in border areas, mining mineral deposit on commercial scale and creating job opportunities in the mining sector. In some regions, minerals have been exploited on a commercial scale. Mining works have been gaining momentum especially in Wa and Mongla regions.

It can be seen that success has been achieved on infrastructures built by the State in agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and mining sectors. To reach this goal, 26,000 million kyat or 26 billion kyat from border area development fund and over 27,000 million kyat from the respective ministries totalling 54,000 million kyat have been spent on border area development projects from 1989 to this date. In other words, altogether 54 billion kyat have been spent on the projects.

To raise the living standard of the people living in highland areas, the first phase of the five-year plan to change the shifting cultivation to highland cultivation has been implemented and altogether 7326 acres of farmland have been reclaimed in Shan and Chin States.

Next, the Prime Minister presented endeavours made for human resource development in border areas. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, efforts are being made harmoniously to produce highly qualified human resources both in the State and the respective regions. To produce highly qualified human resource in border areas, 19 National Races Youth Development Training Schools and 16 Domestic Science Schools have been opened in border areas and 2 Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges (See page 10)



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung. — MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt. — MNA



Minister Col Tin Hlaing. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin. — MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee...

(from page 16)

independent and sovereign state with the strength of national solidarity, national development and strong national economic life.

He said rapid and incomparable development and changes of international science and technology influence on education, health, social, economic, defence and security sectors.

Therefore, building highly qualified human resources of international standard with the strength of national development and strong national economic life is essential. Systematic arrangements are to be made for dissemination of modern science and technology in all development sectors and producing well-versed human resources in all sectors, he said. He said it is a prime national requirement to produce highly-qualified technicians, engineers, architects and scientists in accord with the changes of science and technology in various sectors in efforts to emerge a modern developed nation.

Therefore, the government established specialized universities and made arrangements for teaching of specialized subjects in universities and colleges and for conferring post diplomas and MA and PhD degrees on graduates.

Emergence of such universities as Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University and Myanmar Maritime University is a significant development in the country. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on laying down firm objectives on various sectors and implementation of the future plans in conformity with advanced science and technology and on establishment of respective universities to produce intellectuals and intelligentsia, construction engineers who are able to build aircraft and ships. This is why these two universities have emerged, he said.

He said maritime transport plays a vital role in world trade and freight and oil and natural gas transport and making holiday trips on ocean-liners and luxury-liners is in vogue. Moreover, maritime power also plays a vital role in State security and defence.

He said producing and training maritime officers and engineers, shipbuilding engineers and architects in the country contributes towards national development, strong national economic life and safeguarding State security.

Moreover, Myanmar is teeming with many rivers and creeks with long coastal region and the nation is also blessed with invaluable natural resources. With maintenance and management of river and creeks and building and managing of deep sea port will contribute much towards not only national development but also efforts for wining the sea.

The government has been making systematic arrangements to establish Myanmar Maritime University complete with the characteristics of international universities and thus a grand university that will bring about development of maritime technologies that meet the international standard has now emerged.

The leading committee and sub-committees were formed to ensure that curricula of the university will meet the standard of international universities, the university to possess enough teaching aids and reference books, various subjects that flourish in maritime field to be conducted at the university and assigning skilled teachers.

At present, courses for B.E (Naval Architecture), B.E (Marine engineering), B.E (Marine Electrical System and Electronics), B.E (River and Ocean Engineering), B.E (Port and Harbour Engineering) have been conducted at MMU. Moreover, B.Sc and B.Sc (Hons) (Nautical Science) courses have also been conducted, he said.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects classrooms of Myanmar Maritime University.. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt planting a tree at Myanmar Maritime University. — MNA

With cooperation of international maritime universities and experts, efforts are being made to ensure that curricula and courses are meeting the international standard. Visiting professors have been invited to lecture the students. Teachers from the university have been sent abroad for further studies.

As modern teaching aids have been installed at the university, ship handling simulator and engine room simulator and engineering application software are now being applied in conducting courses.

With grand buildings of the university, MMU equipped with the characteristics of international maritime universities in form and essence has emerged.

The Prime Minister urged the students to become outstanding maritime experts through learning hard at the university.

The teachers are also required to nurture their students to become well-rounded individuals who are willing to serve the interest of the country and the people.

Teachers and students are to strive in harmony to ensure the continuous emergence of experts, architects and engineers from the Myanmar Maritime University through the creation of human resources much needed for the establishment of a modern and developed nation.

Lastly, the Prime Minister urged all students to establish themselves into intellectuals, intelligentsia and engineers capable of playing a leading role in advanced education while pursuing required education with peace of mind. He also called for the cooperation of teachers, parents and students to make efforts to enable the university to stand proud and tall as an institution of international standard.

Next, U Thein Tun, rector of the university, explained the purpose of the opening of the university.

Afterward, on behalf of the Navals Maung Thet Naing of second year outstanding (Naval Architecture) spoke words of thanks for building of Myanmar Maritime University.

(See page 11)



The Myanmar Maritime University. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe ...

(from page 8)

have been opened in Yangon and Mandalay.

In this academic year, a total of 1,749 national youths — 337 at primary school level, 923 at middle school level and 449 at high school level — are pursuing education at 19 national youth development training schools. Arrangements are also under way to open eight more schools of such kind in Lashio, Panglong, Hpa-an, Pakokku, Falam, Tonzang, Kale and Thantlang regions.

Moreover, rice and clothes are also provided for 579 students from Parahita schools in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Kyauktaw, Paletwa, Monghsat, Leshi, Lahe, Mongpyin, Falam, Mindat and orphanage school in Matupi, funded by the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges were opened in Yangon and Mandalay to enable trainee students with high caliber of education from those schools to have access to university education. As a result, a total of 141 national youths have been nurtured to become graduates or degree holders. They are now serving at different ministries at border areas. Also in this academic year, a total of 388 national youths are pursuing education in art and science and are attending AGTI courses.

Furthermore, vocational schools for girls were also opened in border areas with the aim of preventing young women from going to foreign countries for work at risk to their morality and social rights. A total of 16 schools of such kind have produced 12,717 young women with knowledge of vocational education.

Knitting, a course suitable to such a cold region as Chin State, is also taught as an additional specialization.

Given the border area development and anti-drug tasks, the former is now being implemented with five objectives with 'To put an end to poppy cultivation through the establishment of business transactions in border areas' as one of them. In taking measures for development of border areas, priority is given to the emergence of socio-economic infrastructure in poppy-growing areas where transportation is difficult. According to statistics, it will be found that 79.5% out of the total funds earmarked for development of border areas were spent in poppy-growing regions. In consequence of it, a considerable decline in poppy growing has become apparent as there emerged business opportunities for poppy growers. The continuous drop year after year can also be seen in the survey collected by Myanmar as well as in the poppy yield survey conducted by Myanmar and the United States of America. As said in a statement of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the poppy cultivation in Myanmar for the year 2003 stood at 47,130 hectares, a two-thirds drop when compared with 163,000 hectares in 1966. In spite of differences in the statements issued by international organizations, their calculations signal a sharp fall in cultivation and production of poppy in Myanmar.

In the past, serious steps were taken to curb the poppy production and cultivation by destroying poppy fields and by launching operations. However, the poppy cultivation did not drop sharply. Only the introduction of regional development tasks and poppy-substitute agriculture and livestock breeding resulted in paving the way for the emergence of other business opportunities. The success in making the menace of narcotic drugs known to national races living in border areas also saw a decrease in production and cultivation of poppy. The measures being taken according to the 15-year plan for eradication of poppy and the New Destiny Project also keep the continuous fall in poppy cultivation and production.

To be able to speed up the measures to eradicate the poppy cultivation, a task force was formed under the leadership of the four deputy ministers from the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to make field trips to supervise the tasks. As for cooperation with UN agencies, Wa Alternative Development Project (WADP), which is being undertaken by the UNODC and the CCDAC, is now being implemented with the contribution of US\$ 11.623 million by UNODC in Mongpauk Township, Wa region (South) up to 2005 as of 1998. Education, health, food sufficiency, mass development, alternative incomes, narcotics and AIDS awareness, construction of infrastructure and the monitoring of poppy cultivation are major tasks being undertaken now.

In Kokang region from September to December 2003, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided 760 tons of rice for farmers who gave up poppy cultivation. A total of US\$ 0.199 million were spent on that programme. As the second phase, the WFP has made arrangements for distribution

of 9,855 tons of rice to Kokang, Wa, Kaungkha, Mongkoe, Phaunghsai, Tamone, Manton and Mongpan regions under the programmes of "Food for Work" and "School Feeding" from April 2004 to the end of March 2005. Those programmes will cost US\$ 3.6 million.

As the HDI Phase IV, CDRT Project is being implemented with the contribution of US\$ 5.5 million by UNDP from December 2002 to February 2005. That Project covers the education, health, food sufficiency, increased incomes, safe drinking water, environmental conservation, forest reservation and AIDS control measures being carried out in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Tanai, Haka, Falam, Tiddim, Thantlang, Paletwa, Kyauktaw, MraukU, Minpya, Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships. Nippon Foundation of Japan also rendered a cash assistance of US\$ 3 million to construction of 100 schools in Shan State. The project is also implemented by Nataka and NGOs of Japan in a span of five years from 2002 to 2007. During 2002 and 2003, a total of 14 schools in northern Shan State and 26 in southern Shan State totalling 40 were constructed. Arrangements are under way to construct 20 more schools.

To sum up, success has been achieved in the tasks for development of border areas and national races thanks to the harmonious and combined efforts of the ministries, regional work committees, work subcommittees, leaders of national races in the regions and the people in line with the directives given by the Central Committee and the supervision of respective work committees. The improvement of socio-economic infrastructure in border areas will contribute to frequent interrelations among national people living in different regions of the country, thereby promoting friendship and building trust among each other.

Next, Secretary of Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win reported on the resolutions of the Central Committee.

He said the government has been implementing the border area development tasks with greater momentum in 68 townships in seven states and two divisions since 1989 in accord with the guidance of the central committee. As progress has been made in border areas, efforts are being made for development of other administrative, economic and social sectors in accord with the guidelines passed in the previous meeting of the central committee.

He said in education and health sectors, 65 high schools, 58 middle schools and 644 primary schools have been opened up to 29-2-2004. Altogether 3,083 teaching staff are teaching 108,621 students. He said health care services are being given to the people after opening of 54 hospitals, 81 dispensaries, 32 rural health care centres and 52 sub-rural health care centres up to 29-2-2004.

He said altogether 7,326.40 acres of highland cultivation were reclaimed for farmers who used slash-and-burn cultivation method in border areas. Departmental offices, schools and hospitals were opened in order to effectively undertake administrative, economic and social matters of the people in border areas. In some regions construction of a high school and one or two middle schools are under way according to the significant conditions.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on reclamation of highland farming with five objectives in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, regions chosen for reclamation of highland farming, formation of leading and work committees, machinery requirements and supply, strength of service personnel, programmes and amount for reclamation of highland farming and work done.

Next, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on arrangements for systematic conservation of depleted forests after using slash-and-burn cultivation method by the farmers, formation of committees for the end of slash-and-burn cultivation method and future tasks.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt accepts K 30 million from Chairman of Shwemalar Company U Aung Htwe.— MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing reported on region-wise administrative, economic and social sectors and regional development. Next, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on construction and maintenance of strategic roads and work to be done.

In his conclusion, Senior General Than Shwe said border area development tasks are the ones with firm objectives. He spoke of the need to make endeavours for progress in the region with momentum and to lay down objectives for more progress year after year.

He said strenuous efforts are to be made for border region development, peace and stability and prevalence of law and order in the region.

He urged officials to make continued efforts for implementation of highland farming aimed at eradication of poverty of local people and progress of their economic life. It is necessary to make arrangements for ending slash-and-burn cultivation methods and eradication of poppy growing in some regions. He spoke of the need to reclaim lands for highland farming in order to settle on one place for the farmers using slash-and-burn cultivation method and to establish basic foundations for education and health.

Considerable progress has been made in education, health and economic sectors and better transport is to be enhanced, he added. As the development of better transport, rapid progress can be made between the regions that lagged behind in development and developed regions.

Tasks for development and organizational matters are to be undertaken for realization of the objectives of border area development tasks.

The meeting then came to an end.— MNA

Information Minister meets Vietnamese guests

YANGON, 29 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received a three-member Vietnamese delegation led by Deputy Director of Radio the Voice of Vietnam (VOV) Mr Nguyen Van Khoa at his office this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-

Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, and the Head of Office.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to promotion of information links between the two countries.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives a Vietnamese delegation led by Deputy Director of Radio the Voice of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Van Khoa. — MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee...

(from page 9)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt accepted K 30 million donated by Chairman of Shwe Marla Company U Aung Htwe to the trust funds of the university. Then, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt handed over K 30 million to the Rector of the Myanmar Maritime University.

At the same time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented '2003 RINA Myanmar Shipyards Award' to outstanding student of second year (Senior) Maung Thet Naing (Naval Architecture). Later, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung and Rector U Thein Tun accepted cash donation K 17.714 million donated by wellwishers. They presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party viewed round the computer booths displayed by Suntac Tech-



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party and faculty members and students pose for photo in front of the Myanmar Maritime University. — MNA

nologies, Silver Wave Co Ltd and Bagan Cybertech and gave encouragement to the students learning advanced maritime subjects at Engine Room Simulator Lab and Ship Handling Simulator Lab. — MNA

Armed Forces Day Literary and Arts Exhibition continues

YANGON, 29 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative Literary and Arts Exhibition continued today at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here.

Literary and arts quiz contest was conducted and cash awards were presented to the winners daily.

Enthusiasts totalling over 650 visited the exhibition.

MNA

Cultural artifacts of Stone Age, Bronze Age and Pyu Era.
— CULTURE



Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Kyong-Woo meets the participants. — MNA

Minister views artefacts excavated in Tagaung and nearby areas

YANGON, 29 March — A research team led by U Aye Maung, Deputy Director of the Archaeological Department of the Ministry of Culture in Mandalay, and another research team led by U Kyaw Kyaw, Assistant Director, made field trips to the regions concerned from February to the second week of March 2004 to study the once-flourished cultures that had connected among old Tagaung city, old Hanlin city and Pyinsalangmyo. Their findings were displayed at the hall of the Ministry of Culture this morning. The ancient artefacts excavated by the two research teams

during their field trips were viewed by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, directors-general of departments under the ministry, and the rector of the Yangon University of Culture.

Among the artefacts were New Stone-Age stone rings, stone weapons, bronze bracelets, Pyu-era roof tiles, earthen pots, earthen bowls, strings of beads made of earth, earthen smoking pipes, shells, strings of beads made of bones and multicoloured stones, one human lower jaw with a complete set of teeth, and bones of deer. It is estimated that those artefacts date back to the New Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Pyu Era. According to the close examination at the drawing designs on broken earthen pots, a conclusion can be drawn that the cultures of those periods were of high standard.

The evidences from the signs and designs of those artefacts show that the standard of the cultures that had thrived during those three periods were in general not much different from each other and that there flourished Pyu culture in all the old cities. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents certificate of honour to Maung Thet Naing, winner of 2003 Rina Myanmar Shipyards Award. — MNA

Workshop on Health Mapper for Malaria Control Programme held

YANGON, 29 March — A course on Intercountry Workshop on 'Health Mapper for Malaria Control Programme in the Countries of South East Asia Region', jointly organized by the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), was opened today at the Grand Palaza Park Royal Hotel here this morning, with an address delivered by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, directors-general of departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, representatives from Geneva-based WHO and the Office of the Director of South East Asian Region, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, Mr Takahiro Sasaki from JICA, malaria experts from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal and India, and guests.

After the speech given by Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, Dr Agostino Borra and Mr Takahiro Sasaki also made speeches. The workshop continues till 1 April. — MNA

Coord meeting for International Trade Delegation to the East Asia Region 2004 held

YANGON, 29 March — A coordination meeting for International Trade Delegation to the East Asia Region 2004 which was organized by KOTRA of Korean Embassy to Myanmar was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

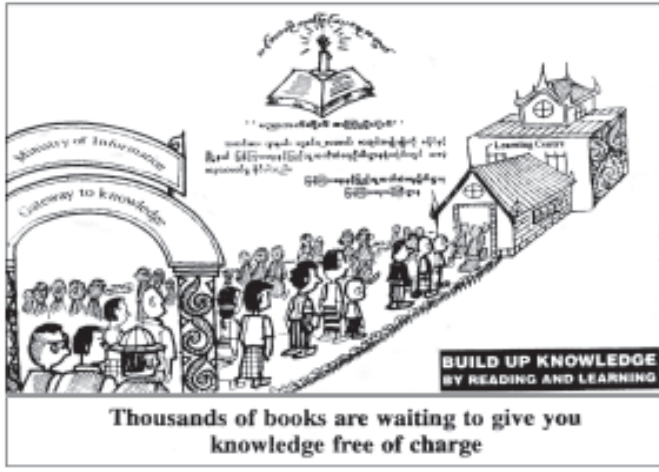
Present on the occasion were Korean Ambassador

to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyong-Woo, Commercial Attache Mr Choi Yong-Tae and officials, group leader Mr Jung Hyeon-Tae of seven companies of Kyonggi Trade Mission in Republic of Korea and delegates, delegates to 48 Co Ltd in Myanmar.

Next, seven companies of Kyonggi Trade Mission in

Republic of Korea introduced packing materials, different kinds of Aluminium doors, hair dryer and materials for hairdressing, various kinds of springs for industry and automobile, computer and accessories and electrical gadget. Moreover they discussed trade functions with Myanmar's companies.

MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

မြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း၏ အစီအစဉ်

MIN KYAW MIN'S SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS

သင်တန်းသစ်ကို ၉-၄-၂၀၀၄ ရက်တွင်စမည်။
သုံးလသင်တန်း တနင်္လာ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး၊ သောကြာ 9.00 am to 11.30
လူဦးရေအကန့်အသတ်ဖြင့်သာလက်ခံမည်။

Multi-media style lab, audio-visual aid နှင့် ခေတ်မီအထောက်အကူများသုံးမည်။

၁၀ တန်းအောင်ပြီးသူ၊ ဘွဲ့ရ၊ ဘွဲ့လွန်များအတွက် အကျိုးဝင်၊ အသုံးဝင်မည်။

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR သတင်းစာတိုက်

ကမ်းနားလမ်းနှင့် ၄၃ လမ်းထောင့်၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

စုံစမ်းရန် ဖုန်း-၂၉၆၁၆၁

ဆိုင်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

| စဉ် | ဖျဉ်းအမျိုးအမည် | အရေအတွက် | တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက် |
|-----|------------------------|----------|--------------|
| ၁။ | Endless Felt | 20 Rolls | ၂၂.၄.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၂။ | Raw Chemicals | 3 Items | ၂၂.၄.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၃။ | Glaze Materials | 7 Items | ၂၂.၄.၂၀၀၄ |
| ၄။ | Soda Ash (F.E) (Dense) | 7500 MTS | ၆.၅.၂၀၀၄ |

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန မြန်မာ့ကြွေးတည်မြေထုတ်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ်(၁၉) ကမ္ဘာ့အေးဘုရားလမ်း
ရန်ကုန်တွင် ရှိရှိအတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်ရန်မရှိ၊ တင်ဒါပိတ်များကို လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပိတ်တရားဝင်
ဝယ်ယူသူများထံမှတင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ်-၅၆၆၂၉၅၅၆၆၂၉၂)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေးတည်မြေထုတ်လုပ်ငန်း

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (093)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (093) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-3-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**AIDS is a national
concern.**

Nicaragua seizes 1.1 tons of cocaine

MANAGUA, 29 March — The Nicaraguan police and Navy captured 1.1 tons of cocaine, the largest drug seizure in the country over the years, in a joint operation at the Puerto Cabezas harbour along the Caribbean Coast, police said on Friday.

The police and Navy found on Thursday a suspicious yacht near the Cayos Miskitos Islands in the northeast of the Puerto Cabezas harbour. When encountering the Navy ship, the yacht immediately sailed off the islands, Nicaraguan Police Chief Edwin Cordero told at a Press conference.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

FDI proposals approved in India

NEW DELHI, 29 March — The Indian Government on Friday approved 34 Foreign Direct Investment proposals worth 309.8 million rupees, including the 170 million rupees plan of IndusInd International Holdings to acquire equity from the secondary market.

Also, Singapore-based Nico J Morgan will bring in 40 million rupees for transferring shares from residents to non-residents, an official statement said here.

The proposals were approved by Finance Minister Jaswant Singh after clearance from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board at its meeting on 19 March.

MNA/PTI

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Takaso Rubber Products Sdn Bhd, of K55, Kawasan Perindustrian Tg. Agas, 84000 Muar, Johor, Malaysia is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

PLAYSAFE

(Reg. No. 1W/778/2003)

used in respect of "Contraceptive appliances and devices; condoms."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to Law.

Thinn Aung B.Sc.R.L.D.B.I. Advocate
MYANMAR TRADE MARK AND
PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: telapip@gmail.com
Tel: 254337 G.P.O. Box 666
Yangon. 30 March 2004

TRADE MARK CAUTION

LA CHEMISE
LACOSTE, a Company incorporated in France, of 8, rue de Castiglione, 75001 Paris, France, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

LACOSTE

Reg. No. 1612/2003



Reg. No. 1613/2003

in respect of "Soaps, perfumery, essential oils, cosmetics, hair lotions, toothpastes; optical apparatuses, namely, optical glasses, sunglasses, sport glasses, spectacles, frames, cases, chains and chains for the aforesaid, contact lenses, binoculars; jewellery, chronometric and horological apparatuses and instruments; paper, cardboard and goods made from these materials, stationery, paper, bag and plastic materials for packaging, printed matter; leather and imitations of leather and goods made from these materials trunks; travelling and sport bags, umbrellas, parasols and walking sticks; textile goods, bed, table and household linen; clothing, footwear, headgear; embroideries, buttons, press-buttons, slide fasteners, hooks and eyes; sporting articles; retail store services, delivery of samples and prospectus, advertising, hordings and shop signs for boutiques and corners; organisation of sporting competitions, entertainment services, education services for the practice of sports, publication services; retail stores services"

The above marks have also been registered previously in Myanmar under numbers as follows:- 1160/1983,

484/1986,

819/1989,

970/1992,

291/1998,

1242/2001.

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

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for LA CHEMISE
LACOSTE
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 30 March 2004

**DON'T
SMOKE**

(၇) (၈) (၉) (၁၀) စာသင်သားများအတွက်
သင်ရိုးညွှန်းတမ်းနှင့်အညီ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ သင်ခန်းစာများပါရှိပါသည်။

JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ (၆) အမှတ် (၂) မြန်ချီလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းဓာတ်ဆုံဆိုင်(စာပေမီဆာ)ဓာတ်ဆုံဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လေ့လာရေး ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို စက်ကြည့်သည်။
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များငှားရန်

အလှူ ထိပ်မြားမင်္ဂလာ အစည်းအဝေး အခမ်းအနားများတွင် ခေတ်မီ
ပလတ်စတစ်စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ရောင်းချသက်သာစွာဖြင့် ငှားရမ်းနေပါသည်။

နံနက် ၉:၃၀ မှ ညနေ ၄:၃၀ နာရီအတွင်း စက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

အမှတ် ၂၂-သိမ်မြောက်လမ်း၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊

ဖုန်း-၂၅၆၂၀၁၊ ၂၅၆၂၄၂

COMESA proposes border management to prevent crime

LUSAKA, 29 March — Zambian Vice-President Ners Mumba said Friday that eastern and southern African countries can enhance regional integration by enhancing cooperation in border management.

At the opening ceremony of the Common Market for

Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Committee of Ministers of Home Affairs' first meeting, Mumba said the regional body can enhance economic and social integration if member states could make their people's movement across the borders easier.

MNA/Xinhua

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Malaysian Premier names new Cabinet

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 March — Fresh from a landslide election victory, Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi named a new Cabinet on Saturday, with familiar faces keeping all the top positions.

As expected, Najib Razak, the son of former prime minister Abdul Razak, was named Deputy Prime Minister, and kept the defence portfolio.

Abdullah, who took over the premiership after veteran leader Mahathir Mohamad's planned retirement in October, led the ruling coalition to a huge victory in polls last Sunday, capturing over 90 per cent of the seats in Parliament and winning control of 12 of Malaysia's 13 state governments.

Abdullah enlarged his Cabinet, bringing in some young blood while keeping old hands in the most senior positions.

The margin of victory had sparked speculation that Abdullah might make more changes after launching an anti-corruption campaign and taking a strong stand on increasing ethics in governance.

After Abdullah read the list, the first question in a subsequent news conference was whether the Cabinet was clean.

"Yes. There's no case for them not to be appointed," Abdullah responded. He added: "Being a minister doesn't give them immu-

nity from the due process of the law."

Abdullah was also expected to avoid taking any action that could cause infighting in the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) — the party that leads the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition.

Najib's cousin, Hishammuddin Hussein, regarded as a leading light in the younger generation Abdullah is seeking to promote, was elevated from the Sports Ministry to a key job as Education Minister.

Syed Hamid Albar was retained as foreign minister, a job he has held since 1999.

And veteran Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz kept her job too.

The Prime Minister, kept the finance portfolio for himself, and retained Nor Mohamed Yakcop, an ex-central banker who had been Mahathir's economic adviser, as Second Finance Minister.

Abdullah appointed Mustapa Mohamed, an economist with prior experience at the Finance Ministry, as one of eight ministers in the Prime Minister's department.

MNA/Reuters

German health reform medicine begins to work

BERLIN, 29 March — Reforms making Germans pay more for medicine and visits to the doctor are starting to ease pressure on the country's creaking health care system, medical insurers and experts said here.

The Health Ministry says the reforms, which cut traditional benefits like taxi fares to hospital and spa visits, have unburdened health insurance funds and will allow them to cut contributions rates for 55 per cent of patients by next month.

"We have reached a turning point. Up to now contribution rates were constantly rising, but now they are gradually coming down," said Florian Lanz, spokesman for the National Association of Public Health Insurers.

In an attempt to streamline one of the world's most expensive and inefficient medical systems, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's centre-left government agreed the health reforms with the opposition conservatives last July.

"Patients now have to pay for non-prescription drugs and they pay a bigger share for other drugs," said Lanz. Those changes would save Germany's 288 public insurers around four billion euros (4.9 bil-

lion US dollars) this year, said Lanz.

When the reforms came into effect on 1 January, insurers reduced rates for almost a fifth of those covered by the country's statutory health insurance system. The Association of Public Service Doctors says visits to doctors dropped by up to 8 per cent in January.

But economists and health care experts warned against overstating the impact from the first wave of reforms.

"The reform was certainly a success so far, but we won't see how much it will help save until at least the second quarter. We need to see lower insurance rates in the long-term," said Stefan Bielmeier, euro zone economist at Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt.

However, most politicians and health care groups agree that the reforms, which also make patients pay 10 euros every quarter for seeing a doctor, are only a stop-gap measure and deeper structural changes are needed.

MNA/Reuters

Powerful sandstorm hits Inner Mongolia

HONHOT, 29 March — An unusual strong sandstorm began sweeping Inner Mongolia Saturday afternoon, adding difficulty to the disaster relief efforts at earthquake-hit areas in the northern autonomous region.

The wind lashed almost the whole region with a force of fresh breeze to fresh gale, and a snowstorm is expected to hit part of the pastoral area later Sunday, according to the regional meteorological bureau.

Liu Jingtao, chief engineer of the bureau, said temperature in eastern and central Inner Mongolia fell below zero degree Celsius Saturday night. It is expected to further drop by 6-8 degrees Sunday and Monday.

Nearly 80 per cent of the tents at Wenggensumu Town in Dong Ujimqin Banner (county), one of the quake-affected areas, were toppled or blown away, and the local government is organizing efforts to ship more tents to the region, said an official of the banner. "When the wind came Saturday noon, the sky turned from blue into red and then black in the afternoon, said a local resident. — MNA/Xinhua

HK media says Basic Law interpretation vital for stability

HONG KONG, 29 March — Hong Kong media said Saturday the plan of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) to interpret the Basic Law provisions is timely and significant to fostering consensus over constitutional development.

Takunpao said in a commentary that the central authorities have recently done lots of works on Hong Kong's constitutional development, which has markedly raised Hong Kong people's understanding of the Basic Law, yet not dispelled all the dispute.

"There will not be a concrete base for constitutional development if an authoritative interpretation over Basic Law provisions is not given," said the commentary.

Wenweipo said great deeds since the handover have proved that the Central Government is determined to carry out the principle of "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law. The Central Government's measures, including interpreting the Basic Law provisions, all aim at safeguarding Hong Kong's long-term stability and prosperity as well as Hong Kong citizens' interests.

A commentary of China Daily HK edition said that

according to the Basic Law, the power to interpret Hong Kong's mini Constitution belongs to the NPCSC. It is high time for the standing committee to give its official interpretation of the Basic Law provisions in question since opinions expressed by the local community in the current debate surrounding constitutional development are very diverse.

The commentary said the political system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) is a basic system that concerns the relationship between the central authorities and the SAR. Its development and evolution has a bearing not only on Hong Kong but also on the Mainland.

"The earlier such a matter of cardinal principles is clarified, the better it is for Hong Kong and the overall situation," said China Daily. — MNA/Xinhua

Guangdong Province introduces online lawsuit

GUANGZHOU, 29 March — The intermediate people's court of Guangdong Province, capital of Guangdong Province, launched a web site for parties involved in lawsuits to submit materials, in a bid to simplify lawsuit procedures.

The new mechanism, earlier this week, would save litigants much time because they do not need to go to the court to hand over the materials in person, said an official with the court.

People always had to go to the court several times to provide all necessary materials when lodging lawsuits as many of them lack sufficient knowledge in this field, he said.

The court would look into the materials and place suitable cases on file in line with legal standards.

MNA/Xinhua

Three-year programme launched to prevent blindness in rural China

SHENYANG, 29 March — A Chinese university and a Japanese university have jointly launched a three-year programme to help prevent and control the occurrence of blindness in China's poverty-ridden rural areas.

The Sino-Japanese centre for blindness prevention and treatment, a four-million-yuan (483,600-US-dollar) joint project between the Chinese Medical Sciences University (CMSU) and Kanazawa Medical University of Japan, went into operation Wednesday.

The programme is funded by the Japanese Government and is the first of such programme that has been ever carried out in China. Zhao Qun, vice-president of the CMSU,

said the two universities would carry out investigations in the causes of eye diseases that lead to blindness in Liuhezi Town in Dengta City of the northeastern province of Liaoning, Fenghuang Town of Sanya City in south China's Hainan Province and Yulong County of Lijiang City in the southwestern province of Yunnan.

Zhao said the programme team would also train 20 young ophthalmologists for nine provinces and auto-

nous regions in the theories on eye diseases. The trainees are expected to join the programme team in carrying out prevention and treatment of blindness and other eye diseases in the project areas.

Zhang Jinsong, a professor with CMSU and an expert on eye disease, said that currently the pathogenesis of eye diseases that lead to blindness remain unknown in China, especially in rural areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait grants loans to build railway in Inner Mongolia

BEIJING, 29 March — The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed an agreement Friday with China's Ministry of Finance to loan 35 million US dollars for building a railway in Inner Mongolia.

The project will need a total investment of 1.217 billion yuan (147 million US dollars) to

build a 116-kilometre long railway from Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia, to Jungar in central Inner Mongolia.

The railway is to cope with the growing need of transporting coal out of Jungar. The KFAED has loaned 740 million US dollars to 29 projects in China since 1982.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese students work in NGOs for environmental protection

BEIJING, 29 March — One hundred thousand Chinese students took part in various activities Saturday as volunteers to promote environmental protection and ecological conservation throughout the country.

They gathered, mostly in environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 22 cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, and 19 provinces and autonomous regions from southeastern Fujian to northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, according to the organizer, China Environmental Culture Promotion Society, a non-profit organization sponsored by the State Environment Protection Administration (SEPA).

The students planted trees, collected trash in the sea, and called for quick action to save water and protect wetlands.

Despite being the world's

fastest growing economy, China is "not on track in reversing the loss of its environmental resources", said The "Millennium Development Goals: China's Progress", a report released by the United Nations Thursday in Beijing.

The report noted that China is facing serious environmental challenges including land degradation, water scarcity and deteriorating water quality, rapid industrialization and urbanization, threatened biodiversity, energy inefficiency and declining urban environment caused by air pollution, use of pesticides and fertilizers and urban solid waste. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

All-Brazilian title match features S Africa Open

CAPE TOWN, 29 March— For the first time in FIVB World Tour, two Brazilian teams will compete against each other in Sunday's final of the 180,000 US dollars South Africa Open.

Emanuel Rego and Ricardo Santos battered third-seeded fellow Brazilian Benjamin Infran and Harley Marques 23-21, 20-22 and 15-13 in 73 minutes to earn the first gold medal berth Saturday, extending their winning streak to 25-straight with five wins this week. The top-seeded Emanuel and Ricardo, who will be seeking their fourth straight FIVB World Tour event title, will face 12th-seeded Tande Ramos and Franco Neto in the All-Brazilian title.

Tande and Franco had two wins Saturday, including a 21-17 and 21-16 win over Robert Nowotny and Peter Gartmayer of Austria in the second semifinals.

"I love matches like we played today," said Emanuel after the semifinal. "Competition against good teams like Benjamin and Harley make you better as a team."

"I love the pressure of each match. We know everyone is aiming for us. It is also important for us to use each match to work on refining our game. If we make a mistake, we must correct it immediately," said Emanuel when asked about being the top team with a streak of match wins and tournament titles.—MNA/Xinhua



Darren Fletcher replaces Ronaldo in the United line-up and tries to get the ball past Gael Clichy.

INTERNET

Yugoslav soccer boss dies of gunshot wounds

BELGRADE, 29 March— The top soccer official of Serbia and Montenegro died of gunshot wounds late on Friday, hours after an unknown assailant shot him in the head at his Belgrade office, the soccer association said on Saturday.

Branko Bulatovic, 52, had been secretary-general of the association since the early 1990s, when then-Yugoslavia was ruled by socialist autocrat Slobodan Milosevic.

"Branko Bulatovic died from his wounds at 11:10 p.m. (2230 GMT) in the (hospital's) emergency room," the association said on its web site.

Police have given no indication as to the suspected motive for the killing, but a senior football association official said on Friday he was "pretty sure it is not soccer-related".—MNA/Reuters

Bayern crush Moenchengladbach 5-2

BERLIN, 29 March— Bayern Munich held off a second-half challenge from Borussia Moenchengladbach to win 5-2 at home on Saturday with late goals from Owen Hargreaves and Michael Ballack.

The win lifted Bayern to 53 points in second place in the league, eight behind Werder Bremen with eight league matches left to play.

Runaway leaders Bremen play at third-placed Stuttgart on Sunday, however, and Bayern win may not be enough to ease pressure on coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

Bayern began brightly, with defender Sammy Kuffour heading the ball home in the 20th minute to be followed by a sumptuous goal from Paraguay international Roque Santa Cruz after a brilliant run from the half way line.

A penalty from Dutch striker Roy Makaay just after the break after Ze Roberto was brought down in the penalty area seemed to put the match beyond Moenchengladbach but the visitors struck back with two goals in 11 minutes from Vaclav Sverkos to bring the game alive.

Strikes from Hargreaves in the 88th minute and Ballack in the dying seconds provided the perfect response.

"It was a crazy game," Hitzfeld said after the match. "We were very concentrated and deserved to go 3-0 up but then we allowed ourselves unnecessary individual

Lyon, Monaco neck and neck at top of Ligue1

PARIS, 29 March— Olympique Lyon and Monaco kept the French title race finely balanced on Saturday with 1-0 away wins over Nice and Le Mans.

Both teams now have 63 points at the top of the table.

Brazil's Elber scored the winner in the 17th minute for champions Lyon, inflicting on Nice only their second home defeat of the season.

Monaco, who have conceded 10 points in the title race to their arch-rivals since crushing them 3-0 in the principality in January, scored through Dado Prso.

The Croat struck in the 50th minute against the Ligue 1 bottom-placed team, who sank to their sixth home defeat of the season and seem headed back towards Ligue 2.

The principality team once again lost defender Sebastien Squillaci to injury and he was replaced by Edouard Cisse shortly before halftime.

The France international was joined by another key defender, Patrice Evra, on the injury list.

Coach Didier Deschamps also took Playmaker Jerome Rothen off early to give him some rest.

"That's obviously the dark side of this game," said Monaco defender Julien Rodriguez.

"We hope it's not too serious for Sebastien and that he will be back soon.

"Of the top three teams, the one who makes the fewest mistakes will be crowned," Rodriguez added.

Third-placed Paris St. Germain now have to win away at RC Lens on Sunday if they wish to keep some pressure on the leading duo.

Sochaux struggled at home against lowly Metz but earned a precious 2-0 win.

Romania's Viorel Moldovan scored a hat-trick for Nantes in their 3-2 win over lowly Montpellier.

On Sunday, Olympique Marseille and Girondins Bordeaux meet in an exciting clash between two sides who have now turned their ambitions to the UEFA Cup.

MNA/Reuters

Kenyan Moiben wins Xiamen International Marathon

XIAMEN (South China), 29 March— James Moiben won the Xiamen International Marathon luckily on Saturday as his compatriot Josephat Kiprono was less competitive for a leg injury.

Moiben, 26, was invited to take part in this year's race in Xiamen, China, with other 15 foreign runners from seven counties and regions.

During the race, he kept his pace very well and held a position firmly in the leading group to cross the finishing line first in 2 hours 10 minutes and 54 seconds for the top prize of 25,000 US dollars.

Josephat Kiprono, runner-up of the Rotterdam Marathon last year and with a personal best of 2:06:44, was the favourite to win in

Xiamen but finished eighth in 2:14:57 after injuring his right leg midway.

Kiprono said, "My leg is hurt, so I cannot run normally. I am satisfied with my performance today as I held on to finish the whole race."

Both the Kenyans said that they want to compete in Xiamen next year. "I'm happy to win here, and I hope I can come back," Moiben said.

Chinese Li Hongzhu became the runner-up with 2:11:43, and Terefe Yae held the third place with 2:11:45.

Antoni Pena, the second best marathon runner in

Spain, caught the sixth spot with a time of 2:13:17.

The 33-year-old Spanish will participate in the marathon event in this summer's Athens Olympic Games.

In the women's event, with the absence of China's most famous runner Sun Yingjie, defending champion Zhou Chunxiu from China took the victory easily in 2:23:28.

Li Helan of China's national team and Ham Pong Sil from North Korea split the silver and bronze medals in 2:28:17 and 2:28:32 respectively.

MNA/Reuters

Deportivo snatch last-gasp win against Sociedad

MADRID, 29 March— A last-minute own goal gifted Deportivo Coruna a 2-1 win over Real Sociedad on Saturday, lifting them to third in the Primera Liga and soothing memories of this week's 4-1 Champions League thrashing by AC Milan.

Deportivo's victory moved them a point ahead of fourth-placed Barcelona, who visit Real Betis on Sunday. League leaders Real Madrid will host mid-table Sevilla defending a one-point lead over Valencia, who travel to Racing Santander.

Deportivo went ahead in the 11th minute with a shot from Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani but the home side equalized just before halftime when Turkey's Nihat Kahveci shrugged off two challenges and drilled the ball into the corner.

Neither team was able to break the deadlock in a tight second half until the second minute of injury time.

Sociedad defender Aitor Lopez Rekarte tried to clear the ball over the bar under pressure from Deportivo striker Diego Tristan in the penalty area but drove it high into his own net.

Pandiani, who scored Deportivo's only goal in the mid-week clash against Milan, looked dangerous from the outset and had a brace of opportunities in the first half.

His goal came from an incisive pass by Spanish midfielder Sergio that left Sociedad's defence standing while Pandiani crashed the ball past the keeper into the far side of the net.

Controversy surrounded Nihat's 43rd-minute equalizer as the Deportivo players accused him of tripping defender Cesar Martin before running clear on to a deep pass from Lopez Rekarte and driving it home.

Sociedad, already out of this season's Champions League and languishing 14th in the table, will feel unlucky not to have taken at least a point after having the best of the second half, with midfielder Valery Karpin missing a close-range chance.—MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Robert Pires battles with Paul Scholes as both teams search for an opening goal.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3
**30-3-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 A Day in the Life of a
Mahout
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Mogok, The Ruby
Land
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Ancient City MraukU
Scenic Beauty of Ha-
Kha and Cultural
Dance
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "No right to
love, yet"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 15:36 A Day in the Life of a
Mahout
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Mogok, The Ruby
Land
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Ancient City MraukU
Scenic Beauty of Ha-
Kha and Cultural
Dance
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "No right to
love, yet"

- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 The Decoration of
Lacquerware (Stylus
Drawing)
- 16:40 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Profile
"Book Store"
- 16:55 Dance of the Maidens
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Mingun Bell
- 17:10 Song "Come, Visit My
Home"
- 17:12 A Lonesome Song
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 The Myanmar Turban-
Unique
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 The Beauty of Zwe-
gabin and Livelihood
of Kayin National
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Myanmar Traditional
Tayaw Kinbun Sham-
poo
- 19:55 Three Types of Dances
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Shwe Nan Daw
Kyaung
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Myanmar
Women's Triumphs"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Travelogue (Pyin Oo
Lwin)
- 20:25 Songs On Screen "One
And Only Yours"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
Dance
- 20:40 Traditional Chin
Cuisine
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Akha Weaving Train-
ing School
- 20:55 Khame Traditional
Cultural Dance

- 20:58 Shan Market Day
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Traditional Folk Weav-
ing Works
- 21:10 Song "Come to
Myanmar (The Golden
Land)"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 21:35 A Day in the Life of a
Mahout
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Mogok, The Ruby
Land
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Ancient City MraukU
Scenic Beauty of Ha-
Kha and Cultural
Dance
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
- 22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "No right to love,
yet"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
- 22:25 Song "Ayeyawady"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 The Decoration of
Lacquerware (Stylus
Drawing)
- 22:40 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Profile
"Book Store"
- 22:55 Dance of the Maidens
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Mingun Bell
- 23:10 Song "Come, Visit My
Home"
- 23:12 A Lonesome Song
- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-II)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**30-3-2004 (Tuesday) &
31-3-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening & Morning
Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic

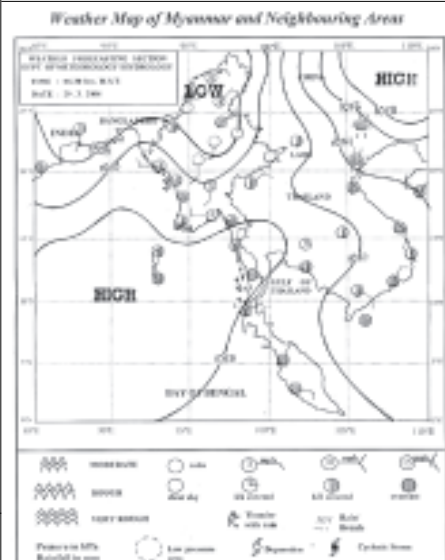
- Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 23:36 A Day in the Life of a
Mahout of a Mahout
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Mogok, The Ruby
Land
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Ancient City MraukU
Scenic Beauty of Ha-
Kha and Cultural
Dance
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
- 00:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "No right to love,
yet"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 The Decoration of
Lacquerware (Stylus
Drawing)
- 00:40 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 Myanmar Profile
"Book Store"
- 00:55 Dance of the Maidens
- 01:00** **National News**
- 01:05 Mingun Bell
- 01:10 Song "Come, Visit My
Home"
- 01:12 A Lonesome Song
- 01:15** **National News**
- 01:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-II)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**31-3-2004 (Wednesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30-07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 The Myanmar Turban-
Unique
- 03:40** **Headline News**
- 03:42 The Beauty of Zwe-
gabin and Livelihood
of Kayin National
- 03:45** **National News**
- 03:50 Myanmar Traditional
Tayaw Kinbun Sham-
poo
- 03:55 Three Types of Dances

- 04:00** **National News**
- 04:05 Shwe Nan Daw
Kyaung
- 04:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Myanmar
Women's Triumphs"
- 04:15** **National News**
- 04:20 Travelogue (Pyin Oo
Lwin)
- 04:25 Songs On Screen "One
And Only Yours"
- 04:30** **National News**
- 04:35 Myanmar Bamboo
Xylophone (or) Pattala
Dance
- 04:40 Traditional Chin
Cuisine
- 04:45** **National News**
- 04:50 Akha Weaving Train-
ing School
- 04:55 Khame Traditional
Cultural Dance
- 04:58 Shan Market Day
- 05:00** **National News**
- 05:05 Traditional Folk
Weaving Works
- 05:10 Song "Come to
Myanmar (The Golden
Land)"
- 05:15** **National News**
- 05:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 05:35 A Day in the Life of a
Mahout
- 05:40** **Headline News**

- 05:42 Mogok, The Ruby
Land
- 05:45** **National News**
- 05:50 Ancient City MraukU
Scenic Beauty of Ha-
Kha and Cultural
Dance
- 06:00** **National News**
- 06:05 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
- 06:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "No right to love,
yet"
- 06:15** **National News**
- 06:20 Fabulous Glassware
Decorations
- 06:25 Song "Ayeyawady"
- 06:30** **National News**
- 06:35 The Decoration of
Lacquerware (Stylus
Drawing)
- 06:40 Myanmar Traditional
Tamarind Juice
- 06:45** **National News**
- 06:50 Myanmar Profile
"Book Store"
- 06:55 Dance of the Maidens
- 07:00** **National News**
- 07:05 Mingun Bell
- 07:10 Song "Come, Visit My
Home"
- 07:12 A Lonesome Song
- 07:15** **National News**
- 07:20 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Mandalay
to Pyay) (Part-II)
- 07:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"


WEATHER
Monday, 29 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, slight rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan States, Mandalay and upper Sagaing Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Chin State, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperature was (42°C) in Kalewa.

Maximum temperature on 28-3-2004 was 36.8°C (98°F). Minimum temperature on 29-3-2004 was 20.4°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-3-2004 was 73%. Total sun shine hours on 28-3-2004 was (8.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 29-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southeast at (17:30) hours MST on 28-3-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 30-3-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-3-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-3-2004: Partly cloudy.


Tuesday, March 30
View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
5. ကဗျာပန်းညှော်
- 8:05 am**
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
7. Song of yesteryears

- 8:20 am**
8. မနုဿဗျူဟာ
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Musical programme
- 4:45 pm**
4. အစောင့်တက္ကသိုလ်ယဉ်းစရာ
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယပုဒ်
(အထူးပြုစာလုံး) (မြန်မာစာ)
- 5:00 pm**
5. Dance of national races
- 5:15 pm**
6. မိမိတို့အားဆောင်ထားစာတော်
- 5:30 pm**
7. (ဥပဇ္ဈာန်) မြို့တော်တော်စရာ
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

- 5:40 pm**
8. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
9. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
10. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
11. The mirror images of
musical oldies
- 7:20 pm**
12. သားငါးစုံမြို့ပြည့်စုံတိုး
- 7:30 pm**
13. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm**
14. သံလွင်တေး (မော်လမြိုင်)
တည်ဆောက်ရေး ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်(၃)
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
- 8:15 pm**
16. International news
- 8:30 pm**
17. Weather report
- 8:45 pm**
18. မိုင်းခတ်တော်လှန်
"အချစ်သို့သင့်မှာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 9:00 pm**
19. The next day's
programme

**Tuesday, March 30
Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music
- 8.50 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music
-Too late for good-
bye (Julian Lennon)
- 9.00 pm** English Speaking
Course (9)
- 9.15 pm** Article/Music
- 9.25 pm** Weekly sports reel
- 9.35 pm** Music for your
listening pleasure
-Tears in heaven
(Eric Clapton)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening of main hall of MMU

YANGON, 29 March — The opening ceremony of the main hall of Myanmar Maritime University was held at Thilawa, Thanlyin township, Yangon South District this morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present on the occasion were Ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, Deputy Ministers, officials of State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, the Rector of the Myanmar Maritime University, the Pro-Rector and Professors, lecturers, national construction entrepreneurs, officials

of social organizations, students, dance troupe and guests.

First, Maung Nyan Lin, Maung Han Zaw Oo and Maung Kaung Myat Thu, first year outstanding students of Myanmar Maritime University formally opened the archway of the university.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party planted Gangaw trees at designated places in front of the new main building of the university.

Afterwards, Maung An Zaw Khun, first year outstanding student, Maung Thet Naing and Maung

Zeyar Maung Maung, second year outstanding students, formally opened the new main building of the university.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally unveiled the bronze plaque and sprinkled scented water on it.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt together with the Rector of the Myanmar Maritime University, the Pro-Rector and Professors, lecturers and students posed for a documentary photo.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech on the occasion. He said Myanmar Maritime University lies on green and pleasant campus. The State

and students can be proud of the university for it can teach and train the students in the lecture halls of the modern and magnificent main building with the use of modern teaching aids in accord with the status of international universities.

He said he was delighted at the opening of the main building of the university. He said the students can learn advanced education at the university with the use of modern teaching aids and the government believes that it would be able to produce outstanding maritime intellectuals and intelligentsia in the near future.

He said now the government on self-reliance

basis is building human resources of international standard for enabling the nation to keep pace with

the development of the nations of the world and to stand tall among them as an

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the ceremony to open the main hall of Myanmar Maritime University. — MNA

Minister inspects oil and gas fields in Shwedaung

YANGON, 29 March — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, accompanied by officials, inspected Pyay Toungtan oil and gas field, Shwedaung Township in Bago Division yesterday afternoon.

At the briefing hall, an

official concerned reported on production of oil and gas in cooperation with Chinners Assets Company of the People's Republic of China. Officials also presented supplementary reports. The minister laid down future tasks for main-

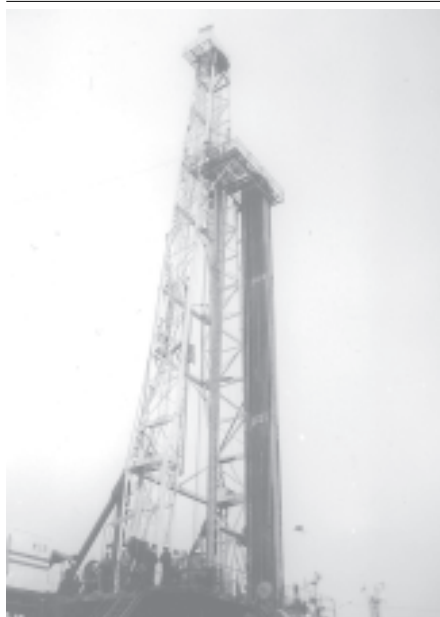
tenance of old wells and the digging of new ones in time, and production of oil and gas.

During his tour, the minister also inspected new well No 655 in Mann oil field, Minbu Township, Magway Division. Officials

reported to the minister on the drilling of the well and prospects for oil and gas production.

Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on increased production of new oil and gas and oversaw the progress of the drilling of well No 655.

MNA



Well No 655 in Mann oil field, Minbu Township, Magway Division. — ENERGY



Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi discussing with officials. — ENERGY

INSIDE**Perspectives**

Strive for development of the women sector and of the nation

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Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation dutifully preserving traditional cultural heritage

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